

360IT PARTNERS

“Partnering With Us Makes Your Business Run Faster, Easier And Increases Profitability”

Which Flavor Of The Cloud Is Right For You

Secure data backup, greater reliability, better resource and growth management options, and improved collaboration are just a few of the reasons to take full advantage of cloud computing today.

Yet understanding the choices you have can help you avoid some VERY costly mistakes you could wind up seriously regretting later. To help you move forward with confidence, here are some important points to consider.

Three “Flavors” Of The Cloud

Not all cloud models are the same. A cloud environment that works for a dental practice with a half dozen locations may not be entirely suitable for a new law firm with just a single office.

In determining what the best cloud model is for your organization, it’s important to know how cloud services are structured.

Basically, there are three types of cloud: public, private and hybrid.

Public Cloud Services Offer Flexibility And Lower Cost

A public cloud comprises a collection of data storage and software services that be accessed on an as-needed monthly basis, somewhat like an electric utility or fitness club. It houses data facilities outside the corporate firewall that you access through an Internet browser without having to make any initial or ongoing capital investment.

Well-known examples of public cloud services include Google Drive, Microsoft Office Online, Apple iCloud and Amazon Cloud Drive. They provide data storage and, in many cases, web apps.

Contini



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Inside This Issue ...

Which Flavor Of The Cloud Is Right For You?.....Page 1/2

Client Spotlight.....Page 1

Employee Spotlight.....Page 2

Gadget of the Month.....Page 3

Hampton Roads Sports Commission Corporate Challenge.....Page 3

Trivia Question.....Page 3

Distractions and Work Habits of Successful People.....Page 4

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Client Spotlight: SteelMaster Buildings

SteelMaster Buildings is a global provider of prefabricated arch steel buildings. Since 1982, the company has sold close to 50,000 buildings to residential, commercial/industrial, and government clients who use the structures for dozens of applications, including steel garages/workshops, agricultural buildings, warehouses, roofing systems and various other shelter solutions. SteelMaster has been honored with numerous awards including the Inc. 5000 America’s Fastest Growing Companies, Virginia Chamber’s Fantastic 50, Virginia Small Business 12 to Watch and the UPS Growth through Global Trade Award. Backed by 35 years of successfully supporting some of the world’s most discerning customers, we are well prepared to assist you with your building project. If you need a strong, versatile and cost effective structure for your home or business, please give us a call at (757)422-6800 or visit our website at www.steelmasterusa.com.

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Public clouds are best used where a high level of privacy is not required. They can provide access to a growing pool of newer technologies that would not be affordable if developed individually.

Private Clouds Support Highly Specialized Apps

A private cloud resides within an organization's firewall, and is typically owned, managed and supported by that business. IT resources are available to members of the organization from their own data center.

Private clouds can support highly specialized and/or privacy-restricted applications, like medical-records software for a health-care organization concerned about HIPPA requirements, for example.

And, while it can be more expensive to set up initially, a private cloud may deliver a higher ROI in the long run since you're not paying for ongoing shared services.

Hybrid Clouds: Balancing Complexity With Flexibility

Merging the flexibility of public cloud services with the control of a private cloud, a hybrid cloud can provide the ideal infrastructure for some organizations.

A hybrid cloud enables you to put some of your apps and data – archives and e-mail, for instance – in a public cloud, and the remainder in your private cloud. This provides the cost savings and benefits of the public cloud while retaining the customization and security advantages of a private cloud.

While it can be more complex to deploy and manage than a pure public or private cloud, a hybrid cloud may deliver the best blend of control, flexibility and cost-effectiveness for some organizations.

So Which "Flavor" Is Right For You?

There is no perfect solution – each type of cloud has its own pros and cons. That being said, here are a few key factors to consider when determining the best approach for your particular business:

Public cloud solutions are best suited to the flexibility and budget requirements of smaller businesses that want access to the kind of IT resources that bigger organizations can afford, without the cost of development and ongoing support and management.

A private cloud, managed and supported by an in-house IT team, may be ideal for your organization if control and privacy are of paramount concern.

A hybrid cloud could be the ideal solution for any enterprise that wants to manage sensitive data in-house while availing itself of third-party software and data storage for uses where the data involved isn't as sensitive.

