



TECHNOLOGY TIMES

"Insider Tips To Make Your Department Run Faster, Easier and More Efficiently"

What The Heck Is Cloud Computing? (And Why You Should Care)

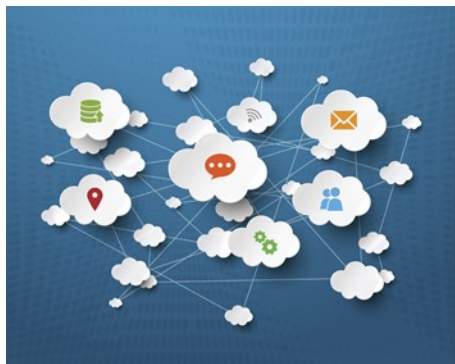
Cloud computing is a concept that could save your business quite a bit of money on software, hardware, upgrades and services.

Instead of purchasing hardware and software for your office, you can use cloud computing to put your programs on a highly secure "super server" online. All you need is an Internet connection to your office and you're in business.

There's a good chance that MOST of the software applications you use every day are now "software as a service" applications. In other words, you don't have to install them on your server or PC – you simply access the software as 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 and connect with your friends in real time without having to install any software on your computer. Of course, there are also applications such as Salesforce, Constant Contact, SurveyMonkey, etc., that you pay to use.

It is quickly becoming unnecessary for some businesses to purchase and maintain an on-site server. Now companies can host one or more of their applications, 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.



"As a Police Department you don't have time to waste on technical and operational issues. That's where we shine! Call us and put an end to your IT problems finally and forever!"

Shawn Butt,
Zaphyr Technologies

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Whippany, NJ

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CLOUD COMPUTING
"I'd prefer it if they stored their stuff someplace else!"

How Long Do Hard Drives Really Last?

One-hundred percent of all hard drives will eventually fail. This is a fact. Some will fail prematurely due to manufacturers' defects while others will fail because a mechanical part finally wears out. **The question is, how long until that happens?**

Online backup provider Backblaze.com has kept 25,000 consumer-grade hard drives constantly running for the last four years, diligently noting whenever a hard drive breaks down. The results are very interesting.

- ♦ **Ninety-two percent of all hard drives will survive the first 18 months.** These failures are typically due to manufacturers' defects (oftentimes called the "lemon effect"). Hard drives' warranties are typically one to three years, which is basically the manufacturers saying that they are only on the hook to replace the lemons.
- ♦ **During the next 18 months, only a very small percentage of drives (~2%) will fail.** These failures are from random "unlucky" issues and occur rarely anytime during the life of the drive.
- ♦ **Beginning in year three, hard drives start to wear out due to usage.** They are simply mechanical devices that are getting old. 80% of drives will make it to year four and then they drop off at about 12% or more per year thereafter.
- ♦ The failure rate is essentially a U curve with most failures very early on or after the three-year mark.

So, What Does This Mean?

Simple. Back up your data. With a 1-in-10 chance that your hard drive dies in the first three years of its life and an accelerating chance of failure after that, there is no excuse for being caught without a solid backup. Ever.

Make a plan. Build equipment replacement into your budget at least every four years for most devices, with a 10% equipment-replacement expense built in over the 1st year and then again starting in year three.

As for that 10-year-old PC in the back room still running Windows XP and your most critical reporting software, the clock is ticking ...

R.I.P. Windows XP (October 25, 2001 – April 8, 2014)



As of April 8th Microsoft has stopped all support on Windows XP. If you are operating machines with XP past this date then you increase your risk of Security Breaches .

Give us a call if you have any systems that still have Windows XP or if you have any questions about this.

Call us at: 973-560-9050 or e-mail Shawn.Butt@PoliceITSupport.org

Shiny New Gadget Of The Month:



PhoneSoap Touch Screen Polish

All this touch-screen technology is convenient, but it's also messy. Not to mention a little unsanitary when devices are shared amongst others. If only there was a way to keep your screen clean and bacteria-free... Lucky for you, now there is.

Introducing the anti-fingerprint PhoneSoap Touch Screen Polish. This is a premium, all-natural, antibacterial polish specially formulated to kill bacteria and help prevent fingerprints and smudges on smart phone and tablet touch screens.

Now you can clean, sanitize and share your device without worry or smudges!

Get yours at:
www.SkyMall.com

Solid Strategies = Solid Success

Success results from a solid strategy. Even the greatest ideas are of little value unless they are backed up by a practical and workable plan of action. The word strategy comes from an ancient Greek term that literally means to be a general, leading troops into battle. Setting up a good strategic plan involves five steps:

The first step is to translate your vision into measurable and achievable goals. You decide specifically what you want to accomplish during the next five to ten years — those are your long-range goals. Next, you break those goals down into intermediate goals — things you wish to accomplish during the next six months or year. Then you break them down further into short-term goals covering the next month or six weeks.

