

About Reference Architectures and Reference Models

"A **reference architecture** in the field of **software architecture** or **enterprise architecture** provides a template solution for an architecture for a particular domain. It also provides a common vocabulary with which to discuss implementations, often with the aim to stress commonality." - Wikipedia.

"A **reference model** is an abstract framework for understanding significant relationships among the entities of some environment, and for the development of consistent standards or specifications supporting that environment. A reference model is based on a small number of unifying concepts and may be used as a basis for education and explaining standards to a non-specialist. A reference model is not directly tied to any standards, technologies or other concrete implementation details, but it does seek to provide a common semantics that can be used unambiguously across and between different implementations." - OASIS

The NIST **Cloud Computing Reference Architecture** is a detailed example of complete reference architecture. It includes a high level Reference Model along with details about the Actors, interactions and implementation patterns that are best practices for delivery and consumption of cloud services.

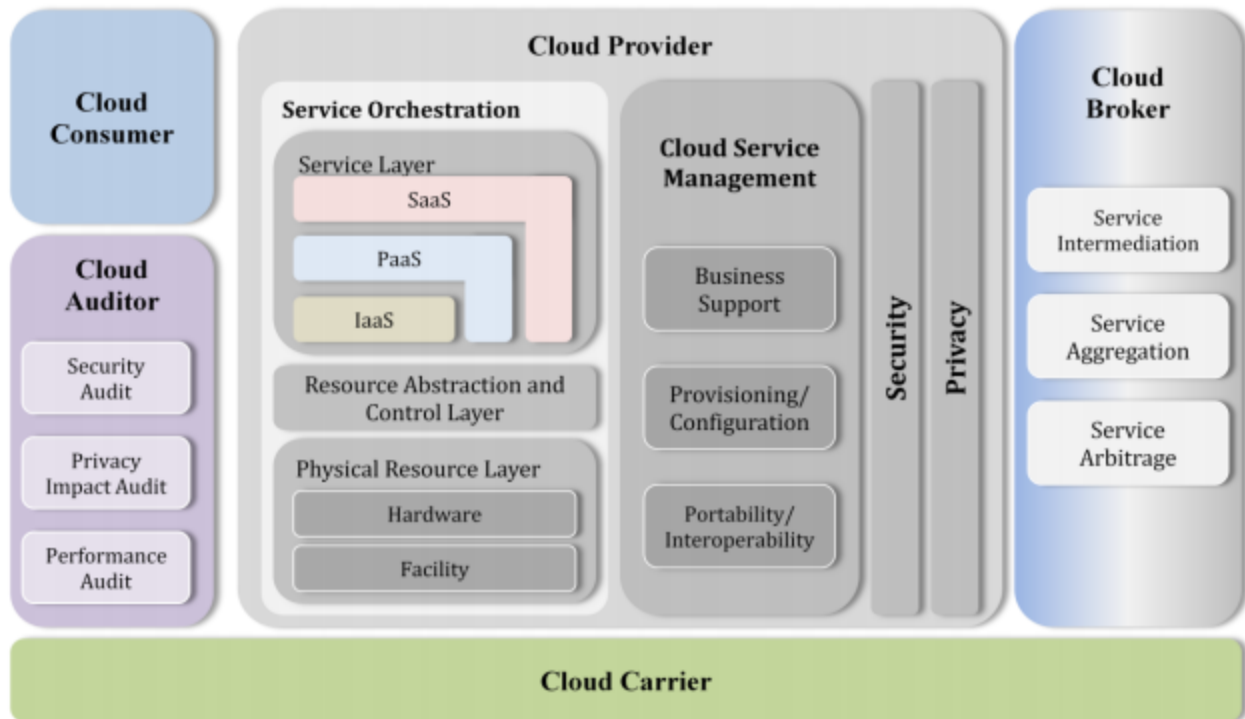


Figure 1: The Conceptual Reference Model

Examples:

- [EIP Solution Architecture](#)
- [IAM Brick Diagrams](#)
- [EBS Solutions Architecture](#)

References:

<https://flipboard.com/topic/enterprisearchitecture/5-reference-architecture-%E2%80%9Cresolutions%E2%80%9D-for-2015/f-30e456d2a2%2Fvmware.com>