CAREER PATHS

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SOFTWARE ENGINEERING

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14 Cloud Computing: SaaS and PaaS

Get ready!

1 Before you read the passage, talk about these questions.

1 What are some ways that software is distributed?

2 How do users pay for cloud computing services?

Computer World:

Specialized Software

Cloud computing is changing the **distribution** of computing and storage services. Cloud computing is a network of companies and users sharing resources. Software engineers must be ready to meet demands for this specialized software.

One model of cloud computing is **SaaS**, or Software as a Service. In this model, software is hosted by a provider and accessed over a network. Another example is **PaaS**, or Platform as a Service. In this model, computer hardware and software are rented. **Software on demand** falls under the PaaS category.

To provide their services, companies purchase **software licenses**. Then they charge users for access to the software. Some companies charge users by **metered fees**. This means that users pay afterwards for whatever they used. Others support **pay-as-you-go** systems. In these cases, **software as a product** is purchased in advance, when it is needed.

Several requirements of the **computer platform** are necessary to access cloud technology. The computer must be **online**. The **bandwidth** of the system needs to be large in order to quickly send and receive information. But if the specifications are right, cloud computing is a tremendously useful tool. Users can easily access data from web **browsers**, among other methods. A tip to software engineers: get into this expanding industry!

Reading

2 Read the journal article. Then, choose the correct answers.

1 What is the main idea of the article?

A the challenges of developing cloud computing software

B recent changes in cloud computing technology

C the history of the development of cloud computing

D an overview of cloud computing models

2 What is true of SaaS users?

A They access software that is provided by a network host.

B They rent software from a cloud computing provider.

C They purchase software from the developer.

D They need a specialized web browser.

3 Which of the following is NOT required for users to access a cloud?

A web browser **C** a fee

B software license **D** a large bandwidth

Vocabulary

3 Match the words (1-8) with the definitions (A-H).

1 __ cloud computing
2 __ distribution
3 __ software license
4 __ computer platform
5 __ browser
6 __ online
7 __ bandwidth
8 __ software on demand

A a software system that is used to gain access to information on the internet

B being connected to the internet

C a measure of a computer system's capacity to send and receive information

D a combination of hardware and system software that allows an application to run

E a model in which software is rented from a provider

F a legal agreement which grants the buyer of a program the right to use it

G the action of supplying a product or service

H a model in which computing is delivered as a service rather than as a product

4 Choose the sentence that uses the underlined part correctly.

1 **A** In PaaS, computer software can be rented.
B A computer must be equipped with SaaS to access a web browser.

2 **A** The company uses a pay-as-you-go system, requiring a set monthly fee.
B The customer pays a metered fee, so he only pays for the services he uses.

3 **A** To access data storage, a computer must have software on demand.
B Some software developers only supply software as a product.

5 Listen and read the journal article again. What must a computer have in order to access the cloud?

Listening

6 Listen to a conversation between a manager and an engineer. Mark the following statements as true (T) or false (F).

1 __ The man had a negative experience with cloud computing
2 __ The company recently requested a new software license.
3 __ The woman recommends SaaS.

7 Listen again and complete the conversation.

Manager: Hey, Tonya. I'm thinking about upgrading the company's network, and I was wondering what **1** _____ _____ _____ _____ .
Engineer: SaaS is a networking model.
Manager: I don't know much about computers. What does that mean?
Engineer: Let me explain the basics. SaaS stands for Software as a Service. It is a model that **2** _____ _____ _____ _____ .
Manager: What's cloud computing?
Engineer: It's a **3** _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ services.
Manager: So it's a way to access information?
Engineer: Yes, partly. Clients purchase the right to a **4** _____ _____ . Then they share that software with their users.
Manager: Okay. How **5** _____ _____ _____ _____ for that, though?
Engineer: Clients typically pay regular fees. Some companies charge users metered fees, while others **6** _____ _____ - _____ - _____ - _____ . It just depends on your needs.

Speaking

8 With a partner, act out the roles below based on Task 7. Then, switch roles.

USE LANGUAGE SUCH AS:

I'm thinking of ...
What are your thoughts on ...
Some prefer ...

Student A: You are a manager. Talk to Student B about:

- elements of cloud computing
- how the services work
- his or her recommendation

Student B: You are an engineer. Talk to Student A about elements of cloud computing.

Writing

9 Use the journal article and conversation from Task 8 to write a review of SaaS and PaaS. Include: user options for accessing information, how users can pay for services, and what computer requirements users need to access the cloud.