How To Get The Best Professional Help

While hiring a cloud-computing expert can prove extremely beneficial in the long run, it's critical to work with a professional who has depth of experience in all types of cloud environments.

We've helped dozens of companies set up and run cost-effective, powerful and secure cloud networks.

For a Free Cloud Readiness Assessment, contact us at (757) 499-6761 or Luke@360itpartners.com today.



Employee Spotlight

Chris Barrineau, Systems Engineer

Chris officially began his IT career when he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 2006. After increasing his knowledge and work experience over two deployments he was honorably discharged and began working on government contracts as a civilian.

When he's not being challenged at work he enjoys spending most of his time with his family, fixing anything with an engine, and all kinds of home improvement projects.

Shiny New Gadget Of The Month:



New Printer Fits In Your Pocket

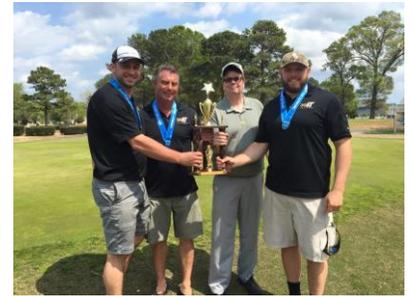
So, what's about the size of a deck of cards and prints instant photos from your smartphone – with no ink needed?

Yes, there is such a thing, and if you guessed the new Polaroid Zip, you'd be right.

Selling for \$129.99, it prints full-color 2x3-inch prints with an optional peel-off sticky backing. Each print costs about 25 cents and they look okay, all things considered – just don't expect ink-jet print quality.

How does it not need ink? It uses Polaroid's Zink zero-ink paper, embedded with cyan, yellow and magenta crystals. They turn into the appropriate colors when activated by a heat process. And since there's no ink, there's no stickiness, smearing or waiting for photos to dry.

Connect to your smartphone via Bluetooth, then just shoot and print!



Hampton Roads Sports Commission Corporate Challenge

360IT Partners is proud to be a premier sponsor of the inaugural year of the Hampton Roads Corporate Challenge. The Challenge, hosted by the Hampton Roads Sports Commission, was a weeklong event with over 50 businesses from the Hampton Roads region. The teams competed in eight different events to take home a trophy and win money to be donated to the charity of their choice.

360IT Partners had teams participating in bowling at Pinboys, basketball, the ropes course at The Adventure Park, a golf tournament at Cypress Point Country Club, and a 5k, tug of war, and cornhole at Chesapeake City Park. It was an incredible opportunity to show off our competitive side, get to know other companies in the community, and get out of the office for some exercise and sunshine. At the end of the week, we took home the 3rd place trophy for the overall Challenge and were awarded \$200 to donate to The National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Want To Win A \$25 Gift Card?

Ready to Play?

Here's this month's question:

How many dimples are there on a regular golf ball?

a) 336 b) 294 c) 418 d) 377

E-mail Kirsten Conti (kirsten@360itpartners.com) Right Now With Your Answer! She will put all the correct answers in a hat and draw the winner at the end of each month.

Your tech: Productive...or distracting?

With constantly evolving technologies, it's getting harder to know where your time is best spent. To help you stay on track, here are three questions to ask about any situation in your business where technology is involved. 1) Who's the right person to handle this? For example, let your IT partners help employees with tech support questions. 2) Will this save us time and money? Cloud-based productivity solutions, for example, can give your firm access to the resources of big IT without the need to build it yourself. 3) Is this making your job easier or harder? Syncing devices, for instance, could free you and your sales force from the desk to meet with customers.

-Entrepreneur

Naturally successful people "sprint," then relax.

An American schoolteacher who moved to Finland in 2014 was skeptical of the Finnish practice of giving students 15 minutes of free time every hour. Until he tried it. He was astounded when they went from dragging their feet to having a bounce in their step and more focus in their studies. The makers of DeskTime, a software that tracks employee time use, studied the habits of the most productive 10% of their 36,000-employee user base. The surprising results? They work for 52 minutes then break for 17 on average. They treat the 52 minutes like a sprint. During the break they tend to go for a walk or tune out, rather than checking e-mail or Facebook.

-Reader's Digest

Page 4

Discover More Information About Our Dynamic Services and Team: www.360itpartners.com



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