

## Opportunities and Challenges of Cloud Computing in Sri Lanka

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The objective of this paper is to assess the opportunities and challenges of adopting cloud enable internet based computing in Sri Lanka. Cloud computing is the means of accessing a shared pool of configurable computer resources. This pool includes hardware, software, networks, services, storage application and services. The name “Cloud” comes from the use of a cloud shaped symbol as an abstraction for the complex infrastructure it contains in system diagrams. Cloud provides a positive multiplier opportunity with web based processing where the data, application and infrastructure are provided to computers and other devices on demand over the network. It is a style of computing which is having dynamically scalable virtualized resources provided as a service over the Internet. Cloud computing is an emerging field which is evolving and giving new ways to build, manage and scale the enterprise ready infrastructure and application. The global trend, the enterprises’ spending on cloud computing is growing faster than overall spending on IT. It is essential to conduct a feasibility study and explore the opportunities and challengers for introducing cloud enabled model to an enterprise. The privacy of the data is not assured as the data lies with the third party Cloud service provider. Solid legal and regulatory base is required to support growth of cloud computing. The evaluation of cloud-enabled business model opportunities will focus on potential changes to the value chain, creation of new revenue streams, changing product/ service mix, or altering the way of the business operates across its extended enterprise. The flexibility provided by the Cloud technology, enables a virtual environment for the employees to access their official working systems from any location depend on the authorization and authentication. Therefore, both opportunities and challenges should be assessed in detail before the wider adaptation and implementation of cloud computing in Sri Lanka.

**Key words:** *Cloud computing, Internet, Opportunities, Challenges, Sri Lanka*