

CHALLENGES AND REALITIES OF CLOUD COMPUTING FACED BY ORGANIZATIONS

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ABSTRACT

Cloud computing has gained immense popularity in recent years, offering organizations numerous advantages such as scalability, cost efficiency, and flexibility. However, alongside these benefits, the challenges and realities of cloud computing must be acknowledged and addressed. This abstract provides an overview of the key challenges and realities faced by organizations adopting cloud computing. Security and privacy concerns are primary challenges, with data breaches and unauthorized access posing significant risks. Robust security measures, encryption techniques, and access controls are necessary to protect sensitive data in the cloud. Performance and reliability issues can also impact business operations, requiring careful selection of reliable cloud service providers and implementing redundancy mechanisms. Cost management complexities arise due to the pay-as-you-go model and the potential for unexpected expenditures. Organizations must monitor and optimize cloud spending to avoid budget overruns. Vendor lock-in poses challenges when switching cloud service providers, necessitating strategies to ensure portability and flexibility. Integration complexities arise when integrating cloud-based services with existing infrastructure and legacy systems, requiring careful planning and implementation. Furthermore, the environmental impact of cloud computing is an emerging reality. Data centers' energy consumption raises concerns about carbon footprint and sustainability, prompting organizations to explore energy-efficient practices and data center optimization techniques. Understanding and addressing these challenges and realities are vital for organizations to successfully adopt and leverage cloud computing. By doing so, they can maximize the benefits while mitigating risks, ensuring data security, optimizing costs, and fostering digital transformation.

المستخلص

اكتسبت الحوسبة السحابية شعبية هائلة في السنوات الأخيرة ، حيث قدمت للمؤسسات العديد من المزايا مثل قابلية التوسع وكفاءة التكلفة والمرونة. ومع ذلك ، إلى جانب هذه الفوائد ، يجب الاعتراف بتحديات وحقائق الحوسبة السحابية ومعالجتها. يقدم هذا الملخص نظرة عامة على التحديات والحقائق الرئيسية التي تواجهها المؤسسات التي تتبنى الحوسبة السحابية. تعد مخاوف الأمان والخصوصية من التحديات الأساسية ، حيث تشكل خروقات البيانات والوصول غير المصرح به مخاطر كبيرة. تعد إجراءات الأمان القوية وتقنيات التشفير وعناصر التحكم في الوصول ضرورية لحماية البيانات الحساسة في السحابة. يمكن أن تؤثر مشكلات الأداء والموثوقية أيضا على العمليات التجارية ، مما يتطلب اختيارا دقيقا لمقدمي الخدمات السحابية الموثوق بهم وتنفيذ آليات التكرار. تنشأ تعقيدات إدارة التكلفة بسبب نموذج الدفع أولا بأول وإمكانية حدوث نفقات غير متوقعة. يجب على المؤسسات مراقبة الإنفاق السحابي وتحسينه لتجنب تجاوزات الميزانية. يفرض قفل البائع تحديات عند تبديل مزودي الخدمة السحابية ، مما يستلزم استراتيجيات لضمان قابلية النقل والمرونة. تنشأ تعقيدات التكامل عند دمج الخدمات المستندة إلى السحابة مع البنية التحتية الحالية والأنظمة القديمة ، مما يتطلب تخطيطا وتنفيذا دقيقين. علاوة على ذلك ، فإن التأثير البيئي للحوسبة السحابية هو حقيقة ناشئة.

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يثير استهلاك الطاقة في مراكز البيانات مخاوف بشأن البصمة الكربونية والاستدامة ، مما يدفع المؤسسات إلى استكشاف الممارسات الموفرة للطاقة وتقنيات تحسين مراكز البيانات. يعد فهم هذه التحديات والحقائق ومعالجتها أمراً حيوياً للمؤسسات لتبني الحوسبة السحابية والاستفادة منها بنجاح. من خلال القيام بذلك ، يمكنهم تعظيم الفوائد مع تخفيف المخاطر ، وضمان أمن البيانات ، وتحسين التكاليف ، وتعزيز التحول الرقمي

Key words: cloud computing, challenges, service, organization, security, and privacy.

