

Cloud Security Alliance

Security Guidance
for Critical Areas of Focus
in Cloud Computing

About the Cloud Security Alliance

Getting Involved

Guidance 1.0

Call to Action

Not-for-profit organization

Inclusive membership, supporting broad spectrum of
subject matter expertise: cloud experts, security,
legal, compliance, virtualization, and on and on...

We believe in Cloud Computing, we want to make it
better:

*to promote the use of best practices for providing security assurance
within Cloud Computing, and provide education on the uses of Cloud
Computing to help secure all other forms of computing.”*

Getting Involved

Individual Membership (free)

Subject matter experts for research

Interested in learning about the topic

Administrative & organizational help

Corporate Sponsorship

Help fund outreach, events

Affiliated Organizations (free)

Joint projects in the community interest

Security Guidance for Critical Areas of Focus in Cloud Computing

Download at:

www.cloudsecurityalliance.org/guidance

VIEW OF GUIDANCE

1. Architecture & Framework

Governing in the Cloud

- . Governance & Risk Mgt
- . Legal
- . Electronic Discovery
- . Compliance & Audit
- . Information Lifecycle Mgt
- . Portability & Interoperability

Operating in the Cloud

- 8. Traditional, BCM, DR
- 9. Data Center Operati
- 10. Incident Response
- 11. Application Security
- 12. Encryption & Key Mg
- 13. Identity & Access Mg
- 14. Storage
- 15. Virtualization

Assumptions & Objectives

Trying to bridge gap between cloud adopters and security practitioners

Broad “security program” view of the problem

Selected domains based on both strategic and practical pain points

Focused on differences caused by cloud models

Not “One Cloud”: Nuanced definition critical to understanding risks & mitigation

5 principal characteristics (abstraction, democratization, services-oriented, elasticity, utility model)

3 delivery models

- Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS)
- Platform as a Service (PaaS)
- Software as a Service (SaaS)

4 deployment models: Public, Private, ~~Managed~~, Hybrid

Deployment Models

	Managed By ¹	Infrastructure Owned By ²	Infrastructure Located ³	Accessible and Consumed By ⁴
Public	Third Party Provider	Third Party Provider	Off-Premise	Untrusted
Managed	Third Party Provider	Third Party Provider	On-Premise	Trusted & Untrusted
Private				Trusted
Hybrid	<u>Both</u> Organization & Third Party Provider	<u>Both</u> Organization & Third Party Provider	Both On-Premise & Off-Premise	Trusted & Untrusted

