Unsurprisingly, a huge collection of data. As a result of storage limitations, many companies are choosing to store their data in the cloud. The aim is to analyse and archive as much information as possible, to identify and exploit future trends.

Interconnectedness of different devices through that well-known medium: the internet. By connecting machines, a manufacturer can create intelligent networks able to communicate and control each other with reduced human intervention.

A networking environment that combines aspects of both public and private clouds.

A cloud platform service, whereby the operating system is delivered as a service over the internet by a provider. Customised applications can be built and hosted outside of the customer’s own system. For example, Microsoft Azure provides a popular PaaS.

Cloud application services delivered over the internet by the provider, so that the applications don’t have to be purchased, installed or run on the customer’s computers. The service provider hosts the software so you don’t need to install it, manage it, or buy hardware for it. All you have to do is connect and use it.

In the unfortunate event that you run out of computing resources, you can spill the excess workload to an external cloud on an on-demand basis.

The act of creating a virtual version of something, including but not limited to a virtual computer hardware platform, operating system (OS), storage device or computer network resources. In many ways, the precursor to cloud computing in the automation sector.