



# THEORETICAL STUDY TO HIGHLIGHT THE SMART GOVERNMENT COMPONENTS IN 21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY

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*Abstract: With the emergence of internet and the evolution in technology, software and hardware, the governments are making their efforts to obtain new technologies to provide services to the citizens and facilitate the process of business with stakeholders. In 1990, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) was used by public sector to ensure E-government services to the citizens, but, unfortunately, still various groups of citizens like farmers have no access to these services. Therefore, with the adoption of M-government, these issues and challenges are being addressed, but, lately, these concepts are developed for the improvement of services and the communication of citizens and government (social media and cloud computing). Therefore, this work aims to provide insight about the four major concepts that supports the development of E-government and is transformed into Smart-Government (S-government).*

*Keywords: Smart Government, e-government, m-government, social media, cloud computing*

## I. INTRODUCTION

Since the mid-eighties, the governments in the world have been through a process of services re-evaluation. Where a conviction has been emerged with the development of communication and information technologies that:

- a. The operational levels of the public sector will be transcended with the application of these technologies.
- b. For the use of these technologies, a distinctive public sector perspective is needed.

This article will help in the explanation of smart governments (S-government) like cloud computing, E-government, M-Government, and social media.

## II. E-GOVERNMENT

The technologies of information and communication are in huge administrative need [1]. For instance, ICT helps to create a structured network for interconnectivity, service delivery, decentralization, efficiency and effectiveness, interactivity, and accountability [2] [3] [4] [5].

As the nature of technology is dynamic, therefore there is no single definition for E-government.

E-government is considered a process of using new information and communication technologies like computer, internet and mobile devices for the purpose of providing easy access to government services, improving the services quality, and ensuring the participation of citizen in the democratic process. In other studies, different titles of E-government are: digital government [6], online government [7] and connected government [8].

Using three basic elements, the definition of E-government can be summarized:

1. Using information and communication technologies like internet, computer and mobile devices.
2. The support of government actions i.e. providing information and services.
3. Improving the government and citizen’s interaction with help of creating channels or promoting the involvement of citizens in the political and administrative process.

Table 1: Definition of e-government

Author (s)	Year	e-government definition
West [9]	2004	E-government is considered the process of communicating the information and services of government with the help of internet.
Almarabeh and AbuAli [10]	2010	E-government is the uses information and communication technologies in order to provide the citizens with the opportunity of interaction and doing business with government through electronic media i.e. email, internet, self-service kiosks, and EDI.
Schware [11]	2005	In e-government, ICT is used for the purpose of improving the quality of services provided to citizens and businesses, which also increases the efficiency, transparency and accountability of government.
Bhatnagar [12]	2004	E-government is the process of reforming the procedure of government work, sharing information and providing services to both external and internal clients.

In various studies related to E-government, four basic areas of E-government relationship, i.e. government-to-business (G2B), government-to-citizen (G2C), government-to-employee (G2E), and government-to-government (G2G) [13] [14] [15], as shown in Figure 1 below, are discussed:

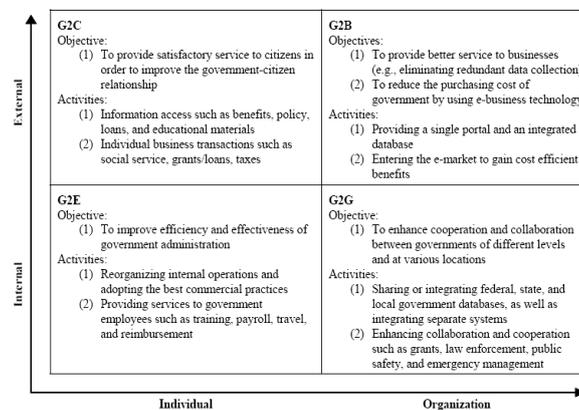


Figure 1: E-government interaction

As illustrated in Figure 1, G2C and G2E are considered for the interaction of government and individuals, while G2B and G2G are considered for the direct interaction of government and organizations. Moreover, the explanation of Heeks [16] related to these interactions is shown in Figure 2:



Figure 2: classification e-government interactions

Furthermore, various models related to E-government development are present like Deloitte’s six stage model [17], Layne and Lee’s four-stage model [18], Hiller and Belanger’s five stage model [19], and Moon’s five-stage model [20]. The five stage model of Siau and Long is considered the most recent, which, with the help of mete synthesis method, explains the whole vision of E-government.

