

Happy 4th of July!

Tech Times

Solutions Unlimited, LLC



Don't Sign A Cloud Agreement Without Asking These 9 Questions!

Cloud services are a booming solution for businesses today to streamline operations and save money. Most companies realize the burden of keeping their operations internal and seek an outside resource to take care of their needs. How can you be sure you're getting what you need?

Ask questions! Don't be shy, ask your IT company all those burning questions. Run through some scenarios and inquire about how your operations will change. Here are 10 questions to ask before you sign up with a cloud service provider:

1. What security is in place to protect my data? Ask your potential cloud service providers about their data-protection policy. Do they have procedures in place for security, regular audits, ongoing monitoring, and recovery if your data is missing or lost? Make sure the provider has controls in place to keep your company information safe.

2. What is the Service Level Agreement (SLA) remediation process? What guarantee do you get with the services in which your in-

vesting your company data? The SLA is the agreement between you and the provider that spells out the details of your relationship. Look for a remediation process in case they fail to hold up their end of the contract. Things can go wrong, and they do, so it's extremely important to know how they will handle a system failure and compensation so you can ensure your company's future.

3. How do I know if something is failing? Ask your cloud provider how they keep track of failed server instances. You will want to know how quickly they can find an issue, notify you of the outage, and fix a problem. Review the providers offerings regarding monitoring and reporting. Some cloud providers don't offer much in terms of support, so make sure you find out if they will be watching your environment or if you need to take that on internally.

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Is Your Hardware Hot?

This is the time of year when the temperature rises. How are your PC's affected? What can you do to protect your network?

What components generate heat? Heat is a natural by-product of the electromagnetic movement within the circuits, fans, CPU's and other internal parts. Your computers, servers and routers create more heat when you are using the programs, transferring files, or running updates. This heat needs to be controlled in order to maintain the equipment.

How does the heat hurt? Believe it or not, heat can impact the performance of your equipment. Most computers and servers have automatic settings that instruct the components to slow down as the heat raises. This helps the system avoid damage. These settings can even shut down without warning as a fail-safe when they are too hot. In some cases heat can even cause your system to freeze up.

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International Geocaching Day!

Adventure-seekers take a look! International Geocaching Day is coming up on July 31st. This day is set aside to encourage us all to go on a little treasure hunt. Treasures are placed in a cache you can locate with a Global Positioning System (GPS.) Visit www.geocaching.com to join the fun and go find a geocache today.



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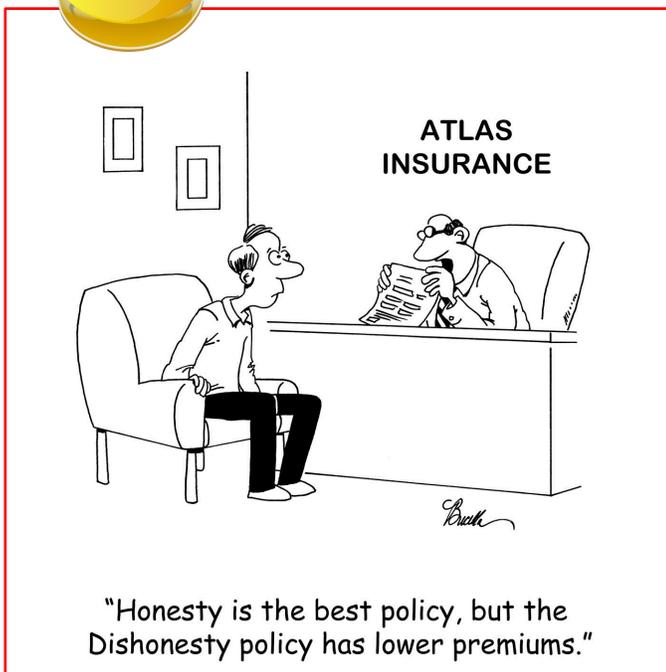
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Don't Sign A Cloud Agreement Without Asking...

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4. What happens if my data become corrupt? How many copies of your data are stored? If something goes terribly wrong and your data is corrupt, can the company reconstruct your greatest asset? Make sure your cloud provider offers an adequate back-up solution so you can count on them to recover your data gracefully when problems arise.

5. Do I have fast enough Internet to support this cloud solution? Don't sign up for any cloud solution until you're sure your Internet connection can handle it. There is nothing worse than buying a new solution for your business and it simply isn't compatible. Imagine making orange juice with just a straw and an orange. While you could drink most of the juice out of the orange, it would take a long time and be very cumbersome. Now think about a juicer with a nice pour spout and plenty of room to capture all the juice and deliver it to a glass for consumption. Your Internet may be like the straw, only large enough to pass small amounts of data through at a time. Consider juicing up your Internet to create a flowing connection you can rely on.



"Honesty is the best policy, but the Dishonesty policy has lower premiums."

