Cloud Computing: The way of the future

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Computers as we know and use every day have come a long way since their introduction into everyday lives back in 1971. Invented by John Blankenbaker of the Kenbak company, the first home computer named Kenbak-1 paved the way to the technology we have today. It is hard to imagine that in such a short amount of time how advanced the technology has become. From having to choose whether to surf the web or talk on the phone To now being able to use a computer on a different continent.. Cloud computing has changed the way we use technology and there is no going back. The benefits to cloud computing are numerous and many are not well known.

# The ease of using the cloud

When using your device, there often comes a time where you’ve been working on a project for hours, but you have yet to save. Without knowing, the battery dies and everything you had been working on is gone. Not being able to save your work automatically is one of the problems that cloud computing aims to fix. Connecting your accounts to the cloud allows the applications to automatically save your work right as you complete it, meaning that there is no more lost work, no more wasted time, and lastly no more fear of losing your progress.

You can also share your work with multiple devices at the same time. Meaning that you can be enjoying a morning coffee working on a paper at home on your laptop. When it is time to leave, you can hop in a taxi and continue working on your phone. After you arrive at your desk at work, pull the same paper up and finish it on your computer there. No data is lost between any of the devices and you can continue right where you left off.

## Uses for this technology

There is an endless amount of ways that the cloud can be used as well as the devices it is used on. Everything from kitchen appliances, and personal devices to multibillion-dollar companies have a use for the cloud. By now, most people have heard of smart devices that are invading our homes in ways that we could have never imagined. Being able to have your fridge tell you that your out of milk or having your alarm clock remind you that tomorrow is your anniversary is an amazing thing. However, most people don’t realize how this technology works. For these devices to work, they must be able to connect to the internet. Internet connection is needed because there is too little processing power needed to complete the tasks onboard. The devise must enlist the help of the cloud to make the processing complete.

 Big business uses the cloud in another way, however. Instead of using it for processing power, they use it to store the businesses personal information. Having confidential data stored on the cloud can be useful in many ways. One is that the data is always being backed up. There isn’t a fear that they will lose their information. Another way this is useful is that the company no longer has to put money into keeping their own servers online and secure. It is a bigger job than most realize to keep servers running seven days a week. Power outages, property damage due to storms, and redundancies are issues that can plague non-cloud-based servers.

 Lastly, data that is stored in the cloud is usually much easier and faster to access then information that is not. Sharing files, downloading documents, and hosting meetings are much easier done on the cloud. Without one designated source for the data to come from, many different sources can be used to gather the information needed.

## The downsides of using the cloud

With the overwhelming amount of information being stored on the cloud, it is more often than not a target for cybercriminals. When you have all of a company’s data stored in a place that can’t be guarded in a physical sense, it is impossible to ensure that the information you have won’t be tampered with or stolen. Even though cybersecurity companies say that they can ensure that your data will not be breached, they can not in practice promise this. Cyber professionals will do their best to try and stop the attackers from gaining access to the data but with new hacks coming out every day, it is impossible to stop them all.

Another downside to having all your data digital is that when someone obtains access to the account, they have access to everything. Having open access allows for the possibility of millions of people’s information to be stolen. It is just as easy for the attacker to steal millions of accounts as it is for them to just steal one. Social security, credit cards, medical records, and many more personally identifiable information is often the target of these attacks because they can be sold for a lot of money on the dark web. It is often said that your bank information has already been stolen, it is just a matter of time till someone tries to use it.

## Conclusion

Although cloud computing has its’ downfalls, it also has many pros that put it miles ahead of the other data storing and computing solutions that we have today. When it comes down to it, if people had to choose between having their data secure or being able to easily access it, most people would choose to have their data easy to access and run the risk of having it stolen versus having to work to get their information but it being secure. Having instant access to the internet anywhere we are, allows us to be connected in ways never thought possible. Being able to easily work together with a coworker in another country in real time is an option that before the internet was something of dreams.

In a world that never sleeps, having information about anything you want to know allows us to be more productive than ever. No matter if it is a child learning about history or a successful CEO going from meeting to meeting, we all can use the cloud to help us in our day to day lives.

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