According to UN (United Nation)/ASPA (American Society for Public Administration) [21], a five stage model was introduced for the development of E-government:

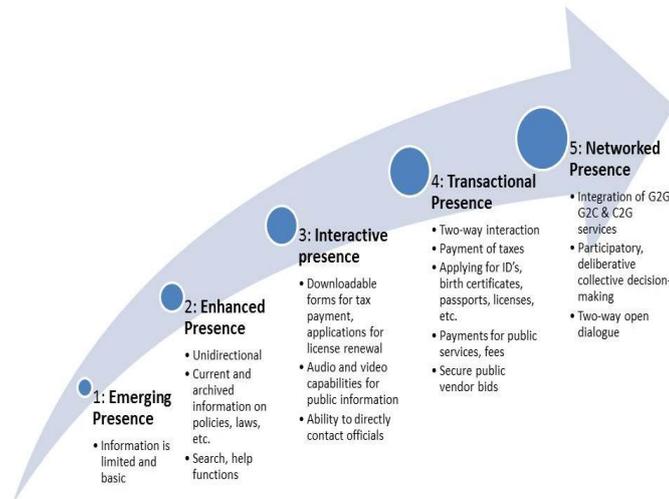


Figure 3: stages of e-government

### III. M-GOVERNMENT

Using mobile technology, the efficacy of government is enhanced in creation of benefits and ensuring outcomes for governments, citizens, businesses, and making a positive influence on the overall economic growth. With the help of M-government, access to current services can be extended, new services are delivered, increases the contribution of citizens in government operations, and change the working procedure of public sector. Recently, M-government is becoming more popular than E-government, especially in Middle East countries, where the number of mobile-broadband subscribers reaches 2.3 billion, where 55% of them is in developing countries.

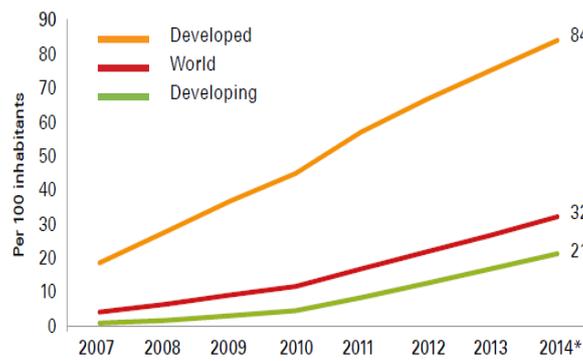


Figure 4: Active mobile-broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, 2007-2014 [22]

Mobile broadband is considered emerging in both developed and developing countries. In the year 2013/2014, the growth, in comparison to developed countries, will be doubled in developing countries i.e. 26% compared with 11.5%. Moreover, in comparison to the developed country’s 121% mobile-cellular penetration, will reach 90% by the end of 2014 in developing countries as shown in Figure 5:

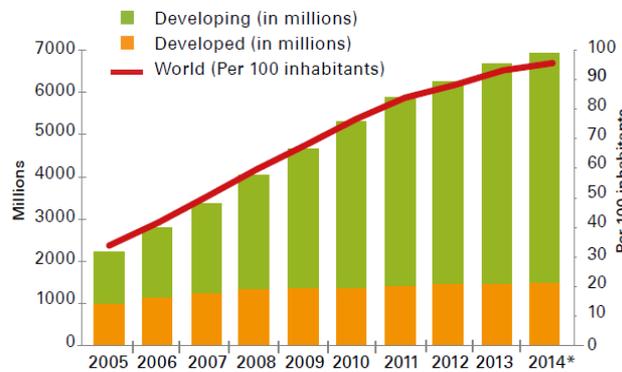


Figure 5: Mobile-cellular subscriptions, total and per 100 inhabitants, 2005-2014 [22]

Moreover, every aspect of citizen’s daily life is empowered by mobile technologies, which is an improvement in the life quality of many [23]. Mobile phone is considered more affordable and user friendly if compared with personal computers. With the help of M-government, the time and energy is saved of citizens as internet and government networks can be accessed through mobile phone [24]

M-government is not different than E-government, but it is considered an advanced set of E-government. M-government endures to use the mobile wireless communication technology between the government organization and in distribution of services and information to citizens and industrial enterprises [25].