1. INTRODUCTION

Cloud computing has completely changed how businesses handle, store, and use apps and data. It has many advantages, including flexibility, cost effectiveness, and scalability. To guarantee the effective adoption and use of cloud services, enterprises must overcome a number of obstacles and realities that come with cloud computing in addition to these benefits. Security and privacy is one of the main obstacles. Organizations are becoming more and more concerned about data breaches, unauthorized access, and data privacy as they depend on cloud service providers to store and manage their data. It becomes essential to have strong security protocols, encryption methods, and access controls in place to protect sensitive data stored in the cloud. Reliability and performance provide additional difficulties for cloud computing. Businesses rely on cloud services' speed and availability for their vital activities. Network latency, erratic performance, and service interruptions can all have a big effect on how businesses operate and how their customers interact. To tackle these obstacles, one must exercise caution in choosing dependable cloud service providers, put redundancy measures in place, and allocate workload as efficiently as possible (Sadeeq, 2021) [1].

Complicated cost management is a fact of life with cloud computing. Pay-as-you-go models and resource scalability in cloud services can potentially save costs, but enterprises still need to closely monitor and control their cloud spending. Cloud utilization can soon become costly without appropriate cost optimization tactics and monitoring technologies, resulting in unforeseen expenses and budget overruns (Babar, 2021) [2].

One major problem with depending on a single cloud provider for services is vendor lock-in. Because switching cloud service providers requires data migration, application reconfiguration, and infrastructure adaptation, it can be difficult and expensive. Businesses must think about ways to reduce the danger of vendor lock-in and guarantee portability and flexibility when implementing cloud computing. Another reality of cloud computing is integration complexity. The process of integrating cloud-based services with legacy systems, current Information Technology (IT) infrastructure, and other cloud platforms can be complicated because of interoperability problems, compatibility issues, and data migration difficulties. To guarantee smooth data flow and communication between various systems, organizations need to carefully develop and execute integration strategies. Lastly, the effects of cloud computing on the environment are becoming more and more apparent. As data centers that because power cloud services require large amounts of energy, environmental and carbon footprint issues are raised. To reduce the environmental impact of cloud computing, organizations must investigate energy-efficient methods, renewable energy integration, and data center

optimization strategies. Organizations implementing cloud computing must comprehend these facts and problems and find effective ways to address them. By doing this, businesses may optimize costs, minimize risks, ensure data security, and fully utilize cloud computing for operations and digital transformation projects, all while reaping the benefits of cloud services (Shannigrahi, 2020) [3].

2. PROBLEM OF STATEMENT

1. What are the challenges organizations face in dealing with the realities of cloud computing?

This question addresses the difficulties and barriers that organizations and individuals encounter when adopting and leveraging cloud computing technologies and services. It encompasses various aspects such as security, privacy, performance, cost management, vendor lock-in, and integration complexity. By exploring this question, can delve into the specific challenges and realities that impact the successful implementation and utilization of cloud computing.

3. OBJECTIVES OF STUDY

The objectives of understanding the challenges and realities of cloud computing are as follows:

1. To raise awareness among organizations about the potential challenges and realities they may face when adopting cloud computing.
2. To identify and mitigate the risks associated with cloud computing and to understand these challenges and find ways to leverage the flexibility and adaptability of cloud computing to enable innovation, and quick response to changing business needs.
3. To foster a culture of continuous improvement and learning, staying updated on the latest developments, trends, and industry insights.

