

Do We Live in the Clouds?

Faris Nizamic, PhD Student at Distributed Systems group, University of Groningen

Clouds are becoming part of our lives, whether we like it or not.

To wake up in the morning, we drink coffee and Facebook a bit. As soon as we arrive to our workplace, we Gmail some important information. After a nice talk during the lunch we Dropbox some interesting files to our colleagues. In the afternoon, we Youtube while relaxing. After that, we Soundcloud whilst enjoying our dinner. Before we go to sleep, we Flickr the highlights of the day.

If you have a daily routine like this, then you definitely live in the Clouds! If you don't, no worries, sooner or later you will be sucked into the cloud as well. Then, you will start building your social network, send your emails to friends, share your files, photos, listen music and watch videos. No matter which group you belong to, it is definitely cool to know what Clouds are, as very soon you might be caught in a discussion about them.

Well, Clouds are a large pool of easily usable and accessible virtualized resources (such as hardware, development platforms and/or services). This pool of resources is typically exploited by a pay-per-use model in which guarantees are offered by the Infrastructure Provider. For us as users, this means that no matter where we are located, we can easily access our data that is stored on the Cloud. Of course, that is only one side of the story. From the other side of the cloud, there are companies that offer cloud-based services. If one day you decide to run a start-up and offer some similar or completely different services, you will again talk about clouds. Why? Well, if you need electricity, you don't buy a generator or build a power plant. With cloud computing you don't buy computers or software and you don't build a data center. You just pay-per-use, same as for electricity.

All this is cool, but how come that we did not come up with this concept

earlier? Actually, someone did! The first underlying concept of cloud computing dates back to the 1960s, when John McCarthy opined that "computation may someday be organized as a public utility." Almost 50 years later, in 2006, Amazon launched the first service with cloud architecture called Amazon Web Service (AWS). Simply by modernizing its data centers, Amazon realized that as little as 10% of their capacity is being used at any time. As a result, they developed a new product (AWS) and offered computing to external users as well. After just two years, in 2008, Eucalyptus became the first open-source AWS API-compatible platform for deploying private clouds.

Today, in 2012, everyone speaks (and writes) about the Clouds. Still, Cloud Computing is in the first stage of this hype cycle, labeled as 'Positive Hype' and there are more novelties to come. Some questions still remain, and those are: do you already live in the Cloud or you will start to live there

from tomorrow; and while it is still possible, would you like to be the next 'the first' in the Clouds world?

References:

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