Mobile technologies provide government with significant opportunities for achieving greater cost optimization, improving communications and data coordination, expanding service delivery and much progress towards digital equality. The following are the benefits of using mobile technologies in public sector [26]:

**Wider reach** – Mobile phone penetration extends outreach and access to often difficult-to-reach groups, such as seniors, people with disabilities and citizens living in rural areas.

**Mobility and ubiquity** – Citizens have access to government information and services anytime and anywhere using wireless networks through their mobile and wireless devices.

**More personalization of services** – Provision of location-based government services: As mobile phones are typically personal, the possibility of locating an individual’s exact physical location ensures that governments can directly provide services to each person.

**Cost-effectiveness** – Cost-saving results includes M-government streamlined processes, shared and coordinated data access, embedded mapping, and electronic processes, communications and transactions.

**Faster information flow** – Real-time and location-based processes result in quick and easily accessible data and communications, information consistency, responsive case management and information exchanges.

**Better management** – Mobile technology has the potential to help government officials in management of allocated financial and human resources.

**Increased democracy** – Public officials can stay current on public opinion and priorities from a larger group of citizens.

**Enabled green government** – This is the result of the environmental friendliness and paper-use reduction achieved which has been possible through the increased use of the mobile services.

#### IV. CLOUD COMPUTING

According to Leavitt [27], the definition of cloud computing is “a business model which delivers IT applications and resources as a service which can be accessed remotely over the internet. While, in the traditional model, IT resources and applications are considered products which are sold or licensed from a vendor and then exploited locally on a local computer infrastructure [28]. Figure 6 depicted the stages that led to the access of Cloud Computing:

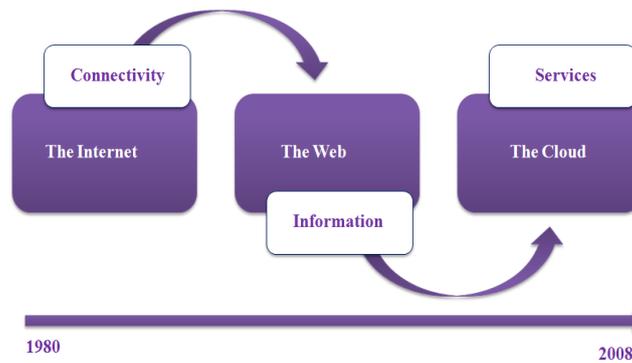


Figure 6: Stages of the shift to the Internet to cloud

Generally, in cloud computing, the user purchases remote access via internet instead of purchasing software and hardware. Figure 7 shows the levels of cloud computing [29] [30] [31].

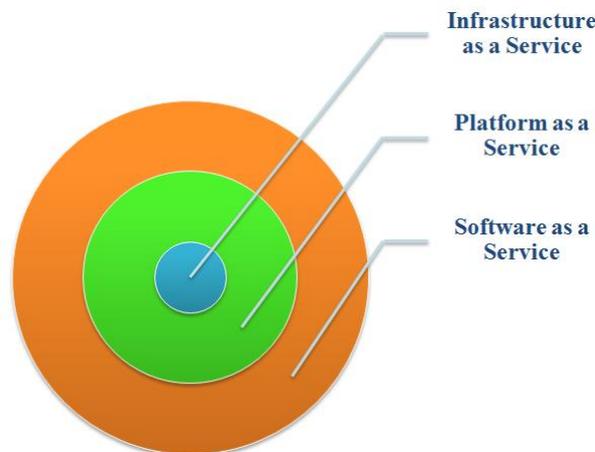


Figure 7: The cloud computing levels

1. **Infrastructure as a service:** the computer infrastructure is provided as a service which is comprised of servers, storage space, network equipments, and system software like OS (operating system) and database systems.
2. **Platform as a service:** the application development environment is provided which support the life cycle of designing, implementation, testing, and deployment of web applications and services.
3. **Software as a service:** in this stage, a complete application like customer relationship management and ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) is provided.

