Chapter 2: Cloud Computing

Presenter:
Rick Oelerich

Tech 3.0
Cloud Computing

By definition using the internet as part of the computing experience

➢ Storage
➢ Consumption
➢ Production

Image courtesy of wikipedia.com

Chapter 2: Cloud Computing
Cloud Computing

Three primary pieces of the puzzle

1. **Cloud Infrastructure** – the virtual servers that run applications accessible over the Internet – the domain of large companies offering cloud services, such as Google, Salesforce.com, Microsoft and the like.

2. **Cloud Platforms** – where individual firms can load and use their own programs and run them for themselves, or offer services to their clients. This is much more than mere web hosting.

3. **Cloud Storage** – services which provide cloud storage such as “live Drive” or Google Docs. These are low-cost and nearly infinitely scalable resources. Specialized applications like client portals and shared workspaces are also part of this domain.
Cloud Computing

Understanding the elements of cloud computing and how it can help the accounting firm.

- Hardware
- Software
- Automated Systems Implementation
- Productivity Enhancements
- System Administration
Cloud Computing

S - Software
A - As
A - A
S - Service

Core cloud services include the concept of “software as a service” (SAAS), but much more mundane things like billing and payment systems (e.g., Paypal), messaging, search (e.g., Google), business process augmentation (automatic software updates), and many others. In some cases, these services may be almost completely transparent to the user, as in the case of anti-virus software that automatically updates using cloud resources.
Cloud Computing

What types of uses are accounting firms implementing in the cloud?

• E-mail – Access from anywhere
• Calendar – The entire team can manage and see
• Client Portals – A static place for documents
Cloud Computing

What types of uses are accounting firms implementing in the cloud?

• Internet based applications – It all sits on the cloud server, no application software to maintain on local machines

• Internet based phone systems – Move your office to any location AND large firm features at basic system prices
Cloud Computing

What types of uses are accounting firms implementing in the cloud?

• Client data sharing solutions that allow access to client computers or information
  • Hosted bookkeeping
  • Hosted payroll
  • Hosted ???
Cloud Computing

The advantages to the accounting firm.

- Centralizing of information to allow faster retrieval.
- Sharing of information with staff and clients.
- Current version of software automatically maintained
- Reduced issues of data backup
Chapter 2: Cloud Computing

Cloud Computing
Image courtesy of wikipedia.com
What are the Advantages of Moving to the Cloud

I would consider doing this because:

1. Geographical Barriers removed.
2. Expedited Information transfer.
3. Remote access from any internet connection.
4. Additional features by sharing more robust applications.
5. Multi platform data access.
What are the Advantages of Moving to the Cloud

Outcome of the movement to the cloud:
- Data sharing becomes a focus of the business model.
- More applications move to a browser based architecture.
- Security is ?

Image courtesy of bing.com
What are the Advantages of Moving to the Cloud

Inc. Magazine said in it’s June issue that:

- Cloud Security is Stronger.
- Cloud Security is Smarter.
- The Cloud makes Security Compliance Easier.
- The Cloud makes Security more Cost Effective.
- The Cloud lets you focus on your business not security.
Cloud Computing is the Future

The Cycle of our computer environment:

IN THE BEGINNING – Large computers, dumb terminals

IN THE MIDDLE – Smaller smart computers

IN THE FUTURE – Large server farms hosting lots of applications and storing an enormous amount of data

At a recent CoreNet Global conference, attended by the leaders of corporate IT, the prognostication was made that, "By 2020, IT computing will be almost entirely outsourced to the Cloud, and the lines between business and personal technology will be blurred."
Cloud Computing is the Future

The reality of the movement:

1. 41% of companies use flexible workplace options.
2. 88% of companies offer smart personal devices.
3. 62% of companies use remote meetings
4. 52% of companies are using social media
Considerations in Moving to the Cloud

Is it time for accounting firms to make the leap to the cloud but consider:

- Usability
- Interface
- Security
- Maintainability
- What can go wrong
- Affordability
- Regulatory Environment
Considerations in Moving to the Cloud

Concern is appropriate BUT proper due diligence can address the most difficult issues:

Know your vendor well

Contractual agreements are critical – This is not a situation where you agree to a 10 page ULA (User License Agreement) without reading it.
Considerations in Moving to the Cloud

Five point check list:

a. Are there current back-ups of all data off the cloud?

b. Is there a disaster/backup plan in place if the cloud is unavailable?

c. Has the disaster plan been tested and protocols established?

