

Decision Model to Deploy IoT Solutions on Cloud Computing Based Platforms

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Abstract— In order to deploy IoT solutions, it is possible to employ cloud computing platforms such as Amazon Web Services or Microsoft Azure. Within cloud platforms, it is also possible to deploy solutions on Infrastructure as a Service, Platform as a Service or Software as a Service. The decision about which of these approaches to use depends on costs, geographical location or even QoS parameters. This paper shows a decision model according to relevant features for IoT deployments over cloud computing systems.

Index Terms— AWS, AMQP, Cloud Computing, cost, IoT, Microsoft Azure, MQTT

I. INTRODUCTION

INTERNET of Things is a new term, it has been mentioned in different conferences and papers for instances, Dave Evans presented in 2011 the term [1], as the technology that will change everything. Dave supported this concept in the impact that Internet has had in some knowledge areas such as education, communication, business, science, government, among others. IoT through internet in data collection, analysis and distribution [1]. The paper also presents results of the study made by Cisco IBSG, the related features are: world population Vs devices connected to internet, this describes the growth of IoT, while the result was more devices than people to the internet, estimating that 25,000 million devices are connected to Internet and 50,000 million by 2020 [1].

The International Telecommunication Union –ITU, defined IoT as: “A global infrastructure for the information society, enabling advanced services by interconnecting (physical and virtual) things based on existing and evolving interoperable information and communication technologies” [2]. The ITU-T found the Study Group 20 –SG20 to develop standards for IoT and its applications including smart cities and communities [3]. In conclusion, IoT is the connection between the physical world and Internet, this connection is set with any object [2], in any moment and in any place, as is expressed in Fig. 1.

This work was supported in part by Military University Nueva Granada under grant INV-ING-2114. The authors would like to thank the GISSIC group for providing tools for development of testing scenarios.

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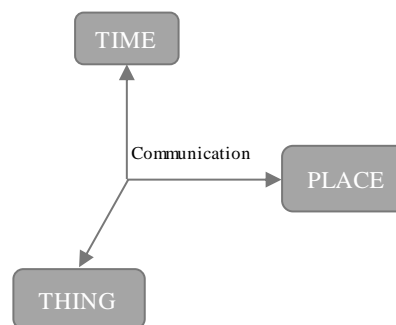


Fig. 1. The dimensions of IoT.

IoT architecture has two capabilities: management and security. They are related with four layers: Application layer are the IoT applications; Service support and application support layer contain generic support capabilities and specific support capabilities; Network layer consists in networking and transport capabilities; Device Layer has two capabilities: device capabilities and gateway [2], the architecture is as shown in the Fig. 2.

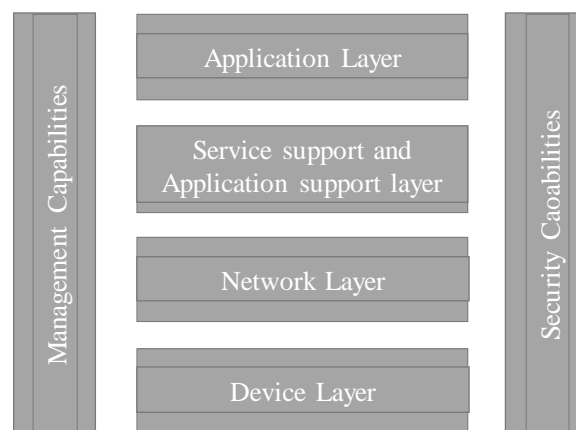


Fig. 2. IoT reference model.

In 2016 the ITU and Cisco System, presented the report that outlines IoT as world development opportunity to improve the quality of life of millions of people and progress in sustainable development [4]. This report defines IoT as: the growth of devices capable of connecting to the Internet and the devices communicate with other devices without human intervention [4]. The report has three approaches to the development of IoT [5]:

- Availability guarantees access to IoT devices in an easy and low-cost [5]
- Affordability guarantees the basic availability of IoT [5]
- Adaptability ensures the adaptation of the devices to the half and the interoperability between them [5].