The essential benefit of cloud computing, particularly in software as a service, comes from aggregation that permits to eliminate redundancy. According to Cellary and Strykowski [28], there are two levels of aggregation, as illustrated in Figure 8:

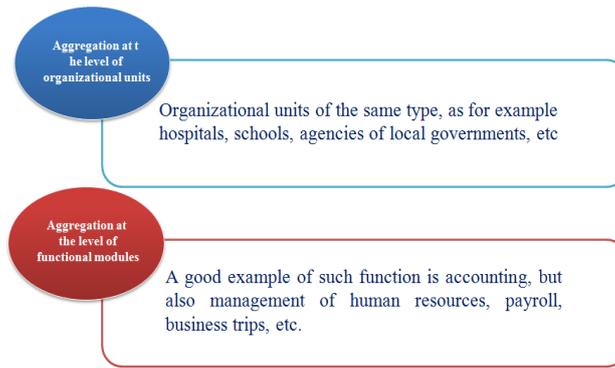


Figure 8: Aggregation Levels

Table 2 illustrates previous studies that deal with cloud computing in various disciplines:

Table 2: Cloud computing with different disciplines

Area	Year	Authors
E-learning	2009	Pocatilu, Alecu & Vetrici [32]
	2010	Pocatilu, Alecu & Vetrici [33]
	2012	Ghazizadeh [34]
	2014	Selviandro, Suryani & Hasibuan [35]
E-health	2014	De and Mukherjee [36]
	2010	Guo, Chen, Chen & Tang [37]
	2012	Shih, Fan, Chiu, Shih & Wang [38]
	(2011).	Chowdhary, Yadav & Garg [39]

Moreover, for enabling cloud computing and realizing its potential, there are total eight core element as shown in Figure 9:

- Universal connectivity** – users must have ubiquitous access to the Internet.
- Open access** – users must have fair, non-discriminatory access to the Internet.
- Reliability** – the cloud must function at levels equal to or better than current stand-alone systems.
- Interoperability and user choice** – users must be able to inter operate among cloud platforms.
- Security** – users’ data must be safe.
- Privacy** – users’ rights to their data must be clearly defined and protected.
- Economic value** – the cloud must deliver tangible savings and benefits.
- Sustainability** – the cloud must raise energy efficiency and reduce ecological impact.

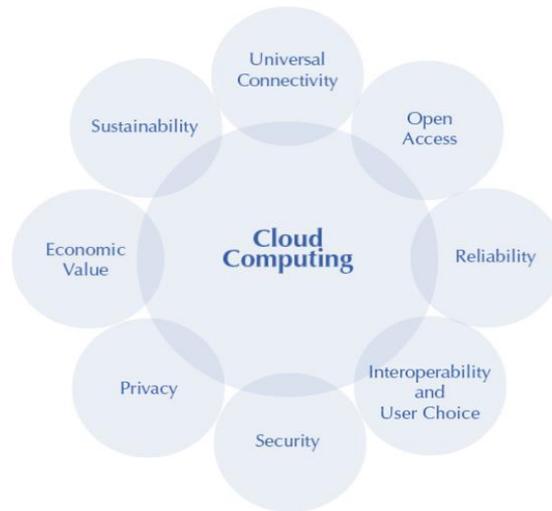


Figure 9: eight elements of Cloud Computing [40]

### A-Cloud Computing and E-government

With the advancement in cloud computing, public and private sector agencies can access software, services, and data storage through remote file services [9]. The cloud computing model is depicted in Figure 10:

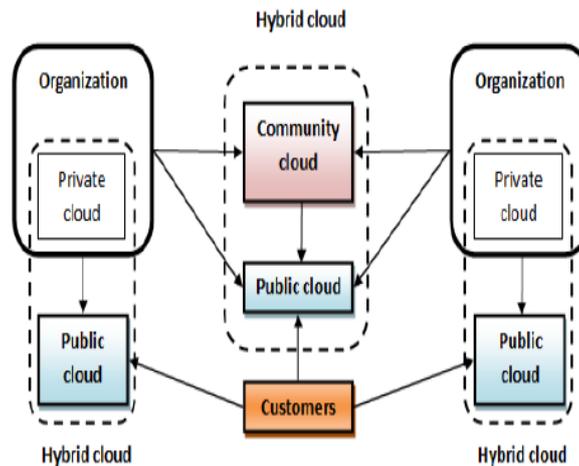


Figure 10: Cloud computing deployment models [31]

According to previous studies, cloud computing can enhance the way of government providing services to the citizens and institutions and also its cooperation with other governments [31] [41] [42] [43] [44]. Recently, different barriers to E-government are:

- With the changes in demand over a period of time, resources cannot be changed as it may cause redundancy or insufficiency in resources.
- Software and hardware must be frequently upgraded and maintained which cost time and money.
- New software needs purchase of license.
- The 24/7 availability of the system is needed.
- Data storage and recovery is limited.
- Secure environment with authentication and access control is needed.
- Lack of accountability.