What happens when the primary system goes down?

A plan not tested is not a plan and how will you be notified when the system goes down?
Considerations in Moving to the Cloud

Five point check list:

d. Do contracts with providers address software ownership, installation and de-installation?

Who owns what, how do you remove your data at contract termination, and who pays in the event of a data breach?

e. Are we being realistic in assigning resources to the net?

The cloud is not about reassigning your firm’s responsibilities, it is about being smarter, faster and lighter.
Considerations in Moving to the Cloud

What to look for in cloud and what makes a provider/host that an accounting firm can count on?

Data service providers and standards bodies are still trying to delineate how to enforce compliance in a virtualized environment. One standard to look for in a cloud provider is the ISO 27001 protocols. At least look for a host who provides regular security audits and that adheres to the standards of the PCI Security Standards Council (security standards for those who handle credit card data).
Internet Productivity

Workplace productivity enhanced by cloud applications – Several sites available either free or low cost:

To qualify for Google Apps, you must have a Gmail account or a website. Gmail accounts are free. There are several different offerings for Google Apps: see www.google.com/apps

The free offering includes some powerful features. Not only does it allow you to use your own domain, but you also get the following features, among others:

- Gmail
- Google Calendar
- Google Sites
- Blogger
- Google Talk (free phone service)
- Google Docs
- Google Reader
- Picasa

Add in May 2012 Google Drive
Google Apps - Google Docs

Office suite in the cloud

Docs
Create and share your work online

Create, share, and collaborate on the web with documents, spreadsheets, presentations, and more. Create an account

Image courtesy of google.com

Chapter 2: Cloud Computing
Google Apps - Google Docs

Office suite in the cloud – create documents that you own or share with others.

Google Docs will soon be upgraded to Google Drive.
Google Drive will be the new home for your files. Find out more and get started.

Image courtesy of google.com

Chapter 2: Cloud Computing
Google Apps - Google Docs

Office suite in the cloud – Use the templates offered by Google.

Image courtesy of google.com

Chapter 2: Cloud Computing
Google Apps - Google Docs

Lots of great tools in templates:

### Quick Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Income (net)</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Monthly</th>
<th>Yearly</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salary/Wages</td>
<td>Monthly</td>
<td>10000.00</td>
<td>10000.00</td>
<td>120000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Monthly</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Monthly</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Monthly</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Monthly</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spending</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auto Loan/Lease</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petrol Gas, Oil &amp; Lub.</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registration/Inspection</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Train/Bus tickets</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxis</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Home               |          | 0.00    | 0.00    | 0.00   |
| Home Loan EMI      |          | 0.00    | 0.00    | 0.00   |
| Rent               |          | 0.00    | 0.00    | 0.00   |
| Maintenance        |          | 0.00    | 0.00    | 0.00   |
| Insurance          |          | 0.00    | 0.00    | 0.00   |
| Furniture          |          | 0.00    | 0.00    | 0.00   |

For Frequency use keywords: Daily, Weekly, Monthly, Semi-Annually, Quarterly, Yearly

For Charts use the numbers: Yearly (1), Monthly (2), Weekly (3)

Image courtesy of google.com

Chapter 2: Cloud Computing
Google Apps - Google Docs

It looks like and is very much like Excel – but all based on programs running “in the cloud” and documents which are kept in the cloud (although they can be downloaded onto your computer, too). A user can also upload their own templates, and share them with their groups.

Works a lot like excel and other spreadsheet tools:

Upload spreadsheet from excel and others

Image courtesy of google.com
Google Apps - Google Docs

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Works a lot like excel and other spreadsheet tools:

Download spreadsheet to varied formats
Google Apps - Google Docs

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Google Apps - Google Business Solutions

Maybe not accountant solutions but great for our clients.

