

A REVIEW ARTICLE ON THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON DATA CENTERS AND CLOUD INFRASTRUCTURE

ABSTRACT

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly disrupted global operations, necessitating a rapid pivot to remote work and digital collaboration. This study presents a literature review exploring the consequential role that cloud computing has played during this period. By analyzing a range of scholarly articles, this review synthesizes the existing research on the impact of the pandemic on cloud computing infrastructure and services. It examines the methodologies employed by various researchers, including systematic literature reviews, secondary data analysis, and extensive statistical analysis using tools like SPSS. The data analysis section scrutinizes how different sectors have adapted to remote work, the innovations that have emerged within cloud computing, the security concerns that have arisen with its increased use, and the overall effects on the IT industry. This study highlights the significance of cloud computing in maintaining continuity during this pandemic and discusses the potential for continued reliance on cloud services post-pandemic. The findings suggest that cloud computing has not only been crucial in addressing immediate operational challenges but also holds the promise of sustaining long-term transformations in business and technology landscapes. The research questions derived from the reviewed literature aim to further guide scholarly inquiry into the evolving dynamics of cloud computing in a post-pandemic world.

Keywords: Covid 19, Cloud Computing, Cloud Computing Environment, IoT

1 INTRODUCTION

The pandemic of COVID-19, stemming from the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2, surfaced in late 2019 and rapidly escalated into a worldwide health crisis by the early part of 2020 [1]. Nations around the globe grappled with both the direct health implications and the secondary challenges brought about by necessary containment measures, such as lockdowns and travel restrictions [2].

In tandem with the direct health ramifications, the pandemic brought to light the vital role of digital infrastructure in supporting the modern world. As countries initiated lockdowns and people worldwide were forced to adapt to remote working, online learning, and virtual communication, there was an unprecedented surge in global internet usage [3]. This situation underscored the importance of understanding the effect of the pandemic on data centres and cloud infrastructure, which form the backbone of the digital ecosystem. With businesses and individuals relying heavily on cloud services for storage, computing, and a plethora of online applications, the robustness, resilience, and efficiency of these digital infrastructures were tested [4].

The objective of this review is to elucidate the myriad of impacts, both challenges and adaptations that the COVID-19 pandemic imposed on data centres and cloud infrastructure. We aim to provide a comprehensive understanding of the immediate operational challenges, the innovations that emerged in response, and the long-term trends and implications for the industry.

2 BACKGROUND OF THE PROBLEM

2.1 Introduction To The Digital Age

The Digital Age, frequently termed the Information Age, heralded an epochal shift from traditional industries that were established during the Industrial Revolution to an economy primarily based on information technology [5]. With the exponential increase in computing power, as dictated by Moore's Law, and the global adoption of the internet in the late 20th century, vast swathes of information became available, exchanged, and processed at unprecedented speeds [6], [7].

2.2 State of Data Centers and Cloud Infrastructure Pre-COVID

Pre-COVID-19, the data centre industry was witnessing significant growth and was poised for further expansion. Driven by the increasing demand for high-quality data processing and storage capabilities, thanks to the proliferation of digital services, IoT devices, and big data analytics, the industry was experiencing a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of approximately 17% [8]. Cloud infrastructure, on the other hand, had begun to dominate the IT spending landscape, with companies increasingly moving away from traditional on-premises systems to more scalable and flexible cloud solutions [9]. This transition was supported by major entities such as Amazon Web Services, Microsoft Azure, and Google Cloud Platform, which provided a spectrum of services including Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS), Platform as a Service (PaaS), and Software as a Service (SaaS).

2.3 Initial Impact of the Pandemic

The onslaught of the COVID-19 pandemic radically changed the landscape. As countries imposed lockdowns, enterprises rapidly shifted to remote working models, leading to an abrupt increase in demand for cloud services and remote-access solutions [10]. Data centers faced challenges including managing operations with limited staff, dealing with

hardware supply chain disruptions, and catering to the sudden surge in traffic, especially in areas like video conferencing, online gaming, and digital healthcare platforms [3].