According to Youssef [41], the issues in E-government can be resolved with cloud computing. With the help of elastic, scalable, customized and highly available environment, cloud computing can address these issues [31]. Moreover, it also provides relief from maintenance, upgrading, licensing and making the focus of government on the basic work. Moreover, it also helps in providing cost efficient data storage and file replication and multiple installations in geographically separated locations can be used for data recover in case of disasters. Similarly, for prevention of malicious behavior and protection of data integrity and confidentiality, security approaches and techniques are deployed on cloud computing [45] [46] [47]. The E-governance cloud services are illustrated in Figure 11:

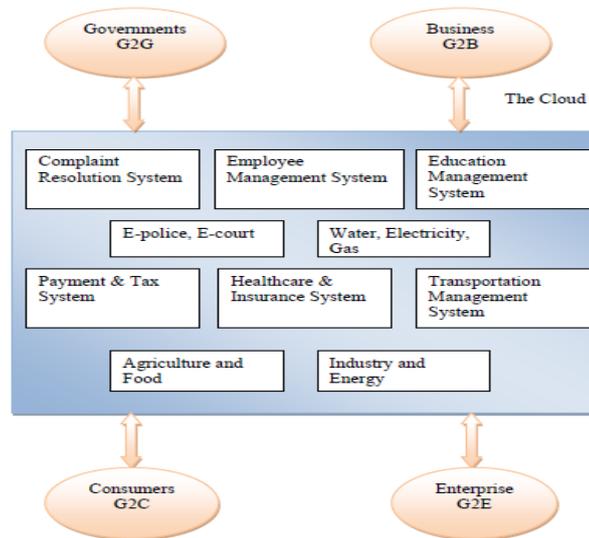


Figure 11: Services Provided By an E-Governance Cloud

**B- The advantages of cloud computing**

The advantages of cloud computing is listed below [28] [48] [49]:

1. **Dynamic load of resources.** Cloud computing permits a customer to purchase the needed amount of hardware and software resources in a given moment and dynamically increases or decreases the amount of it in accordance to the changes in environment.
2. **Professional maintenance and administration.**  
The professional maintenance and administration needs highly trained staff which is costly and affording it can be an issue for small government offices. Often, such individuals are not willing to work for a small countryside government offices. Cloud computing model eliminate this problem.
3. **Timely software updates.**  
The provider and administrator of cloud computing keep the software updated and upgraded. In case of software as a service model, the cloud computing provider also instantly updates the software to adjust it according to the changes in legal regulations.
4. **Higher security.** In cloud computing, the professional staff ensures higher security of software and hardware in comparison to the employed staff small unit’s multitude.
5. **Higher performance.** Cloud computing can offer higher performance scalable to customer’s changing needs.
6. **Shift from investment cost to operational costs.**  
Purchasing hardware and software are considered costly as it needs a huge sum of investment. However, in cloud computing, monthly paid services are purchased by organizations. A shift from initial high investment towards operational cost is noted, which are considered for a longer period of time.
7. **Dissemination of good practices.** Cloud computing contributes to dissemination of modern software and more generally – good organizational and managerial practices. As well as, Table 3 illustrates countries using Cloud computing in their governments.

Table 3: countries used cloud computing in public sector

Country	Years	Author (s)
USA	2010	Wyld [50]
UK	2009	Glick [51]
Japan	2009	Hicks [52]
China	2009	Hicks [53]
Thailand	2009	Hicks [54]
Vietnam	2009	Babcock [55]
New Zealand	2009	Strecker [56]

## V. SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media includes social networking applications i.e. Facebook and Google+, micro blogging services i.e. twitter, blogs, wikis, and media sharing sites i.e. YouTube and Flickr [57]. Most governments in the world strive to use social media as transparency enhancement tool [58]. Where, transparency and accountability have been highlighted as key elements of good governance [59]. The effort for new governance approaches promotes higher level of transparency and the contribution of citizens is considered as an enhancement of citizen’s trust on government. On the other hand, many researchers referred to the potential contribution of the internet to enhance the transparency and openness of public sector entities and to promote new forms of accountability [60] [61] [62].

