A Review of "Cloud and Virtual Data Storage Networking"
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Cloud computing provides computation, software, data access, and storage services that do not require end-user knowledge of the physical location and configuration of the system that delivers the services. The underlying concept of cloud computing dates back to the 1960s when John McCarthy opined that "computation may someday be organized as a public utility." Numerous parallels to the concept of cloud computing are often drawn with the electricity grid: end users consume power without needing to understand the component devices or infrastructure required to provide the service. Cloud computing is a natural evolution of the widespread adoption of virtualization, service-oriented architectures, and utility computing.

Greg Schulz is a highly regarded analyst and author in the storage industry. He is a frequently sought after speaker and source for expert level analysis and quotes for industry articles. This book is a follow-up to his 2009 book (which I also had the good fortune of reviewing) "The Green and Virtual Data Center." Greg's latest book takes up right where "The Green and Virtual Data Center" left off.

There is so much discussion about cloud computing and virtualization out today that its mind boggling. It also is enough to cause a headache. Greg's latest book is the ibuprofen that will make these cloud computing information overload headaches go away. "Cloud and Virtual Data Storage Networking" is the single source you can read to get a clear understanding of the fundamentals of the cloud.

The book covers service delivery models, metrics, data protection, cost reduction strategies, convergence, business continuity, and server/storage/networking virtualization. It has detailed chapters on each of these topics, plus many others. The book ties all of these areas of cloud computing together in an extremely well organized and easy to follow manner. Greg's writing style is very engaging, which is rare for IT books. Each chapter has a very good introduction and comprehensive summary.

This book, (along with its 2009 predecessor) makes an outstanding read and reference tome for IT professionals. I also believe the two books taken together would make an outstanding set of textbooks for college level computer science/information systems courses on virtualization and cloud computing.