

PaaS vs. SaaS

PAAS

Platform-as-a-service, commonly known as PaaS, is a cloud computing platform that provides companies with the frameworks required for application development.

PaaS is more useful when you have many people working on the same project. It is most useful when you need to create custom applications for your own use or for a client.

Key examples of PaaS include Google App Engine, Apache Stratos, OpenShift, Windows Azure, AWS Elastic Beanstalk, Heroku, etc.

PaaS is scalable, but it has limitations on the scaling. PaaS is also highly available most of the time. Its availability is hampered only with the data outages or issues at the provider's end.

SAAS

Software-as-a-service, commonly known as SaaS, is a cloud computing platform that provides users with the software for the team. Typically, it is a subscription model hosted on the cloud platform that you can rent for a certain period of time.

SaaS, it is not possible to create your own custom applications as you are using third-party software. SaaS is primarily an OPEX (Operation Expenditure) category platform.

Key examples of SaaS include Google Apps, CAD software, Cisco WebEx, GoToMeeting, Hubspot, Zendesk, Office 365, Adobe Creative Cloud, etc.

SaaS is much easier to scale up and scale down as per the requirements as the service provider provides you the complete software. SaaS is highly available, and it can be unavailable only when the service provider doesn't have multiple data center backups.