

CLOUD MAGAZINE

ISSUE 1 - FEBRUARY 2026

AWS CLOUD CLUB UOK



The Cloud Imperative: Why It's Time to Get On Board

Learn the importance of
cloud computing and why
you must learn it

Top 5

Cloud Developments 2026

Cloud Computing: The Basics
Explained

Cloud Deployment Models

Past and upcoming events
by AWS Cloud Club UOK.

Our impact and how you can
also contribute

IT TAKES TO THE SKY

Inside the launch of the
UOK AWS Cloud Club and
its impactful events



Visit aws-uok.com to stay updated



ABOUT US

The AWS Cloud Club at the University of Kelaniya is a student-led community dedicated to fostering cloud computing knowledge and skills among university students. The club aims to organize industry relevant events such as workshops, competitions and tech talks featuring industry experts to help students gain practical cloud skills, earn AWS certifications, and connect with professionals in the field preparing students for careers in cloud technology.

OUR VISION

To be the leading student-led community in Sri Lanka that empowers the next generation of cloud innovators.

OUR MISSION

Equip students with in-demand cloud computing knowledge and skills through hands-on learning experiences, industry-driven workshops, competitions, and impactful educational content, in turn bridging the gap between academic learning and practical skills.



EXECUTIVE BOARD - 25/26 TERM

MR. UDARA WIJERATNE	DR (MRS.) THOSINI KUMARIKA
ACADEMIC ADVISOR	SENIOR TREASURER

BINATH PERERA	YUNETH WITHANACHCHI	ISHINI KAUSHALYA	AMASHA FERNANDO	HARITHA THANTHILAGE	RUMETH WIJETHUNGE
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ELUNI WIJAYASEKARA	SHANIKA MUNASINGHE	PASINDU WAIDYARATHNA	GIMHAN PERERA	NISAKYA GAMAGE	HANSINI	JANEESHA SHEHANI
3RD YEAR COMMITTEE MEMBER	3RD YEAR COMMITTEE MEMBER	3RD YEAR COMMITTEE MEMBER	3RD YEAR COMMITTEE MEMBER	2ND YEAR COMMITTEE MEMBER	2ND YEAR COMMITTEE MEMBER	2ND YEAR COMMITTEE MEMBER



A STUDENT'S GATEWAY TO CLOUD COMPUTING

WHAT ARE AWS CLOUD CLUBS?

AWS Cloud Clubs are student-led user groups from around the world for post-secondary level students and independent learners led by Cloud Club Captains. As of 2026 there are over 500 AWS Cloud Clubs worldwide.

MAKING HISTORY

AWS Cloud Club UOK was the first official AWS Cloud Club to be established in Sri Lanka bringing global recognition to the University of Kelaniya along with a host of benefits to the students.

The club was established on the advise and guidance of Mr Udara Wijeratne and Dr.Thosini Kumarika and the effort made by students, notably Binath Perera the president and cloud club captain for the current term. Dr.Thosini Kumarika serves as a senior lecturer at the department of statistics and computer science, University of Kelaniya. Mr Udara Wijeratne is the Senior VP of Engineering & Country Head at Velaris and is also an AWS Community Builder. Their guidance and support has been vital to the establishment and progress of the club.

WHO CAN JOIN?

Cloud Clubs are open to any learner aged 18+, all university students following any major are welcome. No cloud experience? No problem!



LATEST CLOUD COMPUTING DEVELOPMENTS & ADVANCEMENTS

Cloud computing continues to evolve rapidly, and AWS remains at the forefront of these innovations. Today's cloud landscape is shaped by powerful new technologies that make computing faster, smarter, and more accessible than ever before.

- **AI-Integrated Cloud Services**

AWS is deeply integrating Generative AI into its platforms, enabling developers to build intelligent applications more easily. Tools like Amazon Bedrock, Q-Cli and AI-powered analytics services help students experiment with machine learning and automation without needing advanced expertise.

- **Growth of Serverless Computing**

Serverless technologies such as AWS Lambda are becoming more popular for building scalable and cost-efficient applications. Students can now deploy full applications without managing servers, making cloud development more beginner-friendly.

