

***Cloud Standards:
Agreements That Hold Together Clouds***
by
Marvin Waschke
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reviewed by
Ken Krechmer
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In the first six chapters, this paperback book provides a primer on cloud computing and standardization which will be very useful for anyone looking for a serious technical overview of cloud computing and standardization activities. The intended reader is an IT professional with a computer science background. A background in standards development is not assumed.

Although Amazon, Google and Microsoft cloud computing services and some of their APIs are noted, there was no discussion of how their services relate (or don't) to current and proposed standards. And the work on IEEE P2302, Standard for Intercloud Interoperability and Federation (in development), is not mentioned.

Chapters 7 through 11 discuss the existing standards and active cloud computing standardization projects, several where the author actively participates. Many of the discussions of specific standards include a history of precursor standards that led up to the current standard. This history can avoid significant confusion; this reviewer finds such history improves comprehension. *Cloud Standards* is an excellent and extensive technical overview which should allow an IT professional, without a cloud computing background, to gain a workable knowledge of cloud computing systems and identify which standards or emerging standards may be necessary to support specific organizational requirements.

The author focuses on the standards and standardization activities from NIST, DMTF, W3C, OASIS, IETF, OGF and SNIA as these are very active in cloud computing standardization, but identifies many other related standards (e.g., auditing, energy, cooling, security, etc.) and standardization organizations. Cloud computing standardization activities in ISO/IEC, ITU and IEEE are not directly addressed. Almost all standards referenced include a web address for access and a note if payment is required.

Chapter 12, the conclusion, provides a short history of computing to suggest how the future may unfold in general terms.

Editorial: This 345 page book, plus a useful index, is very well written and edited. It is surprisingly readable for such a difficult technical area. An acronym list would be a useful addition and short summaries of each chapter would make it easier to reference.