With the development of Web 2.0 with the help of new technologies like RSS, podcasting and widgets [64], social media has been developed. According to Hearn, Foth and Gray [64], companies can develop relationship with new stakeholders with the help of social media. The main benefit to government from second-generation web is the transparency and participation of citizens. According to Magro, Ryan, Sharp and Ryan [65], social media is considered to be a part of the second-generation (Web 2.0) movement, which is characterized by user-generated content, online identity creation, and relational networking. Moreover, Bertot, Jaeger and Grimes [67] said that:

*“Social media has four major potential strengths: collaboration, participation, empowerment, and time. Social media is collaborative and participatory by its very nature as it is defined by social interaction. It provides the ability for users to connect with each [other] and form communities to socialize, share information, or to achieve a common goal or interest. Social media can be empowering to its users as it gives them a platform to speak. It allows anyone with access to the Internet the ability to inexpensively publish or broadcast information, effectively democratizing media. In terms of time, social media technologies allow users to immediately publish information in near-real time”*

New Web generation supports citizen-created content that enriches socio-political debates and that increases the diversity of opinions, the free flow of information and freedom of expression [58]. According to OECD [68], second-generation (web 2.0) can be used for engaging citizens, exchanging opinions, provoking debate and sharing information about social and political problems. In addition, the public sector can take advantage of the heyday of this new participative culture that is developing in many citizens in order to improve government-to-Citizens (G2C) interactions. Unfortunately, the research about the impact of social media on the public sector, especially local government is still highly tentative and exploratory [69]. Moreover, Bonsón, Torres, Royo and Flores [58] stated that, social media with public sector is still in its infancy.

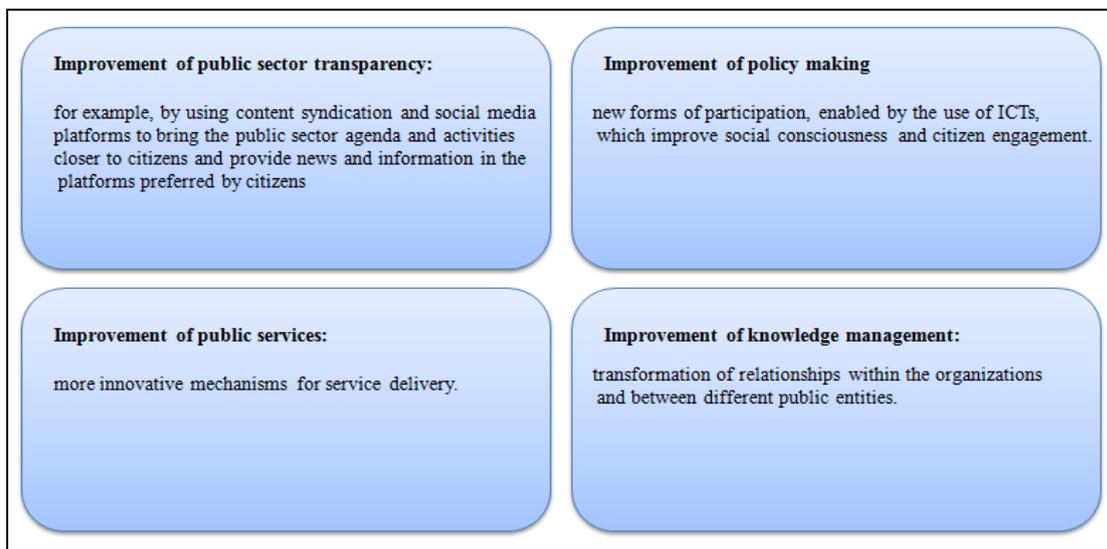


Figure 12: illustrates the impact of second-generation Web on the public sector

Moreover, multimedia and second generation (Web 2.0) is different from one another. When government provide web TV and Video, this is known as webcasts, while, new generation (Web 2.0) can help improve policy-making and service delivery by enriching government interactions with external stakeholders and enhancing internal knowledge management [70].

