Cloud Jargon Buster

"**Cloud**" - Cloud computing is defined as access to computing resources (such as storage and software), on demand, via a network.

"**Cloud provider**" – The organisation that owns and operates a cloud service (Note: More than one cloud provider may be involved in the supply chain of a single cloud service).

"**Cloud customer**" – The organisation that commissions a cloud service for a particular purpose.

"**Cloud user**" – The end user of a cloud.

"**Private cloud**" – The cloud customer is the sole user of the cloud service. The underlying hardware may be managed and maintained by a cloud provider under an outsourcing contract. Access to the cloud service may be restricted to a local or wide area network.

"**Community cloud**" – A group of cloud customers access the resources of the same cloud service. Typically the cloud customers will share specific requirements such as a need for legal compliance or high security which the cloud service provides. Access to the cloud service may be restricted to a wide area network.

"**Public cloud**" – The infrastructure, platform or software is managed by the cloud provider and made available to the general public (cloud customers or cloud end-users). Access to the cloud service is likely to be over the public internet.

"**Hybrid cloud**" – Describes a combination of private, community and public clouds. A cloud customer will segregate data and services across different cloud services, with access between them restricted depending on the type of data they contain.

"**Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS)**" – An IaaS cloud offers access to the raw computing resources of a cloud service. Rather than purchasing hardware itself, the cloud customer purchases access to the cloud provider's hardware according to the capacity required.

"**Platform as a Service (PaaS)**" – A PaaS cloud offers access to a computing platform which allows cloud customers to write applications to run within that platform, or another instance of it. The platform may in turn be hosted on a cloud IaaS.

"**Software as a Service (SaaS)**" – A SaaS cloud offers access to a complete software application which the cloud user accesses through a web browser or other software. Accessing the software in this manner eliminates or reduces the need to install software on the client machine and allows the service to support a wider range of devices. The software may in turn be hosted on a cloud platform or infrastructure.

IaaS, PaaS and SaaS – "Car as a Service" example
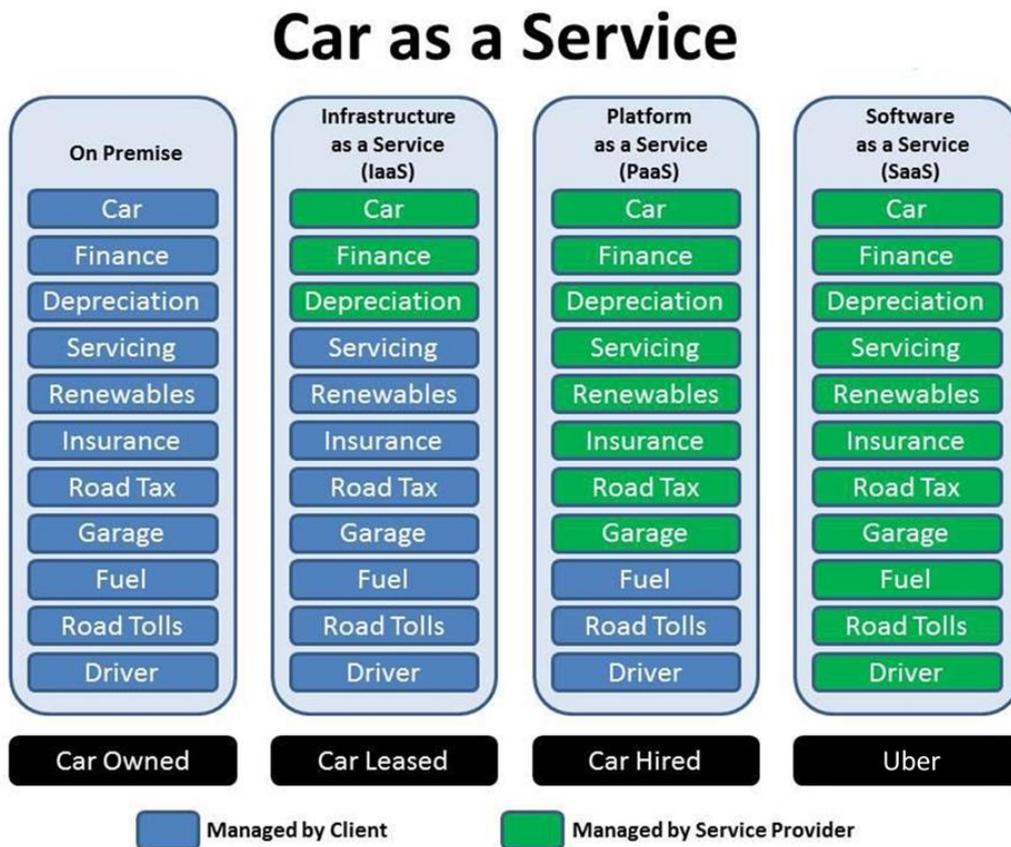
Source: Dave Williams, Cloud Specialist at Sungard AS