2.4 Internet Traffic During the Pandemic

During the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, as declared by the World Health Organization in March 2020, the global population witnessed a massive shift towards remote working, learning, and digital interaction. Feldmann et al. [11] explored this phenomenon, analyzing the first-year impact of the pandemic on internet traffic, and assessing the internet's capacity to handle the increased load. Their study, which collected data from various core and edge internet locations, revealed significant changes in traffic and application demands, thus defining the 'new normal' for internet usage. In a related research, Feldmann et al. [12] focused on the effects of lockdowns, observing a notable rise in residential internet traffic, especially for work, entertainment, and education, leading to major shifts in internet core traffic. This study found a 15-20% increase in traffic volume within just a week of lockdowns, but importantly, the internet infrastructure coped well with this surge. Complementing these insights, da Silva et al. [13] investigated behavioral changes in internet usage during the pandemic, noting a significant shift in the use of services like video streaming, conferencing, and gaming. This research highlighted the broadened scope of internet reliance beyond professional needs to include younger demographics and their preferred online resources. Collectively, these studies underscore the internet's resilience and adaptability amidst a sudden spike in demand, illustrating its crucial role in sustaining societal functions during a global health crisis.

2.5 Significance of the Problem

Understanding the impact of the pandemic on data centers and cloud infrastructure isn't merely an academic exercise. These infrastructures represent the backbone of our modern

digital society and economy. Ensuring their resilience and adaptability is of paramount importance to maintain social functions during crises. Moreover, the lessons derived from these challenges could drive innovations, inform policy-making, and provide directions for future investments in the technology sector.

3 LITERATURE REVIEW

The literature review section present an extensive examination of scholarly work on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on cloud computing and infrastructure. It will converge diverse academic viewpoints, research methodologies, and key outcomes, particularly focusing on the significant role that cloud technology plays during the global health crisis. This section will offer a critical assessment of how various industries transition to remote operations, delve into the ensuing challenges and breakthroughs, explore the security ramifications of mass cloud adoption, and evaluate the tangible consequences on the IT sector. Additionally, the literature review will outline crucial insights and findings, setting the stage for forthcoming scholarly inquiry and exploration.

3.1 Introduction to Cloud Computing and the Pandemic

As highlighted by Ezema and Rivera [14], cloud computing, characterised by its distinctive features such as on-demand services, scalability, and resilient infrastructure, has emerged as a pivotal player in the modern digital landscape. Their research underscores the transformative capacity of this technology, emphasizing how it has revolutionized the operational dynamics of businesses and organizations. Offering an unmatched blend of flexibility and efficiency, cloud computing addresses the needs of an increasingly interconnected world. With the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic, the crucial role and expansive potential of cloud computing became even more evident. Ezema and Rivera [14] further note that as global systems and traditional operational modes were upended by the pandemic, cloud computing's value as a dynamic, scalable, and remote solution surged. This technology, as Ezema and Rivera [14] contend, transitioned from being just a

technological facilitator to a fundamental pillar, championing continuity, adaptability, and resilience during a period of widespread turmoil. Whether it was catalyzing the shift to remote work, underpinning online education systems, or assisting in intricate healthcare data analytics, cloud computing, as illuminated by Ezema et al., was at the helm, showcasing its capability and resilience.

3.2 Role of Cloud Computing in Pandemic Response

In the intricate matrix of the pandemic response, cloud computing emerged as a linchpin, serving as an invaluable tool for numerous sectors grappling with the crisis [15]. Singh et al. [10] underscored how cloud platforms, especially during the initial stages of the pandemic, became indispensable for disease management. Faced with an unprecedented health crisis, there was an urgent need for robust data systems capable of handling vast and rapidly changing datasets related to the virus's spread, patient histories, genomic information, and much more [16]. Here, Singh et al. points out the salient role of cloud services, which stepped up to this mammoth challenge, enabling swift, efficient, and accurate data processing. Furthermore, these platforms offered the scalability essential for handling the volatile surges in data. The contribution of cloud computing was not merely confined to data storage or management; it played a pivotal role in data analytics, facilitating predictive modeling, and real-time monitoring, as highlighted by Singh et al. [10]. The agility and adaptability of cloud services provide the backbone that health organizations, governments, and researchers needed orchestrate a coordinated and data-driven response to the pandemic. Through this lens, Singh et al. [10] elucidates that cloud computing wasn't just a technological asset; it was an imperative for informed decision-making during the pandemic.

