JTnet

Reboot
Taking Technology a Step Forward

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Reboot is our way of keeping you in touch with technology.

My Head in the Clouds

A few years ago, we started to hear rumblings of this thing called the "Cloud" that was going to change the way we, as an IT organization, looked at technology and how we implemented IT infrastructure for our clients. However, I could have never imagined that it would really change our entire business model. There is a lot of lingo that can seem confusing to business owners as they begin to investigate cloud-based computing. Heck, I even had to "go to school" on many items: attending seminars, reading literature, and implementing certain elements within our own business to get a real understanding.

Here is what I have come to learn and how I best position cloud-based applications, storage, etc. to our clients: There are many opportunities through the cloud to get greater efficiencies both with your systems and your dollars, but it is not for everyone. The best way to know if you are ready to put your business in the cloud is through a careful evaluation of your business software and hardware needs.

Our IT professionals can provide you with a thorough analysis of what possible routes are available for your business in the cloud. And we can make it happen in a timely fashion that minimizes downtime. Take advantage of our free cloud analysis offer by being one of the first five businesses to respond. In the meantime, enjoy this quick read, and if all else fails...Reboot!

Best,

Bill L.

Bill Lehmann
President, JTnet, Inc.

What Is Cloud Computing and Why Should You Care?

By Bill Lehmann, *President*

There's a good chance that most of the software applications you use every day are now "software as a service" (SaaS) applications. In other words, you don't have to install them on your server or PC—you simply access them on a pay-as-you-go model for only the licenses, space, and features you use. This gives you the ability to access highly sophisticated software and functionality at a fraction of the cost—or even for free—and without long-term commitments.
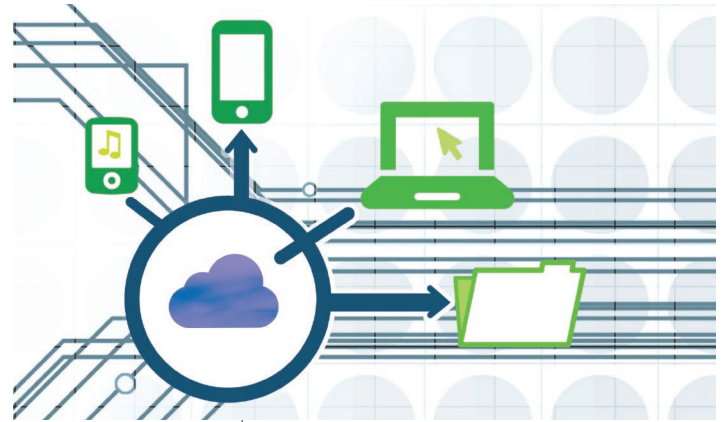
For example, Google is a massive, free cloud application—the power required to search billions of web sites and content in seconds and deliver the relevant results to your screen far exceeds the capacity of your PC. Facebook is another free cloud application that allows you to post pictures, play games, and connect with your friends in real time without having to install those applications on your computer. Of course, there are also the applications such as Salesforce, SurveyMonkey, our own proprietary e-mail marketing service ORCA Killer Mail, etc. that you pay to use, but are also cloud-based applications.

With the recent introduction of cloud-based office applications like Office 365, Google Apps, and thousands of other SaaS applications, it's becoming unnecessary for some businesses to purchase and maintain an on-site server. Now companies can host one or more of their applications, including data, e-mail, and other functions "in the cloud." That simply means it's stored off site in a highly secure, high-availability "utility" company that has far more power and resources than you could ever logically have on site as a small business. And with devices getting cheaper and Internet connectivity exploding, cloud computing is suddenly a very smart, viable option for small business owners.

What are the benefits of cloud computing?

- Eliminates the need for expensive server upgrades and allows you to use cheaper devices (e.g. PCs, etc.) to get the same work done.
- Allows you to access applications from any device and any location. All you need is an Internet connection.
- Offers built-in disaster recovery and business continuity.
- You only pay for what you need and use (utility pricing).

