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Review Article

Cloud Computing in Healthcare: A Brief Review of Advantages and Challenges in 2023

Harpreet Kaur[1], Gurmandeep Kaur[1]

[1]Department of Computer Application Chandigarh Group of colleges, Jhanjeri Mohali.

I N F O

Corresponding Author:
Harpreet Kaur, Department of Computer Application Chandigarh Group of colleges, Jhanjeri Mohali.
E-mail Id:
harpreetkaurbwl@gmail.com
Orcid Id:
https://orcid.org/0009-0006-8265-0155
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A B S T R A C T

Cloud computing has revolutionized the healthcare industry by transforming the way healthcare services are delivered, making it easier for healthcare providers to store, manage, access patient data securely. This technology has also enabled patients to access their medical records and communicate with their doctors more easily. The primary advantages of cloud computing in healthcare are improved accessibility, scalability, cost-effectiveness, security. However, there are also some challenges to address, such as regulatory compliance, data privacy, data integration, reliability. The use of cloud computing in healthcare has also made it possible for healthcare providers to use advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence and machine learning to improve patient care. In addition, future trends such as edge computing, blockchain, the Internet of Medical Things (IoMT) are expected to drive innovation in the healthcare industry and transform the way we deliver and receive healthcare services. To fully realize the potential of cloud computing in healthcare, it is essential to address the challenges associated with its use, especially regarding regulatory compliance and data privacy. Healthcare providers must ensure that cloud computing services are reliable and available at all times to avoid disruption to patient care. Overall, cloud computing is expected to continue to play a vital role in the healthcare industry, helping to improve patient outcomes and transform the way healthcare services are delivered.

Keywords: Cloud Computing, Healthcare, Accessibility, Security, Future Trends

Introduction

Cloud computing is a technology that has revolutionized the way we store and access data. It refers to the use of remote servers, connected through the internet, to store, manage, process data instead of using local hardware. This technology has gained significant importance in the healthcare industry, it is being used to transform the way healthcare services are delivered.[1-4] In the healthcare industry, cloud computing refers to the use of remote servers to store, manage, process healthcare data, including patient records, medical images, other health-related information. The primary advantage of cloud computing in healthcare is that it makes it easier for healthcare providers to access and share data, regardless of their location or device.[5-8] With cloud computing, healthcare providers can store patient data securely, access it from anywhere at any time, share it with other authorized providers. This means that doctors, nurses, other healthcare professionals can have immediate access to a patient's medical history, test results, other critical information, even if they are

located in different parts of the world.[9-11] The use of cloud computing in healthcare has also made it easier for patients to access their medical records and communicate with their doctors. Patients can now use their smartphones, tablets, or computers to access their medical records, schedule appointments, receive test results.[12-14] Cloud computing has also made it possible for healthcare providers to use advanced technologies, such as artificial intelligence and machine learning, to improve patient care. For example, machine learning algorithms can analyze large amounts of patient data to identify patterns and trends that can help doctors make more accurate diagnoses and develop better treatment plans. Cloud computing has revolutionized healthcare by enabling efficient access to electronic health records and remote consultations. One application of this technology is in monitoring and analyzing myocardial injury after non-cardiac surgery. Cloud computing has also helped to reduce the cost of healthcare services. Healthcare providers no longer need to invest in expensive hardware, such as servers and storage devices, to store and manage patient data. Instead, they can use cloud computing services, which are often more cost-effective and scalable.[15-20] However, there are also some challenges associated with the use of cloud computing in healthcare. One of the primary concerns is the security and privacy of patient data. Since healthcare data is highly sensitive and confidential, it is crucial to ensure that it is stored and transmitted securely to prevent unauthorized access or data breaches. Another challenge is the integration of cloud computing systems with existing healthcare IT infrastructure. Many healthcare providers use legacy systems, which can make it difficult to integrate cloud computing platforms seamlessly.[21-25] This article presents the main benefits, obstacles, future directions of Cloud Computing in Healthcare, based on an extensive review of the relevant literature.

Figure 1.Online Medical Services

Advantages of Cloud Computing in Healthcare

Cloud computing offers significant benefits to the healthcare industry, including:

- **Improved Accessibility:** With cloud computing, healthcare providers can access patient information and medical records from anywhere with an internet connection, which means they can provide timely care to patients without the need for physical records or infrastructure
- **Scalability:** Healthcare providers can quickly scale up or down their computing resources as needed to meet the changing demands of patient care, without having to invest in expensive hardware
- **Cost-Effectiveness:** Cloud computing allows healthcare providers to reduce their IT costs by eliminating the need for expensive hardware, maintenance, upgrades
- **Security:** Cloud computing providers typically have robust security measures in place, including encryption, backup, disaster recovery services, to protect patient data from theft or loss

Thus Cloud computing in healthcare offers improved accessibility to patient information and medical records, enabling healthcare providers to provide timely care from anywhere with an internet connection. It also provides scalability to healthcare providers to scale up or down their computing resources as per patient care demands without the need for expensive hardware. Cloud computing is cost-effective and eliminates the need for expensive hardware maintenance and upgrades. Additionally, cloud computing providers have robust security measures in place, including encryption, backup, disaster recovery services, to protect patient data from theft or loss.[26-30]

