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Clearing The Cloud Computing Fog

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Online Northwest

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ORBIS CASCADE ALLIANCE
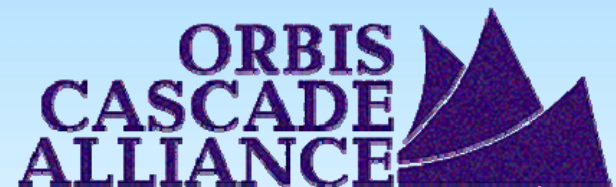
How do I wrap my mind around cloud computing?

Forget the technobabble!

Cloud Computing is….

- Really just computing. Seriously.
- When hardware and software resources are provided on demand over the Internet as a utility
- A buzzword which will sound dated in a few years
- Not going to eliminate traditional approaches

Reality check

- All computing is done in real places on real hardware
- Performance, security, etc accomplished using the same methods
- You still need a backup and disaster recovery plan
- Most libraries currently shift significant computing costs to other entities

A few examples

Advantages

- Accessible anywhere with network connection
- Pay per use
- Scalability
- Maintenance / Reliability
- Security

The real advantages

- Avoid procurement hell
- Circumvent local IT bottlenecks
- Start things fast
- Change them fast when you learn how to do your project better
- Allocate resources where they're actually needed
- Financially stable

Software as a Service (Saas)

- Software delivered over the Internet on demand

- Google Docs
- SerialsSolutions
- Flickr
- Dropbox

Platform as a Service (PaaS)

- Different from SaaS in that you write your own code

- Google App Engine
- Microsoft Azure Services
- Facebook

Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS)

- Delivery of compute power and storage on demand

- Virtualization

- Amazon Web Services

- Rackspace

Caveat emptor

- If your cloud provider finds your system use abusive, they could shut you down
- Legal, organizational, and accountability challenges
- You pay for everything, including attacks
- If you run into trouble, you're on your own

Some parting thoughts

- Cloud computing is technology's answer to the outsourcing debate
- The main thing the cloud buys you is flexibility

QUESTIONS?

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