# N E W S L E T T E R   J A N U A R Y   2 0 1 4

## Is Cloud Computing for You?

"Cloud Computing" was one of the top buzz phrases of 2013, but what does it mean? Basically the "Cloud" refers to the Internet, and any reference to computers, networks, software and storage that use the Internet rather than traditional local resources are said to be Cloud based.
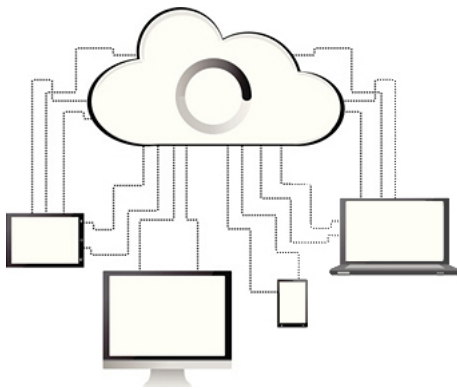
For example, a number of services advertise Cloud Storage that can automatically maintain an online backup of all your data, should you need it in the event of a failed or stolen computer.

Other companies (including OCS) have developed software applications that run "in the Cloud," often within a secure web browser. This approach eliminates the need to install software and maintain updates on your local computer or network, since that's almost entirely managed on central Internet-based servers.

In both cases, the cost is usually based on a recurring subscription fee rather than a one-time purchase of software or local server and backup equipment. In some cases, cost savings can also be realized through reduced need for local expertise.

Widespread marketing makes all of this sound very positive, but there can also be significant downsides. Some people worry about access to and the security of their data if it's not stored on their own local computers.

It should also be considered that Cloud-based applications can only be used with a reliable high-speed Internet connection – if you're on an airplane or somewhere else where you can't connect, you won't be able to use Cloud apps. And even when you can, a sluggish connection can mean slow performance.

Then there is the matter of bandwidth. A typical computer or network might store many gigabytes of company and/or personal data, which can take potentially weeks to complete an

**MORE THAN 948 MILLION VIRUSES, SPAM, AND PHISHING ATTEMPTS HAVE BEEN STOPPED BY THE OCS CENTRAL SYSTEM CALL US ABOUT OCS OFFICE SCAN!**

## A Phishing Success Story

A long-time OCS customer wrote us recently with quite a story. She found a piece of exercise equipment on eBay, and followed the seller's request to make direct email contact rather than the usual routine using eBay as the messaging intermediary.

The seller then made another unusual request, asking our customer to send a Walmart gift card in the amount of the purchase rather than using PayPal.

However, that request was flagged by our OCS spam filter and wound up in Quarantine. Her suspicions aroused, our customer checked MyEbay and discovered no record of these communications between her and the seller. She then withdrew from the transaction and avoided the loss of $1360 … she considers herself a wiser online shopper, and credits OCS and eBay for helping her discover the attempted fraud. We think she did a great job too!

### *Like us on Facebook!*

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### *Work from home*

*Call OCS to connect your home to your office or tie multiple offices together, all at high speed and with full VPN security, anywhere in the Valley or beyond.*

*Need qualified computer or network maintenance? Give us a call!*

**THE *NATIONWIDE* OCS REFERRAL PROGRAM**
If you refer a friend, family, or business associate to OCS, tell them to mention your name and you'll receive up to a month of free service! **Our subscribers have earned $70,259 so far** – click *Referrals* on our home page for details! Your friends may simply click *Subscribe* to apply for service online.

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32 YEARS
32
COMPUTER SERVICES

## Is Cloud Computing for You?
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initial backup – and the same length of time should a complete restore be necessary in the case of an emergency. Could you wait that long to return to operation, or risk the possibility of an Internet outage that might render your data unreachable?

All of those gigabytes of data must also travel over the Internet to reach their destination, and sometimes back again in the case of Cloud-based file storage and backup. Excess bandwidth usage can easily add hundreds of dollars per month in excess bandwidth usage cost.

In summary, the primary appeal in Cloud Computing is convenience. There's no software to install or keep updated, and no need to remember to make regular backups.

However, the pros of that convenience must be weighed against the cons – the need for an Internet connection to access your data, the reduced speed over the Cloud versus locally installed software, and the cost of excess bandwidth usage.

Either way, it appears that the concept of Cloud Computing is here to stay.

## OCS Support Services

OCS provides a variety of state of the art support services – here are just two examples:

**Remote Support**. When one of our subscribers is having a problem on their computer, our technicians can usually talk them through a solution over the phone. However it's sometimes difficult to see the complete picture, especially with so many different versions of Windows and Macs still in regular use.

When the situation calls for it, we use "GoToAssist" to provide our technicians with a direct view of your computer, just as though they were sitting right beside you. They can then either see what you're doing and help guide you, or they can manipulate your mouse and keyboard while you watch.

This direct access is highly secure, it's encrypted, and it lasts only until the support session ends … so there are no security risks.

**Managed IT**. Is your company system healthy? How would your business survive with no access to your network servers and desktops? If your system went down, would your business be impacted?

OACYS Managed Services can monitor, maintain and help support your network, servers and desktops on a 24/7 basis. Available services can include help with managing backups, antivirus, disk space, networking, external websites, security, email, hardware, performance and much more.

Setup is quick and easy, and option plans are much more affordable than in-house IT management … call Mark Johnson at OCS for more information.

## OACYS WIRELESS INTERNET SERVICE PLANS

| Wireless Plan Types | Average Speeds | | | Monthly Usage [1] | Mailboxes | One-Time Fees | | Monthly Service [3] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Min | Typ | Max | | | Installation | Equipment Deposit [2] | |
| **RESIDENTIAL** | | | | | | *All Plans* | | |
| Basic | 125K | 500K | 750K | 12GB | 5 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 49.95 |
| Premium | 250K | 1M | 1.5M | 20GB | 5 | | | 79.95 |
| **BUSINESS** | | | | | | | | |
| Business | 500K | 2.5M | 3.5M | 40GB | 10 | | | 129.95 |
| Professional | 750K | 3.5M | 4.5M | 50GB | 25 | | | 159.95 |
| Corporate | 1M | 4.5M | 6M | 60GB | 30 | | | 199.95 |
| Enterprise | 1.5M | 6.5M | 8M | 80GB | 40 | | | 249.95 |
| **MOUNTAINS** | | | | | | | | |
| Alpine, Pierpoint, Camp Nelson | 125K | 375K | 750K | 8GB | 5 | | | 69.95 |

1. Monthly usage is the allowed bandwidth per month. Surcharges apply for excess usage.
2. Equipment deposit is fully refundable upon termination of service after one year.
3. For areas served by Blue Ridge tower, add $10 monthly rural service fee.

### I Didn't Know That!

- OCS provides "A-to-Z" technology services
- Complete computer service and repair shop
- Variety of Internet access plans and packages
- Professional website development and hosting
- Programming and custom development
- eCommerce solutions
- Computer and Internet technology consulting
- Secure branch office inter-networking
- Internet-based "VOIP" telephone services

*To set Account Preferences or make Payments Online, click* **UserAdmin** *on our website*

*On the road? Call our toll-free support at 888-OACYSCOM*