

CASE STUDY: GRID/CLOUD COMPUTING

The Situation

Over the last years Google and Amazon, Microsoft since October 2008 and in January 2009, Ubuntu (Karmic Koala) propagate the use of software applications in the so-called "cloud". Each supplier puts different strategies forward, which - from a business point of view - require evaluation and analysis to identify a suitable solution for potential use. Verlyee was asked to support a European wide research project evaluating and positioning a cloud-based software product in the market.

The Challenge

In supporting this project, the main challenge was to identify methodologies and tools to assess the business value of open and closed cloud based software applications in general. By moving to a virtualized IT infrastructure, cost attribution and benefit identification becomes more complex and the financial return on the required investment is harder to calculate. Further security of information and secure access become of much higher importance, when business applications are outsourced into the cloud.

The Solution

In order to assess the economical value of cloud based business applications, a new assessment model was created. This assessment model structures the evaluation of economical benefits along two axes: the potential impact on the business today and the exploitation strategy in the future. Based on the outcome of this assessment model, a template for a business plan and justification document could be developed, streamlining the assessment process of cloud based application usage.

The Results

At the forefront of current technology development, Verlyee was able to support the development of a business driven approach to assess the benefits and financial returns for using cloud based applications.

Lessons Learned

Cloud Computing and service offerings based on virtual infrastructures can provide business value, if the organization using these applications can trust the environment in which its data is held; but there is still the need for each project to evaluate the potential benefits.