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## Clearing The Cloud Computing Fog

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# Clearing the cloud computing fog

Feb 11,  
2011

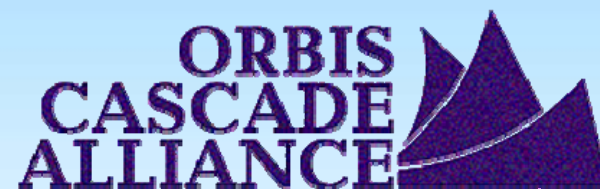
Online  
Northwest


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A woman with long dark hair, wearing a light blue button-down shirt, is shown from the chest up. She is looking upwards and to the right with a thoughtful expression, her right hand resting on her chin. A large thought bubble is positioned above her head, containing the text "How do I wrap my mind around cloud computing?". The background is a solid light blue color with faint, wispy white clouds.

**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



**facebook**

**flickr**<sup>™</sup>



Windows Azure

**SerialsSolutions**

# 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



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



facebook

Windows Azure

# 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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