- **AdWords** – advertising with ads appearing based on search criteria.
- AdSense – revenue from **Google-placed ads** on a business’s website.
- **Google Places** allows businesses to create coupons, post live updates.
- **Checkout** which allows a convenient **e-commerce solution**.
- **iGoogle** is a **customized webpage** that can be use to aggregate content.
Google Apps – Froogle.com
FYI the one of the best net shopping tools is now google.com/shopping

Image courtesy of google.com
Chapter 2: Cloud Computing
Google Apps – Other Google Tools

Web sites from templates – Anybody can do one – Private or Public

Sites

Thinking of creating a website?
Google Sites is a free and easy way to create and share webpages. Learn more.

Create
rich web pages easily

Collect
all your info in one place

Control
who can view and edit

New! Create a site from dozens of pre-built templates

Work better together

Google Apps helps you and your team work faster and smarter by making it easy for everyone – employees, partners, vendors, anyone – to collaborate effortlessly across teams, companies and locations.

Google Apps lets you share and edit many types of files – docs, spreadsheets, presentations and more – in real time. Forget all the time-wasting e-mail back and forth over multiple file versions; storing docs in the cloud means everyone automatically has the latest version of any file. Doesn’t that make sense?
Google Apps – Other Google Tools

Google Translate
Translator Toolkit

Translate your documents faster

Google Translator Toolkit is a powerful and easy-to-use editor that helps translators work faster and better.

Upload and translate documents
Use documents from your desktop or the web.

Download and publish translations
Publish translations to Wikipedia™ or Knol.

Chat and share translations online
Collaborate online with other translators.

Use advanced tools
Use features like translation memories and multilingual

Image courtesy of google.com

Chapter 2: Cloud Computing
Google Apps – Other Google Tools

Google Calendar – Anywhere and Anytime with any device

Image courtesy of google.com

Chapter 2: Cloud Computing
Google Apps – Other Google Tools

Lots of other stuff Page 14 – 16

Google has over 50 separate offerings and many of them are free go to www.google.com/options/

Search

- Alerts
  Get email updates on the topics of your choice

- Blog Search
  Find blogs on your favorite topics

- Books
  Search the full text of books

- Checkout
  Sell online with a convenient checkout method

- Google Chrome
  A browser built for speed, simplicity and security

- Custom Search
  Create a customized search experience for your community

Explore and innovate

- Code
  Developer tools, APIs and resources

Communicate, show & share

- Blogger
  Share your life online with a blog - it’s quick, easy and free

- Calendar
  Organize your schedule and share events with friends

- Docs
  Create and share your online documents, presentations and spreadsheets

- Fusion Tables
  Visualize, combine, host, and share your data tables

- Groups
  Create mailing lists and discussion groups
Microsoft Office 365

Fully integrated with your existing MS Office Suite

How Office works with Office 365

With Office 365, you can get your work done securely and communicate real-time from almost anywhere. Combining Office with Office 365 unlocks the full potential of Office 365 as the best solution for productivity, collaboration, communication, and worry-free IT.

Office

- World-class, familiar tools including Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, and OneNote on your computer

Office 365

- Cloud-based professional email
- Video conferencing and IM
- Share files inside and outside your organization
- Easy and secure administration
- Financially backed reliability
- Predictable monthly costs with no up-front infrastructure costs

Office + Office 365

- Everything in Office
- Everything in your Office 365 plan

Plus these capabilities:

- Ability to view and edit documents with your colleagues from almost anywhere
- Communication using audio, video and IM from almost anywhere
- Ability to focus more on your business and less on your technology

