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QUICK BUSINESS TIPS FOR INCREASING THE PROFITABILITY OF YOUR BUSINESS

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3 Cloud Implementation Tips for Business Success

Have you been wondering if your business is ready for the Cloud? Many companies have asked the question, but are not quite ready to take that leap. Frankly, the nature of your business could be what dictates how ready you are for Cloud Computing.

To quickly define, Cloud Computing is a service that delivers and stores data for you. The Cloud is not a product like software that you install, but rather built-in remote access technology.



Businesses are increasingly moving to the Cloud because it enables data to be stored on external servers that can be accessed by networks, devices and even a mobile applications ("apps").

There are many benefits that go along with moving to the Cloud. And while businesses have found that it can save money, is easy to maintain, and has recovery options, there are many other benefits that can affect overall operations. (See "5 Key Benefits of Using Cloud Computing" - next column)

When considering Cloud providers, there are many choices that can make or break the project success and budget. Here are some tips to consider.

Always Look for an Industry Leader

Hands down, you want a Cloud provider who is a leader in system virtualization. They need to provide an assortment of technologies for just about any business, and must be able to securely deliver remote access to users and apps on every type of device.

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5 Key Benefits of Using Cloud Computing

Any business that can streamline the delivery of network and computer services will go a long way to reducing the overall costs of IT. Cloud Computing offers one such answer to that challenge.

Benefits of Cloud Computing

There are many benefits that go along with moving to the Cloud. And while businesses have found that it can save money, is easy to maintain, and has recovery options, there are many other benefits that affect overall operations.

Work from anywhere – With Cloud computing, remote sales teams and "Road Warriors" become an integrated part of the daily business, as they have access to the same applications and information that others in the company use.

In addition, businesses in high-cost urban areas are able to integrate highly skilled, yet cost-effective employees from other areas of the country.



Flexibility – Scale up or scale down employee accounts in a controllable manner, with costs scaling up or down accordingly.

Competitiveness - By taking advantage of flexibility, small businesses can now compete with big ones.

Disaster Recovery – With a good backup, a company can have complete access to their information and applications in just a few hours.

More Effective IT Workload – Tasks such as account creation, changes and suspension are no more difficult than filling out a form on a website. Information and privacy can be protected with tools that automate much of the security process, reducing the need for IT oversight.



One Minute Ideas

Align Your Strategic Business Plan With Your Financial Plan

Did you know that the average budget contains about 230 line items and takes close to six months to complete? While that may sound scary, the fact that most budgets aren't linked to their strategic business plans is even scarier. Without a direct connection between funding and forecasting, your company could be caught off balance. To combat this, most companies have reengineered their financial planning process. Here are some tips from CFOs to make your new link between business and finance successful:

- Don't rely on technology to provide an easy answer to the creation of a new budget.
- Involve upper-level management in the reengineering process to add credibility and remain focused on your company's immediate goals.
- Forge a link between your finance and operations teams to ensure that proposed budget parameters can be met.
- Focus budgetary research on your company's strategic plan to prevent weighing down the budget with excessive data. ♦



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Look for More than a Desktop

Hosted virtual workspaces and desktops have the exact same options as a normal computer, but virtual workspaces are focused more on the applications rather than the traditional desktop. Clearly, this is more in line with how people use their computers. At the same time, Workspaces provide a customizable interface, increasing employee satisfaction.



Consider "Soft" Benefits

When you are doing your due diligence, look for additional benefits. Here are some examples of benefits that do not fit into the traditional CapEx discussion:

- The majority of daily IT tasks are reduced with automation
- Faster, more effective disaster recovery capabilities
- Scalable costs mean IT budgets are easier to pre-determine
- Reduced need to own & maintain costly software and equipment
- Reduced Compliance testing by following "Best Practices"
- Reduced privacy concerns through automated security scanning
- Easier administration with scheduled reports and charts

So when you ask yourself if you are ready for Cloud Computing, consider how the ease of implementation can make a Cloud discussion simpler and more effective.

Cloud is a great option for many, and companies of all sizes are seeing immensely beneficial returns for their investment. Done right, you will be able to save money and enjoy a newfound convenience with the Cloud. ♦

Need assistance with your Cloud Computing? Contact us today!

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"Only those who will risk going too far can possibly find out how far they can go." ~ T. S. Elliot

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