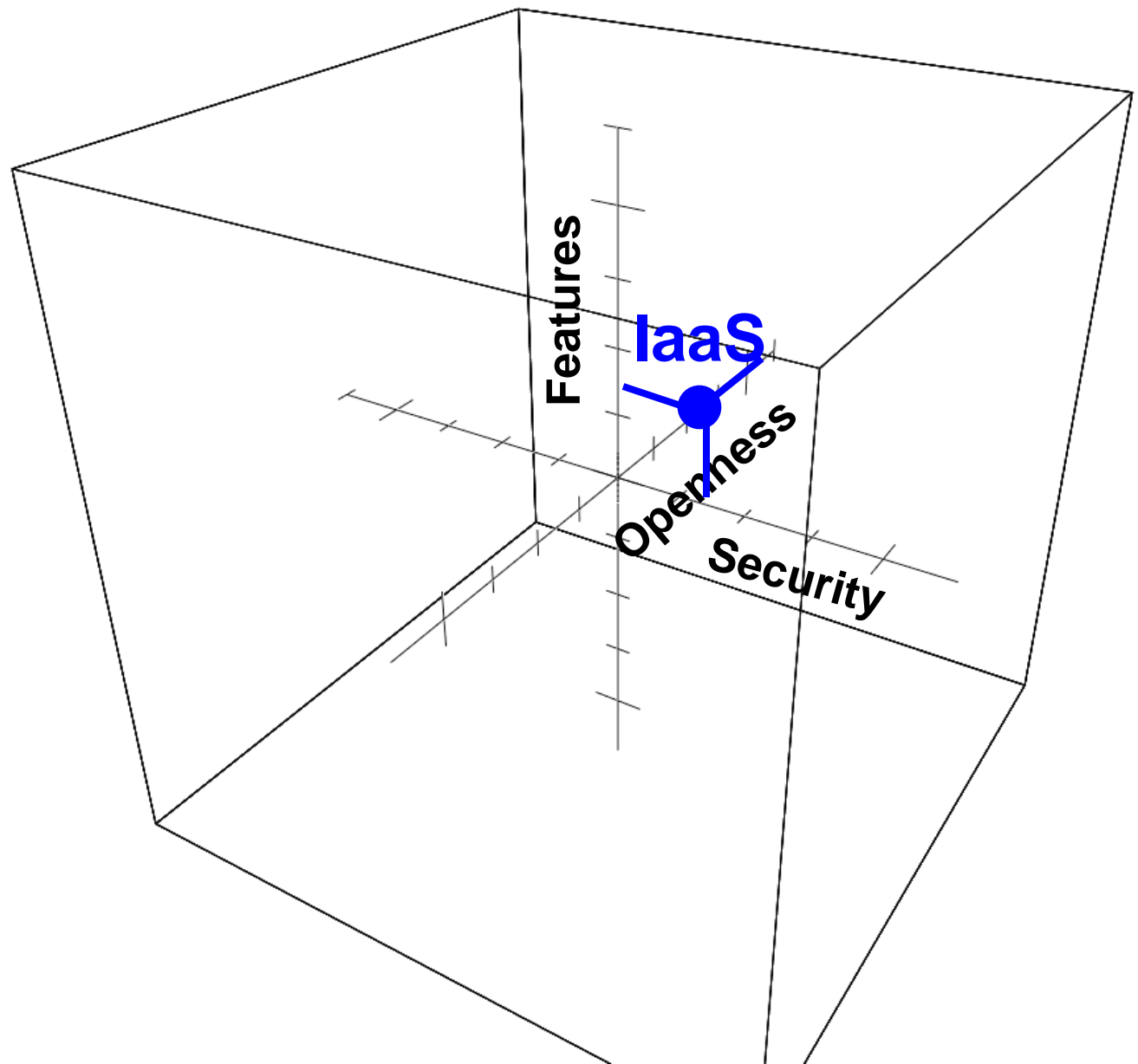
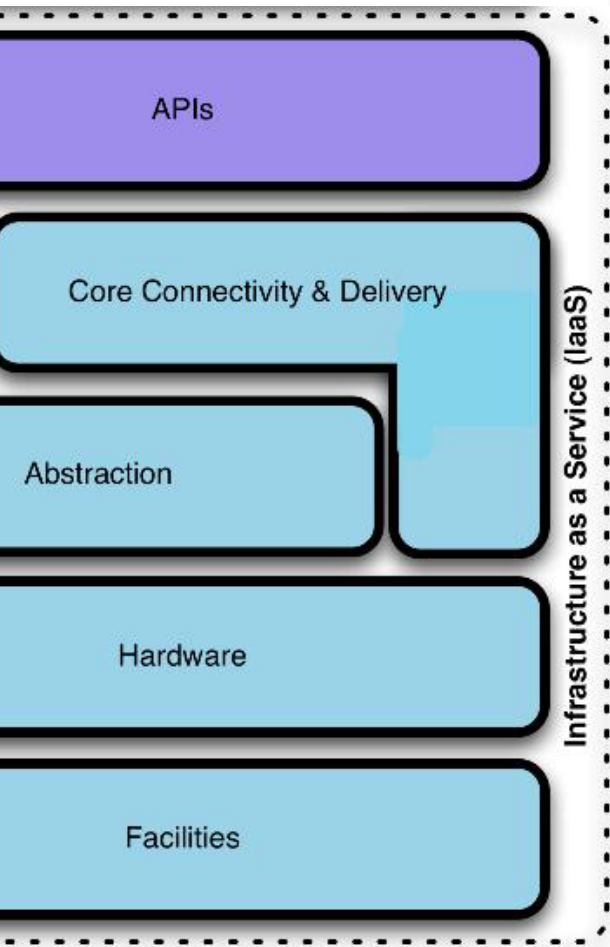
¹ Management includes: operations, security, compliance, etc...

