Research Assessment 8

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Subject: Introduction to Cloud Computing

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Introduction to Cloud Computing. (2017). *Dialogic*. Retrieved from

https://www.dialogic.com/~/media/products/docs/whitepapers/12023-cloud-computing-wp.pdf

Assessment:

For my research assessment this week in ISM, I started a new article to give me a better basis on cloud computing. Upon finishing my last article about the current issues existing in cloud computing, I felt like I needed a better understanding about how cloud computing exists in different forms, and how the services provide many different applications useful for individuals as well as businesses. *Introduction to Cloud Computing* focused more on the services side of the topic rather than the benefits and issues of the topic, which is what my last research assessment primarily focused on. Although the knowledge that I previously had about cloud computing was correct in many ways, there was still a lot that I had to expand and read about. I did not completely finish reading the article, but what I read so far has taught me that I have a lot more left to research about the topic.

A brief summary of what I had read so far included cloud computing characteristics, service models, and deployment models. The characteristics include cloud computing infrastructures, provisioning, network access, and managed cloud computing metering. All of these characteristics allow better sharing and scalable deployment in the services of cloud, which are essential when looking at customer usage of the cloud. The infrastructure seeks to make the most of the structure of the cloud for better customer usage, and enable better network capabilities. Dynamic provisioning allows for the supply of services based on current demand requirements in the field. It is done using software automation, and it must be maintained with high levels of reliability and security. The cloud must always be available to a wide range of devices, such as PCs, laptops, and mobile devices, which is where network access comes into play. Deployments of services in the cloud include a very broad range of applications, which must be provided to at all times. Managed metering has to do with the billing side of cloud computing, which is why I did not really pay much attention to this part of the topic.

As I continued reading, the “Service Models” is when I really started to get intrigues with subject. In my cybersecurity class, I had seen the terms “SaaS”, “PaaS”, and “IaaS” many times, but I had no clue what they actually meant. After reading this part of the article I was really glad that I actually knew what was going on in the article. “SaaS” stands for “Software as a Service”, which is basically the ability to purchase and access an application or service. This has to deal more with the individual consumer and host topic of cloud computing. “PaaS” stands for

“Platform as a Service”, which is when the companies who purchase access to a certain platform can deploy their own software and applications in the cloud. Finally, “IaaS” stands for “Infrastructure as a Service”, which means consumers control and manage storage, applications, operating systems, and network connectivity, but do not control the cloud infrastructure themselves.

The reading from this article really stood out to me because it taught me something that I have been trying to figure out for a long time, and it also gave the reasons why cloud architects do what they do. As mentioned in IaaS, the people who purchase cloud products cannot control how they choose to manage the cloud networks. Only the architects who work on the cloud actually have access to doing that, which is what I look forward to working on.