3.3 Impact on Business and Industrial Sectors

As businesses worldwide grappled with the unexpected challenges introduced by the pandemic, the role of cloud technologies in determining their resilience became manifestly

clear. Gangadhar & Shaikh [17] highlight the significant disparity between businesses that had incorporated cloud technologies and those that hadn't. Specifically, SMEs that proactively embraced cloud solutions demonstrated an enhanced ability to adapt, pivot, and navigate the tumultuous landscape created by the pandemic, underscoring the transformative impact of digital preparedness. Furthermore, Pandey *et al.* [18] elucidated how the integration of cloud technologies with emerging fields like IoT and machine learning unlocked innovative solutions that acted as industry lifelines. Such integrations not only bolstered operational continuity but also enabled businesses to innovate in response to the new challenges. For instance, in industries, ranging from agriculture and entertainment to medical imaging and security, experienced tangible benefits from the cloud's versatility during these trying times [18]. Through this, it becomes evident, as emphasized by Gangadhar & Shaikh [17] and Pandey *et al.* [18], that cloud computing's confluence with other technological domains provided businesses with the agility and robustness they critically needed during the pandemic's onslaught.

3.4 Healthcare Transformation Through Cloud Technologies

Radanliev & De Roure [19] shed light on the transformative potential of cloud technologies in reshaping the global healthcare landscape during the trying times of the pandemic. Before the pandemic's advent, the healthcare sector had already been incrementally adapting to digital solutions. However, the crisis brought forth an accelerated push, urging healthcare institutions to introspect and reinvent their existing operational structures [20]. Cloud technologies emerged as a beacon in this endeavour, offering avenues for seamless data storage, management, and analysis, which became pivotal in handling the surging medical data during the pandemic. Countries that were agile in harnessing these cloud-based solutions witnessed markedly superior outcomes in disease management and patient care, a testimony to cloud computing's transformative potential, as underscored by Radanliev & De Roure [19]. Further amplifying this transformation was the seamless integration of the cloud with technologies such as IoT, culminating in a more nuanced, patient-centric

approach. This synergy fostered real-time monitoring, personalized treatment plans, and streamlined remote consultations epitomizing the future trajectory of healthcare, steered by the combined might of cloud and complementary technologies.

3.5 Applications of IoT and Cloud Computing During the Pandemic

Dhyani *et al.* [21] emphasized the synergistic relationship between the Internet of Things (IoT) and cloud computing, a partnership that found renewed significance in the face of unprecedented challenges brought about by the pandemic. As global entities grappled with the sudden shift to remote functioning, the combined capabilities of IoT devices and cloud platforms emerged as a linchpin for several sectors [22]. For instance, educational institutions leveraged this combination to facilitate uninterrupted remote learning experiences [23]. Similarly, the entertainment sector, especially streaming services, tapped into the cloud's expansive storage and scalability, complemented by IoT's real-time data transfer, to cater to the ballooning demand from homebound audiences. Moreover, logistics, and supply chain operations, critical during lockdowns, drew upon IoT for real-time tracking, while cloud platforms ensured data was accessible and actionable from any location. As Dhyani *et al.* [21] point out, the lessons imbibed during the pandemic have implications beyond the immediate crisis, suggesting a future where the confluence of IoT and cloud computing becomes an operational mainstay across various sectors.

3.6 Challenges, Security Concerns, and Adaptations

Ezema and Rivera [14] underscored that while the pandemic acted as a catalyst for the expansive adoption of cloud services, it also magnified pre-existing concerns and unveiled new challenges related to this technology. Most among these were heightened security vulnerabilities. As businesses and individuals increasingly relied on cloud platforms for their daily operations, cybercriminals saw this as an opportunity, leading to a spike in cyber-attacks. Furthermore, as the line between professional and personal spaces blurred due to remote work, the need for stricter privacy measures became evident. There was a

consensus on the importance of safeguarding sensitive information from potential breaches, especially in an era when data breaches could have catastrophic implications. Recognizing the gravity of these issues, cloud service providers swung into action. They embarked on rigorous adaptations, bolstering their security protocols and implementing layered protection measures. Concurrently, providers also sought to enhance user experience by optimizing network performance, ensuring minimal disruptions during these challenging times. As highlighted by Ezema and Rivera [14], this pandemic, in many ways, was a litmus test for the resilience and adaptability of cloud technology in the face of evolving threats and challenges.

