

# "The Cloud" Defined

According to the official NIST definition, “cloud computing is a model for enabling ubiquitous, convenient, on-demand network access to a shared pool of configurable computing resources (e.g., networks, servers, storage, applications and services) that can be rapidly provisioned and released with minimal management effort or service provider interaction.”

- <http://csrc.nist.gov/publications/PubsSPs.html#800-145>

NIST has several reference documents in its **Cloud Computing** subject area—

- **NIST Cloud Computing Program**, <http://www.nist.gov/itl/cloud/>
- **NIST Cloud Computing Standards Roadmap**
- **Cloud Computing, Security Reference Architecture RFC**

Another perspective relating possible confusion with virtualization—

- **What IS the difference between Virt and Cloud?**,  
[http://www.theregister.co.uk/2013/05/17/hybrid\\_cloud\\_definitions\\_analysis/](http://www.theregister.co.uk/2013/05/17/hybrid_cloud_definitions_analysis/)

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