Workshop on Cloud Computing

A three day workshop on Cloud Computing was jointly organized by the IEEE Computer Society, Madras, Chapter, and Computer Society of India (CSI) Div IV on Communication, Chennai Chapter and Special Interest Group on Distributed Systems (SIG-DS) during 18-20, Aug 2010 at IIT Madras, Chennai.

This workshop, provided a platform in which experts from top notch organizations that are rewriting computing history such as Yahoo, Google, HP, IBM, Amazon, HCL, TCS, Hitachi, Netmagic, VMware, Novell, CSS Corp, Ramco, Trend Micro, Cognizant, Zscaler and Zoho shared their experiences and demystified the various aspects of cloud computing.

The workshop started with an inaugural session in which Mr. H.R. Mohan, Chairman, Div IV of CSI & IEEE CS welcomed the gathering and narrated about the genesis of the workshop and highlighted the overwhelmingly positive response of the cloud vendors and delegates in supporting this workshop. He also gave an outline of the activities of CSI & IEEE CS in popularizing the new technologies. Prof. D. Janakiram, Chairman, SIG-DS, CSI, in his address spoke about the activities of the special interest group on distributed systems. Mr. Ramesh Gopalaswamy, Chairman of the programmes highlighted the session details of the three day workshop and the goal of the workshop to provide both the business and technology perspectives of cloud computing. Dr. P. Sakthivel, Chairman, CSI Chennai Chapter at the end of the inaugural session proposed the vote of thanks.

Mr. P.W.C.Davidar, IAS, Principal Secretary for Information Technology, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, in his inaugural address said that cloud computing presents opportunities to all sections of IT users and added that the State government is very much interested in the concept of cloud computing where storage and processing are distributed over a network. But some key problems including security of the data, the pricing, sustainability and the legal framework for data access from a country different from the country of its origin needed to be resolved, he said. The government is planning to launch some key IT solutions including a Labour Department application which would enable both the government and the private sector easy access to labour resources throughout the State, he said.

Mr. S. Mahalingam, CFO & ED, TCS, in his keynote address said cloud computing as a technology had already "arrived" but its business implications needed to be understood. While hardware, software and networking solutions all would benefit from the arrival of the technology, the creation of an Intellectual Property regime and a legal framework were also important, he added.

Dr. M.S.Ananth, Director, IIT-Madras, in his presidential address said the institution is divided on the issue of whether cloud computing would benefit the institution. Noting that NPTEL videos on YouTube are seeing the most hits in the country, he said cloud computing in its various forms could help the education sector.

The sessions of the workshop started with an overview presentation on "Cloud Computing Landscape - Opportunities, Challenges & Way Forward" by Mr. Pari Natarajan, Co-Founder & Chief Executive Officer, Zinnov Management Consulting Pvt. Ltd.

The following other sessions spread over the three days of the workshop dealt with the various aspects of the cloud computing concepts and practices