Is cloud computing right for you?

While there are a ton of benefits to cloud computing, it's NOT right for every company. Some applications don't play well in the cloud. You need commercial-grade Internet connectivity; and some functions, like working with big graphic files, are better kept in house or the slowness will make you crazy. However, in almost every case, parts of your computer network (functions) can easily be put in the cloud to save you money and give you better service.

Before you donate your server and sign up for Office 365 or Google Apps, it's important you talk to someone who can honestly assess your unique situation and tell you the pros and cons of making the switch to cloud computing.

SERVICE SPOTLIGHT

Flying High in the Cloud

JTnet helps the Greater Decatur Chamber of Commerce make the leap to cloud computing.

FOR THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS, Mirinda Rothrock and the crew at the Chamber offices have been working hard to support businesses in the area. But they also needed to review their own internal systems to make sure they were operating at optimum efficiency. After asking JTnet, Inc. for a full assessment of their technology assets, it was determined that the Chamber would be an excellent candidate to move nearly all of their systems to a cloud-based environment.

JTnet made the recommendation to transition all of the Chamber's Microsoft Office applications to the cloud-based Office 365. In addition, we recommended that the current combination of laptop and desktop computers be upgraded to laptops. This would support ease of access to the Internet connection and their cloud-based Office 365 applications both in and out of the Chamber office. The final step for the Chamber will be to move all of the data currently being stored on an older in-house server—which is out of space—into a cloud server environment that will allow for scalability, greater reliability, easier remote access to data, and stronger security.

The transition to Office 365 and the new laptop implementation only took two days following the receipt of all the new laptops and sign-ups for cloud-based services. The transition of the data should take only a couple of days more. The Chamber is well on its way to providing another example to local area businesses of how technology can create greater efficiency and cost savings. It was our pleasure to help move them forward.

By Brian McNamara,
Technology Director

FUN FACT TIME

By the end of 2012, there were an estimated 17 billion devices connected to the Internet. How many do you have in your own household?

Bill has 14 in his house:

**3 iPod Touches,
3 iPhones, 2 laptops,
1 iPad, 1 TV,
1 desktop computer,
1 Xbox, 1 Kindle, &
1 Kindle Touch!**

REFERRAL REWARDS

WE'LL GIVE YOU A $25 VISA GIFT CARD

for each business colleague* you refer to JTnet! Let them know we'll be calling, so they can get 2 FREE hours of guaranteed, no-strings-attached JTnet tech support to use any way they want!

* The owner or person in charge of IT for a company with 10 or more desktops and at least one server.

JTnet, Inc.
788 North Sunnyside Road
Decatur, IL 62522

Your Name: _____

Your Company: _____

Your Title: _____

My Referral

Name & Title: _____

Company: _____

Phone _____

E-mail: _____

TECH TIPS

GO GREEN AND SAVE THOUSANDS

Imagine being able to replace your complex, power-sucking, expensive workstations and servers with a much less expensive cloud infrastructure that requires very little power or space to operate. You can do this and more through the power of cloud computing.

Instantly drop your overall IT expenses for hardware, software, and maintenance.

Save on electricity (cutting costs and going green), and reduce the amount of equipment cluttering up landfills.
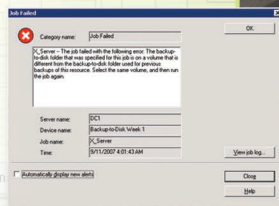
Get two to five more years out of the hardware you do purchase. Traditional PCs require replacement every three years, whereas virtualized machines may last up to five or six years.

Automatic disaster recovery protection from fire, flood, theft, viruses, and other natural disasters.

Instant remote access to your e-mail and files from home or on the road.

Easier to maintain, which could mean lowered IT support costs.

The server's full.

The web site's old.

The network's down.

Move beyond band-aids, quick fixes, and just-do-its. The future is now, and technology should work hard today and be ready for tomorrow's needs. Find out how **JTnet** can make it work for you, your business, and your customer.

JTnet
make it work!

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