



What Cloud Computing Really Means

A lot of people in the business and technology world are asking “What is cloud computing, and what does it mean for my business?” Gartner senior analyst Ben Pring says in regards to cloud computing, “it’s become the phrase du jour,” echoing many of his peers. Traditional business applications and Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) offerings need a data center with office space, power, cooling, bandwidth, networks, servers, and storage and a team of experts and IT personnel to install, configure, and run them. They need development, testing, staging, production, and failover environments. Cloud Computing takes this scenario out of the picture and the expense as well. Acumatica is one provider of cloud computing software. It is the first mid-range business application designed for the cloud that has the power, usability, and speed of client-server applications. This software is also fully customizable and has integrated CRM, Business Intelligence and document management. Instead of running your apps yourself, Cloud Computing allows you run on a shared data center and when you use any app such as Acumatica in the cloud, you just log in, customize it, and start using it. Cloud based apps can be up and running in a few days, which is unheard of with traditional business software. They cost less, because you don’t need to pay for all the people, products, and facilities to run them. And, it turns out they are more scalable, more secure, and more reliable than most apps. Plus, upgrades are taken care of by you, so your apps and customizations get security and performance enhancements and new features-automatically. The way you pay for cloud-based apps is also different. Forget about buying servers and software. When your apps run in the cloud, you don’t buy anything. It’s all rolled up into a predictable, monthly subscription, so you can budget properly and only pay for what you actually use. Cloud apps don’t eat up your valuable IT resources so businesses can concentrate on deploying more apps, new projects, and innovation leading a much more profitable business.

Let’s explore the Cloud Computing infrastructure and its impact on critically important areas affecting your business in areas such as IT, infrastructure investments, business development application, and more. Most IT departments or companies having to outsource IT are forced to spend a significant portion of their time and monies towards maintaining and upgrading software that often does not add significant value to the company’s bottom line. Increasingly, IT is turning to cloud computing technology to minimize the time spent on lower-level activities and allow IT to focus on strategic activities with greater impact for your business. Cloud Computing offers proven Web-Services integration, a much easier and cost effective to integrate with third-party or homegrown software. World-class service delivery, cloud computing infrastructures offer much more scalability, complete with disaster recovery. No hardware or software to install: a 100% cloud computing infrastructure. The beauty of cloud computing is its simplicity and the fact that it requires significantly few capital expenditures to get up and running. Faster and lower-risk deployment: You can be up and running in a fraction of time with a Cloud Computing infrastructure. No more waiting months and or even years to before anyone gets to log into your new solution. Your cloud computing technology applications are live in a matter of weeks even with extensive customization or integration. Support for deep customizations: some business owners and IT professionals mistakenly think cloud computing

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technology is difficult or impossible to customize extensively, and therefore is not a good choice for complex enterprises. The cloud computing infrastructure not only allows for deep customization and configuration, it preserves all of those customizations even during upgrades. Empowered Business Users: Cloud Computing technology allows on-the-fly, point and click customization and report generation for business users, so IT doesn't spend half its time making minor changes and running reports. Automatic upgrades that don't impact IT resources, Cloud Computing infrastructures put an end to a huge business dilemma: If we upgrade to the latest-and-greatest version of the application, we'll be forced to spend time and resources to rebuild customizations and integrations? Cloud Computing technology doesn't force you to decide between upgrading and preserving all your hard work, because those customizations and integrations are automatically preserved during an upgrade.

In conclusion cloud computing technology frees you to focus on developing business applications that deliver true value to your business (or your customers). Cloud Computing lets businesses innovate while avoiding the costs and headaches associated with servers, individual software solutions, middleware or point-to-point connections, upgrades - and the staff to manage it all.

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