- Large Scale Distributed Infrastructures (using Hadoop): Mr. Chidambaran Kollengode, Director Cloud Computing, Yahoo! India R&D
- Developers, Testers, and Students: The cloud is ready for you right now!: Mr. Gaurav Lochan, Staff Engineer, VMware.
- Everything as a Service: HP's Cloud Computing Vision & Strategy: Mr. Hemanth Thalak Dattatreya, HP.
- Smarter Clouds on the Horizon: Mr. Subram Natarajan, Country Manager, Deep Computing & Systems Solutions Center, IBM.
- Private Cloud - A win-win for an organization: Mr. Jayabalan. S, CTO and Co-Founder, Netmagic Solutions
- Agile Cloud Infrastructure for a Sustainable Future: Mr. Sunil Chavan, Director, Software Group & Cloud Solutions, Asia Pacific, Hitachi Data Systems
- Security Challenges in the Cloud: Mr. Anuj Khandelwal, Technical Consultant-South India, Trend Micro
- On Demand ERP on Cloud: Mr. V.S. Sundara Raman, Chief Architect, On Demand ERP, Ramco
- Secure and Fast Internet Experience with Cloud Web Security: Mr. Atul Anchan, Technical Consultant, Zscaler.
- Developing a multi-paradigm platform for the Cloud: Mr. Sundar Mudupalli, Associate Vice-President, Enterprise Transformation Services, HCL Technologies.
- Build your Cloud using Intelligent Workload Management: Dr. P.K. Mishra, Principal Consulting Architect, Novell.
- CloudTestGo Platform: Mr. Ramakrishnan Sitaraman, Director Testing Practice, CSS Corp
- Next generation work on cloud: Mr. Raj Bala, CTO, Cognizant
- Cloud Computing for the SME: Mr. Hyther Nizam, Product Management Director, Zoho
- Research Directions in Cloud Computing: Dr. D. Janakiram, Prof. Dept. of CSE, IIT Madras
- Security Issues in the Cloud Environment: Dr. M. Sasikumar, Director (R&D), Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC)
- Emerging Trends in Cloud Computing: Mr. Jaideep Mirchandani, Sr. Product Manager, Google
- Amazon Web Services covering Amazon EC2, Amazon S3, Amazon CloudFront, Amazon RDS: Mr. Simone Brunozzi, APAC Technology Evangelist for Amazon Web Services, Singapore

- User Experience: Cloud Computing as a Leveler -- Success Story in Micro Financing: Mr. Dasarathy Ramaswami, Vice President (IT & Special Projects), Janalakshmi Financial Services Pvt. Ltd, Bangalore
- Selection of Right Cloud Partner: Mr. K. Murugan, Associate Vice President-ICT, iSOFT, Chennai
- Best Practices & Migration Strategies for Cloud Computing: Mr. K. Ananth Krishnan, CTO & Vice President, TCS.

An interesting panel on "Are We Ready for Cloud?" was the highlight on the last day. The panel was moderated by, Mr. S. Ramanathan, Vice President (Region - VII), CSI and the eminent panelists debated on the various facets of cloud computing as detailed below:

- Cloud for IT / ITES Segment: Mr. V. Balakrishnan, CIO, Polaris
- Cloud & Security Issues: Mr. Gan Subramaniam, Information Security Lead, Global Asset Protection, Accenture
- Cloud for SMEs: Mr.Vijay Venkatesh, President, Consortium of Service Providers for Upgradation of Enterprises [CAPSULE] & Founder and Managing Director - Syscon Solutions Private Ltd
- Cloud for Corporate Segment: Mr. T.G. Dhandapani, Group CIO, TVS Motor Co. Ltd
- Transformational Leadership and Cloud Computing: Dr. E.S. Krishnamoorthy, Hon. Secretary & Chief Executive, VHS and Founder CEO & Chief Consultant, TEJAS Healthcare Solutions

In the feedback session, the participants expressed their appreciation for the workshop. They added that this is the first time they are able to attend a three day workshop at a cost of Rs. 1250/- to 1500/- (depending on the member or non member category) and are provided with an excellent book on Cloud Computing (worth Rs. 475/-) plus Amazon Web Services coupon worth USD 25/= along with the workshop CD containing the presentations, whitepapers, case studies and success stories by the supporting organizations.

Mr. H.R. Mohan, Chairman, IEEE CS & CSI Div IV said that the registrations had to be closed well in advance since it exceeded the capacity of the hall and with the help of IIT Madras facilities, video streaming was planned on the intranet to accommodate additional 100 delegates. On the whole about 350 delegates attended the workshop. Mr. Mohan further added that multiple in-depth sessions on specific areas of cloud computing with the support of organizations participated in this workshop are being planned in the near future and informed that both industry and academic community will be accommodated. The workshop pictures are hosted at http://bit.ly/amHUod and the presentations are made available at the workshop website at http://www.csi-chennai.org/wcc/

A limited no. of copies of the workshop CD containing the presentations, whitepapers, case studies and success stories by the participating organizations are available at Rs. 200/- For details pl. contact Mr. Mohan at hrmohan.csi@gmail.com or Mr. S. Ramasamy at sypsys@vsnl.com
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