

# Perkins Computer Center

hSoft Consulting

## Cloud Computing for the Consumer

### What is cloud computing?

(Reprint from our Archives)

You may have heard the term "**cloud computing**" lately on TV or in newspapers, and wondered: Just what is cloud computing, and what does it mean to me? Simply put, cloud computing is a way of using the internet for computing tasks. Before the internet was widely used, a typical computer user would save documents to a hard drive, and perhaps also make a backup copy of the documents on a floppy disk for safekeeping. Anyone who has experienced loss of work due to computer failure or human error knows how vital it is to back up important data.

Today the scenario is much more complex. Many more standard computer applications make use of the internet, and it is far less common for a consumer to keep all of his/her data on a computer hard drive. One example of internet data storage is web-based email. If you use Gmail, Hotmail, or YahooMail and your computer crashes, you will not lose your email. All you have to do is access the website from another computer, and all of your email is there. In this way, you have experienced the power of cloud computing.

Your data, in this case the contents of your email Inbox, Sent Mail, Drafts, and other folders are not stored on your hard drive. Instead, they are 'somewhere out there' on the internet. Most likely they reside in many duplicate forms on a complex array of servers located in various parts of the world. Power outages, natural disasters, and equipment breakdowns in any one of the several locations will not destroy your data, because copies of the data are still available from the other locations. This is known as **redundancy**.

Another example of cloud computing might take place in your workplace. Many people work in an organization which has a server connected to the network. Employees log onto the server and save their documents to a shared folder on that server. The server runs constantly, and its hard drives are backed up at night. Many organizations use what is known as **offsite storage** for their backups. The server uses the internet to copy the backups to a data storage service. The data storage is located far away, in another city, and uses the same type of data redundancy as described above to keep the data secure. In this way the organization makes use of cloud computing to protect their data from equipment failure, fire, theft, and even natural disasters. Hurricane Katrina taught a hard lesson to many organizations in New Orleans which not only lost their servers, but their backup tapes as well. Here we see the value of offsite storage afforded by the use of cloud computing.

Cloud computing can also help to reduce the costs associated with having to provide and maintain all of the data processing equipment and software. More and more applications are becoming internet-based, meaning that the company does not need to buy software licenses and install them locally. Instead there is a usage cost, often paid monthly. This shifts the way in which money is spent in an organization, from a fixed cost to an operational expense over time - like renting office space, as opposed to buying a building.

The average home user today can take advantage of offline storage for photographs on services like photobucket.com, data transfer of large files on box.com, email on one of the web based email services mentioned, and seek entertainment on sites like YouTube, Pandora, and Hulu. All of these services can lessen the risk of data loss due to computer failure, and take advantage of what we call cloud computing. I'm sure many of you can see you have already been using cloud computing for some time, perhaps without knowing the name for it. Hopefully this article will make the issue a little less... cloudy.



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### Mardi Gras/St. Patrick's Day Trivia

- ✓ Brazil's weeklong Carnival festivities feature a vibrant amalgam of European, African and native traditions. In Canada, Quebec City hosts the giant Quebec Winter Carnival. In Italy, tourists flock to Venice's Carnevale, which dates back to the 13th century and is famous for its masquerade balls. Known as Karneval, Fastnacht or Fasching, the German celebration includes parades, costume balls and a tradition that empowers women to cut off men's ties. For Denmark's Fastevejan, children dress up and gather candy in a similar manner to Halloween--although the parallel ends when they ritually flog their parents on Easter Sunday morning.
- ✓ The first St. Patrick's Day parade took place in the United States on March 17, 1762, when Irish soldiers serving in the English military marched through New York City.
- ✓ Irish ranks among the top five ancestries in every state except Hawaii and New Mexico. It is the leading ancestry group in Delaware, Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

# hSoft Consulting-Perkins Computer Center now offers Cloud Back ups/Onsite and Offsite Backups/Whole Computer Snapshots to Guarantee TOTAL Security!

## **Cloud Data Backup:**

Per Computer: \$30 installation - \$5.00 per month + 60 cents per GB

Per Server: \$60 installation - \$10.00 per month + 60 cents per GB

## **On Site Backup\*:**

Back up is stored at your location – Back ups run every 24 hours

Per Computer: \$30 installation (\$60 per server), No Monthly Fee

## **Local Offsite Backup:**

Backups stored at Perkins Computer Center – Data Confidentiality Guaranteed!

Backups run every 24 hours via internet

Per Computer: Per Computer: \$30 installation (\$60 per server), Data Storage: \$1.00 per GB per month

## **Whole Computer Snapshot\*:**

A one-time image of the entire hard drive: \$60

This is the very best way to guarantee a minimum of down time and productivity loss. Use in conjunction with one of our backup options to ensure 100% security. Snapshot protects not only data but all Software, the Operating System, and Drivers. Avoid costly reinstallation of Windows, Outlook, Excel, Word, Antivirus programs, etc. No need to scramble finding CDs and license numbers, or worse, having to buy them again.

\*An external hard drive is required for Onsite Backup and Snapshots. For onsite backup it's highly recommended to use 2 or more and swap them weekly.



Join Perkins Computer Center for the St. Patrick's Day Parade on Saturday March 19<sup>th</sup> from 9am until evening! Enjoy a clean restroom + free use of bleachers—coolers are welcome, BYOB!

## Mardi Gras and St. Patrick's Day Recipes

### **Emeril's Shrimp and Avocado Salad with New Orleans-Style Remoulade Sauce and Baby Greens**

6 cups mixed baby lettuce leaves, such as lollo rossa, red oak, red leaf, mizuna, arugula, and tatsoi

New Orleans-Style Remoulade Sauce, chilled

Coarse salt and freshly ground black pepper

16 small grape or cherry tomatoes, halved

1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil

2 Hass avocados, peeled and pitted

Emeril's Simple Boiled Shrimp, chilled

1/4 cup thinly sliced scallions, for garnish



Place lettuce in a large bowl; drizzle with half of the remoulade sauce and season with salt and pepper. Toss until well combined. Place tomatoes in a small bowl; drizzle with olive oil. and toss to combine. Divide lettuce evenly between 4 plates. Place avocado halves on top of lettuce and divide tomatoes evenly between each plate. Toss shrimp with remaining remoulade sauce and place on top of avocado. Garnish with scallions and serve immediately.

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### **Hot Nutty Irishman**

1 ounce Irish cream liqueur

1 ounce Frangelico

1 ounce Kahlua

5 ounces hot coffee

Whipped cream, for garnish

Green sanding sugar, for garnish (optional)

Place Irish cream, Frangelico, and Kahlua in a coffee mug; pour over coffee.

Top with whipped cream and sanding sugar, if desired.