

E-Safe's Educational Series To Modernize Your Office

"What is Software as a Service (SaaS)?"

oftware as a service is a software delivery model in which software and the associated data are centrally hosted in the cloud by software vendors or application service providers. SaaS is typically accessed by users utilizing a thin client device or via a web browser, which allows for easy access and mobility. This software distribution model is made available to customers and clients over a network infrastructure, most commonly the Internet. One of the most popu-

Start with a Plan, Finish with Success.

lar software platforms that utilizes this model is Salesforce.com where companies purchase login credentials on a monthly basis and have access to customer relationship management tools in the cloud. This model allows organizations to access their business applications at a minimal cost per month rather than paying a lump sum up-front. The software is hosted on the providers servers and equipment, which makes it easier for them to update and maintain. You don't have to keep purchasing new versions of the software. Instead, they update it and sync these changes to your already existing accounts. This

is also beneficial because users don't have to invest in hardware that runs their specific software, whether it's their CRM, email, or database management tool. Corporations are beginning to build data centers that can host your applications over the web interface, which is also extremely easy to scale for prospective customers. As you grow, you don't have to purchase additional infrastructure to host users. Instead, you purchase monthly user licenses which is a much lower cost. SaaS is inspiring new operating models and when implemented correctly can benefit organizations of all sizes.

"How Can SaaS Improve My Business?"

Accessing your vital business information on the cloud can benefit companies in the following ways:

Mobility: No longer do you need to have your computer with you at all times to access vital software applications. With SaaS, you can access your information if you have a connection to the Internet with your login information on hand.

Price: By utilizing SaaS, you pay a small monthly fee to use the software. You don't have to purchase dedicated infrastructure to support your applications onsite. This also decreases the amount of taxes that you pay because there won't be that steep investment in hardware in the beginning. Also,

this saves on power costs that it takes to run and maintain the infrastructure.

Manageability: There is no longer a need to run updates on your hosted software. Because the application is hosted on your provider's infrastructure, they handle the updates and streamline it to your account.

Scalability: As your business grows, there has to be an integrated solution that can grow with it. With SaaS, that is easier than ever. You don't have to purchase more faulty equipment. You are able to add to your current licenses which will increase your bill only a few dollars per month.

Next Issue:

Cloud Services

Hear What Our Customers Are Saving:

"We are so pleased with the work E-Safe has done for us in terms of IT management and backup systems. We were tired of putting money into hardware that would quickly become obsolete for backups. E-Safe was able to recommend a solution for us that suited our budget, addressed our concerns about using the "cloud," and gave us confidence that our data will be there when we need it. They are extremely customer service oriented, and we appreciate it!"

- Christine Simcic, Wojanis Supply



"How Does SaaS Work?"

ompanies basically rent licenses or access the software from a service provider. The software runs on servers owned and maintained by the service provider, which allows the customer to utilize the software without having to run pesky updates. These software applications are typically run out of large datacenter facilities with redundant power, battery backup solutions, climate control systems, and security procedures that are financially out-of-reach for the small



and medium sized business space. SaaS can allow those businesses to access the software applications on a per user basis. A large amount of SaaS solutions are based on a multi-tenant model. This means that a single version of the software

application and a single configuration are used for all customers who are linked to that system. In some cases, a second version of the software is set up for a select group of users to test the pre-released versions of the software application. This enables users to increase their productivity by not having to worry about different versions of the software. The application is tested, patched, and maintained by the provider. Some other SaaS solutions utilize virtualization to manage a large number of customers instead of the multi-tenant model.

"What's My Investment In SaaS?

aaS is extremely affordable for small to medium sized businesses. As stated before, you only have to pay for access on a per user, per month basis. Usually these are very low costs. For example, Microsoft Office 365 allows you to use the latest Office applications for around \$10 per month / per user. This is an extremely low amount to pay when you take into consideration how relevant the latest Office applications stay in the mainstream business environment. It seems like every two years they come out with the latest and greatest applications. For the

monthly payment, you have access to the newest software. You don't have to purchase and install the latest version in a few years and you don't have to download patches and updates. The provider maintains the application which allows you to focus on more important things. Software as a Service takes everything that's relevant in technology today and combines them to give you the stability, scalability, and manageability you need in today's fast mobile business environment. As long as you have connection to the Internet. you have access to all of your valuable business information.



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Want to Learn More About SaaS or E-Safe's Modern Office Series?

Contact Tim Steinour at TimSteinour@E-SafeTech.com today!