

# Use of Storage Security in the Cloud

**David Dodgson**

**Unisys**

- ❑ Address the concern about security of storage in a cloud
- ❑ Define what secure storage means to different users of different clouds

- ❑ Describe common use cases for storage in the cloud
- ❑ Compare security needs for different use cases
- ❑ Compile a list of requirements for storage in clouds, both public and private
- ❑ Prioritize the requirements

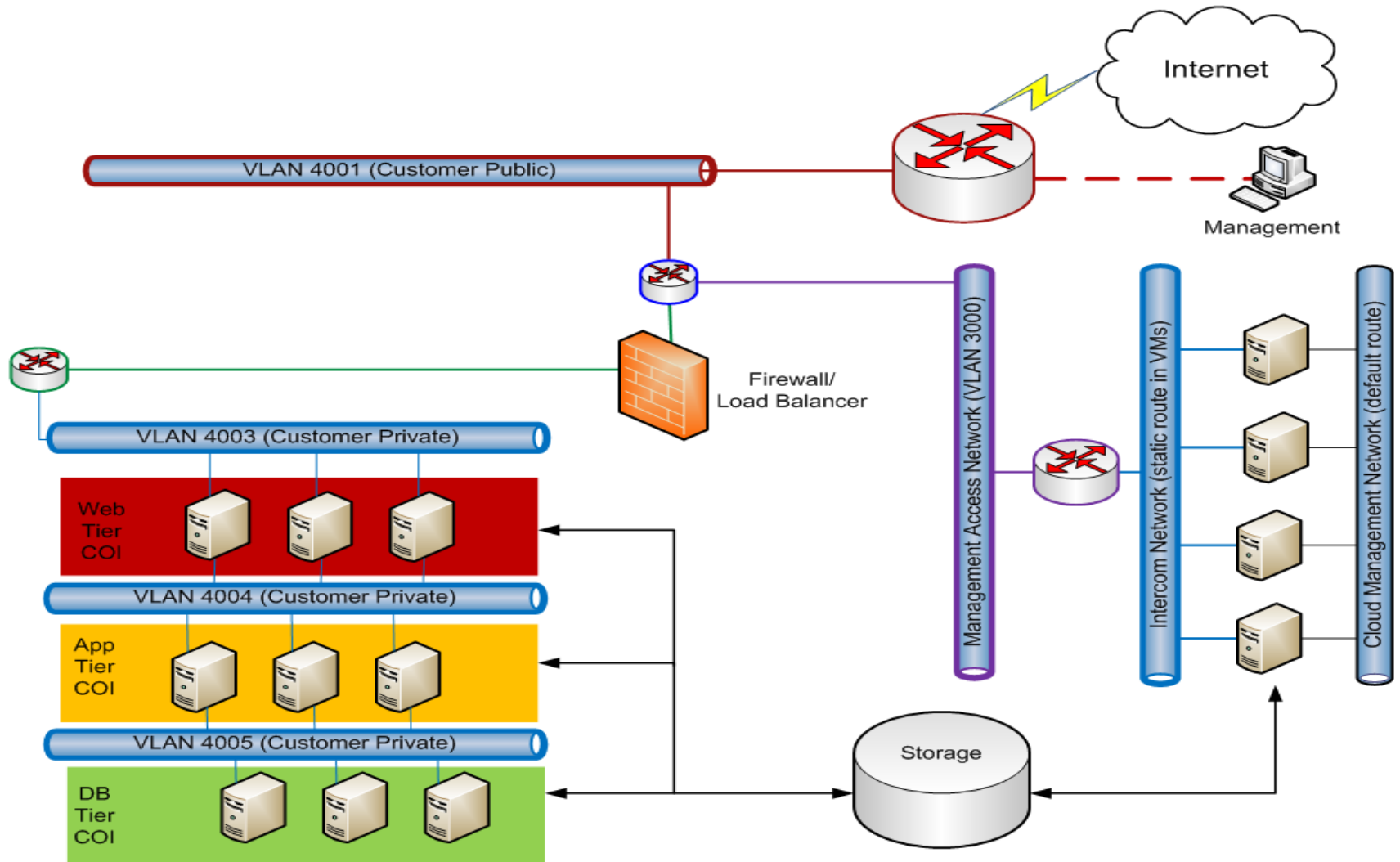
# Use Cases

# Storage Use Cases

- ❑ Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS)
- ❑ Platform as a Service (PaaS)
- ❑ Storage as a Service
- ❑ Hybrid Storage

