

Chapter 120

Adoption of Cloud Computing in UAE:

A Survey of Interplay Between Cloud Computing Ecosystem and its Organizational Adoption in UAE

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ABSTRACT

With the advent of new technology, the IT industry continuously strives to innovate in terms of deploying products or providing services and Cloud Computing is rapidly moving in the hype cycle. With practically all the service providers offering products and services with cloud features and functionality and investing in creating a cloud computing ecosystem, it has become important to understand what these ecosystem means to the organizations based out of UAE who have to decide whether to adopt cloud computing or shun it. There are several factors impacting an organization's decision on its choice of cloud computing adoption (like data security, Legal implications and derived benefits especially in UAE) (Al Tamimi & Company, 2005). There is a need for an assessment of cloud ecosystem in UAE which would be one of the significant factors considered cloud adoption in this region. This study analyzes the current cloud ecosystem providers in UAE and their product and services on cloud computing. It also tries to relate the relation between the cloud ecosystem and the factors impacting organization's decision to adopt cloud computing.

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INTRODUCTION

Cloud computing is a model for facilitating expedient, on-demand network access to a shared pool of configurable computing resources (e.g., Networks, servers, storage, applications and services) that can be rapidly provisioned and released with minimal management effort or service provider interaction (Mell & Grance, 2011).

Cloud computing services are mainly offered in three service models, Software-as-a-Service, Platform-as-a-Service and Infrastructure-as-a-Service on public, private or hybrid deployment model. The main objective of cloud computing is to utilize IT resources effectively by combining the distributed resources to gain higher throughput and be able to resolve large scale computation glitches.

To reduce large CAPEX expenditure, total cost of ownership and to increase the return on Investment, business across the world are appreciating the speed at which cloud can be deployed with minimum lead time and implementation duration. Instead of building its in-house capability and capacity to manage and support in-house and on-premise IT infrastructure and systems, cloud-based applications and services, storage and processing can be provisioned from cloud service providers. Studies show that many companies are adopting cloud computing to gain IT operational and cost benefits compared to traditional IT systems.

Though there is an adoption of cloud computing in other geographies, there is still a room for debated on the extent to which cloud is adopted in UAE. The disputes on the benefits of cloud computing can leave the room for debate on the extent of its adoption. Further study in this area can bring to light the current concerns that business has on the adoption of cloud computing in UAE. This paper discusses the extent of adoption and relates the rate of adoption to the available cloud computing ecosystem in the region. The focus will be on the available ecosystem for cloud computing in UAE and does the presence or absence of strong ecosystem has any impact on the decision of organization to adopt cloud computing. We want to answer these questions with our research:

- What is the available cloud computing ecosystem in UAE? Whether this ecosystem can be regarded as a strong ecosystem?
- What is the extent of adoption of cloud computing by organizations in UAE? Does presence or absence of strong system influence the decision of an organization to adopt ecosystem as part of their strategic IT roadmap?

RELATED WORK AND RESEARCH GAP

The main objective of cloud computing is to utilize IT resources effectively by combine the distributed resources to gain higher throughput and be able to resolve large scale computation glitches.

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