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# WHAT IS THE “CLOUD”?



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These days you don't have to go very far to hear about people using the “cloud” or hear TV or Radio ads talking about “cloud computing” or “cloud storage.” Which begs the question: WHAT IS THE CLOUD?

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## *WHAT IS THE CLOUD?*

In its simplest definition, the Cloud is the Internet. Better yet, it's a feature of the Internet that allows YOU to access and store information from any device that can connect to the Internet.

Typically, you store information on your computer's hard drive. Of course, this means you can only **ACCESS** that information from **that** computer. When you store (save) things to the CLOUD, you can access those files or documents from **ANY** computer, cell phone, and/or tablet you have that can access the Internet.

## *EXAMPLES OF CLOUD-BASED SERVICES*

If you have a Gmail account, or Yahoo account, you are already using the Cloud. You can access your email from any device you have that connects to the Internet. Here are a few other services or apps that are CLOUD-BASED.

- GOOGLE DRIVE
- OFFICE 365 (MICROSOFT)
- DROPBOX
- ONE DRIVE

## *WHY USE THE CLOUD?*

- File storage (photos, email, pdf documents, Powerpoint Presentations)
- File sharing (good for LARGE documents or photos to share with Family)
- Data backup (never lose a document or photo again... back it up)

## *SOME BENEFITS OF USING THE CLOUD*

- Free up room on your mobile devices
- Increase collaboration in Office environments
- Work from ANYWHERE