The second step is to break your goals down into achievable objectives. Dr. Robert Schuller says, “Yard by yard life is hard, inch by inch it’s a cinch.” Working by objectives helps you concentrate on what’s important, instead of spinning your wheels on those things that seem urgent but don’t lead to your long-term goals. Objectives add purpose and direction to all your activities.

The third step is to set up your strategies for accomplishing your objectives. Strategies are the specific ways you will go about achieving your objectives. The more clearly thought-out they are, the more effective they will be.

Fourth, you choose each task you must complete each day to achieve your goals. This is where most planning breaks down. We tend to leave it vague — thinking that, as long as we are working hard all the time, we are achieving our goals. Most people I talk with are extremely busy — and most of them are working hard to do things right. The problem is they are not doing enough of the right things — the things that will help them achieve their goals. It is not enough to merely list each task you need to do; you need to build the tasks into your schedule. So many hours each day should be dedicated to working on specific actions that will lead to accomplishing your definite objectives.

And, finally, build in the monitoring mechanisms that will help you keep track of your progress toward implementing your plan. It’s one thing to have a “gut-level feeling” that you must be doing something right because you are always working hard. But it is far better to design simple mechanisms to let you know precisely how much progress you are making. Look for a few key indicators that will help you stay on track, and monitor those like a doctor would monitor the vital signs of a patient. It doesn’t matter how much activity is going on. What matters is how successful you are in achieving your objectives.

One good example would be that you would target to contact three people each day to generate new business. At the end of the day, you’d know whether you have achieved that goal. Your plan is not complete until it has been communicated satisfactorily to every person in your organization who must help to implement it.

Who Is Police IT Support?

Police IT Support is a Company that provides IT Support To Law Enforcement Agencies in the New Jersey since its start in 2003. Our team of Microsoft Professionals are here to help you with any Computer or Network issues. If you have any questions Please feel free to call us at: 973-560-9050 or visit our Website at www.PoliceITSupport.org

How Much Has Technology Changed In The Last 9 Years?

Technology changes faster and faster than ever. Consider how much technology has changed since this time in 2005, just a few short years ago...

Can You Believe That These Technologies Didn't Even Exist in 2005?

We lived in a world without smartphones, tablets, e-readers, Facebook, in-home WiFi and Netflix. What did we do with all of that extra free time!

- E-readers such as the Kindle and Nook did not exist yet and now 40% of consumers own at least one.
- Smartphones did not exist. Now 62% of consumers have one.
- Tablets/iPads were nonexistent. Now over 40% of consumers own one.
- Netflix was merely a service to order DVDs in the mail.
- We were still connected to a wall since in-home WiFi had yet to arrive.
- Facebook was a small social networking service on the campus of Harvard.

Dying Technology

In 2005, most consumers owned VCRs and mobile phones. How much longer will it be before we only see these items in a museum?

Are These Technologies Here For The Long Haul?

Even with all of the technological advancements, the possession of many of these electronic devices has hardly changed:

- Cable TV – Even with streaming services such as Netflix, Hulu and many other apps, the percentage of consumers with cable TV has remained exactly the same (68%).
- DVD/Blu-ray Players – Ownership down only 3% over the last 9 years.
- Desktop Computers – Down only 8% (interestingly, the ownership of laptop computers has more than doubled during this period).

Do you need Help with the CJIS Audit?

Last month you may have received a letter from us about our offer to help your Department Complete the CJIS Audit **FREE of Charge**. All we ask in return is a **Department Badge** that we can display on our Patch Wall.

This month we have the ability to help the first **Two** Departments that contacts us.

If you would like our Assistance please contact us by:

- Emailing us at Shawn.butt@zaphyr.net
- Calling us at 973-560-9050
- OR visiting <http://www.policeitsupport.org/cjis-audit/>

The Lighter Side: That's "No Picnic"



It's that time of year—the weather is warming and you want to get out more. What better way to spend a sunny afternoon than on a picnic with family or friends! But what are picnics *really* and where did they come from? Find out here:

- Originally a picnic was a fashionable social event to which each guest contributed some food.
- In the first half of the 19th century, a Picnic Society met in London at the Pantheon, a place of public entertainment in Oxford Street.
- In the year 2000, a 600-mile-long picnic took place in France on July 14 to celebrate the first Bastille Day of the new millennium.
- The French started the modern fashion for picnics when they opened their royal parks to the public after the revolution of 1789.
- The use of the phrase "no picnic" to describe something unenjoyable dates back to 1884.
- The 1955 film Picnic, with William Holden and Kim Novak, was nominated for six Oscars and won two, for best art direction and best film editing.
- Our word "picnic" dates back to 1794, exactly 100 years after "pique-nique" was first seen in French.