Image courtesy of www.microsoft.com

Chapter 2: Cloud Computing
# Microsoft Office 365

## Pricing and features

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Small business</th>
<th>Midsize businesses and enterprises</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Exchange Online)</td>
<td>(P1)</td>
<td>(E1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BUY NOW</td>
<td>BUY NOW</td>
<td>BUY NOW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$4 Per user/month</td>
<td>$6 Per user/month</td>
<td>$8 Per user/month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>User maximum: 50,000+</td>
<td>User maximum: 50</td>
<td>User maximum: 50,000+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Cloud-based email using your own domain name</td>
<td>- Cloud-based email using your own domain name</td>
<td>- Everything in P1*, plus:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Shared calendars</td>
<td>- Shared calendars</td>
<td>- Active Directory synchronization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Configurable anti-spam filtering</td>
<td>- Instant messaging, PC-to-PC calling, and video conferencing</td>
<td>- Configurable anti-spam filtering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Active Directory synchronization</td>
<td>- Web-based viewing and editing of Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and OneNote files</td>
<td>- SharePoint intranet supporting up to 300 subsites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Live 24 x 7 IT customer phone support</td>
<td>- Team site for sharing files</td>
<td>- Live 24 x 7 IT customer phone support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- External website</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Antivirus and anti-spam filtering</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Microsoft community support</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Please note: with E1 you can only view Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and OneNote files online. With E3 you can both edit and view these files online.*

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Image courtesy of [www.microsoft.com](http://www.microsoft.com)
Microsoft Office 365

The Bad – For most users setup will require help from someone who is familiar with MS Exchange or Sharepoint.

The Good – Once you get rolling the interface is the stuff most everyone has worked with in the MS Office Suite and works seamlessly. Staff will not even know that many changes were made.
Microsoft Office 365

Some additional features that can be considered:

- **Level E3** - $20 per month per user includes up to 5 device installations of MS Office for that User

- **Level E4** - $22 per month also includes and IP Phone system integrated with Lync 360
Microsoft Office 365
Lync 360

Instant Messaging and Video Conferencing

"...with presence and instant messaging, we were making decisions faster from the beginning." The Wise Group

Image courtesy of www.microsoft.com
Microsoft Office 365
Lync 360

Features

Connect from virtually anywhere*:
- Find and connect with friends and peers using PC, web, or mobile phone
- Set up meetings in advance or on the fly
- Join meetings in one click from Outlook

Use your computer for video calls:
- PC-to-PC calling
- Connect with audio and video to other Lync users

See who’s online:
- Use the presence indicator to see when associates are online and available
- Set your status and control who sees it so others know when and how to contact you
- See status updates of contacts

Online meetings:
- Save travel costs by conducting online meetings including audio, video, and web conferencing
- Include up to 250 participants inside and outside of your business

Get more done in your meetings:
- Share desktops, files, and presentations online
- Invite others to lead and share
- See the list of meeting participants; know who is speaking

* Requires broadband internet access to Microsoft Lync

Image courtesy of www.microsoft.com

Chapter 2: Cloud Computing
Online Accounting

By the use of an online accounting product the client and the accountant can both access the product without issues of who does what when and how to get the data file.

Many accountants have persuaded their clients to use an online accounting solution. There are many advantages to this, not the least of which is the ability of the accountant to access the clients’ books without having to travel outside the office.

Some of the more popular online accounting solutions are:

- Quickbooks
- Zoho
- Netsuite
- Brightpearl
- Xero.com
- Freshbooks
- Nolaprop
- Waveaccounting

Chapter 2: Cloud Computing
Online Accounting

Like box accounting systems designed for our clients in the past an accounting firm can become adept on a particular online system and can consider signing up as a provider of assistance which can be a good source of new clients.

Local QuickBooks Help

Find local QuickBooks help by searching the Find-a-ProAdvisor Website.

Rates vary.

Image courtesy of www.quickbooks.com
Online Accounting

The 800# gorilla – QuickBooks Online

Not cheap from $155.40 per year to $757.92 – Ouch

Accounting firms with preferred provider arrangements can obtain and host these products and pass savings on to client if they wish or make a buck or two.
QuickBooks Online Plus

Features

Plan ahead and build budgets with ease
You never know exactly what's round the corner, but you can make a prediction. Create budgets to estimate future income and expenses, plus create “what if?” scenarios. Compare budgets with your actual performance to track how your business is performing.

Track costs for each job accurately
Accurately track the costs of every job. QuickBooks prompts you to list supplies you've used on your invoices, ensuring that you set the right mark-up, bill clients correctly and don't lose out when buying supplies.

