

USING TODAY'S Technology TO WORK MORE EFFICIENTLY

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What is “CLOUD” TECHNOLOGY?

Cloud technology means you no longer save data to a device that you carry around with you. You don't have to have a device with a large memory “on board” - just an Internet connection. Why carry a “click drive?”

All your data is accessible from multiple devices, anywhere, anytime - as long as you have Internet access you can access your data from:

Your iPhone or Mobile Phone; Your Computer(s); Someone else's computer; Your iPad

FILE ACCESS

With a “cloud” you can have access, even complete control, of your home computer, from your cell phone, from anywhere. Need something off a backup drive, back home, from thousands of miles away - even overseas? No problem. Find it, e-mail it to yourself. Even turn on music at home or leave a note on the screen for your spouse! No file is ever forgotten or inaccessible again. If you have your cell phone you have every file you've ever created on your computer available to you within seconds.

FILE SHARING

Everyone has e-mailed an attachment, but more and more, attachments are getting larger, and we've all had a well-meaning grandparent send us a 25MB photo of a grandchild! (E-mail attachments, as a general rule should stay under 2MB, please.) With a “cloud” you can send a link to a file on your cloud for people to download directly, often with a time limit and even a password!

CALENDARING / COLLABORATING

When coordinating scheduling, instead of just asking people, “when are you free?” You can coordinate schedules by allowing them to see when you are free before they schedule by using a service like Timebridge.com in order to more quickly and efficiently schedule meetings. Using tools like Google Docs allows instant online collaborating and sharing of information and editing of online documents.

E-MAIL: POP vs. IMAP

In the “old days” you popped in your e-mail, meaning you pulled it down and read it. If you had it on multiple computers, you had to repeat the process. If you deleted it on one device, you still had to delete it on another. IMAP means they are all synchronized. If you delete it on one, it will vanish on all the others. If you reply on one, it will appear in the sent folder on the others!

VIDEO BROADCASTING

Ever wanted to share with the world what you are doing - instantly, and for free? With Ustream.com you can host it on your website, chat with viewers, and even film and chat from your cell phone on the go. Imagine your children's church or other ministry event reaching those who couldn't be there in person!

WHY USE THE CLOUD?

Taking some simple steps to make your data more accessible to you and your team could reap great dividends. Imagine the benefits of:

Centralized volunteer calendars | Downloadable lesson plans | Shared event planning files | Collaborative documents

Sharing your content with your ministry team will allow you to *work together* on projects more fluidly. It releases everyone from his or her office space and permits the freedom to work outside of the box... with your team and on your own.