- **Edge Computing and IoT Expansion**

The rise of smart devices has increased the need for processing data close to the source. AWS services like AWS IoT Core and AWS Greengrass are expanding rapidly, supporting real-time data processing and enabling innovative IoT solutions.

- **Advances in Cloud Security**

Cloud security is more important than ever. AWS continues to enhance services such as AWS Security Hub, introducing improved threat detection, automated monitoring, and zero-trust security models to protect digital solutions.

- **Focus on Sustainability**

AWS is investing heavily in sustainable computing through energy-efficient data centers and carbon-reduction strategies. These advancements support environmentally responsible innovation and encourage students to build eco-friendly cloud solutions.



ENHANCE YOUR SKILLS BY JOINING US

Joining our AWS Cloud Club opens the door to a world of learning, collaboration, and hands-on experience. We provide students with opportunities to grow their cloud knowledge and build practical skills that are highly valued in today's tech industry.

- **Hands-On Workshops**

Students can participate in regular workshops covering AWS fundamentals such as EC2, S3, IAM, networking, serverless computing, machine learning, and more. These sessions help beginners learn by doing, making cloud concepts easier to understand.

- **Certification Support**

Our club offers guidance for AWS certifications like Cloud Practitioner, Solutions Architect, and Developer Associate. Through study groups, shared resources, and mentorship, students can confidently prepare for globally recognized certifications.

- **Mentorship & Peer Learning**

Students can interact with experienced cloud enthusiasts and industry mentors. Peer-to-peer learning sessions create a friendly environment where members can ask questions, share ideas, and learn together.

- **Community Networking**

Members connect with fellow students, alumni, and AWS community leaders. Networking helps students explore internships, job opportunities, and collaborations within the wider tech community.

- **Easy Joining Process**

Students can join simply by:

1. Visit aws-uok.com/join-us
2. Fill out the membership form
3. Join our WhatsApp and Meetup community
4. Participate the monthly meetups and organize events



THE POWER OF CLOUD COMPUTING



In today's fast-moving digital world, cloud computing has become more than just a tech buzzword it's a cornerstone of modern business strategy. As organizations around the world increasingly adopt cloud services, they're discovering clear benefits: improved efficiency, better security, increased profits, and enhanced agility. So, what exactly makes cloud computing so powerful and essential for businesses today? Let's break it down in a simple and human way.

WHAT IS CLOUD COMPUTING?

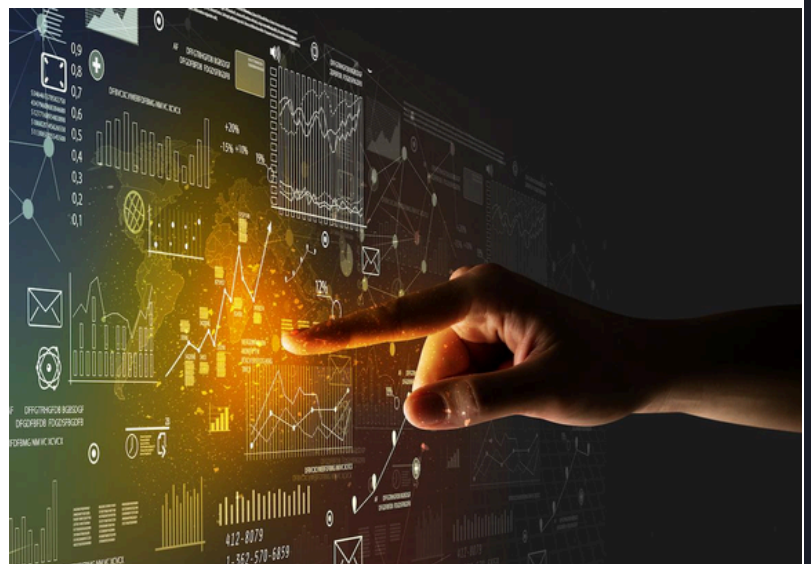
Cloud computing is the delivery of computing services—including servers, storage, databases, networking, software, analytics, and intelligence—over the internet. Instead of owning and maintaining physical data centers or servers, businesses can access technology services on-demand from a cloud provider like AWS, Microsoft Azure, or Google Cloud. Put simply, it's like renting a computer system you can use from anywhere.

HOW DOES CLOUD COMPUTING WORK?