3.7 Contribution of Cloud-Based Services In Post-Pandemic Technology Sustainability and Challenges

Pandey et al. [18] stressed the profound impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the operational dynamics of myriad organizations, ranging from corporate entities to educational systems. As these organizations swiftly transitioned to online modes, leveraging local servers for this colossal shift, they were confronted with the daunting task of replicating the efficiency and capability of their holistic Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) infrastructure. The pandemic context was riddled with vulnerabilities: users, out of compulsion, were resorting to potentially insecure public networks for tasks that demanded utmost confidentiality and security. In this milieu, the pivotal role of cloud computing became conspicuous. It didn't just offer an online space; it provided a secure and efficient environment that organizations desperately sought. Beyond mere operational continuity, cloud-based services infused industries with tools and platforms tailored for specific challenges they faced. The integration of cloud with other cutting-edge technologies like IoT, machine learning, and big data analytics opened new avenues, setting businesses on the path to automation in the Industry 4.0 era [20],[24],[25]. This evolution was discernible across sectors, from agriculture and weather forecasting to medical imaging and entertainment. Moreover, Pandey et al. [18] highlight the diverse applications and tools,

supported by cloud computing, that different industries utilized, indicating a roadmap for technology's sustainable future post-pandemic. However, this transition wasn't devoid of challenges. As the reliance on cloud technology grew, so did the intricacies associated with its wide-scale implementation and potential security concerns.

3.8 Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Technologies and Cloud Computing Applications

In the throes of the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, businesses and institutions globally advocated remote work as a primary strategy to mitigate the virus's spread [26]. Such an abrupt pivot, while imperative for public health, wasn't devoid of challenges. Chief among these was the heightened exposure to various security risks that accompanied remote work setups [27], [28], [29]. Simultaneously, the pandemic spurred a surge in data production across myriad sources, necessitating robust systems to manage and process this information effectively. Here, cloud computing (CC) emerged as the unsung hero, providing the essential framework to facilitate seamless remote operations [26].

The encompassing environment of cloud computing termed the cloud computing environment (CCE), underpinned rapid service deployments, ensuring data accessibility and processing in these trying times. However, the heightened reliance on CC applications during the pandemic unveiled new research quandaries, particularly in securing the vast volumes of data, ensuring the unwavering security of CC applications, and guaranteeing their availability even amidst burgeoning demand. Alashhab et al. [26] provided a pioneering exploration of these dynamics, meticulously illuminating the pandemic's ramifications on CCE, while also shedding light on the inherent security vulnerabilities that the shift to remote work introduced.

3.9 Advantages, Features, and Utilization of Cloud Computing During the COVID-19 Era

Amidst the global turmoil induced by the COVID-19 pandemic, Alhomdy et al. [30] shed light on the transformative role of cloud computing. The pandemic, marking an unprecedented surge of cases beyond 97.46 million, compelled organizations to pivot to remote working models. This shift presented inherent challenges; however, as Alhomdy et al. [30] elucidated, cloud computing emerged as a pivotal solution. Offering scalability and critical application accessibility, cloud technology stood as a cornerstone for governments and diverse sectors, ranging from health and education to industry and communication. Alhomdy et al.'s study emphasized the cloud's multifaceted benefits, characteristics, and applications, accentuating its role in enhancing global lives amidst the pandemic's challenges [30]. A salient highlight from their research pertains to the education sector, where institutions leaned on cloud solutions to ensure learning continuity. Through a comprehensive survey, Alhomdy et al. [30] gleaned that a significant 72.3% of participants recognized the cloud's invaluable contribution during the lockdown. Furthermore, a cumulative 77.8% of respondents concurred that the cloud's implementation would invariably enhance their institutional service quality. These findings, as posited by Alhomdy et al. [30], resonate with the burgeoning global confidence in cloud technology's potential.