² Infrastructure implies physical infrastructure such as facilities, compute, network & storage equipment

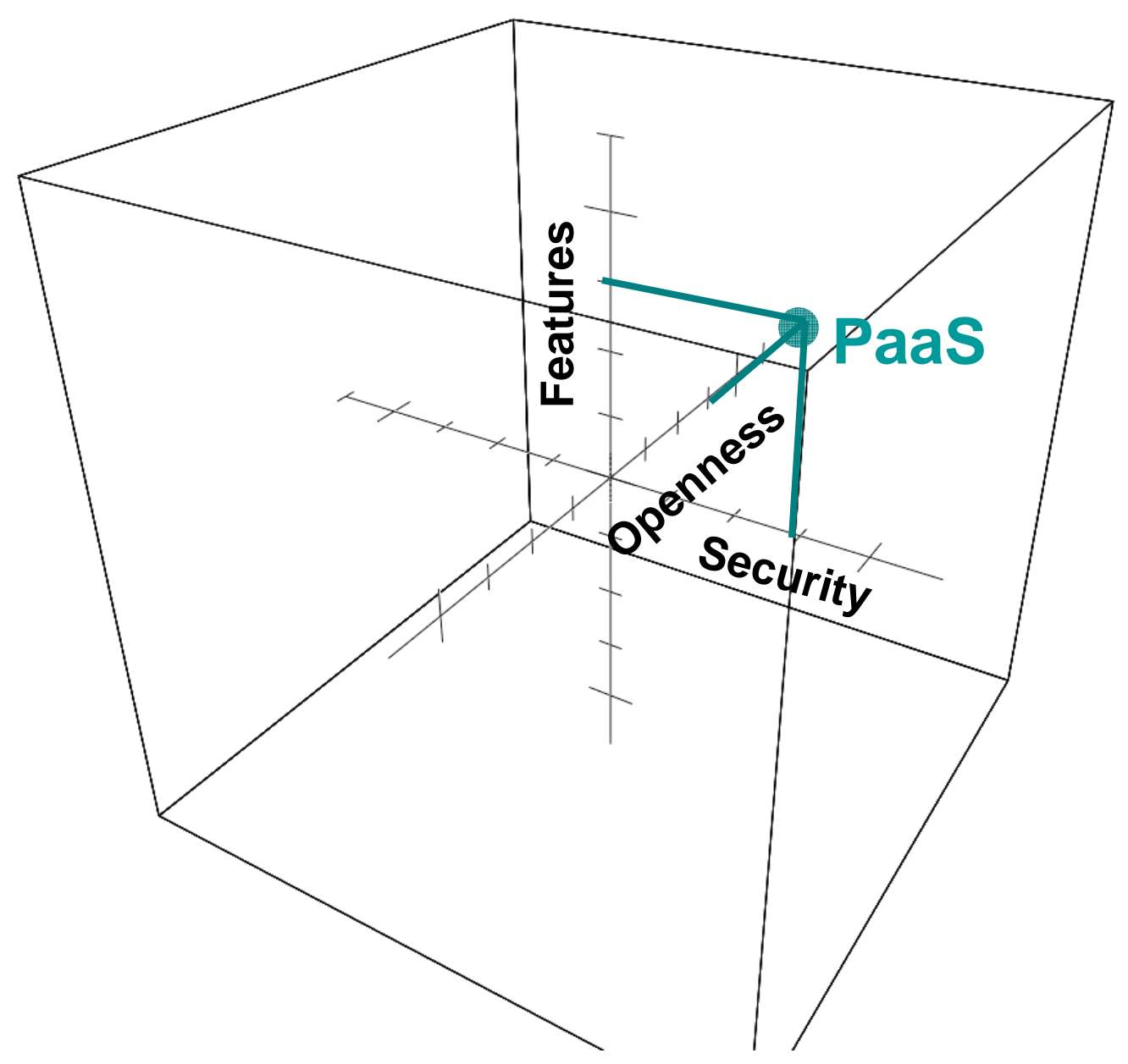
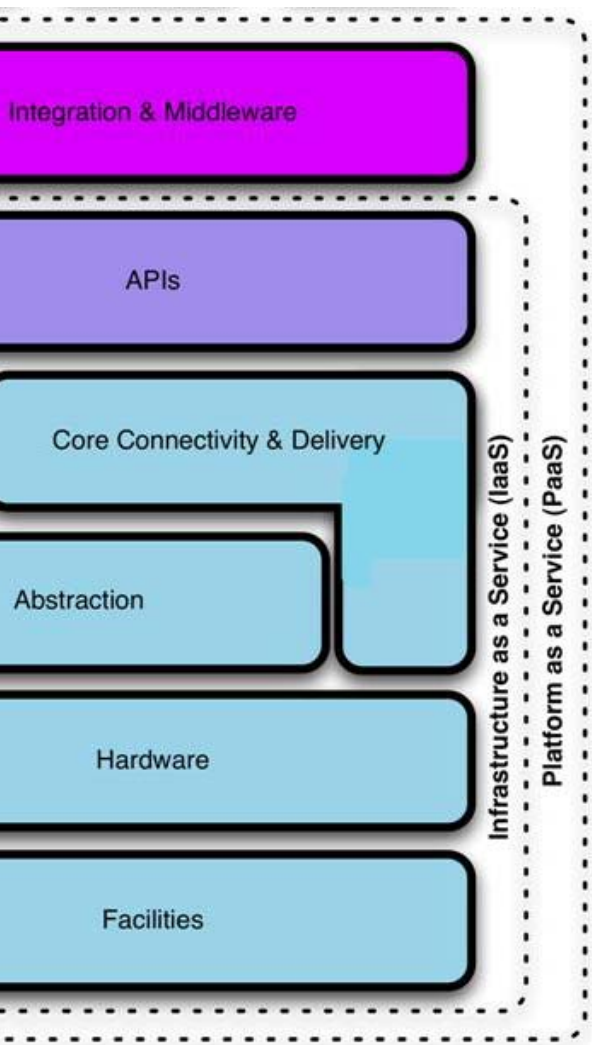
³ Infrastructure Location is both physical and relative to an Organization's management umbrella