Cloud services run on remote servers maintained by providers. You just log in through a browser or app—whether you're at the office, home, or halfway across the world—and you have access to the same system, same tools that leading organizations use. Imagine a sales rep updating client notes while on the road via a cloud-based CRM like Salesforce. The information is instantly accessible to their team, no matter where they are.

THE 12 MOST IMPORTANT BENEFITS OF CLOUD COMPUTING

1. Cost Savings
2. Better Security
3. Flexibility and Scalability
4. Mobility
5. Business Insight
6. Team Collaboration
7. Quality Control
8. Disaster Recovery
9. Data Loss Prevention
10. Automatic Software Updates
11. Competitive Edge
12. Sustainability



AGM 2024

30th October 2024

The AWS Cloud Club at the University of Kelaniya proudly held its first-ever Annual General Meeting (AGM) for the academic year 2022/2023 on 30th October 2024, at 12.00 noon, in Hall A7 406. This inaugural gathering marked the start in the club's journey, bringing together students, faculty, and cloud enthusiasts to plan for the future of the new club. The meeting was opened by Ms. Upeksha Sewwandi and Mr. Rumeth, followed by the University Anthem and the ceremonial lighting of the oil lamp in the presence of distinguished guests including Dr. J.A. Senevirathne, Dr. P.L.A.K. Piyumal, Dr. O.M.P.V. Dissanayake, Dr. W.A.C. Weerakoon and Dr. B.M. Thosini Kumarika.

Mr. Yuneth Withanachchi delivered the welcome address, setting an inspiring tone for the event. A video presentation on cloud computing highlighted the relevance and potential of AWS technologies in today's digital world.

A key moment of this first AGM was the appointment of the new Executive Board. Binath Perera was named President, with Yuneth Withanachchi as Vice President, Ishini Kaushalya as Secretary, Amasha Fernando as Assistant Secretary, Dr. B.M. Thosini Kumarika as Senior Treasurer, and Maneesha Gunarathne as Junior Treasurer. Janith Thejaka and Haritha Thanthilage were appointed as Co-Editors, leading designing and content writing, respectively. The newly elected President outlined the club's plans for the coming year, focusing on training, workshops, and collaborative activities to strengthen cloud knowledge among students. Professor Dr. B.M. Thosini Kumarika also addressed the gathering, emphasizing the importance of cloud technology and the club's role in preparing students for future industry demands.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks by the new Secretary, Ms. Ishini Kaushalya, and ended at 12.50 pm with the National Anthem, closing the first Annual General Meeting on a high note and opening a new chapter for the AWS Cloud Club at the University of Kelaniya.



CLOUDCON'24

**29th November
2024**



CloudCon'24, the inaugural cloud conference organized by the AWS Cloud Club of the University of Kelaniya, was successfully held on November 29, 2024. The event brought together industry experts for an engaging series of talks covering cloud computing, serverless technologies, and artificial intelligence, providing valuable insights into emerging trends in the cloud ecosystem.

November 29th, 2024

MEET OUR SPEAKERS



Mr. Udara Wijeratne
VP of Engineering & Country head(SL) at Velaris



Mr. Manoj Fernando
Solution Architect, Digital Platform at Air Canada



Mr. Thilina Viraj
Technical Lead at Sysco Labs Sri Lanka



Mr. Lahiru Hewawasam
Manager - Cybersecurity at Fortude



Ms. Thamodi Wikramasinghe
Associate Tech Lead at Fortude



The Kahoot quiz session conducted was particularly exciting for all students. The quiz tested how much knowledge the participants have gathered from the session. Winners received exciting gifts. 100+ participants attended the event and we expect to conduct more such events in the future.

Overall, the session promoted teamwork, quick thinking, friendly competition, and strengthened student interest in cloud technologies and interactive learning experiences.

The event provided an excellent platform for students to network with industry professionals, gain valuable insights into real-world cloud implementations, and explore emerging career paths in cloud technologies. Through interactive discussions and engaging sessions, participants were encouraged to think beyond theoretical knowledge and understand the practical impact of cloud solutions in today's technology landscape. The success of CloudCon'24 marks a significant milestone for the AWS Cloud Club UOK and sets a strong foundation for future initiatives aimed at empowering the student community.



