Privacy, Security and Forensics in Software as a Service (SaaS)

Susan Fowler (fowler16@purdue.edu)

Software as a Service

Consumer may access provider applications running on a cloud infrastructure via a web browser.. Consumer does not control the underlying hardware or cloud infrastructure.
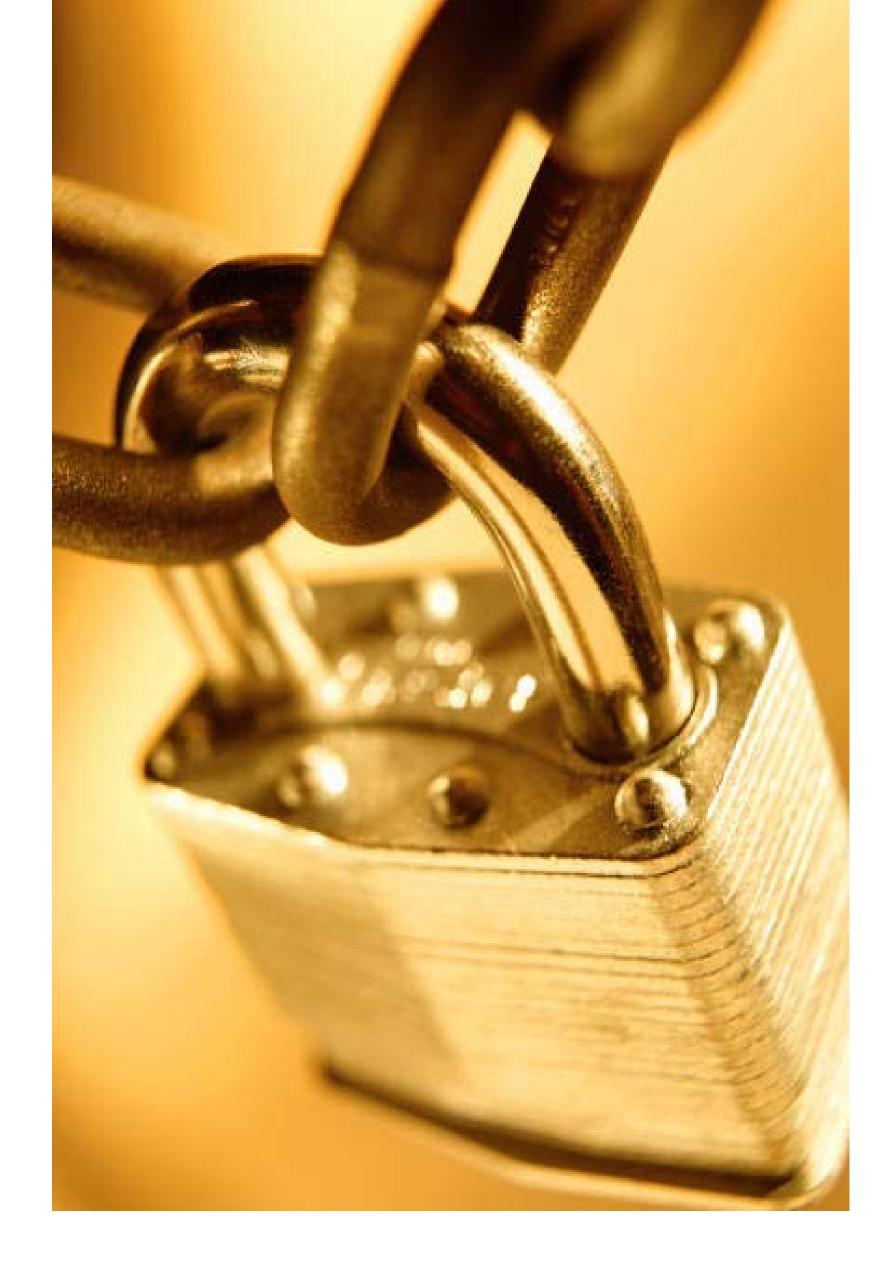
Benefits

-Cost

-Flexibility and Scalability

-Reliability

Privacy Considerations

-Legal-Who owns the data?

-What exactly does the service level agreement contain?

Security Considerations

-Who has access to the documents?

-Where is the data being stored?

-What happens if the data is compromised?

SaaS Forensics

Benefits

-Data may be retained by provider

-Log files may be valuable

Limitations

-Traditional forensic methods may not be applicable

-Unclear ownership boundaries

-Memory may be volatile

-Lack of infrastructure

-Data provenance

-Lack of forensic tools and procedures for investigation