4. LITERATURE REVIEW

In this study we present a comprehensive overview of the studies related to the subject of our proposed work as following:

1. D. Puthal, B. P. S. Sahoo, S. Mishra and S. Swain, "Cloud Computing Features, Issues, and Challenges:," 2015, This study sought to identify the specific outstanding challenges and issues related to cloud computing today. The article included three topics: first, it talked about the architecture of cloud computing and the range of services it provided. Second, it outlined a number of service layer-based security vulnerabilities in cloud computing. Next, it noted a number of unresolved issues related to the use of cloud computing and its ramifications going forward. Lastly, it outlined the platforms that are currently accessible for cloud research and development (D. Puthal, 2015) [4].
2. Turkan A. Khaleel a, Almas A. Khaleel 2019, "Cloud Computing Reality and Challenges":2019, The current study intends to analyze the idea of cloud computing, as well as its goals and constituent parts. It also seeks to determine the true usage of cloud computing by agencies and organizations, as well as the major obstacles that this cutting-edge technology must overcome. Additionally, to identify the most significant security, risk, and difficulty that these apps face now and in the future (Turkan A, et al 2019) [5].

3. S. Azodolmolky, P. Wieder and R. Yahyapour, 2013, This paper presents the federation challenges and networking issues in Infrastructure-as-a-Service (IaaS) that are currently solved by available technologies. Additionally, it offered creative suggestions for software-defined networking that address a few of the issues and may prove to be effective in later implementations (Vhora, 2020) [6].
4. Sururah A. Bello, et al., 2021, Thus, the present contributions and use cases of cloud computing in construction practices were emphasized in this study. Consequently, a comprehensive analysis was conducted utilizing ninety-two (92) peer-reviewed articles that were released between 2009 and 2019. One of the most important conclusions from the research is that cloud computing helps the construction industry's other new technologies—such as building information modeling, the internet of things, virtual and augmented reality, and big data analytics—deliver innovation. As a result, this report highlighted the present and potential uses of cloud computing in the building sector. Additionally, the report outlined obstacles to cloud computing's wider acceptance in the construction sector and explored solutions (Sururah A. Bello, 2021) [7].
5. Said El Kafhali, Iman El Mir and Mohamed Hanini, 2022. This document originally offered an architecture tutorial covering the key features, services models, deployment methods, and cloud data center virtualization of cloud computing technology. Second, it presented the frameworks and security challenges related to cloud computing. Lastly, it characterized and summarized the efforts made in the literature to address these security issues by a thorough survey. Thirdly, it classified different cloud assaults and privacy issues. Fourthly, it provided a summary of the research done on defense mechanisms and mitigation strategies for security assessments in the literature. Lastly, it covered outstanding problems with cloud security and offered some suggestions for further work (Said El Kafhali, 2022) [8].
6. H. Lin, S. Wan, W. Gan, J. Chen and H. -C. Chao, "Metaverse in Education: Vision, Opportunities, and Challenges," 2022, We need to address a number of issues regarding the Metaverse in schooling. This paper seeks to address this goal by offering a thorough analysis of the literature on metaverse in education. This essay provides a thorough analysis of the Metaverse in education, emphasizing new developments, opportunities, problems, and strategies. It began by providing a succinct synopsis of the Metaverse in education and the rationale for its incorporation. Subsequently, it examines several significant features of the Metaverse in education, such as the individual learning and teaching environments. It then addressed the advantages and disadvantages of the various iterations of this combination and projected what benefits they might have for education in the future. Additionally, it examined the cutting-edge case studies (which included technical businesses and academic organizations) for Metaverse in the classroom. Lastly, it highlighted a number of difficulties and problems in this exciting field (H. Lin, 2022) [9].
7. Quy, V.K., Hau, N.V., Anh, D.V. *et al.* 2022, In this article, various computing technologies were compared. Next, it provided a standard fog computing-based

architectural framework for Internet of Health Things (Fog-IoHT) applications. Additionally, it highlighted the difficulties and potential uses of fog computing in Internet of Things (IoT) healthcare applications. The analysis's findings showed that fog computing-based IoHT applications had a ton of promise (Quy, 2022) [10].