SCALING NEW HEIGHTS: A RECAP OF OUR "INTRODUCTION TO CLOUD COMPUTING AND AWS" WORKSHOP



On June 26, 2025, the atmosphere in B1 343 was electric as over 60 students gathered for our first major event of the season: "Introduction to Cloud Computing and AWS." From 4:00 PM to 5:30 PM, the room was packed with aspiring tech leaders eager to dive into the world of cloud infrastructure.

The turnout exceeded our expectations, proving that the drive to innovate is stronger than ever within our student community.



The session was led by our Cloud Club Captain, Binath Perera, who provided a masterclass on the fundamental pillars of cloud computing. Binath simplified complex “must-know“ concepts, giving participants a clear roadmap of how the cloud functions as the backbone of modern technology.



Adding a technical edge to the afternoon, our Technical Lead, Mr. Madushan Ranasinghe, delivered an insightful overview of AWS services. He showcased the versatility of the AWS ecosystem, explaining how its various tools—from storage to high-speed computing—are utilized by industry giants worldwide.



Rumeth Wijethunge, our PR Coordinator, also took the stage to highlight how students can take their involvement a step further. He detailed the various roles currently open within the club, encouraging students to apply for our specialized teams and leadership opportunities.



We wrapped up the evening with a high-stakes Kahoot quiz conducted by Mr. Yuneth Withanachchi that tested everyone’s focus during the session. The competition was fierce, and the top three scorers walked away with exciting prizes.

However, no one left empty-handed! To celebrate the successful launch, every participant received AWS stickers to personalize their gear, creating lasting memories and boosting enthusiasm for future AWS Cloud Club events and community-driven learning experiences.



MASTERING THE COMMAND LINE: A RECAP OF THE "INTRODUCTION TO LINUX" WORKSHOP



As the backbone of cloud infrastructure, Linux is an indispensable skill for any aspiring cloud professional. On October 9, 2025, the Cloud Club hosted an intensive "Introduction to Linux" workshop designed to bridge the gap between basic computer use and professional systems administration.

The event, held from 4:00 PM to 6:30 PM at B1 343, adopted a hybrid format, allowing over 60 students to participate in person while simultaneously engaging with a live audience online.



We were honored to host Mr. Rasika Nanayakkara, a Senior Project Manager at Lithium Technologies Sri Lanka, as our guest speaker. With years of experience in the tech industry, Mr. Nanayakkara brought a practical, real-world perspective to the session.

HOSTING STRATEGIES ON AWS

Building on our momentum, the AWS Cloud Club of the University of Kelaniya hosted an intensive, hands-on workshop titled “Hosting Strategies on AWS” on October 16, 2025. This session was specifically designed to take students beyond the basics and into the realm of professional-grade deployment and architecture.

From 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM, the familiar halls of B1 343 in the Faculty of Science were transformed into a hub of technical innovation as students learned how to scale projects from simple personal websites to enterprise-level web services

The hybrid nature of the event was a major success. By offering a virtual link alongside the physical session at B1 343, we were able to reach a wider audience, ensuring that every student had the opportunity to learn, regardless of their location.



We were privileged to be joined by two seasoned experts from Velaris, who brought a wealth of practical knowledge to the workshop:

- Mr. Udara Wijeratna (Senior Vice President of Engineering at Velaris & AWS Community Builder): Udara shared high-level insights into how global companies architect their systems for maximum uptime and scalability.
- Mr. Pasan Kottearachchi (Senior Software Engineer at Velaris): Pasan led the technical deep dives, showing students the “how-to“ of modern hosting strategies and the nuances of AWS infrastructure.

Beyond the Theory: Hands-On Experience

The workshop focused on real-world application. Participants explored various AWS hosting pathways, learning which tools to use for different scenarios:

- **Static Hosting:** Leveraging AWS S3 and CloudFront for lightning-fast, low-cost websites.
- **Scalable Services:** Understanding how to deploy dynamic applications that can handle thousands of users.

