



# EMERGENCY REPORTING™

*Web-Based Fire & EMS Reporting and Records Management*

[Powerful. Mobile. Secure.]



## How the Cloud Can Work for You

A White Paper by Emergency Reporting



### What is 'Cloud Computing'?

Cloud computing is a model in which “resources are retrieved from the internet through web-based tools and applications... cloud computing structures allow access to information as long as an electronic device has access to the web. Companies may find that cloud computing allows them to reduce the cost of information management and allows companies to upgrade software more quickly.” (Investopedia.com)



### Why You're Already Using the 'Cloud'

Although the term 'cloud computing' may sound abstract, you are probably already using the cloud. Some commonly used cloud-based platforms include **You Tube**, **Vimeo**, **Flickr**, **Slideshare**, **Skype** and **Gmail**. These platforms hold onto your data and 'look after it' so that you don't have to worry about storing it yourself.



### Cloud Computing Benefits

You may be wondering how the cloud can benefit you in ways beyond video sharing and email. Below is a list of the top ten benefits of cloud computing:

- 1. Easy Access** - Get your files at any time, from anywhere with internet access
- 2. Flexibility** - Use and only pay for what you need. Most providers offer different levels of service.
- 3. Offsite Storage** - Your critical files are safe if anything were to happen to your computer or workspace.
- 4. Security** - Only you have access to your data, via login and password. In addition, most providers encrypt your data which is more secure than storing an unencrypted copy on your machine.
- 5. Sharing** - The cloud offers a unique and effective way to share data. Those with login and permissions to a shared account can view agency data in real time.
- 6. Organization** - Everything you need is stored in one system, in one space rather than having data stored in multiple files across multiple machines.
- 7. Encourages Collaboration** - Central access to shared documents or spreadsheets makes collaborative tasks easy.

**8. Application Access** - Rather than having to install a software program on multiple computers or devices across an agency, programs are accessible from an internet browser. No software installation is ever needed.

**9. Cost Savings** - Cloud-based software providers automatically push out updates and fixes that may be necessary. No IT staff is typically necessary to successfully run cloud based systems.

**10. Increased Performance** - Since all your files are stored online, memory is freed up on the hard drives of all your devices. Cloud documents can also be accessed with greater speed online because the storage space of a cloud provider is generally vast.

Source: Cloud-Edify/Cloudedify.com





### Cloud Statistics

As technology advances, it has become clear that cloud-computing software is the way of the future. By 2020 the cloud computing industry is expected to become a \$240 billion industry as more and more installed-software companies begin to produce cloud-based alternatives.

Users are finding cloud-based software gives them measurable benefits, like these mentioned in an article by NetMetix:

- **According to IBM's Chief Technology Officer, cloud computing reduces IT labor costs by up to 50% and reduces business-related energy costs by 90%!**
- **More than 58% of small businesses agree that being on the cloud has given them better control of their data.**
- **72% of organizations using cloud servers have improved end-user experience.**
- **50% of small businesses agree that business agility is the primary reason they adopted a cloud-based solution.**

(Source: NetMetix.com)



*“Cloud computing at its basic level is remote online storage and nearly anyone can take advantage of it. The benefits of cloud computing cover a wide range of areas, from personal to business, and prove that this technology has something for everyone and is here to stay.”*

-Shaun Pearse, Cloudedify.com



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### About Emergency Reporting

Emergency Reporting is a web-based provider of fire & EMS reporting and records management software that supports more than 75,000 users world-wide including many Department of Defense agencies.

The Emergency Reporting system is powerful and easy to use. This affordable system is cloud-based so your data is always mobile -- login online via a secure connection from any device.

Emergency Reporting provides automatic database backup, seamless system updates and world-class support. Allowing unlimited concurrent users means that our customers never have to worry about seat licenses or other hidden fees.

Emergency Reporting was founded in 2003 and is headquartered in Bellingham, WA.



### References:

*The Bowditch Group. "17 Best Cloud Computing Applications for Small Businesses." Dec. 2010.*

*Cloud-Edify. "Top 10 Benefits of Cloud Computing." Cloudedify.com*

*Investopedia. "Cloud Computing." investopedia.com*

*Netmetix. "Top 10 Cloud Computing Statistics." Netmetix.com*