3.10 Summary

The COVID-19 pandemic unmasked the deep-seated significance of cloud technologies in contemporary societies. Through the meticulous insights of Singh et al. [10], Gangadhar & Shaikh [17], Radanliev & De Roure [19], Dhyani *et al.* [21], Alhomdy et al. [30], Ezema and Rivera [14] and Pandey *et al.* [18], it becomes evident that cloud computing's impact transcended mere crisis management; it heralded a new era of solutions poised to redefine the post-pandemic landscape. This epoch underscores the dexterity and tenacity of technological progress, showcasing its cardinal role in steering through tumultuous times.

While the advantages of cloud computing are multifaceted and palpable, the odyssey is only midcourse. The revelations from this period reverberate a clarion call: urging researchers, tech-enthusiasts, and decision-makers to forge ahead, innovate, and amplify research in this realm. In embarking on this pursuit, we not only enhance the fabric of everyday living but also equip ourselves with resilient, adaptable tools, fortifying our defenses against potential future adversities analogous to the pandemic.

4 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

This section presents a concise presentation of the key questions that the reviewed studies aim to address. This will include inquiries into how cloud computing ecosystems were affected by COVID-19, the challenges of remote work from a security standpoint, and the role of cloud computing in aiding communities during the pandemic. It will also cover questions on the effectiveness of cloud computing in the continuity of education during lockdowns, user satisfaction with cloud services, and the potential future adoption of cloud computing by government and private sectors. This section will lay the groundwork for understanding the focus areas and investigative directions of the current body of research.

Navigating the research landscape on cloud computing during the COVID-19 era uncovers a multitude of queries poised by eminent scholars. Alashhab et al. [26] delves into the broader spectrum by posing questions like "How has the COVID-19 outbreak affected CCE?" and the pertinent "From a security perspective, what are the issues that might arise when working from home?". These inquiries resonate deeply with immediate challenges organizations and individuals faced due to the pandemic-induced shift to virtual platforms.

Alhomdy et al. [30], on the other hand, offer a comprehensive approach by first seeking to understand the fundamental role of cloud computing in mitigating the pandemic's effects, with questions such as "What is the role of cloud computing application in assisting the community to mitigate the effects of the epidemic?" and "How successful was the experience of using cloud computing to combat the COVID-19 lockdown, particularly in the education

sector?". They further elaborate with sub-questions that explore user satisfaction, the nature of cloud techniques used, and the strategic inclinations of both government and private sectors towards cloud adoption.

However, it is noteworthy that while Alashhab et al. [26] and Alhomdy et al. [30] offered clear research questions to guide their investigations, other researchers in this review, namely Gangadhar & Shaikh [17], Radanliev & De Roure [19], Singh et al. [10], Dhyani et al. [21], Ezema and Rivera [14], and Pandey et al. [18], did not explicitly frame research questions in their respective studies. This indicates the diverse methodologies and approaches adopted by scholars in this domain, with some prioritizing explorative narratives, while others hinge their explorations on predefined questions.

5 METHODOLOGY

This section presents a clear delineation of the approaches that researchers took to explore the intersections of cloud computing and the COVID-19 pandemic. This section will shed light on the methodological rigour and validity of the studies' findings.

In the research conducted on the role of cloud computing during the COVID-19 pandemic, various methodologies have been employed to gain insights and conclusions. Singh et al. [10] adopted a methodology rooted in a systematic literature review coupled with an examination of secondary data. The approach was taken to shed light on the centrality of cloud computing companies in addressing the challenges brought about by the pandemic. This study detailed how cloud computing functioned remotely during this health crisis and went on to pinpoint specific cloud computing applications that became essential during these tumultuous times.

Similarly, Ezema and Rivera [14] also employed a systematic literature review supplemented with secondary data analysis in their research methodology. Their primary goal was to scrutinize the contributions of cloud computing, elucidating its repercussions and the challenges that arose in the backdrop of the pandemic era. Through their

methodology, they sought to provide a comprehensive understanding of cloud computing's role and implications during such unprecedented times.

