# WHAT IS STORAGE AS A SERVICE?

Storage as a Service or STaaS is cloud and on-premise based storage that provides:

1. Customers access to data storage and backup services.
2. Companies the ability to lease on-premise storage equipment or space in the cloud without purchasing the hardware.
3. Maintenance and management free hardware.

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HYBRID CLOUD SOLUTIONS


## STORAGE AS A SERVICE

Storage as a Service (STaaS) is a cloud or on-premise-based solution that provides customers access to data storage and backup services without purchasing, managing, and maintaining their hardware.

Companies can lease on-premise hardware or space in the public cloud, eliminating the need to invest in and manage their storage infrastructure.

## CLOUD BASED STaaS

STaaS is typically offered by a third-party cloud provider, such as Nfina, AWS, Azure, or Google Cloud. Each provider offers different features and pricing structures. Customers will choose the provider that best meets their needs. Once the customer selects a provider, they will create a storage account and configure the service according to their needs. Providers will then host the data in their cloud solution and provide access based on customers' requirements. Customers can then store, retrieve, and back up their data in the cloud, accessing storage from anywhere with an internet connection.

## ON-PREMISE BASED STaaS

On-premise STaaS is a service that allows users to lease equipment and store data in a network of nodes located at the "edge" of the on-premise network. It offers a range of features, including scalability, faster response times, reduced bandwidth, reliability, redundancy, significant cost savings, and enhanced security. For added data protection and redundancy, leasing a Hybrid Cloud solution from Nfina provides both on-premise and cloud storage.

## WHICH STaaS SHOULD I CHOOSE?

– With **Cloud Based STaaS**, Cloud providers do not let you access their storage because it is sharing storage with other clients. Therefore it does not have any standard storage features it can make public. Storing data exclusively in the public cloud is a security risk,and multi-cloud geo-redundancy is very expensive. Public cloud companies charge a premium for data egress, so getting data out of the cloud once you have checked in can be prohibitively expensive for most customers. The hyperscale cloud is also expensive object-oriented storage, which most small and mid-market customers do not need. Active-active DR using public hyperscale cloud can be prohibitively expensive if it is available. The main advantage here it is an Op-Ex expense, which may or may not make sense depending on the deal size.

– With **On-Premise Hardware**, there is more privacy because you are not sharing network ports or storage with anyone else. On-prem has higher throughput and lower latency than cloud-based solutions. The customer also has full access to the storage appliance to recover, restore, backup, clone, scale, and access multiple geo-redundant locations at a fraction of the cost of the public hyperscale cloud. By choosing STaaS, the customer also can reduce the debt load on their precious IT resources, by outsourcing the day-to-day management to storage experts, without giving up access to the very powerful storage features the on-prem options provide. This is a Cap-Ex option since the unit is on-prem.

– A **Third Option** is to let a vendor set up a dedicated private cloud in a nearby COLO facility (giving the advantage of public cloud's Op-Ex tax treatment) while maintaining full access to storage features remotely. Privacy issues are not as much of a concern, since the infrastructure is not shared. Geo-redundancy Active-active DR becomes much more affordable if you look for vendors that provide un-metered network access. This private cloud architecture may represent the best of both worlds.

## WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN A STaaS PROVIDER

The downside of STaaS includes potential privacy concerns and security risks, as the cloud provider is responsible for keeping the data safe. Companies must also ensure that their data is backed up regularly in case of a disruption or failure.

Cloud-based data storage can be vulnerable to access based on an internet connection. Therefore, customers must ensure that their cloud provider is secure and compliant with industry standards. Equally so, providers should store data in multiple geo-locations. Geo-redundancy with a cloud-based system is very expensive, and Active-active disaster recovery is not universally available.

Most providers' backup solution is Active-passive, meaning you could lose a day or more of data. According to IDC, a day's worth of data loss for mid-size enterprises is around $300,000 per day. Finding a STaaS Hybrid Cloud solution provider like Nfina is ideal because we offer cloud-based and on-premise redundant storage with Active-active disaster recovery.

## BENEFITS OF USING NFINA FOR STaaS

The advantages of Nfina Hybrid Cloud STaaS include improved scalability, reliability, security, and cost savings.

– **Scalability** – STaaS provides the flexibility to store, retrieve, and back up data anywhere. STaaS is not just for organizations needing to quickly scale storage capacity to meet changing demands. It is also an excellent solution for companies that require fixed-size storage. Increasing storage capacity can be done numerous ways such as increasing on-prem disk capacity, adding JBOD expansion units, and adding cloud storage.

- **Reliability** – Data is stored securely on-premise and in the cloud, reducing the risk of data breaches. Nfina provides Active-active disaster recovery, meaning data can be restored in minutes. Most providers do not offer this or offer it for an exorbitant cost. Our hardware is some of the most reliable in the industry and our performance is enhanced with 3rd Gen Intel® Xeon™ Scalable Processors. We also offer a five-year warranty on our products and 24/7 U.S. Tech support.

- **Security** – Data is stored securely in the cloud or on-premise, reducing the risk of data breaches. STaaS is protected by multiple layers of security, including physical security, encryption, and access management. We also store data redundantly both on-prem and in multiple data center locations. The most conscience providers supply customers with multiple geo-locations for storing data.

- **Cost Savings** – STaaS is cost-effective for companies that need to quickly scale up or down their storage, allowing these organizations to only pay for the storage solution they need. Furthermore, STaaS eliminates the need to purchase and maintain storage hardware, resulting in infrastructure cost savings. STaaS also has a much lower debt resource for the buyer since they are outsourcing this, thus freeing up their in-house staff for more strategic projects.

## COST OF STaaS

The cost of STaaS varies, depending on the provider and your specific storage requirements. An advantage to leasing is that companies report OpEx on their income statements[1] and can deduct[2] OpEx from their taxes for the year for the expense incurred. Most providers offer different payment plans, including pay-as-you-go and subscription models.

## WHY CHOOSE NFINA AS YOUR STaaS PROVIDER?

Nfina provides STaaS solutions based on your current data needs and prices accordingly, a notable cost savings over the cost of public cloud providers without compromising any benefits. With Nfina's STaaS, you receive on-premise storage and geo-redundant cloud backup, data encryption, ransomware protection with an instant rollback feature, Backup and Disaster Recovery testing for business continuity and many more features. Contact us today for details about our STaaS solutions.

[1].https://www.investopedia.com/terms/i/incomestatement.asp
[2]. https://www.investopedia.com/terms/t/tax-deduction.asp

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