

Influence of ICT Skills on Use of Cloud Computing among Undergraduates in Private Universities, South-West, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

This study investigated the influence of ICT skills on use of cloud computing among undergraduates in selected private universities, South-West, Nigeria. Cloud computing is a novel means of providing access to diversities computer services via the Internet. Descriptive research design was employed and the population comprised 13,969 undergraduates in Babcock, Bowen and Covenant universities. Multi stage sampling technique was used, and data collection instrument was a structured questionnaire. Method of data analysis was simple percentages for research questions and regression analysis for the hypotheses. The study revealed that undergraduates possessed high level of ICT literacy skills and undergraduates used various cloud computing services and application. There was positive significant relationship between awareness and use of cloud computing ($r=-.517^{**}$, $n=533$, $p<.01$). Cloud computing is a novel technology that augment teaching and learning it also allows students to access instructional content and resources remotely. For student to effectively utilise and explore the benefit of cloud computing, the university management make available high bandwidth and dependable Private Power Plant (PPP) to increase use of cloud computing services.

KEYWORDS

Cloud Computing Awareness, Cloud Computing Use, Nigeria, Technical Factors, Undergraduates

INTRODUCTION

Human capital is developed through education and for the effectiveness of human capital development, technologies are needed and integrated. The integration of ICTs in education began with the training of teachers 1970s and 1980s how to use the technology (Cox and Preston 1999). In dynamic changing of information era, it has become virtually impossible to live without ICTs. It has become part of our lives and as well as tools to drive our various activities. Adebayo & Fagbohun (2013) posited that in present age, improved communication technology has made time and space less complex. Over the years, different technologies have emerged in educational sector to improve learning process such as: computer, the internet and presently cloud computing.

Abidi & Abidi (2012) recorded that it was only in 2007 that big companies like Google and International Business Machine etc. began to delve into research on cloud computing and its possible benefits on the IT industry. Cloud computing can interchangeably be called location independent computing. A user can access all that s/he owns anywhere on the planet by just logging onto the World Wide Web (Abidi & Abidi, 2012). Cloud computing is a method for offering computing services to a variety of Web-based software via the Internet. It can also be seen as virtual technology