Diverging from the prior methodologies, Alhomdy et al. [30] adopted a more empirical and hands-on approach. Their research incorporated a blend of exploratory, descriptive, empirical, and statistical analysis methods. By adhering to the descriptive exploratory approach, they aimed to amass insights that would foster a more precise grasp of cloud computing's role amidst the COVID-19 crisis. Their methodology was bolstered by an electronic questionnaire that reached a diverse cohort of 101 participants from 16 countries. This meticulously crafted questionnaire had four distinct segments, each designed to capture varying facets of cloud computing during the pandemic—from user comprehension and institutional utilization to user satisfaction and perceived benefits.

Finally, Alashhab et al. [26]. leaned heavily on secondary data culled from literature reviews in their methodology. Their primary objective was to explore the broader impact of the pandemic on the Cloud Computing Environment (CCE). The approach was methodically constructed to comprehend the overarching ramifications of the pandemic on CCE. A notable emphasis of their research was their focus on spotlighting the security risks associated with remote working, a phenomenon that saw a significant surge during the COVID-19 outbreak.

6 DATA ANALYSIS

This section, presents a summary of the analytical techniques used to interpret and make sense of the data gathered in the reviewed studies.

In the realm of data analysis, Singh et al. [10] embarked on a qualitative analysis, primarily using secondary data harvested from a systematic literature review. The crux of this analysis revolved around highlighting the indispensability of cloud computing companies, particularly in navigating the complexities of the COVID-19 pandemic. Singh not only delved into the nuances of remote working in the realm of cloud computing during this pandemic but

also spotlighted significant applications of cloud computing tailored to the unique challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ezema and Rivera [14], on the other hand, approach their analysis in a more review-centric manner. Their exploration primarily leaned into collating research contributions around cloud computing, especially scrutinizing its impacts and the challenges it encountered during the sweeping pandemic era. This qualitative approach focused more on understanding the overall landscape and weaving together different research perspectives.

Alhomdy et al. [30] took a different route by incorporating quantitative analysis methods, notably using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 25 to analyse survey data. The researchers utilized various statistical tools such as ratios, frequencies, arithmetic mean, and relative weights to present and discuss their findings, with reliability analysis indicated by a Cronbach's alpha of 0.951. This reflected a high level of internal consistency and stability in their data. Through this quantitative analysis, Alhomdy et al. highlights the efficacy of cloud computing across different sectors and its role in improving life globally during this pandemic.

Finally, Alashhab et al. [26] echoed a qualitative approach akin to that of Singh et al. [10] and Ezema and Rivera [14]. Relying on secondary data, they embarked on an analytical journey to elucidate the ramifications of the COVID-19 pandemic on Cloud Computing Environments (CCE). Not just stopping at that, their analysis also veered towards shedding light on the potential security risks encountered by employees as they transitioned to remote working modalities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

It's evident that while some researchers favoured a qualitative approach, stitching together insights from varied sources, others ventured into a more quantitative terrain, employing statistical tools to derive more concrete and measurable insights from their gathered data.

7 CONCLUSION

Cloud computing's role in the intricate tapestry of the COVID-19 pandemic response, as highlighted by the assorted research discussed, underscores a pivotal intersection of technology and crisis management. Singh et al. [10] emphasized the multifaceted role of cloud computing components, showing how they not only supported remote working modalities but also gave rise to innovative applications tailored for the pandemic. This sentiment was echoed by Ezema and Rivera [14], who collated various research perspectives to create a holistic understanding of cloud computing's impact and challenges during these unprecedented times.

Alhomdy et al. [30] took a data-driven approach, providing quantifiable insights into cloud computing's efficacy. Their rigorous data analysis accentuated the broader sentiment of participants towards cloud computing during the pandemic, stressing its relevance in ensuring continuity across sectors. Meanwhile, Alashhab et al. [26] took the discourse further by highlighting potential security concerns arising from remote work, but also, on a brighter note, demonstrating the unparalleled resilience and adaptability of Cloud Computing Environments (CCE) in such crises.