⁴ Trusted consumers of service are those who are considered part of an organization's legal/contractual umbrella including employees, contractors, & business partners. Untrusted consumers are those that may be authorized to consume some/all services but are not logical extensions of the organization.

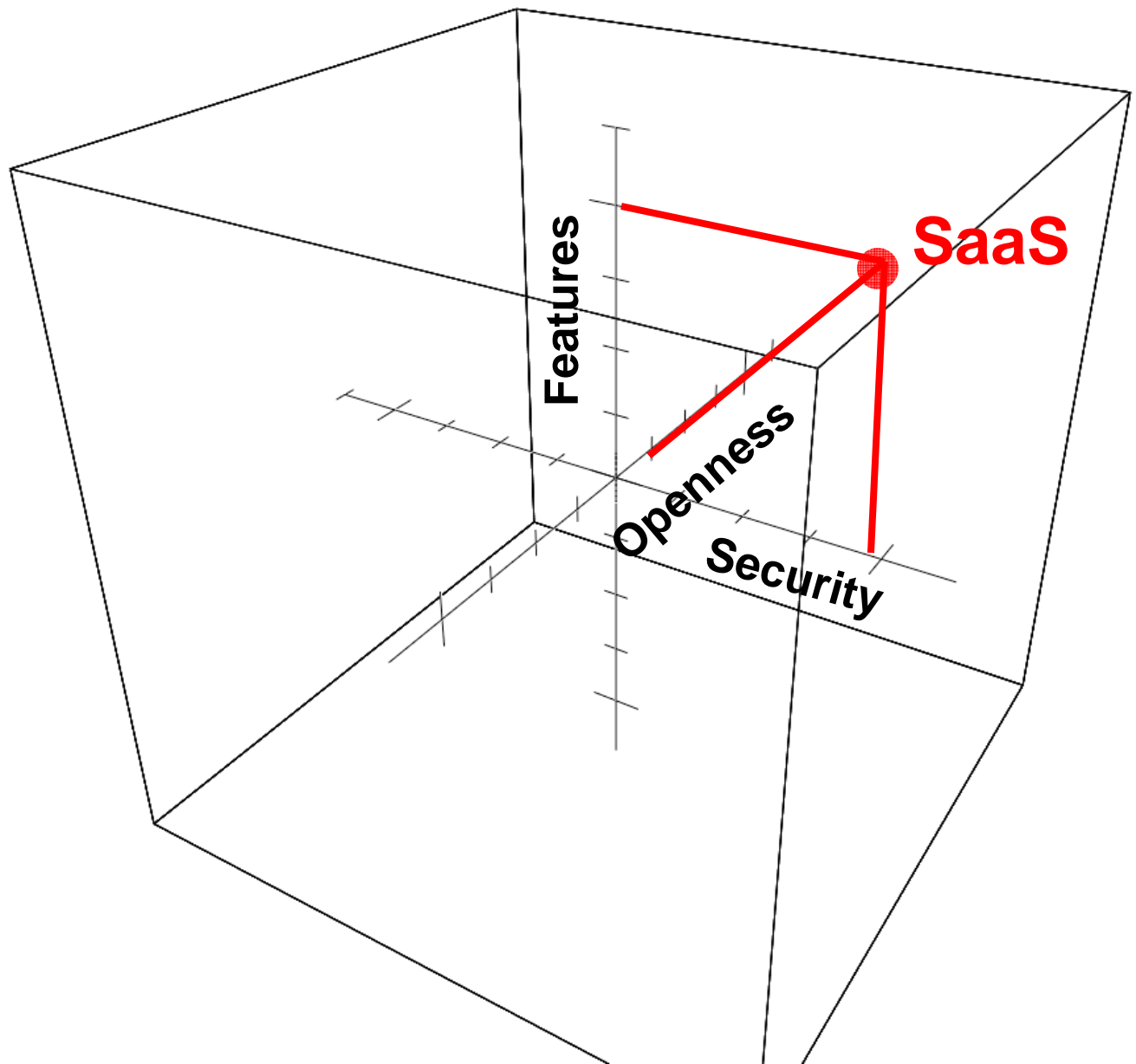
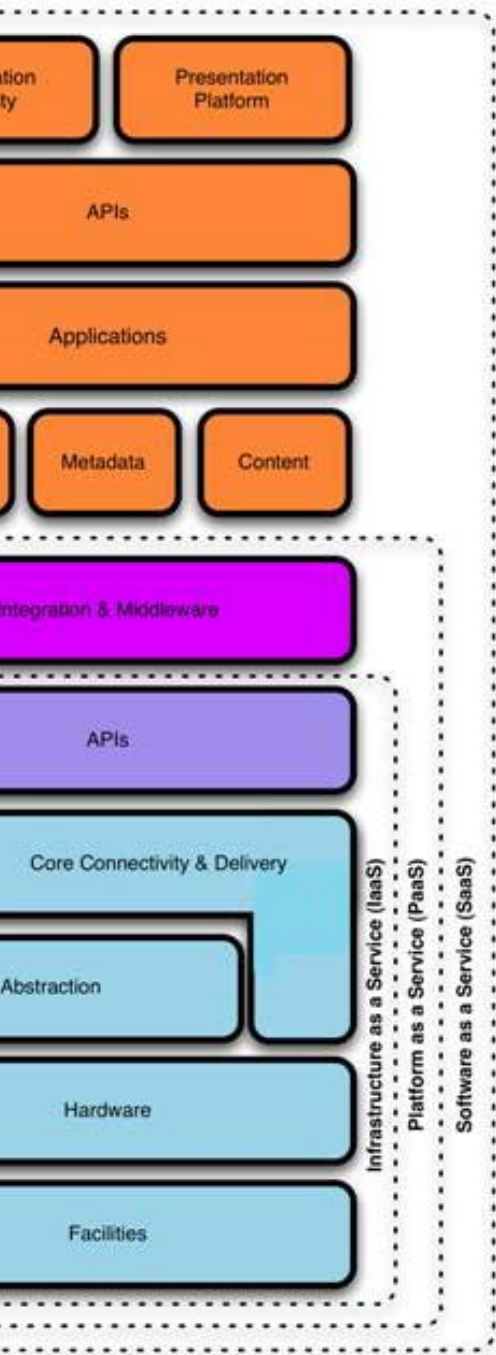
Infrastructure as a Service



