Cloud Computing

Abstract

Cloud computing has come of age since Amazon's rollout of the first of its kind of cloud services in 2006. It is particularly relevant to Hong Kong because of the tremendous amounts of data that are being processed here daily in various sectors, and there are signs that subscription to cloud services by the local companies will soon be on a skyrocket course, despite a slow start in previous years. As a research theme, cloud computing now easily tops any list of topics in computer science because of its far reaching implications in many areas in computing, especially big data which without cloud computing is at best a concept. Alibaba's jump in 2014 FQ on the bandwagon (www.aliyun.com), as well as the recent establishment of one of its datacenters in Hong Kong, signified the beginning of a new era in cloud computing where not just the scale, but also every other single aspect in a cloud service will meet with much elevated complexities. Hong Kong is poised to play a role in the advancement of cloud computing technologies because of its track record in networking, and recently cloud, research. The recent establishment of a major cloud R&D center in Hong Kong by Lenovo (January 2015) attests to this fact. Researchers in various local institutions already have an active agenda of important and significant problems for which they would like to seek the best and optimized solutions. We believe solving these problems will create a spot for Hong Kong in the world map of cloud computing research. The results will also benefit Hong Kong as the reliance on cloud computing services is rapidly increasing. This brief talk will outline some of the concerns pertaining to the further development of cloud computing into a mature technology that meets its original goals.