In all, the COVID-19 pandemic ushered in myriad challenges, but it also brought to the fore the resilient and adaptive nature of cloud computing. From facilitating remote work to bridging data gaps and ensuring continuity of essential services, cloud technologies have undoubtedly proven their mettle. While the journey is punctuated with challenges, as pointed out by the potential security risks, the overarching narrative is one of triumph for cloud computing. As we move forward, it becomes imperative for researchers, policymakers, and industry leaders to learn from these experiences, refine strategies, and invest in innovations, ensuring that our technological infrastructure remains robust and agile in the face of future challenges.

Author's Contribution: 'Author A' and 'Author B' collaboratively conceptualized and designed the study. They were instrumental in conducting the comprehensive literature review, developing the study protocol, and drafting the initial manuscript. 'Author C' and 'Author D' took the lead in managing and analyzing the data derived from the literature. 'Author C' also oversaw the literature searches and ensured the accuracy and relevance of the sources cited. All authors engaged in critical revisions of the manuscript, contributing substantively to the final version. Each author has read, provided critical feedback, and approved the final manuscript for submission.

REFERENCES

- [1] N. Zhu *et al.*, “China Novel Coronavirus Investigating and Research Team. A novel coronavirus from patients with pneumonia in China, 2019,” *N Engl J Med*, vol. 382, no. 8, pp. 727–733, 2020.
- [2] C. Wang, P. W. Horby, F. G. Hayden, and G. F. Gao, “A novel coronavirus outbreak of global health concern,” *Lancet*, vol. 395, no. 10223, pp. 470–473, 2020.
- [3] U. Cisco, “Cisco annual internet report (2018–2023) white paper,” *Cisco San Jose, CA, USA*, vol. 10, no. 1, pp. 1–35, 2020.
- [4] W. Forrest *et al.*, “Cloud’s trillion-dollar prize is up for grabs,” *McKinsey Digit.*, 2021.
- [5] M. Castells, *The rise of the network society*. John wiley & sons, 2011.
- [6] G. E. Moore, “Cramming more components onto integrated circuits, Reprinted from *Electronics*, volume 38, number 8, April 19, 1965, pp. 114 ff.,” *IEEE solid-state circuits Soc. Newsl.*, vol. 11, no. 3, pp. 33–35, 2006.
- [7] B. C. Klopfenstein, “Public Access to the Internet,” *J. Broadcast. Electron. Media*, vol. 41, no. 4, pp. 573–584, 1997.
- [8] A. O’Connell, “Forecast: Data Centers, Worldwide, 2016-2023, 2019 Update,” 2019. [Online]. Available: <https://www.gartner.com/en/documents/3956376>
- [9] S. Carey, “The pandemic ushers in the next era of enterprise cloud adoption.” [Online]. Available: <https://www.infoworld.com/article/3602978/the-pandemic-ushers-in-the-next-era-of-enterprise-cloud-adoption.html#:~:text=After some softening in public,growth to reach>
- [10] R. P. Singh, A. Haleem, M. Javaid, R. Kataria, and S. Singhal, “Cloud computing in solving problems of COVID-19 pandemic,” *J. Ind. Integr. Manag.*, vol. 6, no. 02, pp. 209–219, 2021.
- [11] A. Feldmann *et al.*, “A year in lockdown: how the waves of COVID-19 impact internet traffic,” *Commun. ACM*, vol. 64, no. 7, pp. 101–108, 2021.
- [12] A. Feldmann *et al.*, “The lockdown effect: Implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on internet traffic,” in *Proceedings of the ACM internet measurement conference*, 2020, pp. 1–18.
- [13] C. A. G. da Silva, A. C. K. Ferrari, C. Osinski, and D. A. F. Pelacini, “The Behavior of Internet Traffic for Internet Services during COVID-19 Pandemic Scenario,” *arXiv Prepr. arXiv2105.04083*, 2021.
- [14] E. Ezema and L. Rivera, “The Pandemic Accelerated Cloud: Application, Impact and Challenges of Cloud Computing in COVID-19 Pandemic,” *Impact Challenges Cloud Comput. COVID-19 Pandemic (December 13, 2021)*, 2021.
- [15] K. Anushka Xavier, S. L. Chetradevee, and N. Jayapandian, “COVID-19 pandemic: review on emerging technology involvement with cloud computing,” *Commun. Intell. Syst. Proc. ICCIS 2021*, pp. 223–233, 2022.
- [16] R. Vaishya, A. Haleem, A. Vaish, and M. Javaid, “Emerging technologies to combat the COVID-19 pandemic,” *J. Clin. Exp. Hepatol.*, vol. 10, no. 4, pp. 409–411, 2020.
- [17] V. R. Gangadhar and A. Shaikh, “Small and medium enterprises and cloud technology—challenges and opportunities during COVID19,” *Int. Res. J. Adv. Sci. Hub*, vol. 2, no. Special Issue ICSTM 12S, pp. 32–38, 2020.