Gartner, Inc., has realized a study a total of 6.4 billion Internet-connected devices is estimated by 2016, exceeding 30% connected devices in 2015 [6]. The services are classified as professional category using external providers to design, install and operate IoT systems with the possibility of growth in connectivity and consumption services [6]. Another study by Gartner, Inc., presented the magic quadrant of Gartner, identifying the leaders in the main technology markets, displaying the positions of the competitors from the market into four categories: leaders, visionaries, niche players and challengers [7].

The Gartner’s Magic Quadrant for Enterprise Application Platform as a Service worldwide published in March 2016, the Gartner’s Magic Quadrant for IaaS Service published in May 2015 and the Gartner’s Magic Quadrant for Public Cloud Storage Services published in June of 2015; concluding that the Amazon Web Services –AWS and Microsoft Azure platforms are the leader providers of cloud services [8]. The NIST define cloud computing as “*a model for enabling ubiquitous, convenient, on-demand network access to a shared pool of configurable computing resources (e.g., networks, servers, storage, applications, and services) that can be rapidly provisioned and released with minimal management effort or service provider interaction*” [9]

II. CLOUD COMPUTING PLATFORMS

Amazon Web Services –AWS and Microsoft Azure are considered the leaders in Cloud. AWS is about twice as big as Microsoft Azure, which is its closest competition, and ten times bigger than all its competitors together. However, Azure has had a fast development in the last years [10 - 12].

Cloud services providers offer different kind of solutions to their clients according to need and workflow. Some factors allow to better visualize the focus that each one have. The factors are: computing capacity, storage and network, public and private cloud services, and IoT services [13]. They decide the approach of each one of the platforms that offer cloud services [13].

AWS and Azure offer similar ranges in computing capacity, storage and networking, and IoT services for device control and data management [14] [15]. The service in both platforms are integrated with other services for a better solution.

A. AWS IoT Vs. Microsoft Azure IoT

The Table I present the features running operation of IoT on both platforms [10]. Another study by Gartner, Inc., presented in the magic quadrant of Gartner, identifies the leaders in the main technology markets, showing the positions of the competitors [7].

TABLE I
AWS IOT VS MICROSOFT AZURE IOT

Area	Amazon Web Service IoT	Microsoft Azure IoT
Protocols	Control: HTTPS.	HTTP, AMQP, MQTT and custom protocols.
Patterns of communication	Data: HTTPS, WebSockets and MQTT	Telemetry(Control) and command
Certified device platforms	Broadcom, Marvell, Renesas, Texas Instruments, Microchip, Intel, Mediatek, Qualcomm, Seeed, BeagleBoard, Raspberry Pi, Intel.	Intel, Raspberry Pi, Freescale, Texas Instruments, MinnowBoard, BeagleBoard, Seeed, resin.io
SDK/Language	Embedded C, JavaScript, Arduino Yún.	.Net y UWP, Java, C, Nodejs
Security	TLS (Mutual authentication) AWS IAM o AWS Cognitive for applications, HTTPS and WebSockets.	TLS (Only authentication of server)
Authentication	SigV4 and Certificate X.509 for connections with HTTP and authentication based on certificates for connections MQTT.	By SAS token device

Comparison between AWS IoT and Microsoft Azure IoT in areas such as: Protocols, patterns of communication, certified devices platforms, SDK/language, security, authentication.

Both platforms integrate in their structure the IoT architecture, the IoT communication use protocols as HTTP and MQTT, with telemetry communication patterns to achieve the control and command of devices, both are based in languages of programming such as Java and C and allow the connection of the same devices [12]. The communication of each platform is encrypted through the Transport Layer Security –TLS protocol by sending X.509 certificates to maintain a safe communication. Authentication differs on each platform, AWS employs two types of authentication that depends on the used protocol: AWS IAM and Incognito or SigV4 and X.509 certificate. Microsoft Azure uses a Token SAS to access control and credentials that give permission of access to the final points [13].

