



# What are the essential characteristics of Cloud Computing?

According to the National Institute of Standards and Technologies (NIST), cloud computing is a model for enabling convenient, on-demand network access to a shared pool of configurable computing resources (networks, servers, storage, applications, and services) that can be rapidly provisioned and released with minimal management effort or service provider interaction. Being a [cloud computing](#) provider doesn't mean just supplementing IT resources, it means providing strategic, core information technology.

This cloud model is composed of five essential characteristics:

1. On-demand self-service
2. Broad network access
3. Resource pooling
4. Rapid elasticity
5. Measured Service