Platform as a Service



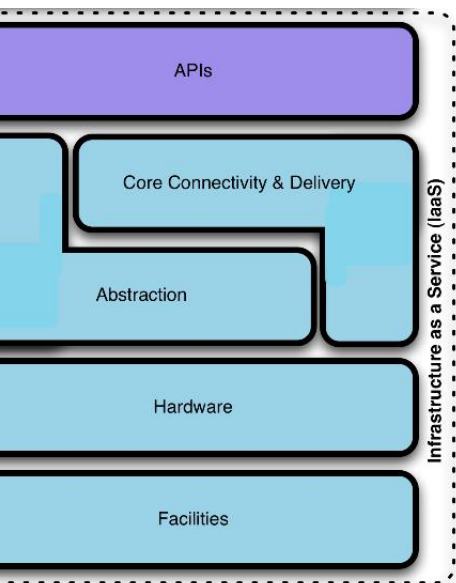
Software as a Service



IaaS Model

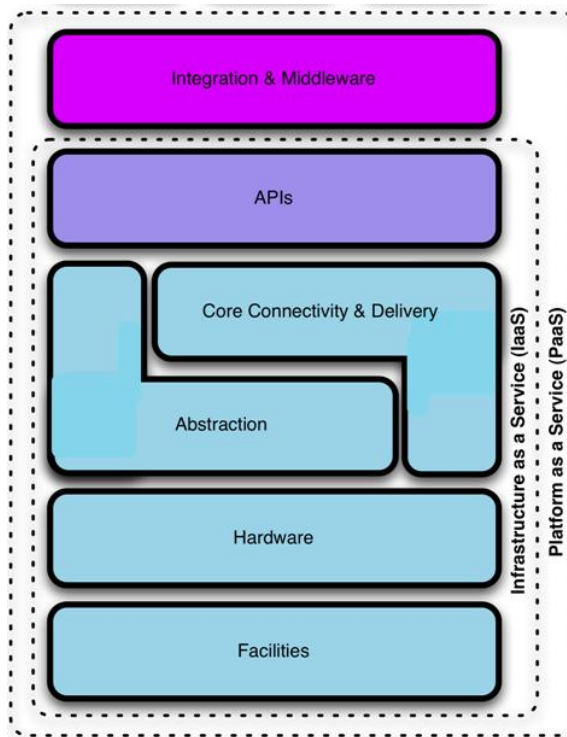
You build security in

IaaS

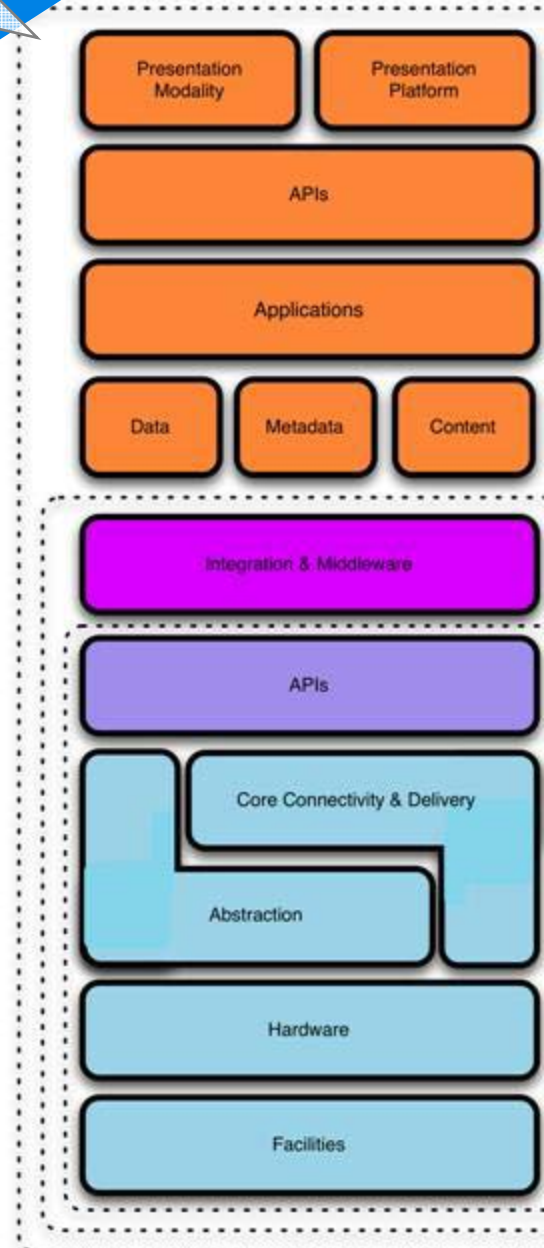


You "RFP" security in

PaaS



SaaS



Sampling From the 15 domains

A portion of cloud cost savings must be invested in
provider scrutiny

Third party transparency of cloud provider

Financial viability of cloud provider.

Alignment of key performance indicators

PII best suited in private/hybrid cloud outside of
significant due diligence of public cloud provider

Increased frequency of 3rd party risk assessments

Contracts must have flexible structure for dynamic cloud relationships

Plan for both an expected and unexpected termination of relationship and an orderly return of your assets.

Find conflicts between the laws the cloud provider must comply with and those governing the cloud customer

Gain a clear expectation of the cloud provider's response to legal requests for information.

Secondary uses of data

Cross-border data transfers

ELECTRONIC DISCOVERY

Cloud Computing challenges the presumption that organizations have control over the data they are legally responsible for.

Cloud providers must assure their information security systems are capable to preserve data as authentic and reliable. Metadata, logfiles, etc.

Mutual understanding of roles and responsibilities: litigation hold, discovery searches, expert testimony, etc.

Going forward, the Records Information Management (RIM) domain of knowledge must be adapted to Cloud Computing

Compliance & Audit

Classify data and systems to understand compliance requirements

Understand data locations, copies

Maintain a right to audit on demand

SAS 70 Type II audits and ISO 27001 certifications probably better than nothing

Going forward, need uniformity in comprehensive certification scoping

Information Lifecycle Mgmt

Understand the logical segregation of information and protective controls implemented in storage, transfer, backups; segregation of duties within personnel.

Understand the privacy restrictions inherent in data entrusted to your company, how it impacts legality of using cloud provider.

Data retention assurance easy, data destruction may be very difficult.

Recovering true cost of a breach: penalties vs risk transference

Portability & Interoperability

Understand and implement layers of abstraction

For Software as a Service (SaaS), perform regular data extraction and backups to a usable format

For Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS), deploy applications in runtime in a way that is abstracted from the machine image.

For Platform as a Service (PaaS), careful application development techniques and thoughtful architecture should be followed to minimize potential lock-in for the customer. “loose coupling”

Understand who the competitors are to your cloud providers and what their capabilities are to assist in migration.