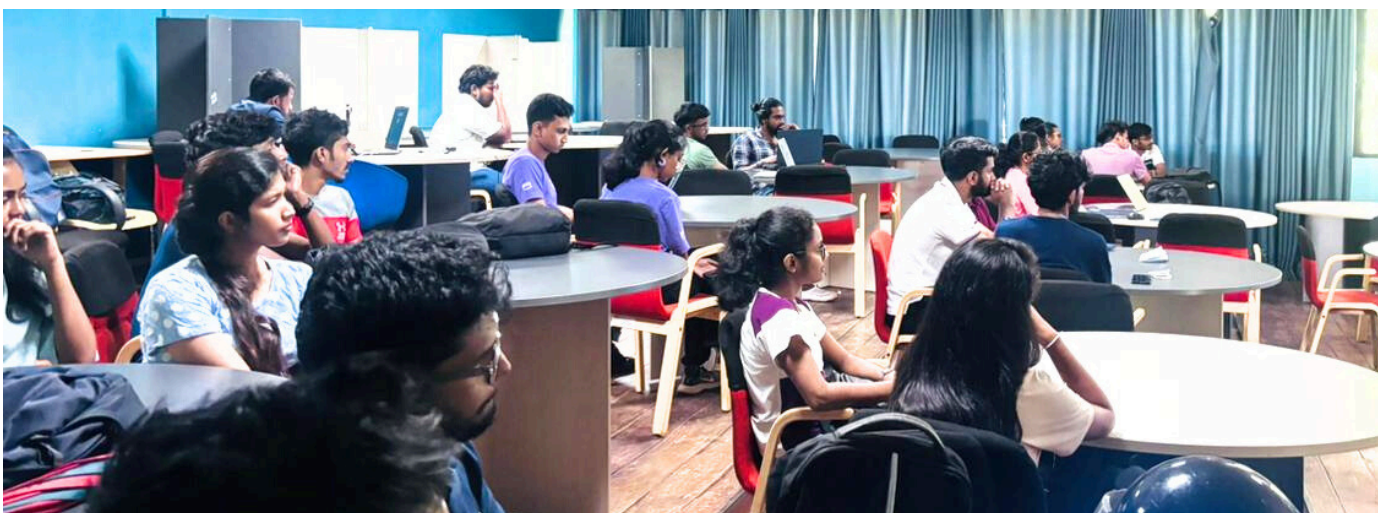


- **Modern Deployment:** An introduction to automated workflows that make hosting seamless for developers.

Recognition and Networking

This event wasn’t just about technical skills—it was about community. Attendees had the unique opportunity to network with industry leaders, gaining career advice and insights into the current tech landscape in Sri Lanka.

To mark their achievement, every student who completed the workshop received a Certificate of Completion, a digital badge of honor to showcase their growing cloud proficiency to future employers.





AWS CLOUD CLUB - UNIVERSITY OF KELANIYA



AWS COMMUNITY DAY SRI LANKA 2025

The tech community in Sri Lanka reached new heights this past September at AWS Community Day Sri Lanka 2025. Organized by the AWS User Group Colombo, this flagship event brought together developers, architects, and cloud enthusiasts from the industry for a day of deep technical immersion and community building.

As a community-led conference, the event embodied the spirit of “by the community, for the community,” providing a platform for local and foreign experts to share their real-world experiences with global AWS technologies.

OUR CREATIVITY

Creativity plays a key role in how we promote our society and connect with students. Our marketing team combines design, storytelling, and technology to create eye-catching content that represents who we are and what we do.

• Creative Flyers & Posters

We design stylish, modern, and engaging flyers for all our events, workshops, and announcements. Each design is carefully crafted to attract attention, communicate clearly, and reflect our club's identity.

• Promotional Videos

Our team produces short, dynamic videos for social media. These videos highlight our events, achievements, and learning opportunities—making our message more exciting and visually appealing.

• Social Media Content

From Instagram posts to reels, digital banners, and interactive stories, our marketing content is designed to reach more students and keep the community engaged with upcoming activities.

• Student-Led Marketing Team

Every design is created by talented student members. This gives students hands-on experience in:

- Graphic design
- Video editing
- Branding
- Content creation
- Digital marketing strategies

It helps them build portfolios and gain valuable real-world skills.



