

# Software as a service (SaaS)

- Software as a Service, or SaaS, also known as application service provider (ASP), is a vendor provided large-scale, highly reliable, ultrasecure hosting centers, which very few libraries can match. The basic trade-off is whether the library would rather purchase its own hardware and software and hire technical staff, or pay an annual subscription fee associated with automation products offered through SaaS. SaaS involves both an approach to technology and a new business model for the industry. Traditional software licenses involve large up-front payments and modest fees for maintenance which is expected to be reduced with SaaS in return for higher annual subscription fees. The total cost of ownership can be less to libraries since SaaS eliminates the need to purchase and maintain local servers and provide local technical personnel.