



A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO CLOUD COMPUTING

Increased collaboration, flexibility, control, and cost-effectiveness make the cloud an attractive computing option for small- and medium-sized businesses. So what's all the hype about?

What is Cloud Computing?

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) defines cloud computing as “a model for enabling ubiquitous, convenient, on-demand network access to a shared pool of configurable computing resources (e.g., networks, servers, storage, applications and services) that can be rapidly provisioned and released with minimal management effort or service provider interaction.”

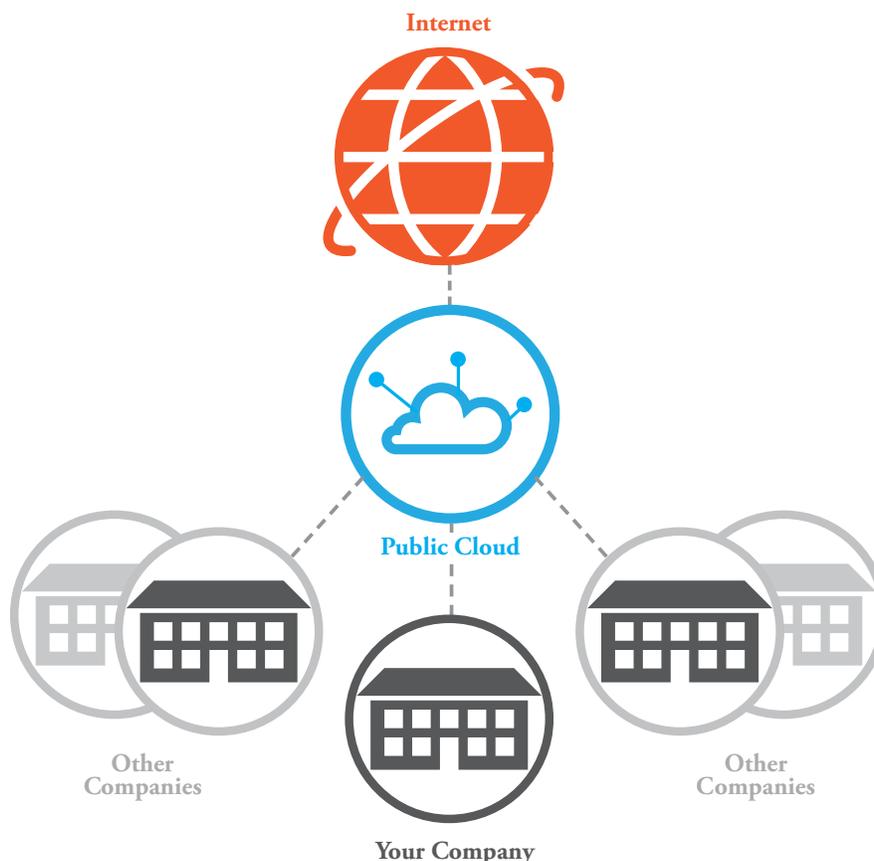
Simply put, cloud computing is computing based on the Internet.

Most cloud-based environments are flexible and scalable; it really depends on the type of cloud (i.e., private, public, or hybrid) you chose to leverage. With cloud computing, you can increase capacity and add capabilities on the fly, and your staff has the ability to access a shared pool of configurable computing resources through the Internet.

What is a Public Cloud?

Public cloud computing is a more traditional model where all of your applications, storage, and data live/run on the same shared public pool of resources – and are provided “as a service” over the Internet. Public clouds almost always means that your data and applications are hosted on the same server as other businesses like yours, which ultimately results in you having little or even no control of your data and environment on a whole.

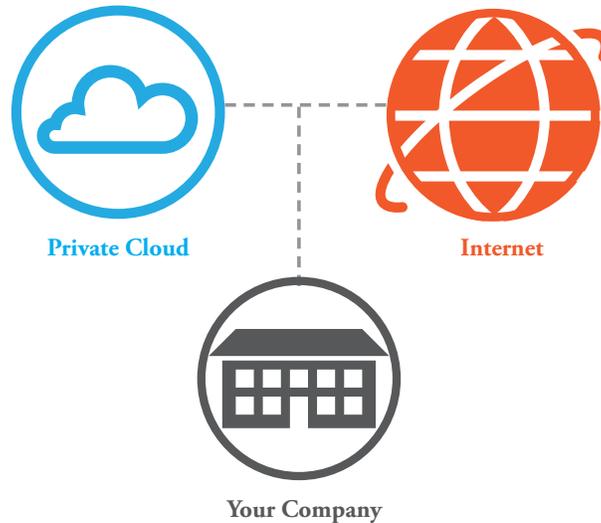
Typically smaller organizations that want to reduce costs and have the greatest level of efficiency in shared resources chose the public cloud model.



What is a Private Cloud?

For businesses that require increased flexibility due to requirements (e.g., security, compliance, mission-critical applications), the investment in a private cloud solution provides the greatest security and protection, customization, and scalability for their networks – and ultimately their businesses.

