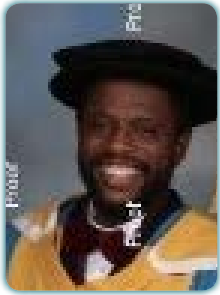


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Oligopoly of cloud vendors - the impact of vendor lock-in risks to business innovation

Cloud computing offers an innovative business model to enterprise for IT services consumption and delivery. Software as a Service (SaaS) is one of the cloud offerings that attract organizations as a potential solution in reducing their IT cost. However, the vast diversity among the available cloud SaaS services makes it difficult for customers to decide whose vendor services to use or even to determine a valid basis for their selections. Moreover, this variety of cloud SaaS services has led to proprietary architectures and technologies being used by cloud vendors, increasing the risk of vendor lock-in for customers. Therefore, when enterprises interact with SaaS providers within the purview of the current cloud marketplace, they often encounter significant lock-in challenges to migrating and interconnecting cloud. Hence, the complexity and variety of cloud SaaS service offerings makes it imperative for businesses to use a clear and well understood decision process to procure, migrate and/or discontinue cloud services.

Biography

Justice Opara-Martins is a Research Fellow in Computing and Informatics Research Centre (CIRC) at Bournemouth University, United Kingdom. His research interests include cloud computing, virtualization, ICT systems and big data – with an emphasis on the operations management aspects (incl. Internet and mobile cloud apps.). His studies and research discoveries will provide senior IT professionals, decision-makers, to seasoned software/solution architects and migration experts within major enterprises with new insights into transforming the way cloud and IT engages with and serves their organizations, including how to effectively tackle the latest migration challenges caused by the cloud lock-in problem. He holds a BSc in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) from Southampton Solent University (UK), an MSc in the field of Computer Science and Communication Networks, an MPhil in Wireless and Mobile Cloud Networks, and a PhD degree in Cloud Computing from Bournemouth University (UK), respectively. He has authored and co-authored several scientific publications in internationally recognized peer-reviewed journals, books and conference proceedings in the areas of cloud computing adoption barriers and enterprise information systems management. He currently serves as a Program Committee Member for Conference Series on Software Engineering for Service and Cloud Computing (SE-CLOUD), a Member of the editorial team for *Computer and Information Science Journal* and also a reviewer for the widely read computing publication entitled; *Springer Journal of Cloud Computing: Advances, Systems and Applications*.

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