- ❑ Uses virtual machines (VMs) that are similar to physical machines
- ❑ Accesses storage using traditional methods (files and directories)

# Tenant and Management



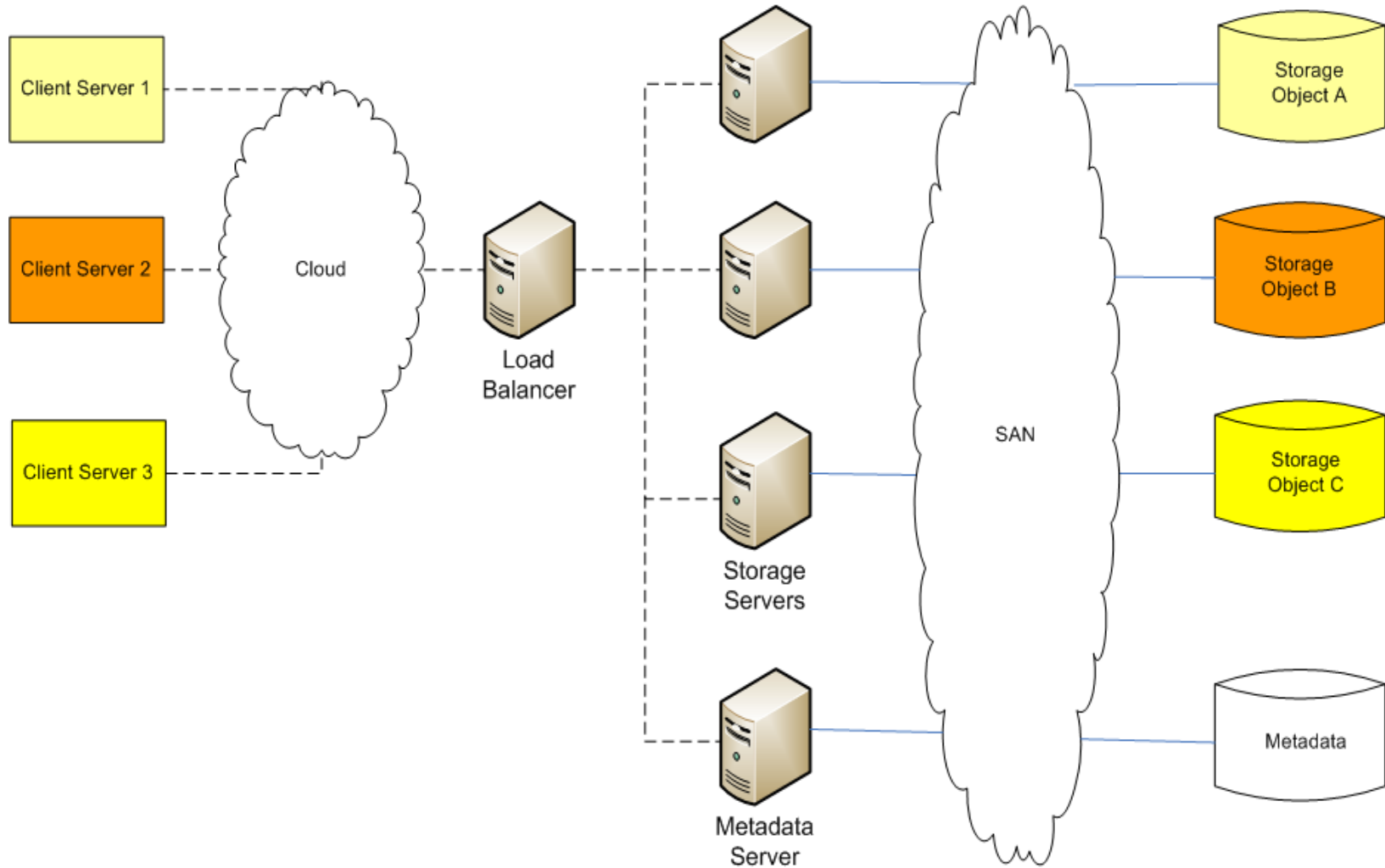
- ❑ The VMs are grouped into separate communities-of-interest (COIs).
- ❑ They share storage with other VMs in the same COI but will be separate and secure from other COIs.
- ❑ A VM may be a member of multiple COIs, but data from each COI will be presented distinctly (e.g. as separate disks).
- ❑ Cloud management data is a separate COI.

