3Cloud

IaaS, PaaS, and SaaS
What do they mean in the Microsoft Cloud Platform?

Embracing cloud technology is becoming critical for both large and small businesses, but it is also a topic that encompasses a wide range of territory, including both application and infrastructure creation and management. Microsoft harnesses the power of the cloud platform to provide a wide variety of services to customers. These services can be divided into three basic classifications, Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS), Platform as a Service (PaaS), and Software as a Service (SaaS).

Let's review each of these cloud computing services, and see how each can allow for one, some, or all components of your infrastructure to be managed by a third-party vendor, enabling your organization to focus on expanding and improving your business.

1 IaaS

Your organization can work with an IaaS cloud vendor to operate and manage all physical compute resources and virtual machines in hosted datacenters. With this option, you have control over the design and administration of the operating system, leaving the core infrastructure to the vendor. With Microsoft Azure, you can access various IaaS solutions including virtual machines (VMs).

2 PaaS

With this option, you rely on a vendor to provide an environment for you to deploy your application into, relieving the burden of infrastructure creation and administration. This is a great option if your goal is to focus more on app development and data management. Azure offers numerous PaaS options, such as the Web Apps element of Azure App Service and Azure Cloud Services.

3 SaaS

Unlike IaaS and PaaS, this option is not linked to Azure, but rather Office 365 in the Microsoft ecosystem and is normally licensed on a monthly or annual subscription basis. Essentially, SaaS is a software that is centrally hosted and controlled – this means that a single version of the application is applied to all users. To provide optimal performance across users in every location, it can be scaled out to multiple instances. In SaaS, the vendor is accountable for all elements of the software stack, enabling organizations to only be responsible for managing the services provided.