January 3, 2011

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DRAFT CHARTER

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Title

NIST Cloud Computing Reference Architecture and Taxonomy Working Group

Background

NIST is leading the development of a USG Cloud Computing Roadmap. This roadmap will define and prioritize USG requirements for interoperability, portability, and security for cloud computing in order to support secure and effective USG adoption of Cloud Computing. To help prepare this roadmap, NIST has created the following Working Groups:

> Cloud Computing Reference Architecture Working Group
> Cloud Computing SAJACC Technical Use Cases Working Group
> Cloud Computing Security Working Group
> Cloud Computing Standards Roadmap Working Group
> Cloud Computing Target Business Use Cases Working Group

Scope

The NIST definition of cloud computing includes five essential characteristics, three service models (IaaS/PaaS/SaaS), and four deployment models (public cloud/private cloud/community cloud/hybrid cloud). A Cloud Architecture Reference Model is an abstraction of cloud computing concepts and relationships that can be used to educate organizations, and create standards and guidelines to help organizations apply these concepts. The associated taxonomy describes the various components of a cloud computing system and their interactions.

NIST will lead interested USG agencies and industry to define a neutral cloud computing reference architecture and taxonomy to extend the NIST cloud computing model; to use as a frame of reference to facilitate communication; to illustrate and understand various cloud services in the context of an overall Cloud Computing Model and to use as a tool to communicate and analyze candidate security, interoperability, and portability candidate standards and reference implementations

The NIST Cloud Computing Reference Architecture and Taxonomy Roadmap Working Group will leverage the existing, publicly available work, plus the work of the other NIST Working Groups, to develop a NIST Cloud Computing Roadmap that can be incorporated into the USG Cloud Computing Roadmap.

Deliverables

The primary deliverable will be a first draft of a neutral Cloud Computing Reference Architecture and Taxonomy document. Supporting deliverables will be developed as necessary.

Target Date

The goal for completion is March 31, 2011.

Meeting Frequency

It is anticipated that there will be weekly 2-hour meetings by telecon. Propose date and time: Thursdays @1300 to 1500 ET.

Face-to-face (with telecon) meetings may be held in conjunction with other meetings.

Membership

Participation in the WG is open to all interested parties. There are no membership fees.

Co-Conveners: Robert Bohn, NIST
                      John Messina, NIST

Liaisons

The work of the NIST Cloud Computing Working Groups is interrelated to one degree or another. The Cloud Computing Reference Architecture and Taxonomy Roadmap Working Group will liaise with the other Working Groups as needed.

Standing Rules

Voting by WG members shall be used to establish the level of consensus on draft documents. Documents shall be made available to all WG members (e.g., any copyrighted document will need a release from the copyright holder before distribution).
Final recommendations from the WG will be made publicly accessible on the NIST Cloud Computing Portal.

Outreach

NIST may make the results of this WG available to Standards Developing Organizations and other interested parties.