



Don Viar  
Managing Partner

## Cloud Computing's Silver Lining for Small to Mid-Sized Companies

*Don Viar of Epic Technologies Explains  
This Fast Approaching Technology*

COOKEVILLE, NASHVILLE, KNOXVILLE – December 21, 2009 – Cloud computing is a hot technology that's gaining tremendous popularity among companies big and small. Essentially, cloud computing is a data-processing infrastructure in which the software and the data are stored on remote servers. These servers are connected to the Internet rather than a PC or a company's LAN. When one needs to use some form of software application or access data, the computer connects to the remote server through the Internet.

So what do clouds have to do with all this? The cloud is a metaphor used to describe as well as represent the Internet in computer diagrams. The explosive growth of the Internet has fostered the idea of shared data infrastructure. Cloud computing is more prevalent than one might think and most people don't even realize they're operating in this fashion. Have you ever created a profile on LinkedIn or Facebook or sent an email from Yahoo? If the answer is yes, you have engaged in cloud computing. The data that was created resides on a remote server instead of on your PC or other form of conventional hosting. Simply put, cloud computing includes server processing, data storage, security and voice applications.

As one might imagine there are tremendous advantages to cloud computing. First and foremost, cloud computing enables small to mid-sized businesses to leverage storage space

and application solutions without having to make significant capital expenditures on hardware or infrastructure. As a company needs more storage space or software they can pay as they go. In other words, providers offering cloud computing offer services based on utility (such as Amazon S3), subscription or a flat monthly fee. Software as a Service (SaaS) is another advantage of cloud computing because companies can tap into solutions hosted on the Internet such as Salesforce.com.

Easy collaboration is another great benefit of cloud computing services. With both the application and the data stored in the cloud it's easy for multiple users to work together on the same project – anytime, anywhere. This gives companies with virtual employees extreme flexibility as well as enhanced productivity. Furthermore, depending on the provider the data and applications stored in the cloud in most situations have complete disaster recovery. The information is protected by multiple, geographically dispersed data centers with extensive backup, archive, and failover capabilities. In addition to SAS, cloud computing has given rise to platform as a service, meaning one can build their own applications to run on the cloud provider's infrastructure. Again, it can be tapped into by multiple people regardless of their location.

According to Gartner, worldwide cloud services revenue is estimated to not only surpass \$56.3 billion in 2009, but top \$150 billion in 2013. Cloud computing is still in its infancy but the value proposition is quite clear and should be on every IT departments'

radar. Although, there are issues that still need to be worked out from a security standpoint because hackers do pose a threat. All in all the technology provides both a reliable and scalable solution that can greatly impact an organization's cost structure, support for future growth as well as enhance operating efficiency and employee productivity. More and more attention will be directed towards cloud computing, especially as organizations learn how to harness its power.

### **ABOUT EPIC TECHNOLOGIES**

Epic Technologies is one of the leading providers of business communication solutions in the United States. Built upon a network of strategic relationships with clients and vendors, Epic has quickly grown to be a trusted business partner for complex voice, data, nurse call, and network infrastructure solutions. We build relationships as a trusted business partner with each of our clients and exceed their expectations, knowing that we will succeed when our partners succeed.

Epic knows how to empower complex business needs through the innovative use of technology to maximize the return to the client's bottom line. While we work in a wide variety of industries and organizational sizes, we have a particular expertise in medium and larger sized organizations with a particular emphasis on healthcare, education, and service oriented companies. Call us today (866-525-EPIC) or visit us on the web at [www.epicn.com](http://www.epicn.com) and let us show you the Epic difference!