



Cloud computing is the delivery of computing service through the internet, which include servers, storage, databases, networking and software. This method can lower the cost and helps the user to focus on their business instead of being distracted by IT issues. Both data storage and maintenance will be managed by the cloud computing service provider.

## List of cloud computing service provider

There are lots of companies that provide cloud computing service, with each of them being slightly different from the other. The cloud services provider can be compared by its data center and availability location, security, pricing model and contract terms. Below are some of the examples for cloud service providers.

**The First one is IBM Cloud.** Formerly known as Bluemix, it is a set of cloud computing services provided by International Business Machine Corporation (IBM), a technology company. There are 60 data centers located in 6 regions on every continent except Antarctica. Users can access to 40+ services for free when they first start an account and receive a 200 US dollar credit that is valid for 30 days. Then, by upgrading the account, users can access to 350+ services, plus they can get discounts by paying for only the services they use.



**Next is Google Cloud Platform (GCP).** A suite of cloud computing service provided by Google that runs on the same infrastructure that Google uses internally for its end-user products such as Google Search and Google Drive. Its Data Centers are located across 21 regions with 3 zones as minimum in each region. New users can start for free and get 300 US dollar credit with access to 20+ products offered. Also, users can optimize the usage cost with AI-powered intelligent recommendations and a custom dashboard that displays cost trends and forecasts.



Google Cloud Platform

**Another is Microsoft Azure.** Often referred to as Azure, it is a cloud computing service offered by Microsoft. Its data centers are located across 38 regions around the world and Malaysia will be one of them in the future. There are exclusive clouds called Azure for government, designed for US government agencies including federal, state and local. Users can start for free and use selected free services for 12 months, plus receive 200 US dollar credit to explore other services within the first 30 days of signing up.



**There are also Alibaba Cloud,** a cloud computing company and a subsidiary of Alibaba Group. Its data centers are located at 12 regions in mainland China and 13 regions outside China, including Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Alibaba Cloud provides 2 flexible billing options, the first one is pay-as-you-go billing where users only pay for the services they use with no upfront payment required. Another one is a save by subscription billing where users pay a lower rate to maintain day-to-day services.



**Lastly, there are Rackspace Technology,** an American cloud computing company based in Windcrest, Texas. It has a total of 12 data centers worldwide, which are in the U.S.A, UK, Australia, Singapore, China, Hong Kong and Russia.



## Reflection

- The existence of multiple cloud service providers allows users to choose which providers they are comfortable with. Users can choose which of the cloud service providers are available in their region and which of them have reasonable prices that align with their usage.
- Cloud computing service should keep evolving and becoming more efficient as it contributed to humanity's advancement in technology and modern lifestyle.