B. AWS IoT Service Architecture

The AWS IoT architecture, is based on the MQTT protocol. With this the "things" report its status through messages that are sent to a broker with reference to a specific topic, and those which receive the messages are which are subscribed to that topic [16].

The AWS IoT structure, has an SDK for devices with AWS IoT. It is a software development kit that allows the connection, authentication and exchange of messages of hardware devices or mobile applications, performing the authentication and authorization according to the protocol. The gateway of the device is the point of communication between connected devices and cloud (engine rules, shadows of AWS services, applications and devices). Finally, as it has a rules engine that enables the processing of incoming data from devices, and one devices shadow that stores the sent states from devices and that can be modified through any application [15] [16], as is shown in Fig. 3.

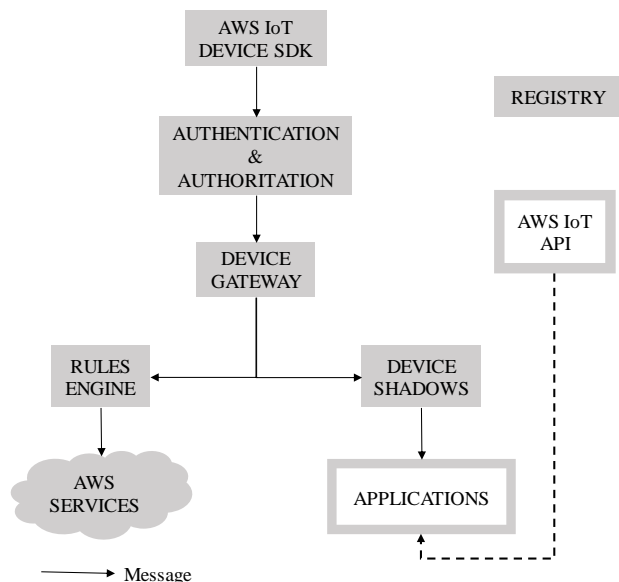


Fig. 3. AWS Service Architecture

C. Microsoft Azure Service Architecture

Microsoft presents an architecture that is divided into three groups: Device Connectivity, Data Processing and Analytics and Presentation. In this structure, the devices acquired data from the gateway, the data is available for processing with other services, this stage is called back-end, from where is input data to other applications through a control panel or a presentation device [18] [20], as shown in Fig. 04.

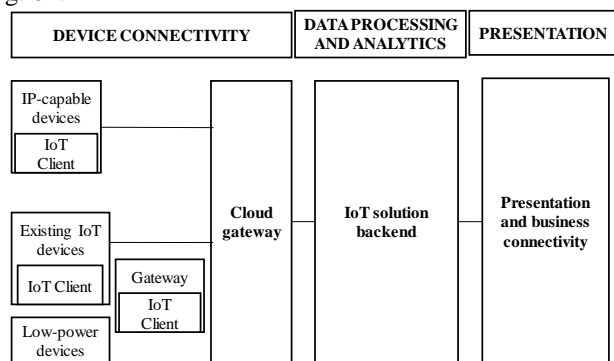


Fig. 4. Microsoft Azure Service Architecture

D. Services and costs in relation to IoT

Platforms are analyzed in terms of offered services and costs, which can, in addition, be integrated with IoT solutions [19-21] as shown in table II, table III and table IV, which is divided into three sections.

