

# Execution Environment

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## Discussion

An Execution Environment provides the computing, operating-system, runtime, storage, networking, security, and configuration resources required to execute software.

The environment may include physical machines, virtual machines, containers, cloud resources, operating-system services, runtime libraries, configuration data, secrets, and external service connections.

An Execution Environment differs from a [Target Environment](#). An Execution Environment identifies the resources in which software executes. A Target Environment identifies the environment selected to receive a particular build, deployment, or release.

A single Execution Environment may support multiple software products, services, or workloads. A single product may also execute across multiple Execution Environments.

## Definition

*environment that provides the computing, runtime, storage, networking, security, and configuration resources required to execute software*

## Source

Generalized from software engineering, systems engineering, cloud computing, and runtime-platform usage and specialized for the Crucible architecture and operational model.

## Note

An Execution Environment may operate as a [Connected Environment](#), [Disconnected Environment](#), or [Air-Gapped Environment](#).

The term does not prescribe a physical machine, virtual machine, container, cloud service, or deployment technology.

## Example

A hardened virtual machine with an approved operating system, runtime libraries, network configuration, security controls, and application settings provides the Execution Environment for a deployed service.

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Last update: **2026/07/13 11:00**