UPCOMING EVENT: SCD SRI LANKA 2026

AWS Cloud Club UOK partners with AWS Cloud Club ITUM to bring you AWS Student Community Day for the first time in Sri Lanka. Student Community Days (SCDs) are one-day, student-led events designed to bring together cloud enthusiasts, developers, and tech professionals. These events feature multiple learning tracks, hands-on workshops, inspiring talks, and networking opportunities - all focused on AWS technologies and cloud computing innovation.

If you are passionate about cloud computing and building communities? We are thrilled to announce that applications are now open for undergraduates to be part of the Organizing Committee of the AWS Student Community Day Sri Lanka 2026!



Scan to apply for SCD
Organizing Committee

Joining the OC offers a chance to:

- Develop essential leadership and teamwork skills.
- Network with industry professionals, AWS experts, and fellow students.
- Gain hands-on experience in event management, marketing, and logistics.
- Deepen your understanding of AWS technologies and the cloud ecosystem.

We are looking for dedicated and enthusiastic individuals for various roles across our teams, including:

- Marketing & Communications
- Delegates & Engagement
- Event & Logistics
- Partnership Development
- Finance

How Cloud Supports Emerging Technologies

Cloud computing isn't just a trend—it's evolving with other cutting-edge tech:

- **Edge Computing:** Processes data closer to where it's generated (great for IoT applications).
- **Containerization & Orchestration:** Helps developers build scalable and portable apps.
- **Serverless Computing (FaaS):** Code runs automatically in response to events, with no need to manage servers.
- **Hybrid & Multi-Cloud:** Combine different cloud services for more flexibility and less vendor lock-in.
- **AI & Machine Learning:** Cloud platforms come with built-in tools for data analysis and smart automation.
- **Sustainability Focus:** Providers are shifting to renewable energy and greener data centers.

Types of Cloud Deployment Models

Not all cloud setups are the same. Here are the four main types:

- **Public Cloud**

Resources (like storage and servers) are shared and hosted off-site by a provider. Ideal for businesses that want a fast, cost-effective solution.

- **Private Cloud**

Dedicated resources used only by one organization. Offers more control and security—great for companies with strict compliance requirements.

- **Hybrid Cloud**

Mix of public and private clouds, allowing flexibility in storing sensitive data while benefiting from scalable computing.

- **Multi-Cloud**

Uses multiple cloud services across providers. Reduces risk, avoids lock-in, and boosts business continuity.



Cloud Service Models: IaaS, PaaS, SaaS, and Serverless

Cloud services come in different levels, depending on how much control and customization you need.

- IaaS (Infrastructure as a Service)
- PaaS (Platform as a Service)
- SaaS (Software as a Service)
- Serverless Computing (FaaS)

A Quick Look at History

While the internet has existed since the 1960s, cloud computing began to take shape in the 1990s with Application Service Providers (ASPs). They ran applications remotely and allowed businesses to access them online. This model laid the groundwork for today's cloud services.

Now, cloud computing is the foundation for digital transformation in nearly every industry—from healthcare to finance to education.



Conclusion

Cloud computing is no longer an option—it's a business essential. It offers unmatched flexibility, security, and speed, all while reducing costs and supporting innovation.

As technology continues to evolve, cloud services will become even more powerful, more accessible, and more vital to every business's success.

So, the real question isn't "Should we use the cloud?" but rather:

"How soon can we start?"



HOW TO JOIN AND STAY CONNECTED

Gaining membership in the club is simple. Submit your details at <https://www.aws-uok.com/join-us>
You will be able to join our members list.

Our social media channels are your direct gateways to the world of cloud computing and community learning. Through these platforms, we keep students updated, inspired, and connected with everything.



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CLOUD MAGAZINE

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AWS CLOUD CLUB UNIVERSITY OF KELANIYA



The AWS Cloud Club of the University of Kelaniya is committed to transforming students into leaders of tomorrow's digital world. Through hands-on learning, real projects, and collaborative experiences, we aim to bridge the gap between academic knowledge and industry demand.

Our vision is clear: create a space where innovation thrives, where curiosity is encouraged, and where every student discovers their potential in the cloud ecosystem. As we conclude this issue of our newsletter, remember that the journey does not end here—your path to technological excellence continues. Let's rise together and build a future powered by great technology.

- END -

AWS CLOUD CLUB UOK