- ❑ Storage requirements for a COI are:
  - ❑ Encryption
  - ❑ Key management
  - ❑ Network configuration
  - ❑ Data verification
  - ❑ Storage virtualization

- ❑ Pre-defined virtual machines
- ❑ Application support (I/O through cloud services)
- ❑ Secure COIs rely more on identity management than network configuration
- ❑ Auditing may be affected by an application moving from one platform to another

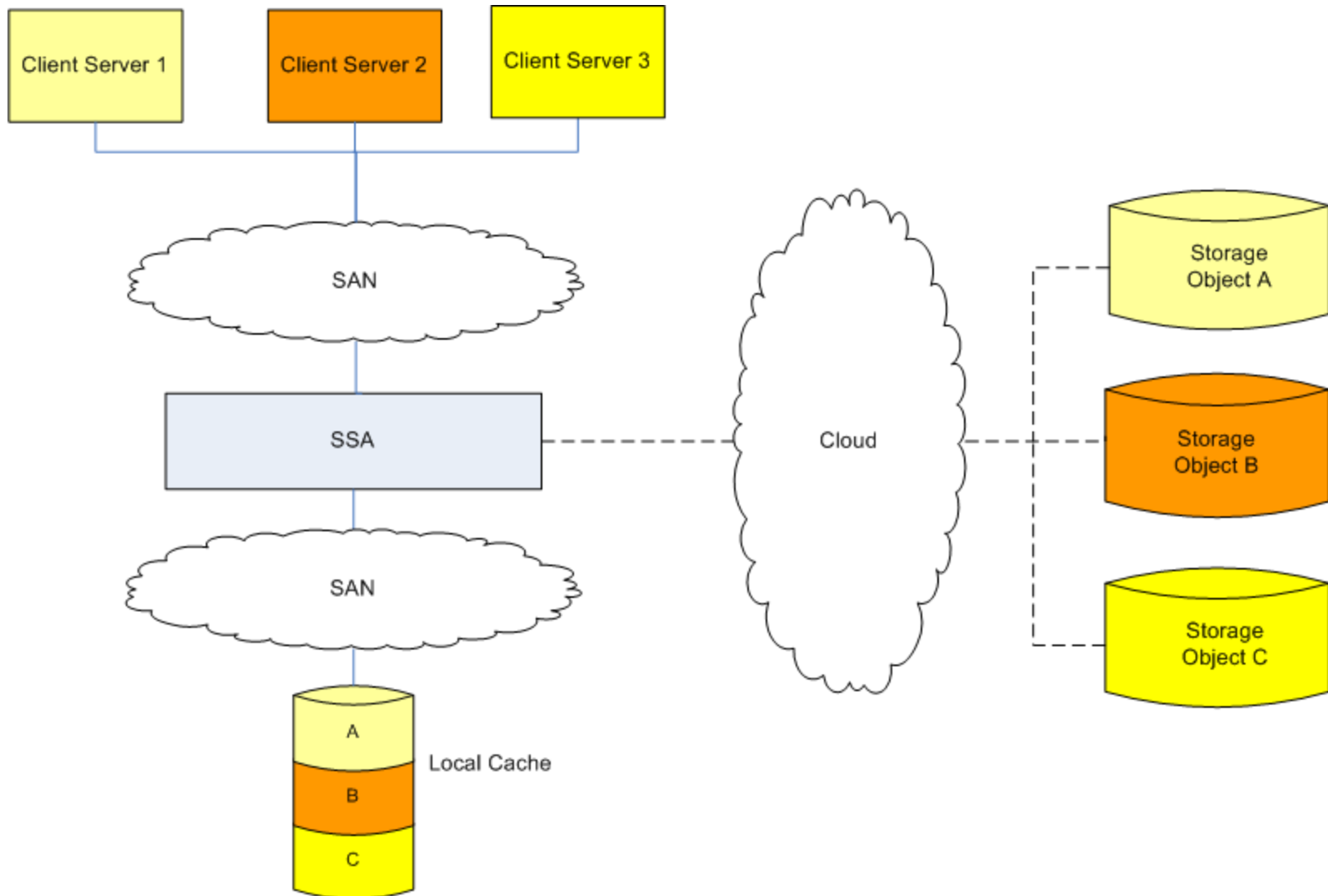
- ❑ Storage objects that reside in the cloud
- ❑ Each object has its own unique identity
- ❑ Accessed through network interface (usually a RESTful web service)
- ❑ Each object has its own metadata
- ❑ Requirements usually depend on the service level agreement (SLA)