An IoT system can integrate multiple services as the related in Table II, to cover the whole of a specific needing, where instead many solutions, a single one could bring different integrated services such as: storage, databases, data analysis, notifications control, among others services [24]. In particular cases, the platforms charge according to the volume of information and the storage capacity depending on the case, paying for what is used. When it is about sending messages in AWS, it must be kept in mind that a message is a data block 512 bytes. I.e., a 1024-byte message will be billed as two messages, and messages smaller than 512 bytes, is charged as a message, while Microsoft Azure sets a size of 256 KB for messages from device to cloud and

64 KB from cloud to device [25] [26].

TABLE II
PARALLEL BETWEEN SERVICES AWS IOT AND MICROSOFT IOT

Service	AWS	Microsoft Azure
	Compute	
Virtual servers	EC2	Virtual Machines
Backend process logic	Lambda	Functions
	Storage and content delivery	
Object storage	S3	Blob Storage
Networking	Virtual Private Cloud	Virtual Network
Relational database	RDS	SQL Database
NoSQL database	DynamoDB	DocumentDB
Table storage	DynamoDB SimpleDB	Table Storage
	Networking	
Analytics	Kinesis Analytics	Stream Analytics
Machine learning	Machine learning	Machine learning
	Internet of Things	
Streaming data	Kinesis Firehose Kinesis Streams	Event Hubs
Internet of Things	IoT (Preview)	IoT Hub
	Mobile services	
Notification	Simple Notification Service	Notification Hubs
	Application services	
Messaging	Simple Queue	Service Bus
	Security and identity	
Directory	Directory Service	Azure Active Directory

Comparison of services, compute, storage and content delivery, networking, IoT, mobile services, application services, security and identity.

To understand in detail, the architecture of services of both platforms is necessary to talk about their business forms, which is divided into three models [22]:

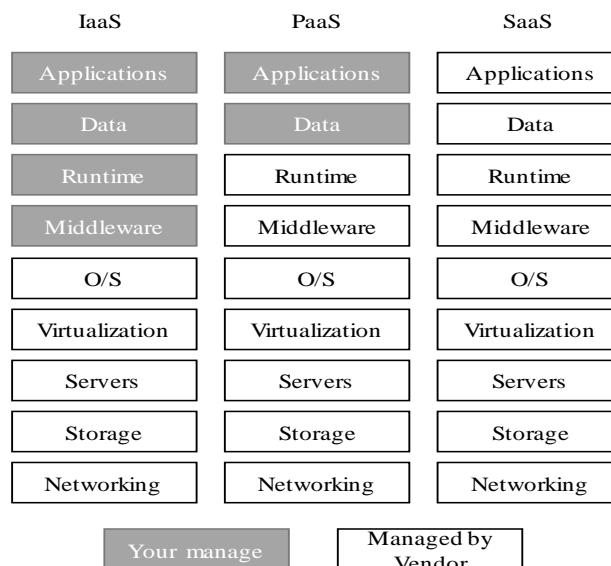


Fig. 5. Microsoft Azure Service Architecture

--IaaS (infrastructure as a service): It has the hardware, but the Administration is performed by the client. I.e., the supplier provides the machine, but installation and the rest is done the customer. (Virtual machines, servers, storage).

--Paas (platform as a service): the supplier provides all the tools and the client does not have that manage them. I.e., customer does not install, does not program, the

platform provides everything and customer uses it.

--SaaS (Software as service): it is about the software that runs on the platform and the customer uses it normally. (APIs: CRM, Email, Hangouts, etc.)

resources that the provider offers carry it out implementations and also manage their applications [23] [24].

