

## What is Cloud Computing?

**WebQuest Description:** This Webquest will introduce you to Cloud Computing and some of its implications in educational technology.

**Grade Level:** 9-12

**Curriculum:** Technology

**Keywords:** cloud computing, remote application, subscription application, host computing

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### Introduction

You just heard the term "Cloud Computing" as part of a project you are working on. You want to know more about this technology. What is it all about? Will it affect me, and if so, how? What are the implications for Cloud Computing in school as a learning tool? These are some of the questions you will answer in your journey of exploring this emerging technology. If you have not heard about this new technology concept, you will! Some experts believe Cloud Computing is destined to be the future in computer application delivery and data storage. This Webquest will provide you the resources to make a good start in investigating this new concept. As part of your investigation, you will be asked to explore the use of Cloud Computing as a learning tool for use in schools. Keep this in mind as you begin your research. Review the article from the resource below. This will begin to answer your questions. Then proceed to the task section of this assignment.

### Tasks

Your school district is considering if they should invest in Cloud Computing and are looking for input. Your school has been asked to form a research taskforce to provide a foundation of information on Cloud Computing. Your report should also present the pros and cons of this new technology. As a group, you are to investigate Cloud Computing using various resources. You need to gather an overall description of the subject and report on the use of Cloud Computing as a learning tool. Your group will compose a 2-page (minimum), double spaced, report that summarizes your findings. The purpose of the report is to learn about Cloud Computing and help the school district decide the viability of investing in this technology. Your final report should include:

- 1) Overview and general concept of Cloud Computing
- 2) Advantages of Cloud Computing
- 3) Disadvantages Cloud Computing
- 4) Impact of Cloud Computing as a learning tool in school
- 5) Group recommendation in favor of or against having the school district invest in Cloud Computing

Have FUN while you learn!

### Process

First you'll be assigned to a team of 3 students per group. As a group, decide what each person will focus on. Access the resources provided. Compile notes and data about your topic. Focus on the information you need to fulfill the task assignments. Be sure to properly cite the source of the information you use in your report. Use the following checklist to ensure you have covered all the required areas of the topic:

- 1) Overview and general concept of Cloud Computing
- 2) Advantages of Cloud Computing
- 3) Disadvantages Cloud Computing
- 4) Impact of Cloud Computing as a learning tool in school
- 5) Group recommendation

Write a 2-page (minimum) report addressing the task assignments.

### Evaluation

Your group will be evaluated based on the following criterion:

- 1) Did you provide an overview and general concept of Cloud Computing?
- 2) Did you list the advantages of Cloud Computing? (2-3 is best)
- 3) Did you list the disadvantages of Cloud Computing? (2-3 is best)
- 4) Did you describe the impacts of Cloud Computing as a learning tool in school? (2-3 is best)
- 5) Did your group provide a recommendation and explain your reasoning?
- 6) Did your report meet the length and citation requirements?

Category and Score	Poor	Developing	Very Good	Exemplary	Score
Overview and general concept of Cloud Computing	No relevant information about the topic.	Some relevant information about the topic. Some supporting facts.	Sufficient relevant information about the topic. Several supporting facts.	Extensive relevant information about the topic. Extensive supporting facts.	25%
List the advantages and disadvantages of Cloud Computing	No advantages or disadvantages listed.	Missing one of either advantages or disadvantages.	Advantages and disadvantages listed.	Extensive and explained advantages and disadvantages listed.	25%
List the impacts of Cloud Computing as a learning tool in school. Present a recommendation to the school district with reasons.	No impact or recommendation listed.	Missing impact listing, recommendation, or reasons.	Impact listed. Recommendation listed. Reason for recommendation given	Extensive list of impact. Recommendation with extensive reasons.	25%
Report meets the length and citation requirements.	Report meets neither the length and citation requirements.	Report lacks either the length or citation requirements.	Report meets both the length and citation requirements.	Report exceeds the length requirement and meets the citation requirement.	25%
				Total Score	100

## Conclusion

This project taught you a great deal about Cloud Computing, its advantages and disadvantages, and its potential impact as a learning tool in education. But you learned much more. You learned to work and cooperate as a group. You had an opportunity to act as a research unit for a purpose. You learned to access online resources and use those resources to gather data to support your findings. Above all, you learned skills necessary to make a reasoned and logical decision. &nbsp;

## Teacher Page

Prior to teaching this lesson, students should have a basic knowledge about&nbsp;computer applications and the Internet. The teacher should start a guided discussion to get students' level of comprehension and acceptance of the topic. Following this preparation, teacher should inform students of the instruction and requirements of this learning exercise. After getting students on track to the website (zunal.com), teacher should supervise to ensure that the required links and resources are being utilized and that the questions are being answered properly. Appropriate timing should be allotted to allow students to work efficiently and practice proper time management. A duration of 2 -3 hours should be sufficient for completing this task. Depending on the capability and competence&nbsp;of your students, alterations to this requirement can be done.

### Standards

### Credits

### Other