



IT alphabet soup: The advantages of DaaS float to the top

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The number of “as a Service” models has skyrocketed in the past few years—and for good reason. These on-demand services offer the flexibility required of businesses hoping to meet the needs of the modern workplace. Take **HP’s Device as a Service** offering: The **advantages of DaaS** will help your business enhance, improve, and optimize your IT environment, granting you the ability to reallocate IT resources to more strategic projects.

Sounds easy enough to understand, but with so much technical jargon and acronyms floating around out there, your IT opportunities can start to look a lot like alphabet soup. How can you keep track of what each acronym stands for? And how can you remember what each service offers? Easy—follow this guide to parse through the IT alphabet soup of “as a Service” offerings and keep all the facts straight.

Start at the beginning

Before “as a Service,” there was virtualization. Network virtualization creates virtual network resources, while server virtualization uses software to emulate hardware. The operating systems (OS) on the computers connected to the server interact with a software replica of the hardware. The downside? Performance typically isn’t as robust as it would be if it were running on true hardware, but most applications don’t actually require the full potential of the underlying hardware.

Virtualization essentially set the stage for the “as a Service” model, which takes virtualization to a whole new level for IT teams by offering specific solutions to IT decision-makers. Some of the most popular models include the following:

Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS)

IaaS is one of the layers within a cloud computing model, along with Platform as a Service and Software as a Service. A business implementing IaaS outsources the complexities and expenses of managing hardware to a cloud provider, which may also offer on-premise server software and various consulting services.

Vendors in this field usually offer advanced features that can support different workloads. A startup, for instance, could scale its infrastructure to match its business growth with the help of IaaS. However, support services aren’t always as responsive as in-house dedicated IT professionals—a gap that can definitely hold this solution back in effectiveness.

Platform as a Service (PaaS)

In addition to hardware, PaaS manages a company’s operating system layer. This computing environment supports the rapid development, performance, and management of applications. The original intent of PaaS was to streamline IT “plumbing,” so developers could focus on coding. After all, when it comes to app

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development, writing code and deploying to production seamlessly is every dev's dream.

In short, PaaS creates, manages, and configures the complexities of servers, so developers don't need to wait for someone else to provision their infrastructure. However, while these solutions may cater to developers, they often end up sacrificing the needs of the operations team, because private PaaS adds another layer of architecture to manage.

Software as a Service (SaaS)

In a SaaS model, an application layer is provided and managed for a customer, as well as the infrastructure and OS. In simpler terms, a company licenses software that's centrally hosted on a subscription basis.

Consider a customer relationship management (CRM) platform. A company pays a monthly fee to use the CRM platform—no IT experts are needed to set up or manage the system, so the internal IT department is free to concentrate on more strategic company concerns. The caveat is that users don't own a copy of the executable file. Instead, it's on the server, where users can't see or touch it.

Desktop as a Service

The service provider of a Desktop as a Service solution manages back-end responsibilities, including data storage, backup, security, and upgrades. Users' personal data is replicated to and from the virtual desktop during log-on/log-off, and access is device, location, and network independent. This accelerates user deployments and opens a new world of remote working possibilities. Although that frees a company from back-end infrastructure costs and maintenance, the IT department still needs to manage its desktop images, applications, and security.

Device as a Service (DaaS)

IT has its work cut out for itself, especially with the influx of employees working both inside the office and basically anywhere else they can get an internet connection, too. The spread of mobility and the remote workforce equates to more demands on IT's time to assist with networking

problems. HP's DaaS offering is well positioned to ease those increased IT pressures—according to **IDC's technology spotlight**, "Transforming End-User Device Deployment with Device as a Service," sponsored by HP, November 2016—and it's changing how IT decision-makers approach device management.

With so many employees working on the go and across the globe, employers are searching for ways to collaborate with others who may not be in the same building. HP DaaS addresses the location of your workers' devices, identifies who's working, and provides greater visibility into device performance.

One of the key advantages of DaaS is that companies can shift from a CapEx-based spending model of buying hardware to an OpEx-based model of provisioning hardware as a component of a managed service. This allows you to consume the technology you need—not just the hardware, but the services going along with those devices. It's also flexible enough that you won't end up paying for services or functionality your business and its users don't need.

These "as a Service" offerings have brought virtualization benefits to a new height, especially when it comes to freeing up IT teams for more strategic processes. Knowing the differences between these terms and their unique advantages for your team and your company can help your team successfully boost its efficiency. That said, HP DaaS stands above the other "as a Service" offerings, because it has the potential to revolutionize modern IT processes.

By teaming up with a true partner and leveraging HP DaaS's analytics and proactive management capabilities, you can fully optimize your business's IT department down to the smallest detail. The flexibility and scalability of HP DaaS also allow you to increase or decrease services in response to your company's needs—a challenge your IT team can now tackle with confidence. From keeping up with IT complexity to accelerating digital transformation, the advantages of HP DaaS make the solution a top choice for the modern IT team ready to innovate—and distinguish it from the other "as a Service" models floating around in the market.

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