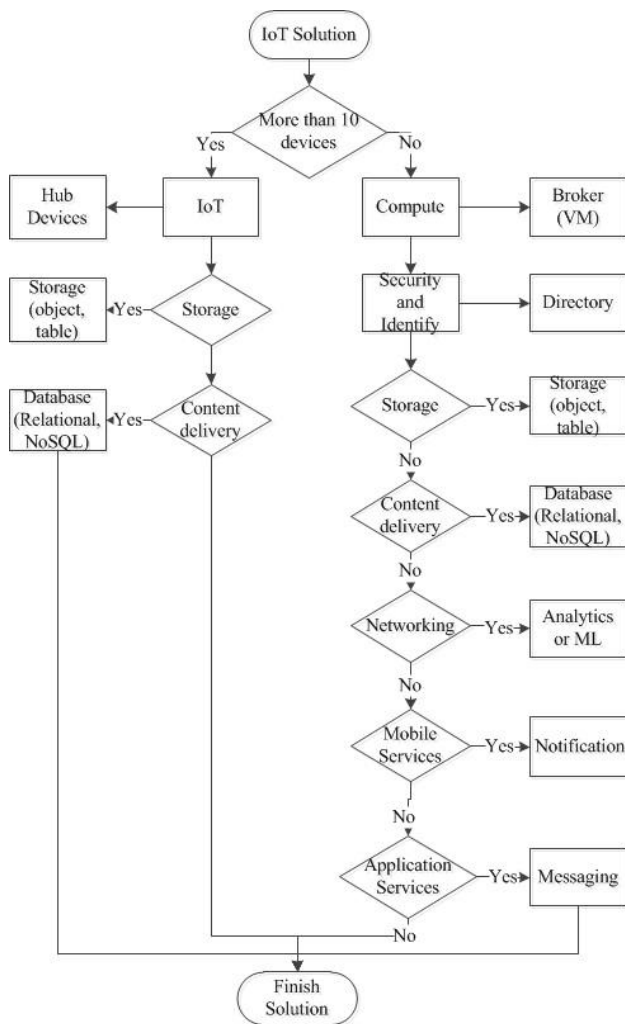


Fig. 6. Flowchart cost. VM: Virtual Machine, ML: Machine Learning

AWS is mainly known as an infrastructure as a service platform, but many of their services, are also comparable with platform as a service [22]. The comparison between IaaS and PaaS is in the type of service offered and both platforms have mixes of both [20] [23] . All this is summarized in the Fig. 5.

Now, knowing Table II services, the costs for service Table III and table IV, for Microsoft Azure and AWS platforms, and the business models of cloud platforms in the Fig 5, you can proceed to identify business models and services most suitable for the implementation of IoT systems, as chow in Fig 6.

The flowchart, allows to visualize the business model for IoT when tries of IaaS and PaaS. As you can see, the various business model. According to the need of the customer, according to the devices that you want to connect. For this **reason, you could not define which of the two models is best**. If thenumber of devices that you want to connect is less than 10, the business model more appropriate is the IaaS, where resources are managed by the client, but if the number of devices is greater than 10, the business model most suitable is the country, where the customer uses

