

Preface

This edited volume began life in an academic conference entitled ‘Up in the Cloud: Legal and Privacy Challenges in Cloud Computing’ held by the Faculty of Law of the University of Hong Kong (HKU) in July 2013. Over several hot summer days, the conference brought together local and international experts from academe, industry, the legal professions and regulatory authorities to explore the complex legal and privacy challenges brought about by rapidly evolving cloud computing technology. Most of the conference presenters agreed to contribute a chapter to this volume, and this book has also been further strengthened by the inclusion of several commissioned chapters. Because cloud computing, and the legal issues surrounding it, is a relatively new area of study, it is hoped that this book will be welcomed by all who have an interest in law and technology, whether from an academic or a practical perspective.

In the course of writing and editing this book, we have incurred many debts. In particular, we are greatly indebted to Professor Peter Yu of Drake University, whose ready willingness to assist us with his specialist knowledge in law and technology and encouragement at all stages of publication were invaluable to the project’s success. We are also exceedingly grateful to Dr Clement Chen, Anne’s senior research assistant at the time of writing and now a postdoctoral research fellow at the Faculty of Law, HKU. Clement took great care in checking references and spent countless hours searching for answers to our seemingly never-ending queries. His intelligent and devoted labour, meticulous and unremitting care in editing and footnote compilation, and unfailingly pleasant, good-humoured and informative responses were an indispensable aid throughout this project.

This book project has been made possible by the kind support of the Research Grants Council of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government (GRF743010).