Easy GST filing
QuickBooks Online generates GST returns for you in a single click. Specifically designed for Singapore-based businesses.

Professional estimates
Create professional-looking quotes and proposals for your customers.

Get your Company Snapshot
See the state of your business instantly with the Company Snapshot - a single screen that shows exactly how your business is doing. Your Company Snapshot will tell you, every day, what you're making, what you're spending, how you're doing compared to last year and more.

Handle foreign currencies
Manage international customers with ease - trade in multiple currencies and switch between them using up-to-the-minute exchange rates.

Track sales and expenses
Stay organised and in control of your business. With QuickBooks Online, all your financial information is in one place, so you can manage your finances more efficiently - no more digging through piles of paper. Understand your cash flow and how your business is doing so you can make better decisions.
QuickBooks Online Plus

Features

Easily create and manage invoices
Design and create professional invoices, then print or send them via email. Get your invoices out faster so you get paid sooner. QuickBooks Online also lets you keep track of who owes you money and whether or not you've been paid.

One place for all your customer and supplier data
Store details of an unlimited number of customers and suppliers. Know more about your customers - identify your best customers and see who buys what, when and how often.

Anywhere, anytime access
Log in to QuickBooks Online from any Internet-connected Mac or PC. Work from the office, home, or the road. You can be anywhere in the world!

Work with colleagues in other locations
Connect users in different locations by allowing multiple users to access your account. Plus give your accountant access, if you like. Rest assured, you can specify permission levels to control what type of data each user can see or modify.

Data backup and security
We automatically back up your data every two hours and we meet the highest online security standards for data storage.

Easy to use
No accounting knowledge needed. Get started immediately with no software to install, free upgrades and free unlimited customer support 365 days a year.

Instant access to critical information and reports
P&L, cash flow and balance sheet at the click of a button. Drill down into business knowledge with pre-built and customisable reports.

Chapter 2: Cloud Computing
Online Accounting

Wave Accounting is a free online app that pays for itself by popup ads.

Shoebox accounting stops now.

Wave is online accounting software for small business
- No accounting experience required!
- Full feature set including unlimited invoicing, unlimited expense tracking and much more
- Accountant-approved, with easy collaboration
- Totally, 100% free

Sign up for Wave Accounting or take a tour to learn more

Image courtesy of www.waveaccounting.com
Accountants might want to consider some of the other offerings. For example, WaveAccounting is absolutely free. The only minor problem is that they sell ads, and may use some of the demographic information for targeted marketing. The system has a lot of features:

- Users never have to pay to use Wave Accounting.
- Most small biz don’t have a procurement dept. As a result, they are getting “off the shelf rates” for essential products & services.
- Wave helps business owners leverage the size of the market to receive incredible offers.
- Offers are displayed in a non-obtrusive way.

Image courtesy of www.waveaccounting.com
Online Accounting

What type of clients would Wave Accounting be useful for:

1. Those who find QuickBooks intimidating.
2. Those who find QuickBooks overpowered.
3. Those who cannot or will not pay the price of QuickBooks.
Online Accounting

Some online accounting/app solutions:

NetSuite

The #1 Cloud ERP / Financials Software Suite.

- One complete system including full-featured accounting, CRM, inventory, and ecommerce
- Scalable cloud platform for faster growth, streamlined operations and greater productivity
- Real-time visibility and anywhere, anytime access to critical business information
- Dramatically reduced IT cost, complexity, and maintenance
- Industry solutions for software, wholesale distribution, manufacturing, ecommerce and professional services

Zoho

- Drag and drop interface
- Automate business processes with custom workflow
- Collect data, analyze and generate stunning reports
- Set email notifications and schedule tasks

Image courtesy of www.netsuite.com

Image courtesy of www.zoho.com

Chapter 2: Cloud Computing
Online Accounting

Some other lesser known but web (cloud) based accounting systems worth looking at:

Nolaprop – Page 20

Working Point – Page 21

Less Accounting – Page 21 – A unique approach as they indicate they are the least distasteful accounting software.
Online Accounting - bill.com