TABLE III
COSTS OF PLATFORMS

Service	AWS	Microsoft Azure
	Compute	
Virtual servers	Free Layer:750 hours of EC2 usage with instance t2.micro of Linux, RHEL., o SLES	Type Windows
	Microsoft Windows Server	Level A0
	750 hours of Elastic Load Balancing more 15 GB of data processing	HDD, 1 core, 0.75 GB RAM y 20 GB disk
Backend process logic	30 GB of Amazon Elastic Block Store, 2 million of I/O and 1 GB storage of snapshots, 15 GB outgoing bandwidth in all AWS services	\$0,020/month
	1 GB regional data transfer	
Object storage	1 million of request and 400.000 GB / second of time of computer free of charge.	\$0,00/month
	Additional 0,20 USD per every one million request and 0,00001667 USD for every GB – second used	
Networking	Storage and content delivery	
	5 GB of storage standard, 20.000 requests Get y 2.000 requests Put free.	Storage capacity: LRS: \$0.024/ GB, ZRS: \$0.03/GB, GRS: \$0.048 GB, RA-GRS: \$0.061 GB Access Price: \$0,0036 for every 100.000 transactions
Relational database	\$ 0,05 USD per hour of VPN connection.	Free with subscription of up to 50 networks virtual.
	Gateway NAT and processed data GB: \$ 0,045.	
NoSQL database	Instance: db.t2.micro MySQL:\$0.017 SQL Server: \$0.022	Basic: 5 DTUs, 2 GB storage \$0.0067 / hour. S0: 10 DTUs, 250 GB storage \$0.0202 / hour
	25 GB of storage, 25 units of capacity of reading and 25 units of writing ability – Manage 200 million request for free.	Storage: \$0,259 GB / month. Reserved request units: \$0.008 units/hours.
Table storage	Performance of writing: \$0.0065 by hour for every 10 units of ability of writing.	
	Performance of writing: \$0.0065 by hour for every 10 units of ability of writing.	
Analytics	Performance of reading: \$0.0065 per hour every 50 units of capacity of reading.	Capacity: \$0,07 / GB Storage transactions: \$0,0036/unit
	First 25 GB stored free, additional \$0.25 per GB / month.	
Relational database	First 2.5 millio DynamoDB Streams free, additional \$0.02000 per 100,000 DynamoDB Streams.	
	Networking	
Analytics	Not defined	Processed data: \$0,001/GB Streaming units: \$0,031 Units/hour.
Relational database	Instance: db.t2.micro MySQL:\$ 0.017 SQL Server: \$0.022	Basic: 5 DTUs, 2 GB storage \$0.0067 / hour. S0: 10 DTUs, 250 GB storage \$0.0202 / hour.

AWS Vs Microsoft Azure in Compute, Storage and content delivery and networking.

TABLE IV
COSTS OF PLATFORMS

Service	AWS	Microsoft Azure
Machine learning	Data analysis and modeling \$0,4/hour	Seats: \$ 9,99/month Use of Study: \$1,00 seats/month
	Predictions in batch \$0,10 by 1000 prediction. Prediction in real time \$0,0001 by prediction	
Internet of Things		
Streaming data	Kinesis Firehose: \$0.035/GB volume of data received	Input: \$0,028 by million. Processing: \$0,030 by unit / hour
	Kinesis Streams: *Time of partition (1 MB / second input, 2 MB / second output): \$0.015.	
	*Units of load PUT / Million unit: \$0.014. *Extended data retention / part time: \$0.020	
Internet Things	Publication in AWS IoT: 5 USD / 1 million message per month. It send to devices: 5 USD / 1 million per message per month.	Nivel S1: Dispositivos Ilimitados, 400000 msj/día por \$50/mes.
Notification	100.000 HTTP notifications and 1.000 notifications by email for SNS, free per month.	10 million inserts, with unlimited devices and unlimited dissemination: \$200,00 / month Additional inclusion to \$10,00/month
Application services		
Messaging	1.000.000 SQS requests and 1.000.000 requests, Free per month	Messaging operations: Million + \$10.00. Brokered connections: 1,000 Brokered free, additional \$0,03 / connections Relay Hours: \$0.10 by 100 / hora.
	Security and identity	
Directory	Free layer 750 hour for use	Multi-Factor Authentication: \$1.40/User B2C: First 50,000 Stored users and Authentications Free, Multi-Factor Authentications
	Microsoft AD Enterprise \$0,40.	
	AD simple and y conector AD small: \$0,05. AD simple and y conector AD small: \$0,15.	\$0,03/authentication Domain Services: \$0.10 /hour

AWS Vs Microsoft Azure in Networking, IoT, mobile services, application services, security and identity

Other protocols are used in systems such as IoT: Extensible Messaging and Presence Protocol - XMPP, DataDistribution Service - DDS, Java Message Service JMS - Constrained Application Protocol - CoAP, Representational State Transfer - REST, among others [29]. In the Table V are performed a comparison of the behavior of the two protocols more used.

III. IoT PROTOCOLS

The protocol used by Microsoft Azure for IoT services is Advanced Message Queuing Protocol - AQMP, due to its adaptation to the services: Service Bus, topics/subscriptions,

Event Hub and IoT Hub. But now incorporated the support of natively to MQTT, omitting the translation of fields MQTT to AMQP in communication with the broker [28]. The Protocol base for AWS IoT is MQTT, but the platforms support the Hypertext Transfer Protocol-HTTP [13].

