G-Cloud: e-Governace through Cloud Computing

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As governments around the world continue to grapple with slow-moving economies, cloud computing is emerging as a viable and valuable answer to the persistent demands for reducing public sector spending. Recent attention has shifted to a new initiative called Cloud Government (G-Cloud) incorporating cloud computing into e-Government services, particularly aimed at communicating directly with citizens and implementing cloud computing services in order to cut costs and improve upon the IT services infrastructure. G-Cloud is an Internet based communications which enable public bodies to host, select and use computing services from secure, resilient and cost-effective IT service environment. The ambition of the journey from traditional IT infrastructures towards cloud computing and IaaS is a trusted Cloud with the network as the logical platform to bring the existing assets in the Datacenter and new Cloud computing approaches with Virtualization, Governance, Security, Information and Application. The G-Cloud program's core benefits are cost reduction, improved services, faster delivery and progressive sustainability agenda. The citizen-centric data, services and applications will be stored, maintained and delivered from G-Cloud and a comprehensive government portal will be a part and parcel of this cloud-based service delivery. Government applications store will provide a "portal" to purchase G-Cloud services. The latest trend on G-Cloud is following the agency-by-agency implementation scenario.

Various Ministries/Departments may use cloud services provided by various Cloud Service Provider (CSP) based on the availability in a particular locality as well as the specific requirement of the particular Department/Ministry. It is a fact that all the CSPs are not equally competent in all types of services like accounting, ERP, CRM etc. But for the smooth function of the Government machinery these clouds must be interoperable. Current cloud frameworks are not designed to interact with each other, which make it more difficult for organizations to consolidate their applications and fully realize the savings and productivity benefits of cloud solutions. The dynamic location of service facilities, Virtualization of hardware and software elements is stressing the communication network & protocols, when datacenters are interconnected through the Internet. Although the "Computing" aspects of Cloud have been largely investigated, lower attention has been devoted to the "Networking of Clouds".

The challenges of e-Governances are Enormous Inventory, Diversity of Technology Environment and Abundance of contractual arrangement. Being an interdisciplinary subject there are lots of scope for Research and Development in G-Cloud in ICT, Governance and Management.

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