



LANSA & Cloud Computing

By Thom Davidson, Senior Principal Rippe & Kingston Systems, Inc.

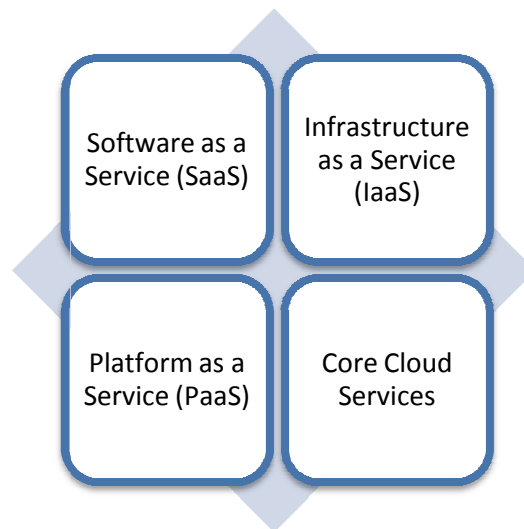
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There is no doubt that LANSAs play in the clouds and not the types with ice particles suspended in the atmosphere. As I have written in the LANSATALK Blog; it is my opinion that LANSAs could dramatically expand their offering via the Cloud.

I define Cloud Computing as follows: Cloud computing is a general concept that incorporates software as a service (SaaS), Web 2.0 and other recent, well-known technology trends, in which the common theme is reliance on the Internet for satisfying the computing needs of the users. For example, Google Apps provides common business applications online that are accessed from a web browser, while the software and data are stored on the servers.

Let's pursue a further refinement of Cloud Computing and the role(s) that I see for LANSAs performing.

The general structure of Cloud Computing can be broken up into four (4) quadrants:



Software as a Service (SaaS) - Special-purpose software made available by a third party over the Internet, with a usage-based pricing model. Some call it "application as a service." A couple of examples are Salesforce.com & Zoho.

LANSA Role: A number of LANSAs partners as well as LANSAs themselves offer solutions using SaaS.

LANSA Based Solution	Description
1SYNC	Delivers synchronized product information across trading partners for a competitive advantage. Companies like Wal-Mart, ShopRite, Lowes and Home Depot depend on this service. www.rippe.com
Contract Guardian	e.sential™ Contract Guardian is an Enterprise Contract Management Tracking Solution. The complete solution was developed using LANSAs WAMS and LANSAs Portlets deployed in a Portal. www.contractguardian.com

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LANSA Based Solution	Description
Preceda People	<i>Preceda People is an integrated, end-to-end people management solution that provides Human Resource Management, Payroll, Employee Self Service, Award Interpretation and Time and Attendance functionality.</i> www.neller.com
P5 Health Plan Solutions	<i>P5 delivers quality health care coverage for companies that self-fund their own health plans.</i> www.p5ehs.com
LANSA Support Services	<i>This is an excellent example of a component that is being used to create cloud applications. There is no need for calling a 1 800 number. Everything is automated from lodging an incident to resolving the incident. Using the Visual LANSA Framework to develop SaaS, PaaS and cloud applications is a big possibility.</i>
Any IBM Power I (AS/400, iSeries & System i) Solution	<i>Yes...with LANSA RAMP, any AS/400, iSeries, & System i solution can be delivered in a SaaS paradigm.</i> www.lansa.com/ramp/

Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS) - A service that provides the core computing resources and network fabric for the cloud deployment. Rather than purchasing servers, software, data center space or network equipment, clients instead buy those resources as a fully outsourced service. This is an evolution of web hosting services. Examples include Amazon's Elastic Compute Cloud, Rackspace Ghosting's Mosso service.

LANSA Role: *At this time, I do not anticipate LANSA driving in this direction. However, don't be surprised if they will extend or add new partnerships to deliver this service.*

Platform as a Service (PaaS) - An integrated software environment for which systems administrators and developers can build, test and deploy custom applications. The Google Apps Engine is a perfect illustration.

LANSA Role: *When the true Web 2.0 is available to the masses...I believe we will see the complete development and system administration of LANSA applications delivered as a PaaS. With 100GB bandwidth over the web...that is probably 100-1,000 times faster than most have on their current internal networks.*

In fact, I would submit that LANSA is already doing it! In LANSA's elearning (<https://elearning.lansa.com>) they are delivering a personal Virtual PC Environment with LANSA Product Suite already preconfigured and setup. It is like working on an independent workstation where you can maintain your own programs. Imagine: no more bothersome installations and upgrades.

Core Cloud Services - Stand-alone components build on cloud platforms that can be woven into cloud applications, such as billing, systems management and storage. Amazon's S3 and Microsoft BizTalk Services are cases in point.

LANSA Role: *LANSA Composer delivers code-free Business Process Integration. Today it satisfies four key requirements of a business process integration solution:*

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- **Transport** — moving data between source and target.
- **Transformation** — mapping data between many different formats.
- **Process Orchestration** — sequential and conditional execution of process flows.
- **Administration** — auditing, error-handling, logging, security and system operations.

Now imagine this being offered as a Core Cloud Service. On the enterprise side it opens up some possibilities for easily connecting users across organizations taking advantage of the Internet, without having to invest in complex network infrastructure to securely connect the networks.

In Conclusion: “What will LANSA in the Clouds mean to me?” – The primary benefits are easy/fast to deploy, pay for only what you use and reduced in-house infrastructure staff and costs. Most customers will require competitive pricing, service level agreements, business & industry understanding as well as the ability to move the cloud offering back on-premise. The sales and marketing impact is immense. All of us in the LANSA community would benefit from a quick and dramatic growth in the adoption of the technology we know and love. LANSA and Cloud Computing is a marriage Made in Heaven!

About LANSA

[LANSA](#) is a leading provider of application development, modernization and integration software. LANSA's powerful suite of cross-platform development tools lets organizations overcome the complexity inherent in creating and maintaining business applications. LANSA's integrated tool set is also the technology foundation for a wide range of business solutions from LANSA and over 300 Business Partners. Established in 1987, LANSA supports thousands of companies around the world with its products and services.

About Thom Davidson

Thom is the Senior Principal in the Information Technology Consulting Division for [Rippe & Kingston](#). In addition to his broad range of client, vendor, technical and product responsibilities; Thom is often a featured speaker at technical conferences and has published numerous articles in trade publications. Rippe & Kingston Systems, Inc. is an International Information Technology Solutions and Services firm with clients in 43 States and 9 Countries. They have been a Premier LANSA Partner since 1989.