

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY TECHNOLOGY LETTER	NUMBER: TL 14-04	DATE ISSUED: AUGUST 2014
SUBJECT: CLOUD COMPUTING POLICY	REFERENCES: Government Code Sections 11545, 11546 State Administrative Manual (SAM) Sections 4819.2, 4981, 4983, and Chapters 5100 and 5300 Statewide Information Management Manual (SIMM) Sections 58C, 58D, 66B, 5305A, 5310A and B, 5325A and B, 5330A, B and C, 5340A, B and C, and 5360B	

BACKGROUND

In recent years, Cloud Computing has emerged as an important solution for cost effective and reliable delivery of IT services. Cloud Computing includes several categories of services, all offered on demand in a pay-per-use model. The three common cloud service models are Software as a Service (SaaS), Platform as a Service (PaaS), and Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS).

California's cloud computing strategy is based on growing the cloud from the inside out. In support of this strategy, the Department of Technology (CalTech) published a Cloud Computing Reference Architecture ([CCRA](#)) in January 2014. CCRA provides guidance to all agencies/state entities¹ to build or evaluate cloud services. Using this guidance, CalTech's Office of Technology Services (OTech) developed a secure state government-wide private cloud, referred to as "CalCloud". CalCloud is currently operational and offers IaaS to all agencies/state entities. Over time, CalCloud will be extended to provide PaaS and host runtime platforms for common types of IT applications.

To harness the benefits of cloud computing, agencies/state entities should utilize the cloud services provided through OTech for all new IT projects when feasible. If required cloud services are not available through OTech, agencies/state entities should utilize other commercially available SaaS, PaaS or IaaS service models when feasible, while adequately addressing relevant statutory and policy requirements associated with State IT systems, including information security and risk management, privacy, legal issues, and other applicable requirements.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Technology Letter (TL) is to:

- Announce the addition of State Administrative Manual (SAM) section 4983 describing California's Cloud Computing Policy.
- Announce the addition of Cloud Computing service model definitions to SAM section 4819.2.
- Direct Agencies/state entities to shift to the "Cloud First" policy for all new reportable and non-reportable IT projects in accordance with SAM 4983.
- Clarify that any project that utilizes cloud SaaS, PaaS, or IaaS solutions is an IT project and hence all relevant statewide IT policies contained in SAM apply to that project.

¹**State entity:** Includes every state office, officer, department, division, bureau, board, and commission, including Constitutional Officers. "State entity" does not include the University of California, California State University, the State Compensation Insurance Fund, the Legislature, or the Legislative Data Center in the Legislative Counsel Bureau.

QUESTIONS

Questions regarding this Technology Letter should be directed to the Department of Technology, Policy Office at ITPolicy@state.ca.gov.

SIGNATURE

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Carlos Ramos, Director
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