# Understanding cloud computing

## What is a cloud?

Clouds deliver computing services over the internet. They allow users to access resources on demand without having to manage or own them.

## Types of cloud

There are four main types of cloud: Public, Private, Hybrid and Multi. But what are the differences?

**PUBLIC**

Public clouds provide resources over the public internet for anyone to connect to. Data is stored on shared servers, making it less secure.

**PRIVATE**

Private clouds are exclusive to an organisation. This means data is more secure and performance is usually higher, but they are generally more costly.

**HYBRID**

Hybrid clouds mean organisations recieve resources from both public and private clouds. They might store their data on private servers, while hosting some applications on a public cloud, for example.

**MULTI**

Multi clouds use cloud services from more than one provider. It means that an organisation can use different clouds for different services. This way, they have better choice and flexiblity of providers.