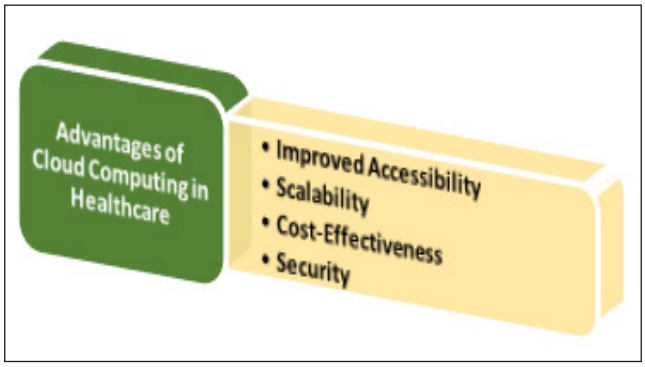

Figure 2.Key advantages of cloud computing in healthcare

Challenges of Cloud Computing in Healthcare

Cloud computing in healthcare faces significant challenges, which include:

- **Regulatory Compliance:** Healthcare providers must comply with strict regulations regarding the storage and handling of patient data, which can be challenging when using cloud computing services
- **Data Privacy:** There are concerns about the privacy of patient data when using cloud computing services, especially if the data is stored in a different country with different data protection laws
- **Data Integration:** Healthcare providers often use

multiple systems and applications to manage patient data, which can make it difficult to integrate with cloud computing platforms

- **Reliability:** Healthcare providers must ensure that cloud computing services are reliable and available at all times to avoid disruption to patient care

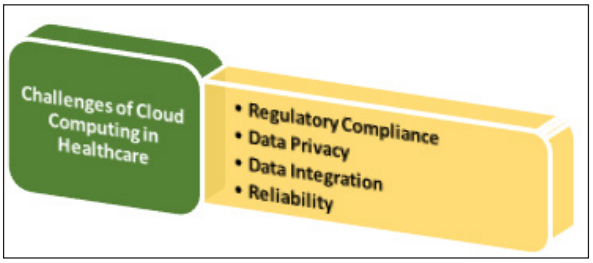

Figure 3.Key challenges of cloud computing in healthcare

From the above key challenges of using cloud computing in healthcare include regulatory compliance, data privacy concerns, data integration difficulties, ensuring the reliability of cloud computing services. Healthcare providers must comply with strict regulations regarding patient data storage and handling, which can be challenging with cloud computing. Data privacy is also a concern, particularly if patient data is stored in a different country with different data protection laws. The integration of multiple systems and applications used to manage patient data can also be a challenge when integrating with cloud computing platforms. Finally, healthcare providers must ensure the reliability of cloud computing services to avoid disruption to patient care.[31-23]

Future Trends of Cloud Computing in Healthcare

The upcoming trends of cloud computing in healthcare are discussed below[34-36]

- **Edge Computing:** Edge computing involves processing data closer to the source, which can reduce latency and improve real-time processing in healthcare applications
- **Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning:** Cloud computing can support the use of artificial intelligence and machine learning algorithms to improve diagnostics, personalized medicine, patient outcomes
- **Blockchain:** Blockchain technology can be used to improve the security and privacy of patient data stored in the cloud, by providing a tamper-proof and transparent record of data access and sharing
- **Healthcare and air conditioning:** One potential integration between cloud computing in healthcare and air conditioning for human comfort could involve leveraging cloud-based data analytics to optimize air conditioning systems in healthcare facilities. By monitoring factors like patient occupancy levels and ambient temperature, data analysis could be used to improve patient comfort while also reducing energy waste and associated costs
- **Internet of Medical Things (IoMT):** Cloud computing can support the integration of IoMT devices, such as wearables and remote monitoring devices, to enable real-time data collection and analysis for improved patient care

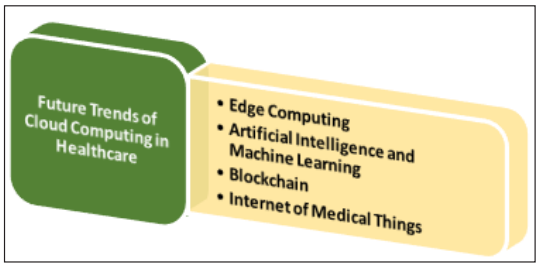

Figure 4.Future trends of cloud computing in healthcare

Conclusion

- Cloud computing is a technology that has transformed the healthcare industry. It has made it easier for healthcare providers to store, manage, access patient data securely, has enabled patients to access their medical records and communicate with their doctors more easily. Cloud computing has also made it possible for healthcare providers to use advanced technologies to improve patient care, reduce costs, increase efficiency
- However, there are also some challenges associated with the use of cloud computing in healthcare, including security and privacy concerns and the integration of cloud computing systems with existing healthcare IT infrastructure. Despite these challenges, cloud computing is expected to continue to play a vital role in the healthcare industry, helping to improve patient outcomes and transform the way healthcare services are delivereCloud computing has the potential to revolutionize the healthcare industry by providing improved accessibility, scalability, security, cost-effectiveness. However, there are also challenges to address, such as regulatory compliance, data privacy, data integration, reliability. Future trends such as edge computing, artificial intelligence and machine learning, blockchain, the Internet of Medical Things (IoMT) will continue to drive innovation in the healthcare industry and transform the way we deliver and receive healthcare services.

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