# Typical Use of Storage as a Service



- ❑ Combines IaaS with Storage as a Service
- ❑ Legacy applications continue to use directories and files while storage resources are provided from the cloud
- ❑ Local storage cache used to improve performance and reduce charges

# Typical Hybrid Storage



# Storage Requirements

# Storage Requirements Chart

<i>Requirement</i>	<i>Priority</i>			
	<i>IaaS</i>	<i>PaaS</i>	<i>Storage</i>	<i>Hybrid</i>
Encryption	1	1	3	1
Key management	2	2	4	2
Network configuration	3	8	10	10
Data verification	6	7	5	6
Storage virtualization	4	5	7	5
Identity management	7	3	2	4
Auditing	8	9	6	8
Regulatory compliance	9	10	11	11
Storage objects	12	4	1	7
Object cache	13	13	9	3
Storage management	5	6	8	9
Physical security	10	12	12	13
Software management	11	11	13	12

- ❑ Prevents one tenant from reading another's data.
- ❑ Prevents against an insider copying data.
- ❑ Data is encrypted using a standard encryption method, e.g. AES-256. All sensitive information, both data and metadata is encrypted.
- ❑ The encryption mechanism must satisfy compliance (PCI, FIPS 140-2).
- ❑ It must be possible to rekey data at need, preferably without denying access to the data.

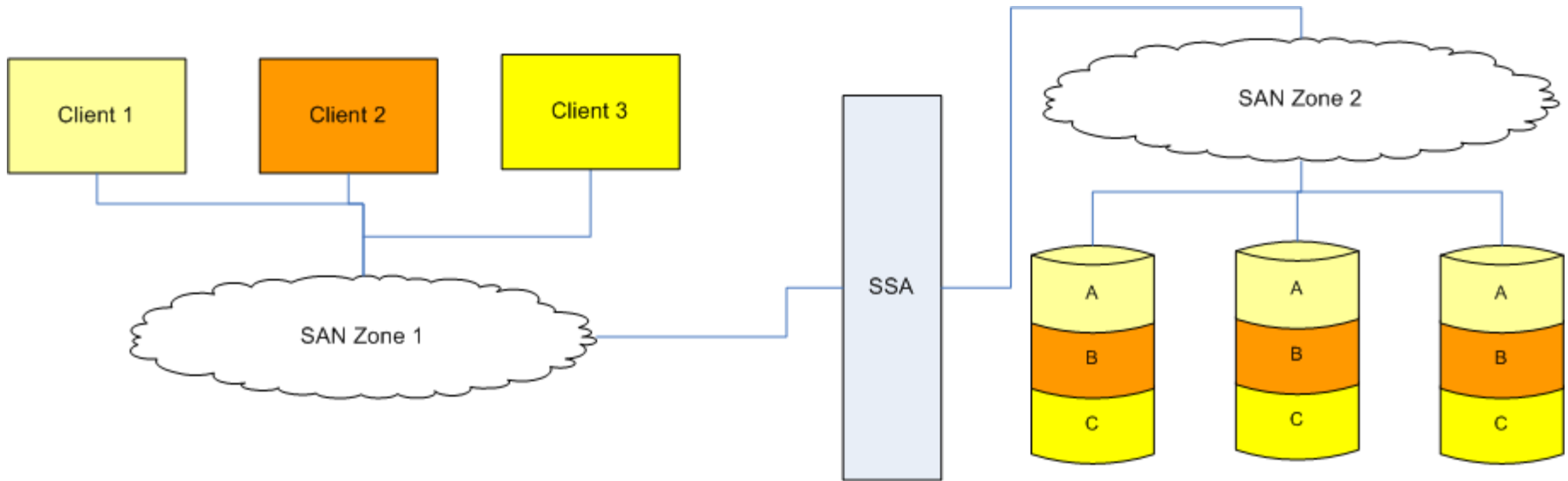
- ❑ Provide keys to authorized users securely
- ❑ Manage life-cycle of keys
  - ❑ Creation
  - ❑ Storing (perhaps for years)
  - ❑ Re-encryption
  - ❑ Deletion
- ❑ Key management must allow for users to be added or removed from COIs easily.