6. What options will we have to access the cloud? Most cloud providers offer a handful of ways to access your cloud environment. However, some will charge an arm and a leg for each connection. Ask what options there are and the costs associated. For example, Do you pay for virtual machines? Do you have to pay resource charges or just licensing? What will your final billing be monthly?

7. Can I restrict users in our organization from seeing specific things? All cloud providers don't offer the same features. If you have a hierarchy in your business and need multiple levels of access, ask your provider upfront if they offer these access controls. Unfortunately, in many cases providers only offer one level of access. This means, every person in your company that accesses the cloud will have the freedom to do whatever they want and see everything.

8. What if I need more space? If your organization requires a large amount of data to be stored long-term, check with your cloud provider to see what procedures and costs are involved in adding on storage. Ask about possible limitations on the size of the disk space. Don't put your company in a cloud that is just too small to scale with your future growth or expansion plans.

9. What if I want to change providers? How easy is it to migrate to another provider if you're unhappy? Make sure you know what you're getting into. Don't wait until it is too late. Pushing your data between cloud service providers is a pretty new concept and some cloud companies have not developed their systems to allow for this kind of transfer.

Interested in exploring cloud options for your company? Give us a call today for your Free Cloud Services Assessment and find out if a cloud solution is right for your business.

FREE Cloud Services Assessment

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What Is An IP Address?

Like a house, every computer in a network has an address. This is known as the IP address. Today, the entire world is networked, and so the importance of identifying a computer within a network has increased in a tremendous fashion.

TCP/IP Protocol and address standards.

All computers on the Internet use a certain protocol called the TCP/IP (Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol) as the chosen standard for communication. This protocol or language uses the IP address as a unique identifier for your computer. The standard IPv4 (IP Version 4) is the most commonly used for IP addresses. It is represented by four numbers that are separated by dots (e.g. 180.234.85.45). This is also known as 'dot-decimal notation'.

How a computer gets its IP address? Most of the time, the IP addresses are assigned automatically by a Dynamic Host Control Protocol (DHCP), which is primarily a service running on network servers and routers.

What can people tell from my IP address? Not much really.

For example, no one can tell who you are, where you are or extract personal details from your IP address. It is really just a way to identify your workstation internally for networking.



Is Your Hardware Hot?

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Long-term impacts of heat. When your equipment gets too hot, the excessive heat can irreparably damage your hardware. When the internal parts heat up they expand. The thermal expansion can warp the tiny parts inside your computer which can damage the hardware.

Take charge of the temp in your office. Keep in mind, your equipment wasn't meant to operate at high temperatures. Anything exceeding 80°F, is considered too hot. If your hardware is stored in a closet, make sure to open it up to periodically check the temp inside. Also, make sure the fans in your computers and servers are working properly to circulate air as needed.

Store it right! Part of keeping your equipment functioning well includes treating it right. Keep your server storage area cleaned up/ free of debris and keep your equipment off the floor. All your servers, routers, switches and computers should be on a rack, mounted, or in a cabinet. Leaving computers down on the floor allows them to collect excess dust and dirt that may disrupt their internal cooling systems.

Heat hurts! Remember, excessive heat can effect both your computers performance and lifespan.

5 Of The Most Desirable Leadership Qualities

Take a look at these 5 most desirable leadership qualities to become a successful leader in your business.

1. Communication Skills. As the leader, motivate your team members so that they are encouraged to work hard and deliver their best. Communicating effectively verbally, in e-mail and even with your body language are skills that allow you to express your expectations in a clear and concise manner. Furthermore, your communication skills are important for training and expressing success stories to the top-level management in your organization.

2. Commitment. To foster success through leadership, you must set good examples yourself. You should show your unquestionable commitments for the organization and become a role model for your junior team members. Gain the respect of all your coworkers through your dedication and willingness to do the work. A true leader not only sees the way, but goes the way and shows the way.

3. Decision-making capabilities. As a leader, you must know how to make timely decisions that can bring remarkable success. If you suffer from procrastination

and make unnecessary delays, there is a big chance that you will fail and lose credibility from those who rely on you. Make sure to lead with confidence and demonstrate the same principles and rules you expect others to follow.

4. Creativity. Think differently and try to become the master of solving problems in the most creative manner. Follow novel approaches when necessary, but don't be afraid of more unconventional solutions. Explore options with state-of-the-art techniques that can bring amazing results. However, be careful to carve a clear path for others to follow and set goals in place that give your teammates the tools they need to succeed too.

5. Attributes. People relate better and follow leaders that they see are reliable, open, competent and compassionate. Good leaders take time to actively listen to others, share success stories, and encourage their team members. Regardless of your profession, the people around you like to feel heard, cared for and empowered. Don't forget to articulate the needs of your organization and keep your company at the forefront of every move.

Fun Things To Do With A Cheap Tablet This Summer

Do you have an old or very cheap tablet laying around? Here are some amazing ways to put your tablet back to work.