5. ANALYSIS OF CHALLENGES AND REALITIES OF CLOUD COMPUTING

Cloud computing has become an integral part of the modern Information Technology (IT) landscape, offering numerous benefits such as scalability, flexibility, and cost-efficiency. However, the implementation and utilization of cloud computing also present a range of challenges and realities that organizations need to address (Carvalho, 2021) [11]. Through a synthesis and analysis of the literature, the following key challenges and realities of cloud computing emerge (Figure (1)):

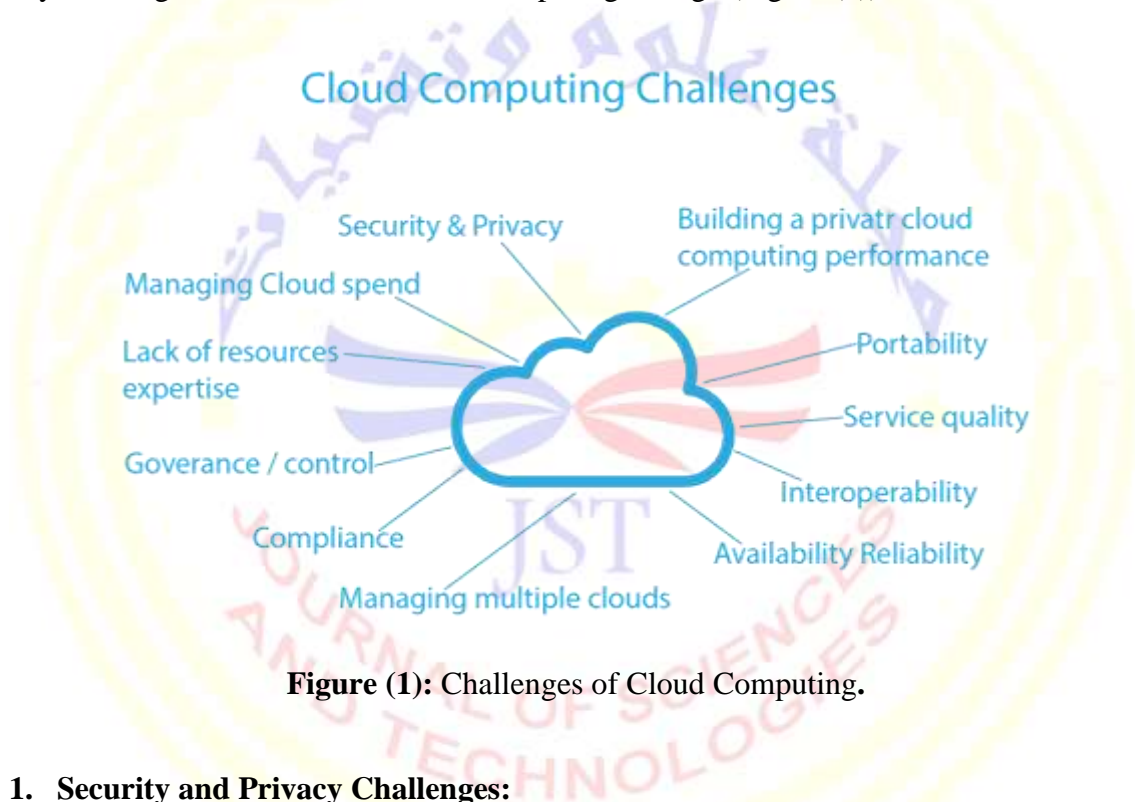


Figure (1): Challenges of Cloud Computing.

1. Security and Privacy Challenges:

- The shared nature of cloud infrastructure raises concerns about data security and privacy. Data breaches, unauthorized access, and challenges in ensuring compliance with regulatory requirements are significant issues.
- Organizations need to implement robust security measures, including encryption, access control, and monitoring mechanisms. Adherence to privacy regulations and the use of secure communication protocols are also crucial for mitigating security and privacy risks.

