THE USE AND IMPACT OF CLOUD

COMPUTING IN EDUCATION

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Abstract

The purpose of this study is to present and discuss the importance of cloud computing in education. Cloud computing is a recent concept that is still evolving across the information technology industry and academia.The basic principle of cloud computing entails the reduction of in-house data centers and thedelegation of a portion or all of the Information Technology infrastructure capability to a third party. This holds the promise of driving down cost while fostering innovation and promoting agility. Institutions of higher learning, such as Universities, are the core of innovation through their advanced research and development.

This paper intends to describe the Cloud Computing technology, its basic concepts and its advantages for teaching institutions and researchers in education. Some of cloud benefits are: not to consume provider resources; costs based on demand; interoperability among various operational systems and; not to require installation of software on users' equipment.

In this paper we conclude Cloud Computing has the potential to help teaching institutions reduce costs in their offer of access to computational learning and collaboration environments, leading to educational experiments in wider scale and offering conditions for deeper and broader experiments to be conducted by researchers using the ICTs in Education. We are on the threshold of a new technological era, which will contribute to the expansion of the use of Information and Communication Technologies in Education.

*Keywords***:** *information and communication technologies, cloud computing, education*