Advocate open standards.

Cloud providers should adopt as a security baseline the most stringent requirements of any customer.

Compartmentalization of job duties and limit knowledge of customers.

Onsite inspections of cloud provider facilities whenever possible.

Inspect cloud provider disaster recovery and business continuity plans.

Identify physical interdependencies in provider infrastructure

compartmentalization of systems, networks, management, provisioning and personnel.

know cloud provider's other clients to assess their impact on you

understand how resource sharing occurs within your cloud provider
to understand impact during your business fluctuations.

for IaaS and PaaS, the cloud provider's patch management policies and procedures have significant impact

cloud provider's technology architecture may use new and unproven methods for failover. Customer's own BCP plans should address impacts and limitations of Cloud computing.

test cloud provider's customer service function regularly to determine their level of mastery in supporting the services.

Incident Response

Any data classified as private for the purpose of data breach regulations should always be encrypted to reduce the consequences of a breach incident.

Cloud providers need application layer logging frameworks to provide granular narrowing of incidents to a specific customer.

Cloud providers should construct a registry of application owners by application interface (URL, SOA service, etc.).

Cloud providers and customers need defined collaboration for incident response.

Application Security

IaaS, PaaS and SaaS create differing trust boundaries for the software development lifecycle, which must be accounted for during the development, testing and production deployment of applications.

For IaaS, need trusted virtual machine images.

Apply best practices available to harden DMZ host systems to virtual machines.

Securing inter-host communications must be the rule, there can be no assumption of a secure channel between hosts.

Managing and protecting application “secret keys” is critical.

Understand how malicious actors are likely to adapt their attack techniques to cloud platforms.

Encryption & Key Mgmt

From a risk management perspective, unencrypted data existent in the cloud may be considered “lost” by the customer.

Application providers who are not controlling backend systems should assure that data is encrypted when being stored on the backend.

Use encryption to separate data holding from data usage.

Segregate the key management from the cloud provider hosting the data, creating a chain of separation.

When stipulating standard encryption in contract language

Identity & Access Mgmt

Must have a robust federated identity management architecture and strategy internal to the organization.

Insist upon standards enabling federation: primarily SAML, WS-Federation and Liberty ID-FF federation

Validate that cloud provider either support strong authentication natively or via delegation and support robust password policies that meet and exceed internal policies.

Understand that the current state of granular application authorization on the part of cloud providers is non-existent or proprietary.

Consider implementing Single Sign-on (SSO) for internal applications, and leveraging this architecture for cloud applications.

Using cloud-based "Identity as a Service" providers may be a useful tool for abstracting and managing complexities such as differing versions of SAML, e

Understand the storage architecture and abstraction layers to verify that the storage subsystem does not span domain trust boundaries.

Ascertain if knowing storage geographical location is possible.

Understand the cloud provider's data search capabilities.

Understand cloud provider storage retirement processes.

Understand circumstances under which storage can be seized by third party or government entity.

Understand how encryption is managed on multi-tenant storage.

Can the cloud provider support long term archiving, will the data be available several years later?

Virtualization

Virtualized operating systems should be augmented by third party security technology.

The simplicity of invoking new machine instances from a VM platform creates a risk that insecure machine images can be created. Security default configuration needs to be assured by following or exceeding available industry baselines.

Virtualization also contains many security advantages which can minimize application instability and simplify recovery.

Need granular monitoring of traffic crossing VM backplanes

Administrative access and control of virtualized operating systems crucial

Summary

Cloud Computing is real and transformational

Cloud Computing can and will be secured

Broad governance approach needed

Tactical fixes needed

Combination of updating existing best practices and
creating completely new best practices

Common sense not optional

Join us, help make our work better

Discussions & announcements on LinkedIn

Hold regional CSA Meetups

CSA organizing meetings for Version 2.0 of Guidance
in early June

Other research initiatives and events being planned

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Thank You!