2. Performance and Reliability Challenges:

- Network latency, limited bandwidth, and shared resources in the cloud environment can impact application performance and reliability. Downtime and service disruptions from cloud service providers also pose challenges.
 - Organizations must consider performance optimization techniques, fault tolerance mechanisms, and service level agreements (SLAs) to ensure acceptable performance levels. Choosing reliable cloud service providers and monitoring performance metrics are essential for maintaining reliability.
- 3. Cost Management Challenges:**
- Cloud computing introduces complexities in cost management, including unpredictable pricing models, hidden costs, and inefficient resource utilization. Scalability considerations can also impact cost management.
 - Effective cost management strategies involve monitoring resource usage, optimizing workload placement, and adopting cost estimation and forecasting techniques. Implementing cost governance frameworks and tools is crucial for managing and optimizing cloud spending.
- 4. Vendor Lock-In Challenges:**
- Organizations face the risk of becoming locked into specific cloud service providers, limiting their ability to switch providers or adopt alternative solutions. Limited interoperability and lack of standardization contribute to this challenge.
 - Mitigating vendor lock-in requires a vendor-neutral approach, adoption of open standards, and multi-cloud or hybrid cloud strategies. Robust data portability and integration capabilities are necessary for maintaining flexibility and avoiding vendor dependency.
- 5. Integration Complexity Challenges:**
- Integrating cloud-based services with existing Information Technology (IT) infrastructure and legacy systems can be complex. Data integration, compatibility, and interoperability issues arise during this process.
 - Organizations should employ integration platforms, application programming interfaces (APIs), and middleware solutions to address integration challenges. Proper planning, architecture design, and collaboration with cloud service providers and third-party vendors are essential for seamless integration.

The analysis also reveals the impact of these challenges and realities on organizations and IT professionals. Organizations must invest in training and up skilling IT professionals to manage cloud environments effectively. Organizational change management, alignment of business objectives with cloud initiatives, and fostering a culture of innovation are vital for successful cloud adoption.

In conclusion, the analysis of the challenges and realities of cloud computing underscore the importance of addressing security, performance, cost management, vendor lock-in, and integration complexity challenges. By understanding these challenges and realities, organizations can develop strategies and adopt best practices to maximize the benefits of cloud computing while mitigating associated risks.

6. DISCUSSION

Cloud computing has revolutionized the IT landscape by providing organizations with scalable, on-demand access to computing resources and services. However, the adoption and utilization of cloud computing also come with a set of challenges and realities that need to be considered. In this discussion, we will explore these challenges and realities in more detail and analyze their impact on organizations.

- **Security and Privacy Challenges:** Cloud computing introduces unique security and privacy challenges due to the shared infrastructure and data storage. Organizations must address concerns related to data breaches, unauthorized access, and compliance with privacy regulations. Sharing resources with other users on the cloud can increase the risk of data exposure and unauthorized access.

In reality, organizations need to implement robust security measures such as encryption, access controls, and monitoring systems to protect their data. They must also ensure that cloud service providers have adequate security measures in place and comply with relevant regulations. Data privacy and compliance become critical considerations in cloud computing environments.

- **Performance and Reliability Challenges:** Cloud computing relies on network connectivity and the performance of cloud service providers. Factors such as network latency, limited bandwidth, and shared resources can impact application performance and reliability. Downtime and service disruptions from cloud service providers can have a significant impact on business operations.

Organizations must carefully evaluate the performance capabilities of cloud service providers and consider strategies to optimize performance and ensure reliability. This may involve implementing caching mechanisms, load balancing techniques, and redundant architectures. Service level agreements (SLAs) play a crucial role in defining performance expectations and holding cloud service providers accountable.

- **Cost Management Challenges:** While cloud computing offers potential cost savings, it also presents challenges in cost management. The complex pricing models, hidden costs, and the dynamic nature of resource utilization can make it challenging to predict and control costs effectively. Scalability considerations can lead to unexpected cost increases.

Organizations need to adopt cost management strategies to address these challenges. This includes monitoring resource usage, optimizing workload placement, and leveraging tools and techniques for cost estimation and forecasting. Implementing cost governance frameworks and regularly reviewing and optimizing resource allocation are essential to control cloud spending.

- **Vendor Lock-In Challenges:** Vendor lock-in refers to the situation where organizations become dependent on specific cloud service providers and face difficulties in migrating to alternative providers or on-premises solutions. Lack of interoperability and standardization can make it challenging to switch providers easily.

