IEEE INTERNET COMPUTING

Special Issue on Cloud Computing
Sept/Oct 2009

Final submissions due 15 January 2009

Please e-mail the guest editors a brief description of the article you plan to submit by 1st January 2009 (subject line: Cloud Computing Special Issue).

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Cloud Computing refers to a recent trend in Information Technology (IT) that moves computing and data away from desktop and portable PCs into large data centers. The key driving forces behind the emergence of Cloud Computing includes the overcapacity of today's large corporate data centers, the ubiquity of broadband and wireless networking, the falling cost of storage, and progressive improvements in Internet computing software. Currently, the main technical underpinnings of Cloud Computing infrastructures and services include virtualization, service-oriented software, Grid computing technologies, management of large facilities, power efficiency etc.

The emergence of Cloud Computing promises to streamline the on-demand provision of software, hardware, and data as a service, achieving economies of scale in the deployment and operation of IT solutions. It is believed that Cloud Computing will be a disruptive technology with profound implications not only for Internet services but also for the IT sector as a whole.

This special issue of IC seeks original articles describing research efforts and experiences concerning the deployment, efficient operation, and use of Cloud Computing infrastructures.

Appropriate topics include:

- Architecture and management of Cloud Computing infrastructures;
- Cloud Computing programming and application development;
- Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) applications;
- Discovery of services and data in Cloud Computing infrastructures;
- Cross-platform interoperability;
- Service-Level Agreements (SLAs), business models and pricing policies;
- Content and service distribution in Cloud Computing infrastructures;
- Power-efficiency and Cloud Computing;
- Privacy, security, ownership and reliability issues.