A product developed by QuickBooks (who knew) that takes a lot of the hassle out of bill paying engagements:

- Client uploads approved invoices.
- Accountant prepares payment.
- Client approves payment electronically.
- Payment is completed by secured check or direct debit process.
Online Accounting

Accounting Relief from Accountant’s World
100% cloud based

What’s Included in the Power Practice System

The Power Practice System includes eight fully integrated, power-packed Accountant-Centric cloud computing solutions – all for just $195 per month. $1,950 annually

- **Accounting Relief®** - A truly complete accounting solution, with write-up and trial balance for your firm and bookkeeping for your clients.
- **Payroll Relief®** - Make payroll processing faster, easier, and more profitable than you ever thought possible.
- **CyberCabinet™** - Save time and money while enhancing client satisfaction with this award-winning online document management system and portal.
- **Website Relief™** - Market your practice and strengthen your client relationships with a powerful, customized website.
- **Directory Listing™** - Attract new clients with premium online listings for your firm.
- **Practice Relief™** - Track time and billing, and manage your staff and your practice more effectively.
- **PFP Relief™** - Offer personal financial planning services to your clients.
- **After-the-Fact Payroll™** - Perform payroll compliance faster.
Online Tax Preparation

Every major tax software now has a “cloud” solution but cpasitesolutions.com has a hosted solution.

Staff can work anywhere without the issues of remote access on your server.

Image courtesy of www.cpasitesolutions.com
Time & Billing Online

www.getharvest.com easy and fast BUT

Because Time Tracking Should Be Easy

Accurately Track Time
Simple project selection allows your team to track time while working.

Easily Analyze Time
Powerful reports keep your projects on budget and help estimate future projects.

Confidently Bill Time
Accurate invoices are just another way Harvest helps you manage your clients.

Image courtesy of www.getharvest.com

Chapter 2: Cloud Computing
Time & Billing Online

Chapter 2: Cloud Computing

Features

- All Features
- Time Tracking
- Billing & Invoicing
- Mobile Phone App
- Expense Tracking
- Accounting
- QuickBooks Integration
- Project Management
- Reports
- Customization
- Desktop Widget
- Online Access
- Client Management
- Security & User Access

Image courtesy of www.bill4time.com

Industry Specific: Accountants

Easy time tracking and billing software for your accounting firm.

If you're an accountant running your own practice or an accounting firm, the last thing you need is to spend unnecessary time when it comes to tracking your time and billing your clients. Bill4Time supports accountant's time tracking and billing needs with special features developed especially for accountants. Powerful and simple-to-use, Bill4Time enables you to organize your time, expenses, billing, payments and outstanding balances and easily integrates with QuickBooks.

- Structured engagement organization
- Invoicing write-up and write-down features
- Accounting specific reports including WIP and aging reports
- Recurring flat fee functionality

"I have been in business as a Certified Public Accountant for over 30 years and have worked with many billing programs; typically frustrated with the confusion they cause my staff and clients. Bill4Time has solved the billing frustration with user friendly modules that simplify the billing process."

Martin P. Randisi CPA, PLLC
Smithtown, NY
Payroll Online

Not on the comparison on Page 27 but worth a look at

WEB PAY

Paylocity’s Web Pay, its flagship product, is a web-based payroll solution that is designed to deliver unparalleled payroll and HR management functionality to its users. With easy-to-use tools such as its paycheck calculator, pre-process register and a QuickPay feature that helps to speed-up processing, Paylocity’s Web Pay delivers. Web Pay provides easy 24/7 access to your online payroll management and human resource systems while also providing users with streamlined functionality such as self-service capabilities and robust report writing features. Simply put, it’s a better payroll solution.

A step ahead of competing systems, Web Pay provides users with one-single comprehensive system for all of your payroll and human resource software needs including:
Everybody wants to help anybody with an online (cloud) payroll service.