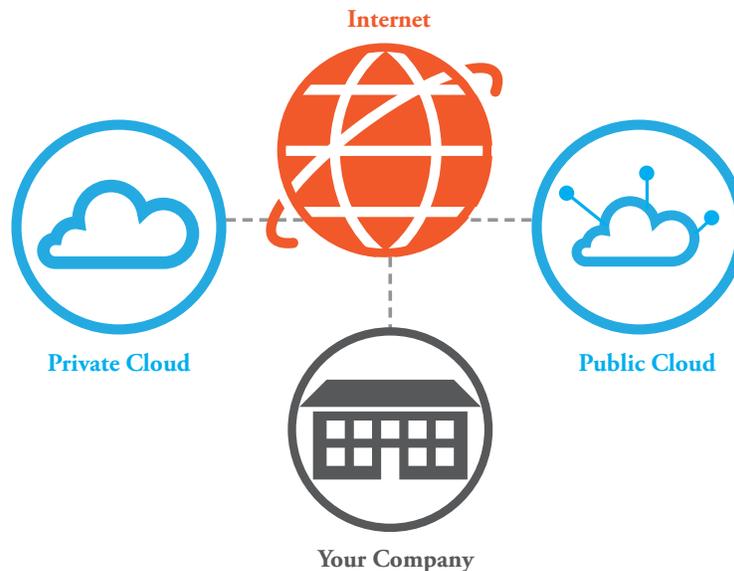
A private cloud is a cloud-computing model that is designed and customized to serve a single organization. All of your data, applications, and resources are stored in their own isolated container and never leave your network.



What is a Hybrid Cloud?

A hybrid cloud is a composition of two or more clouds. This computing option allows companies to implement a strategy that puts select workloads in the public cloud while keeping others in-house and more secure.

Many businesses are turning to hybrid cloud solutions to reduce costs and enable more scalable and flexible business processes.



Why Companies are Moving to the Cloud

Keeping up with business innovation, change, and growth can be difficult in a traditional computing environment. The cloud offers flexibility, elasticity, and self-service computing resources that can be easily managed. Like most organizations, each of your divisions has separate needs and a computing environment allows you to quickly adjust to changing market dynamics without adding more equipment.

Benefits of the Cloud:

Increased Collaboration

Brings traditionally separate computing assets together into a secure, shared pool of resources giving you the ability to share servers, networks, storage, applications, and services over the Internet

Flexibility

Whenever you need more bandwidth, you get it – instantly; cloud providers can meet your demand because they usually have unlimited capacity on their remote servers

Pay-as-you-go

Cloud environments have unlimited storage and on an as-needed basis, you only pay for what you use; and since it's much quicker to deploy, companies have minimal expenses and start-up costs

Improved Productivity

You can add automation to traditionally stove-piped systems, and cloud suppliers do the server maintenance and security updates for you; employees can now access and share resources over the Internet

Document Control

The cloud allows more than one person to work on a file at the same time, and maintains all files in one central location; think Google Docs but on a larger scale

Innovation

You have the ability to roll out new innovative processes that leverage the partner, supplier, and customer ecosystems in ways that improve the bottom line

Security

You no longer have to worry about security breaches or unauthorized access, because everything is stored in the cloud and if you happen to lose your machine you can access your information from any device with an Internet connection; you receive all the scalability, metering, and time-to-market benefits without relinquishing control or security

Eliminates the Need for a Complex Disaster Recovery Plan

Cloud computing delivers fast recovery times and multi-site availability at a fraction of the cost of conventional disaster recovery; all of your information and application is safely stored and managed by your cloud provider

Are you ready for the Cloud?

Dataprise has developed a comprehensive **Cloud Readiness Assessment**, where we conduct a high-level evaluation of your environment and provide you with a clear road map to help you leverage the cost savings and competitive advantages available in the cloud. This assessment even goes several steps further by taking into consideration the complexities and nuances of your particular business environment, making sure that you are truly 'cloud ready'.

Some of the topics and areas covered in a Dataprise Cloud Readiness Assessment:

- Reducing costs – Identifying consolidation opportunities and how to maximize ROI
- Technology management – Cloud planning, support, and documentation
- Connectivity/bandwidth requirements – Internet redundancy and load balancing
- Cloud application connectivity – Private and public connectivity, remote desktop, VPNs, and teleworking
- Communication and collaboration – Email options, phone system options, team workflow/collaboration, and instant messaging
- Cloud security and compliance – Private cloud vs. public cloud, SAS 70 Type I & II HIPAA, FISMA, and PCI compliant systems
- Disaster recovery and business continuity – Availability (system uptime) and recovery options (system and data)

After we have completed our thorough review, we present you with a detailed Cloud Assessment designed to help you make those important decisions about transitioning your business to the cloud.

If you can connect to it, we can manage it.

Dataprise has partnered with the leading cloud providers to offer seamless integration, hosting, and application development and support. Let our experienced team of cloud managers and vCIOs build, advise, and manage your cloud environment to optimize your investment. We offer on-premises, cloud-based, and hybrid cloud solutions that can fit any of your complex data and security needs.

To learn more about our managed cloud computing services and solutions call or contact us today at 1-888-519-8111.