

THE HISTORY OF CLOUD COMPUTING



2025

AI & Governance

AI-native platforms became more embedded in cloud services, alongside stronger focus on governance and cost control. Hybrid and multi-cloud adoption matured, with increased emphasis on security and data sovereignty.



2023

Drive Innovation

Edge computing reduced reliance on central cloud data centres, while AI will keep leveraging the cloud to drive innovation across industries.



2020/21

Cloud Computing Explodes

As work went virtual, businesses adapted to the pandemic by focusing on digital service delivery.

2017

October - AWS

Offers pay-per-second billing for Linux VMs

2016

Google Cloud Functions

Providing computing, data storage, data analytics & machine learning



2014

Docker

Container services for Amazon Elastic Compute Cloud (EC2)



2008

Google

Releases GCP & Google App Engine

salesforce

1999

SalesForce

Offering business apps over the internet - arrival of SaaS

1991

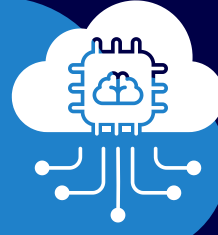
www

Launched

1969

ARPANET

Developed by J.C.R Licklider



2026

Autonomous Cloud

Cloud computing moves further towards autonomous, AI-driven environments, with real-time processing becoming standard. Focus remains on efficiency, resilience, and sustainability as intelligent cloud adoption grows.



2024

AI, Edge & Sustainability

AI integration accelerated across cloud platforms, while edge computing expanded. Sustainability rose in priority, driving demand for greener, more efficient data centres.



2022

Rapid Adoption & Growth

The global cloud computing market exceeds £482 billion, powering services from social media and streaming to IoT. AWS, Microsoft, and Google lead in revenue.



2019

CDN Market

Estimated at over £10 billion, driven by the need for digital transformation, with 72% of companies expected to adopt cloud computing by 2022.

2017

September - GCP

Offers pay-per-second billing for VM

2015

Google

Introduces virtual machines (VMs) - half the cost of when it was introduced

2010

Azure

Windows Azure is officially launched (later renamed Microsoft Azure)

2006

Amazon

Creates AWS and introduces Elastic Compute Cloud (EC2)



1997

Cloud Computing

Is defined by Prof. Ramnath Chellappa

1970

Virtualisation

Software launched

1960's

John McCarthy

Introduces mainframe timesharing