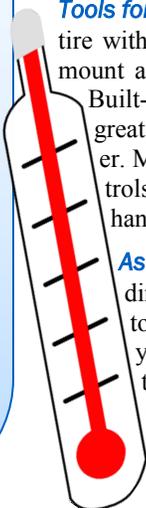
Tools for the car. No, you can't change a tire with just a tablet. However, you can mount a tablet in or on your dashboard. Built-in tablets in your vehicle can be a great navigation tool and music player. Many tablets even offer voice controls so you can direct your tablet hands free!

As a Picture Frame. Hosting a dinner or BBQ this summer? Want to share your family photos with your guests? You can stock your tablet with all your favorite pictures and display them with your tablet like a photo frame for everyone to see. This is a great con-

versation starter too. Your family and friends will love to thumbing through the special images you've set out to share.

As Wall Clock/Alarm Clock. If you have a tablet PC, you can easily use it as a quality clock. An app like *Animated Analog Clock Widget* can be a great solution. There are a variety of apps like *Stereomood* and *iHeart Radio* that give you a multitude of settings so you can wake up to your favorite tunes.

Cooking companion. Tired of examining your cook books just to find something new for mealtime? Try cooking with how-to videos and recipes at your fingertips. Apps like *The Kitchen*, *Allthecooks*, *Epicurious*, *Allrecipes Dinner Spinner*, and *EatingWell Healthy in a Hurry* are available on Android and iOS tablets. Go ahead, try something new today!



“We make all of your computer problems go away without adding additional full-time I.T. staff!”

Ask about our fixed price service agreements — Computer support at a flat monthly fee you can budget for, just like payroll!

Inquiring Minds...

Watch Out! Your Car Is A Death Trap. As The summer heat hits, don't forget to take your electronics with you. The hardware you thrive with at work like your laptop, flash drives, backup-drives, and cell phone can be ruined in a hot vehicle even just for a half-hour. Your car is a death trap for electronics.

Avoid extremes. Your car or carrying case may be a danger zone for your devices out in the summer heat. The danger zone for your laptop is 95°F. Using your laptop outside in the sun or leaving it in the car when you shop, can cause the temperature to rise to a dangerous level. Make sure you give your laptop time to acclimate when you take it in and out of extreme temperatures too, hot or cold. Avoid shocking your system by shutting your devices off when you travel between extreme temperatures like your air conditioned office to your 110°F car.

Don't forget about humidity too. Keep an eye on humidity too. The sweet spot is below 80% with temperatures between 50 and 95°F. High humidity can cause condensation to build up inside your equipment shorting out circuits and triggering the water damage sensors sometimes voiding your warranty.

When Was The First Virus Released? Computer viruses are simply a nightmare for many of us, but let's take a glimpse of the history of the computer virus.

For IBM PC. The earliest computer viruses were not as malicious as they are today. One of the first viruses for the IBM PC was named *Brain*. In an attempt to be safe from software pirates, two

Pakistani brothers, Amjad and Basit Alvi developed a virus program in 1986. It was not a seriously harmful virus, but it was used to infect the boot sector and slow down the disk. If anyone ran the pirated copy of the software, the following ominous message came out: “Beware of this VIRUS.... Contact us for vaccination.” The goal of the virus was to track and punish those who were involved in medical software piracy.

For Apple. The first ever Apple focused virus was developed by a high school student in Pennsylvania, Rich Skrenta, in February, 1982. Rich was a gifted programmer with serious interest in computing. The name of the virus he developed was *Elk Cloner*, which became the first virus to spread in the wild outside the network and computing system in which it was created. It was simply a boot sector virus which had the power to infect floppy disks in an Apple II computer. Whenever a computer was attacked by this virus, the following poem was displayed on every fiftieth boot:

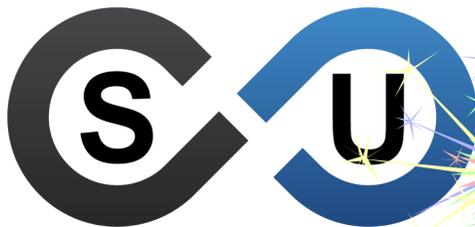
*Elk Cloner: The program with a personality
It will get on all your disks It will infiltrate your chips
Yes it's Cloner!
It will stick to you like glue It will modify ram too
Send in the Cloner!*

Boom! Pow!
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Ready to declare your independence from costly back-up risks? Give us a call today! Our automatic offsite back-up solution will help you declare a state of freedom from data loss, costly down-time, and risky onsite solutions. Don't let your equipment rule the roost. You deserve a solid foundation with daily back-ups of all your company data in a format that can be recovered quickly when you need it most.

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Call today for your **FREE Back-up Solution Assessment**. We will conduct a full audit, present you with our findings, and provide a solution that really works! We can help you declare your independence from back-up disasters.



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