### 2012 Best Online Payroll Service Comparisons and Reviews

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
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</table>

### Reviewer Comments

- **Intuit Online Payroll**: Buy Now
- **ONPAY**: Buy Now
- **Paychex**: Buy Now
- **SurePayroll**: Buy Now
- **ProPayroll**: Buy Now
- **Bank of America**: Buy Now
- **MyPayrollHR**: Buy Now
- **ADP**: Buy Now
- **Coastal Human Resource Group**: Buy Now
- **PayUSA**: Buy Now

### Lowest Price

- **Intuit Online Payroll**: $25.00
- **ONPAY**: $39.95
- **Paychex**: $88.18
- **SurePayroll**: $80.40
- **ProPayroll**: $75.50
- **Bank of America**: $36.00
- **MyPayrollHR**: $75.00
- **ADP**: $60.25
- **Coastal Human Resource Group**: $94.82
- **PayUSA**: $70.52

### Ratings

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</table>

*Image courtesy of www.toptenreviews.com*
Portal Services

A portal – A secure file exchange system

✓ Share files and documents with clients 24/7 – Get out of the document printing business

✓ Reduce e-mail confusion – Who in the office has the most current file from the client who e-mailed it to us when?
Portal Services

A gateway that can be provided as a client service – (Banks have done it for years)
Portal Services

A portal will allow for:

- Files to be delivered to your office anytime.

- Files can be uploaded that are normally too large to e-mail successfully.

- Reduces reliance on the e-mail system that is inherently insecure.
Portal Services

But not all portals are created equal:

1. Security of documents is crucial – Confirm that facility has appropriate security safeguards.

2. Are the servers that store the data in a secure location.

3. What kind of redundant storage is present, i.e. do you have a copy of the data.
Cloud Fog

If you cannot understand what they are saying it is most likely not a solution for you:

The Internet is replete with cloud solutions that defy comprehension. For example, does anyone really know what this means:

Workpoint’s runtime engine executes each overall process instance in strict compliance with an organization’s business rules and procedures. The runtime engine includes BPM application components, alerts, notifications, events and triggers. These components can be combined to meet the requirements of an organization’s value chain execution path. Workpoint allows users to interact with other systems and applications through various service-oriented architecture (SOA) methods.

Source: workpoint.com

Unfortunately, most people will never figure out that the product is a clever way to take a business’s “processes” and create working models of them on the web, using semi-intelligent components. The problem is that you have to be able to navigate through the “corporate speak” to figure out how to use it. Imagine what the documentation must look like if the promotional material is incomprehensible.
Online Research

Our tax research services were amongst the first adopters of cloud services:
Online Research

The information available is almost without limit:
Background Checks

People Search Report
Includes 1 record for Rickey Oelerich in Davenport, IA.
Report includes when available:
✓ Full Name
✓ Address
✓ Age & DOB
✓ Phone Number
✓ Relatives
✓ Address History

People Search Plus Report
Includes 1 record for Rickey Oelerich in Davenport, IA. Plus social network search and email search
Report includes when available:
✓ Full Name
✓ Address
✓ Age & DOB
✓ Phone Number
✓ Relatives
✓ Address History
✓ Social Network
✓ Email Search

Background Report
Includes 1 record for Rickey Oelerich in Davenport, IA.
Report includes when available:
✓ Full Name
✓ Address
✓ Age & DOB
✓ Phone Number
✓ Relatives
✓ Address History
✓ Property
✓ Criminal Check
✓ Bankruptcies
✓ Liens
✓ Judgments
✓ Aliases
✓ Lawsuits
✓ Neighbors
✓ Death Records
✓ Marriage & Divorce

Image courtesy of www.intelius.com

Chapter 2: Cloud Computing
Online Research

Lots of states have public record searches available

Image courtesy of publicrecords.onlinesearches.com/iowa.htm
Online Research

Examples of different types of “cloud” information available:


Home Values – Page 31 – zillow.com

Online Fax Providers

Robust Fax Servers from your desktop, just add scanner for a complete solution.