### A-Essential core elements of a social media policy

Eight basic elements related to social media policy were identified by Hrdinová, Helbig and Peters [70], as shown in Figure 13. Where, every element deals with an issue which must be adequately addressed in any successful policy related to social media of government agencies. The benefits of core elements are explained as:

- **Employee Access:** At work employees can use social media sites for the purposes of carrying out official business, professional development, or any personnel interests.
- **Account Management:** Account management in an agency is not only required to keep record of social media accounts created, maintained and closed by its employees for work or professional use, but also to define procedures for creation of such accounts.
- **Acceptable Use:** Acceptable use policy governs not only the use of social media, but also the use of the Internet and other technologies by employees. It may quantify online hours, usage monitoring, penalties for policy violation, etc.
- **Employee Conduct:** Employee’s conduct policy governs employee’s online ethics, behavior and penalties awarded for violation of the policy.
- **Content:** Content policy controls permission to employees for posting and managing on l social media official pages.
- **Security:** government data and technical infrastructure, related with social media technological and behavioral risk, is protected with the help of security guidelines. Social media, in E-governance, is comprised of new security and privacy related concerns which must be adequately addressed in a successful policy.
- **Legal Issues:** with the legal guidelines, while using social media, the employees of government are abide by laws and regulations. Recently, governments have created laws and regulations.
- **Citizens Conduct:** Since social media integration with e-governance makes it possible to have a public citizen-government communication, therefore, rules for citizen engagement with the government are created.

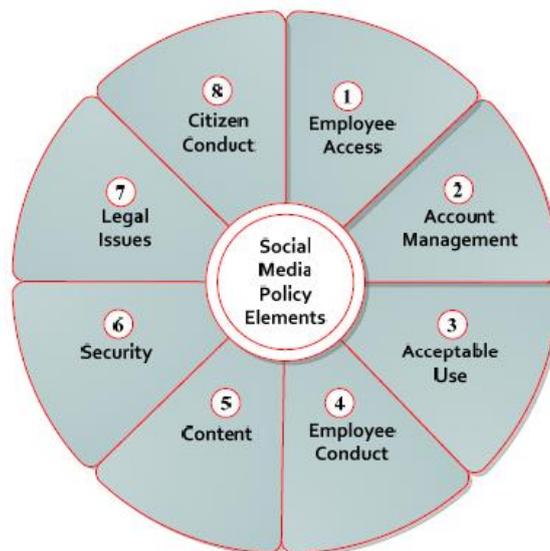


Figure 13: Eight elements of social media policy

### B-Strategic Use of Social Media in Government

According to Dadashzadeh [72], the decision related to investment in technologies and applications of social media must be considered in the planning efforts of organization’s enterprise architecture. The essential steps related to strategic use of social media in government are identified in the figure 14:

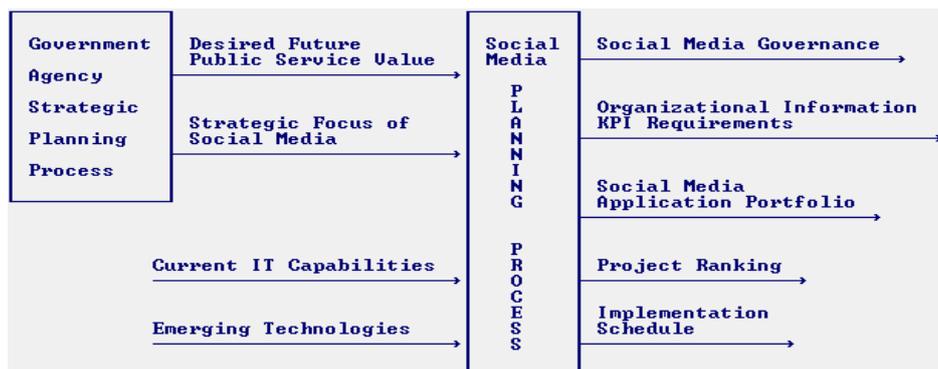


Figure 14: Steps for strategic use of social media in government [72]

According to Dadashzadeh, strategic planning process of government agency must define the desired value of future public services and the strategic focus of social media must be realizing it. According to various researchers, social media benefits government in terms of increase participation of citizens, solicit innovative ideas from the masses, and improve decision making and problem solving [73][74][75]. Further, according to Accenture [76], the desired value of public service must be defined and the role of social media in realizing it must be guided by four principles:

- **Outcomes-Based Focus:** it generates tangible improvements in the social and economic conditions of the citizens;
- **Balanced to Ensure Fairness:** it serves as the common good by providing access for all citizens;
- **Engagement to Co-Produce Public Value:** it increases the participation, education, and also help citizens to improve their life quality through tapping into their experience; and
- **Improving Government Accountability:** it makes government to provide transparent reports related to cost efficient initiatives and encourage citizens to criticize the failure of government which will meet the expected public value.