- [18] N. K. Pandey, S. Kashyap, A. Sharma, and M. Diwakar, "Contribution of Cloud-Based Services in Post-Pandemic Technology Sustainability and Challenges: A Future Direction," *Evol. Netw. Technol. Dev. Futur. Dir.*, pp. 55–74, 2023.
- [19] P. Radanliev and D. De Roure, "Covid-19 and Cloud Technologies: All-Cloud IT Operating Model for Pandemic Management, Part 1," *IEEE Technol. Policy Ethics*, vol. 5, no. 6, pp. 1–4, 2020.
- [20] M. Javaid, A. Haleem, R. Vaishya, S. Bahl, R. Suman, and A. Vaish, "Industry 4.0 technologies and their applications in fighting COVID-19 pandemic," *Diabetes Metab. Syndr. Clin. Res. Rev.*, vol. 14, no. 4, pp. 419–422, 2020.
- [21] K. Dhyani, T. Guhan, P. Gupta, S. Bhachawat, G. P. Ganapathy, and K. Srinivasan, "Applications of IoT and Cloud Computing: A COVID-19 Disaster Perspective," in *New Frontiers in Cloud Computing and Internet of Things*, Springer, 2022, pp. 287–322.
- [22] S. Y. Manavi, V. Nekkanti, R. S. Choudhary, and N. Jayapandian, "Review on emerging Internet of Things technologies to fight the COVID-19," in *2020 Fifth international conference on research in computational intelligence and communication networks (ICRCICN)*, IEEE, 2020, pp. 202–208.
- [23] R. Bansal, A. Gupta, R. Singh, and V. K. Nassa, "Role and impact of digital technologies in E-learning amidst COVID-19 pandemic," in *2021 Fourth International Conference on Computational Intelligence and Communication Technologies (CCICT)*, IEEE, 2021, pp. 194–202.
- [24] G. Petropoulos, "Artificial intelligence in the fight against COVID-19," *Bruegel* (23 March), 2020.
- [25] R. Bean, "Big data in the time of coronavirus (COVID-19)," *Eriřim Tarihi*, vol. 11, p. 2020, 2020.
- [26] Z. R. Alashhab, M. Anbar, M. M. Singh, Y.-B. Leau, Z. A. Al-Sai, and S. A. Alhayja'a, "Impact of coronavirus pandemic crisis on technologies and cloud computing applications," *J. Electron. Sci. Technol.*, vol. 19, no. 1, p. 100059, 2021.
- [27] F. Malecki, "Overcoming the security risks of remote working," *Comput. Fraud Secur.*, vol. 2020, no. 7, pp. 10–12, 2020.
- [28] J. R. C. Nurse, N. Williams, E. Collins, N. Panteli, J. Blythe, and B. Koppelman, "Remote working pre-and post-COVID-19: an analysis of new threats and risks to security and privacy," in *HCI International 2021-Posters: 23rd HCI International Conference, HCII 2021, Virtual Event, July 24–29, 2021, Proceedings, Part III 23*, Springer, 2021, pp. 583–590.
- [29] L. Wang and C. A. Alexander, "Cyber security during the COVID-19 pandemic," *AIMS Electron. Electr. Eng.*, vol. 5, no. 2, pp. 146–157, 2021.
- [30] S. Alhomdy, F. Thabit, F. H. Abdulrazzak, A. Haldorai, and S. Jagtap, "The role of cloud computing technology: A savior to fight the lockdown in COVID 19 crisis, the benefits, characteristics and applications," *Int. J. Intell. Networks*, vol. 2, pp. 166–174, 2021.