TABLE V
UNITS FOR MAGNETIC PROPERTIES

	MQTT	AMQP
	Message Queue Telemetry Transport)	Advanced Message Queuing Protocol
Abstraction	Publish/Subscribe Request/Response Client/server-each	publish/subscribe
Architecture	sensor's client connected to a Broker 3 Levels.	P2P or Broked
QoS	*Fire and forget *Delivered at least once *Delivered exactly once	3
Standar	MQTT-v3.1.1. OASIS STANDARD Security and identity	OASIS AMQP
Subscription control	Issues with hierarchical pairing	Exchanges, queues and the links in v0.9.1 standard, defined in the latest v1.0
Security	Authentication of clients, information with SSL/TLS encryption	SASL, TLS authentication for data encryption.

AWS Vs Microsoft Azure in Compute y Storage and content delivery

--Model publication subscription: Broker and node post information and others subscribe according to a theme. Generally, the broker is subscribed to all messages and then manages the workflow nodes [30]

--Disconnection of space: while the node and the broker needs to have the IP address of one other, nodes can publish information and subscribe to information posted other nodes. This reduces the overload that can accompany to them sessions TCP and ports, and allows that those nodes end that operate independently one of another [30].

--Decoupling of synchronization: A node that is in the middle of an operation not be interrupted for receive a message published to which is subscribed. The message is put in tail along the corridor until the receiver node is finished with its existing operation. Thus prevents operating current and reduces repeated operations, avoiding interruptions of operations in progress, or drowsy States [30].

--Safety of MQTT, uses TCP unencrypted, but as TCP uses TLS / SSL Internet security, this is a very safe method for traffic encryption [30].

-Quality of service (QoS) levels MQTT: this Protocol has three levels of service: levels 0, 1, and 2, where the raising of the standard guarantees the delivery of messages [30].

Level 0 (fire and forget), is a single transmission without the guarantee of the arrival of the message [30].

Level 1, ensures that a message is received at least once by the recipient. When the message is received and understood, it responds with an acknowledgment of receipt (PUBACK) addressed to the node publishing [30].

Level 2, this level tries to ensure that the message is received and decoded by the receiver. It's the level

MQTT safest and reliable quality of service [30].

---Last will and Testament: this Protocol has a message "(GLN) testament", that can be stored in the broker when a node unexpectedly disconnected network. This LWT retains the status and purpose of the node, including the types of commands you issued and your subscriptions, and if the node is gone, the broker notifies all subscribers of LWT's the node [30].

IV. CONCLUSION

In order to assess of Microsoft Azure and AWS should not be only infrastructure or offered services, also should be evaluated features as: compatibility of protocols and hardware, security, reliability models of services and support for the user

AWS is the more supported platform provided to its users in the use of their services with manuals and user guides.

Although it shows the effort and growth of Microsoft Azure, there is still a big gap in comparison with Amazon Web Services faster and more timely adaptation of their services to the customers need.

MQTT is the more used Protocol by Cloud platforms for IoT services, by its architecture.

Platforms have the same purpose following the IoT architecture, the big difference is in how each one of them reaches the customer, i.e. the way in which each offers its services to the customer so this can generate greater understanding and use of resources and of course, the costs.

IoT can to use the two business models permitting to the client interact

The business model PaaS, for IoT solution model, allows the control of data in real time, flexible analysis and decision-making capabilities, rapid software development and deployment, flexible IoT workflows, access-anywhere architecture, device management and simplified security, but this model, fits more to a solution that requires more than 10 devices connection.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

This work was supported in part by Military University Nueva Granada under grant INV-ING-2114. The authors would like to thank the GISSIC group for providing tools for development of testing scenarios.

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