The articles, explaining the applications of social networking and activities of social media which are used by government and citizens for interaction and communication with each other, are explained in Table 4:

Table 4: examples for researches about social media in public sector

Author (s)	Year	Title
Shi [77]	2007	The accessibility of Chinese local government web sites: An exploratory study.
Shin [78]	2007	A critique of Korean National Information Strategy: Case of national information infrastructures.
Couldry [79]	2008	New Media for Global Citizens-The Future of the Digital Divide Debate
Bélanger and Carter[80]	2008	Trust and risk in e-government adoption
Alonso, Ambur, Amutio, Azañón, Bennett, Flagg and Sheridan [81]	2009	Improving access to government through better use of the web.
Molinari and Ferro [82]	2010	Framing Web 2.0 in the process of public sector innovation: Going down the participation ladder
Ghannam [83]	2011	Social Media in the Arab World: Leading up to the Uprisings of 2011
Bonsón, Torres, Royo and Flores [58]	2012	Local e-government 2.0: Social media and corporate transparency in municipalities.
Levy, Bagby and Trauth [84]	2013	E-government evolution in small municipalities in Pennsylvania in web 2.0 social environment: a poster.
Lee and Park [85]	2014	Introduction to the special issue: social media interaction between public and government in Asia-Pacific

## VI. SMART GOVERNMENT

The use of Smart Government defines new principles for governance system that ensure the resolution of the issues related to citizens, businesses, and government and hence pursue equal and sustainable prosperity. In fact, “Smart government” focuses the important elements of good governance such as, simple, moral, accountable, responsive and transparent government [86] [87]:

- **Simple:** Citizen expects a user friendly government with simple laws, rules, regulations, processes, and procedures developed by government;
- **Moral:** In smart government, a new system of governance based on moral values is emerged.
- **Accountability:** The civil service is considered accountable for the design of strategies, action plan developed for the implementation of particular programs, and the system and performance achieved.
- **Responsiveness:** It refers to the attentive need of the common man and timely response to the particular need is focused.
- **Transparency:** Transparency brings some of the essential virtues into public life, such as equity, level playing field, the rule of law. The components of smart government are shown in Figure 15:

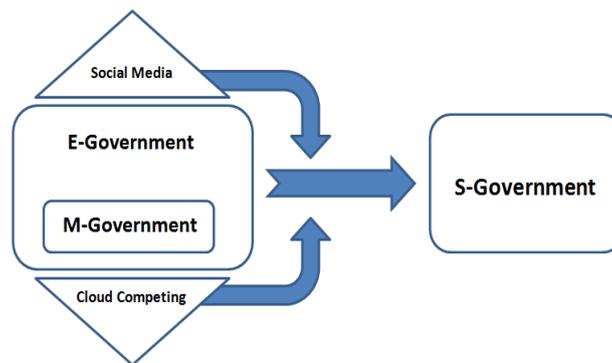


Figure 15: Smart government components

## VII. CONCLUSION

In 21 century, the idea of administration and governance has been radically transformed and has adopted new tools which will help the government to enhance their services. Information and communication technologies are now practiced in various public sectors. Where, Information and communication technologies (ICTs) are considered as a cost-effective and convenient means to promote openness, transparency, and to reduce corruption. Social media has focused on openness and transparency. The use of social media in E-government has created a new way of transparency and facilitation. For quick interaction, the use of social media by government is considered emergent. Social media is a considered an important tool for communication of high numbers of citizens. Moreover, clouds computing permits also to considerably cut costs of IT in the public sector which are often considered one of the main obstacles to the deployment of e-government solution, as well as, cloud computing enhance the possibilities of providing electronic services both in the public and the private sector. Where the system of E-government needs entities such as software, hardware, services, management, network, business, policy and security to survive and function properly. Unfortunately, the current technologies and approaches are not considered enough for management of all mentioned entities. Cloud computing, which treats all these entities as a service, can be used in the E - government system. Cloud computing helps in the management of the above mentioned entities and hence addresses the global issues related to the system of E-government. Moreover, the use of mobile technologies can make public information and government services available “anytime and anywhere” to both citizens and officials. Furthermore, M-government is considered suitable for the areas where the access rate to internet is low in comparison to the emerging mobile penetration. Therefore, all the discussed components are considered important for government to provide services to its citizens, and this will institute a new concept known as S-Government (Smart government). In the future work, we will seek to understand the factors that effect on the electronic commerce in developing countries. Where, there is a paucity of the researches in this area.

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