To mitigate vendor lock-in, organizations should adopt a vendor-agnostic approach and consider multi-cloud or hybrid cloud strategies. Embracing open standards and ensuring data portability are essential. By designing architectures that are not tightly coupled to

specific cloud providers, organizations can maintain flexibility and avoid being locked into a particular vendor.

- **Integration Complexity Challenges:** Integrating cloud-based services with existing IT infrastructure and legacy systems can be complex. Challenges arise in terms of data integration, compatibility, and interoperability. Moving data and applications to the cloud while maintaining seamless integration with on-premises systems can be a significant challenge.

Organizations must carefully plan integration strategies, employing integration platforms, APIs, and middleware solutions to overcome these challenges. Collaborating with cloud service providers and third-party vendors to ensure compatibility and interoperability is crucial. Data integration frameworks and standardized interfaces play a vital role in simplifying the integration process.

In conclusion, the challenges and realities of cloud computing significantly impact organizations in terms of security, performance, cost management, vendor dependency, and integration complexity. Organizations must carefully assess these challenges and develop strategies to address them effectively. By doing so, they can harness the full potential of cloud computing while mitigating risks and maximizing the benefits it offers.

7. RECOMMENDATION AND SOLUTIONS

1. Security and Privacy Challenges:

- Implement strong encryption mechanisms to protect data at rest and in transit.
- Employ robust access controls and authentication mechanisms to ensure authorized access.
- Regularly monitor and audit cloud environments for security vulnerabilities and incidents.
- Use security tools and solutions provided by the cloud service provider.
- Stay updated on privacy regulations and ensures compliance with data protection requirements.

2. Performance and Reliability Challenges:

- Evaluate the performance track record and service level agreements (SLAs) of cloud service providers before selecting them.
- Implement redundancy and fault tolerance mechanisms to minimize the impact of service disruptions.
- Optimize application performance by leveraging caching, load balancing, and content delivery networks (CDNs).
- Monitor performance metrics and proactively address any performance bottlenecks.
- Conduct regular testing and performance tuning to ensure optimal performance.

3. Cost Management Challenges:

- Implement cost monitoring and optimization tools to track resource usage and spending in real-time.
- Adopt a proactive approach to resource management by rightsizing instances and scaling resources based on demand.

- Leverage cost estimation and forecasting techniques to plan and budget effectively.
 - Regularly review and optimize resource allocation to eliminate waste and reduce costs.
 - Consider adopting a multi-cloud or hybrid cloud strategy to leverage cost advantages and avoid vendor lock-in.
- 4. Vendor Lock-In Challenges:**
- Prioritize open standards and interoperability when selecting cloud service providers.
 - Design architectures that are not tightly coupled to specific cloud providers, allowing for easier migration.
 - Implement data portability strategies by using standard data formats and APIs.
 - Conduct thorough due diligence and consider exit strategies before committing to a specific cloud service provider.
 - Leverage cloud management platforms and tools that support multi-cloud management and orchestration.
- 5. Integration Complexity Challenges:**
- Plan integration strategies in advance, considering compatibility and interoperability requirements.
 - Utilize integration platforms, Application Programming Interfaces (APIs), and middleware solutions to simplify data and application integration.
 - Collaborate closely with cloud service providers and third-party vendors to ensure seamless integration.
 - Conduct thorough testing and validation of integration points to identify and address any issues.
 - Leverage standard interfaces and industry best practices for integration to simplify the process.

By implementing these recommendations and solutions, organizations can overcome the challenges and realities of cloud computing. It is important to approach cloud adoption strategically, considering the specific needs and goals of the organization. Regular monitoring, evaluation, and adaptation of cloud strategies are essential to ensure ongoing success and maximize the benefits of cloud computing.

8. FUTURE RESEARCH DIRECTION FOR THE CHALLENGES AND REALITIES OF CLOUD COMPUTING

Future research directions for the challenges and realities of cloud computing can focus on addressing existing gaps and exploring emerging trends. Here are some potential areas for future research:

1. Security and Privacy:

- Developing advanced encryption techniques and secure data storage mechanisms to protect sensitive data.
- Investigating new approaches for secure authentication and access control in cloud environments.