RingCentral Fax™
Features Overview

Image courtesy of ringcentral.com
Online Fax Providers

Numerous choices with several price points.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Rank</th>
<th>#1</th>
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Reviewer Comments

Lowest Monthly Price

Go

Ratings

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</table>

Image courtesy of toptenreviews.com

Chapter 2: Cloud Computing
Other Cloud Computing Service Providers - Storage

While there are several choices they are similar in that they provide “cloud” storage that:

- Allows the user to control
- Grant access to others
- Create groups
- Apply security (password management)

Beyond that point they each have their own identity
## Other Cloud Computing Service Providers - Storage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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A recent rating by the “top10bestonlinebackup.com” as storage and backup lines blur.
Other Cloud Computing Service Providers - Storage

Some of our favorite cloud storage services we have experienced

BoxWorks 2012: Business Without Boundaries
Come to San Francisco October 7-9 and see how Box can help your business break through boundaries.

Image courtesy of box.net
Other Cloud Computing Service Providers - Storage

Some of our favorite cloud storage services

Image courtesy of secure.cloudsafe.com
Other Cloud Computing Service Providers - Storage

Some of our favorite cloud storage services

Image courtesy of dropbox.com

Chapter 2: Cloud Computing
Other Cloud Computing
Service Providers - Storage

Some of our favorite cloud storage services

SpiderOak provides an easy, secure and consolidated free online backup, sync, sharing, access & storage solution for Windows, Mac OS X, and Linux (Ubuntu, Debian, Fedora & openSUSE)

GET STARTED NOW!
Its FREE! No trials, no fees.

WHY SPIDEROAK
JOIN SPIDEROAK
ENGINEERING MATTERS
SOFTWARE DOWNLOAD
LIVE THE CLOUDLIFE
VIDEO TUTORIALS
PRICING
MOBILE
FAQ

WHAT'S NEW?
SPIDEROAK BLUE
Privacy designed for the Business World

Refer-A-Friend
Up to 10 GBs FREE

Download mobile clients for iOS & Android

Image spideroak.com
Chapter 2: Cloud Computing
Other Cloud Computing Service Providers - Storage

Google Drive

Go beyond storage. Collaborate.

Google Drive lets you do more than just store your files. Share files with exactly who you want and edit them together, from any device.

Google Drive gives you instant access to Google Docs, a suite of editing tools that makes working together better—even when your teammates are miles away.

Image courtesy of google.com

Chapter 2: Cloud Computing
Other Cloud Computing Service Providers - Storage

Google Drive

Overview of Google Drive

Google Drive lets you store and access your files anywhere -- on the web, on your hard drive, or on the go. Here’s how it works:

1. Go to Google Drive on the web at drive.google.com.
2. Install Google Drive on your computer or mobile device.
3. Throw your files in Google Drive. It’s right there on your device.

Now your files go everywhere you do. Change a file on the web, on your computer, or on your mobile device and it updates on every device where you’ve installed Google Drive. Share, collaborate, or work alone: your files, your choice.

*Store the first 5 GB of your stuff for free.*

When your Google Drive grows, get another 25 GB of space (or more!) starting at $2.49 per month.

Image courtesy of google.com
The Browser Wars: Chrome vs IE vs Firefox vs Safari vs Opera

The fastest is:
1. Chrome
2. Firefox
3. Opera
4. Safari
5. Internet Explorer 9

Based on one test but another test put Opera as the fastest – i.e. it just depends
The Browser Wars: Chrome vs IE vs Firefox vs Safari vs Opera

Privacy is best supported by?

Privacy protection is the ability of the browser to prevent tracking cookies from being used to track your every move on the Internet. Internet Explorer 9 allows users to subscribe to block lists and by doing, it is reputed that ad networks can't access your browsing habits. Independent tests verify that this works. Firefox has a “Do Not Track” button, but in independent tests, it did not appear that this system worked too well. Chrome, Opera, Safari don’t have anything to prevent tracking cookies. However, in their defense, this function is most often dealt with by Internet security suites, such as AVG and Norton, or by an add-on tool such as IObits advanced system care (www.iobit.com, free for personal use).

Chapter 2: Cloud Computing
The Browser Wars: Chrome vs IE vs Firefox vs Safari vs Opera

So the best browser is?

Our recommendation – Have at least two of them installed on your computer.

Images courtesy of google.com, microsoft.com, mozzilla.org, apple.com & opera.com

Chapter 2: Cloud Computing