- ❑ Separate management role for the crypto-administrator.
- ❑ Tenant should be a crypto-administrator
  - ❑ Cloud component determines COI membership
  - ❑ Key management system in tenant's data center
  - ❑ Cloud stores keys in memory keystore
- ❑ Transmission of keys between the key management system and the cryptographic system must be secure.

- ❑ The storage area network (SAN) should be configured to limit access to the data
  - ❑ Fibre-channel uses zones and masking
  - ❑ IP uses vLANs and firewalls

- ❑ Relevant SAN protocols must be supported depending on the cloud requirements (FC, iSCSI, NAS, FCoE).
- ❑ It must be possible for the SAN to be configured so that access is restricted to the appropriate users, preferably from a single pane-of-glass.
- ❑ It should be possible to control access levels based upon the configuration (e.g. hypervisor vs. VM).

# Typical SAN



- ❑ Verify that data that is read is the same as that which was stored.
- ❑ Protects against data tampering, either accidental or intentional.
- ❑ Possible techniques include SHA-2, checksums, homomorphic tags.
- ❑ Digitally signing at least part of the data (e.g. metadata) allows verification that it was used to perform the initial encryption.

- ❑ Allocate available storage among the COIs.
- ❑ Needed to handle small storage COIs efficiently.
- ❑ Allocate only the storage needed. Cloud users don't want to pay for excess storage.
- ❑ Present the storage to the VM using a method understood by its OS (e.g. FC would use a virtual disk).

- ❑ Limit the visibility of storage in a COI to authenticated actors (user, application, or resource).
- ❑ An identity is a verifiable set of credentials.
- ❑ An actor is authenticated and authorized.
- ❑ Access control limits what an individual actor can do with a resource through the use of roles.
- ❑ Certificates may be used by an actor to protect sensitive information (keys).



- ❑ Auditing is the recording of significant events, usually in a log.
- ❑ Events from multiple sources may be combined in a single log. This may make time synchronization a necessity.
- ❑ Multiple views of the log may be required. The audit administrator may see a different view than a tenant.
- ❑ Operations may stop when the log is full.
- ❑ Alerts can be used for events that require human intervention.

- ❑ Compliance with regulations is mandatory in certain circumstances (PCI, HIPAA).
- ❑ Legal enforcement across different legislative areas can be a problem. Exposure may be limited by:
  - ❑ Tenant control of keys
  - ❑ Location specification
- ❑ Cloud providers may provide building blocks to knowledgeable third-party vendors.

- ❑ Storage objects contain data that is addressed in a manner independent of the platform.
- ❑ Configured at creation time based on metadata. The set of supported metadata traits may expand over time or by SLA levels.
- ❑ Standard (e.g. CDMI) vs. proprietary (e.g. Amazon, Google, ...) interfaces.

- ❑ Cache storage objects locally, rather than accessing the cloud for every I/O.
- ❑ Improves performance and reduces costs.

- ❑ Quality-of-service of the storage is determined by resiliency, performance, and administration.
- ❑ Resiliency is determined by RAID, backup and snapshots, and disaster recovery.
- ❑ Performance is determined by throughput and latency.
- ❑ Administration is determined by how storage is provisioned and managed, preferably using a GUI from a single pane of glass.
- ❑ It must be possible to move data between storage of different QoS characteristics.

- ❑ Security of the physical location
- ❑ Reliability and cost of power
- ❑ Environmental concerns (e.g. cooling)
- ❑ Ruggedness of the hardware itself (especially in military situations)

- ❑ Software errors should not stop the system.
- ❑ Neither should software updates.
- ❑ Error reporting can be a problem in secure situations. Defense and commercial applications may have different requirements.

- ❑ Secure storage COIs can be used to provide security for storage in the cloud.
- ❑ The large number of possible requirements for storage in the cloud makes prioritization mandatory.
- ❑ The best way of getting agreement between customers and vendors is by examining use cases.

- ❑ Unisys Corporation  
<http://www.unisys.com>
- ❑ SNIA Cloud Storage Initiative  
<http://www.snia.org/forums/csi>
- ❑ Representational State Transfer (REST)  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Representational\\_State\\_Transfer](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Representational_State_Transfer)
- ❑ Homomorphic codes, see “Provable Data Possession at Untrusted Stores”  
<http://portal.acm.org/citation.cfm?id=1315318>