- Studying the impact of emerging technologies like block chain and homomorphic encryption on cloud security.
 - Analyzing the effectiveness of privacy regulations and identifying ways to enhance compliance and enforcement mechanisms.
- 2. Performance and Reliability:**
- Investigating techniques to minimize network latency and optimize data transfer in cloud environments.
 - Exploring novel approaches for workload allocation and resource provisioning to improve performance.
 - Examining the impact of emerging technologies such as edge computing and server less architectures on cloud performance.
 - Analyzing the reliability and fault tolerance mechanisms of different cloud service providers and identifying best practices.
- 3. Cost Management:**
- Developing advanced cost estimation and prediction models to accurately forecast cloud spending.
 - Investigating cost optimization strategies that consider workload characteristics, resource allocation, and pricing models.
 - Analyzing the cost implications of different cloud deployment models (public, private, and hybrid) and multi-cloud environments.
 - Exploring the economic impact of cloud computing on businesses, industries, and the overall economy.
- 4. Vendor Lock-In:**
- Investigating approaches for seamless migration between cloud service providers and cloud platforms.
 - Analyzing the impact of cloud service interoperability standards and frameworks on reducing vendor lock-in.
 - Studying the challenges and benefits of adopting a multi-cloud or hybrid cloud strategy.
 - Examining the role of cloud marketplaces and brokerages in mitigating vendor lock-in and promoting cloud service portability.
- 5. Integration Complexity:**
- Exploring techniques for seamless integration of cloud services with edge devices and Internet of Things (IoT) devices.
 - Investigating approaches to simplify the integration of legacy systems with cloud-based applications and services.
 - Studying the impact of emerging integration technologies such as API management platforms, event-driven architectures, and micro services.
 - Analyzing the challenges and opportunities of integrating diverse cloud environments, including public, private, and hybrid clouds.
- 6. Green Computing and Sustainability:**

- Investigating energy-efficient resource allocation and workload management techniques in cloud data centers.
- Analyzing the environmental impact of cloud computing and exploring strategies for reducing carbon footprint.
- Studying the feasibility and impact of renewable energy integration in cloud data centers.
- Examining the economic and environmental trade-offs of different cloud deployment models in terms of energy consumption.

These research directions aim to address the evolving challenges and realities of cloud computing and contribute to the development of innovative solutions, best practices, and frameworks. By focusing on these areas, researchers can advance the understanding and adoption of cloud computing while ensuring its effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability in the future.

9. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, cloud computing offers numerous benefits, but it also presents challenges and realities that organizations must address. The challenges include security and privacy concerns, performance and reliability issues, cost management complexities, vendor lock-in risks, and integration complexities. These challenges require careful planning, implementation of appropriate strategies, and continuous monitoring and optimization.

To overcome security and privacy challenges, organizations should focus on implementing strong encryption, access controls, and monitoring systems. Performance and reliability challenges can be mitigated through careful evaluation of cloud service providers, redundancy mechanisms, and performance optimization techniques. Effective cost management requires monitoring, optimization, and adopting multi-cloud or hybrid cloud strategies.

To tackle vendor lock-in challenges, organizations should prioritize open standards, data portability, and multi-cloud approaches. Integration complexity can be addressed through careful planning, integration platforms, and standardized interfaces. Additionally, the emerging area of green computing and sustainability should be considered to reduce the environmental impact of cloud computing.

Future research should focus on advancing security mechanisms, performance optimization techniques, cost management strategies, mitigating vendor lock-in, simplifying integration, and promoting sustainability in cloud computing.

By understanding and addressing these challenges and realities, organizations can harness the full potential of cloud computing while minimizing risks and maximizing benefits. Cloud computing continues to evolve, and staying updated with the latest research and best practices is crucial for organizations to leverage its transformative power in the digital age.

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