Cloud Computing in the Library Context
ELAG 2011 Workshop

http://codabox.org
What is the Cloud?

National Institute of Standards (NIST) definition

- “Cloud computing is 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. This cloud model promotes availability ...."
Agenda

• Session 1
  – CC definition (formal)
  – Attendee introductions
  – Examples of CC projects in libraries
• Session 2
  – Demo (Server on EC2)
  – Innovation and CC in libraries
• Session 3
  – Vendor perspectives
  – Pros and cons
  – Librarian perspectives
• Session 4
  – Legal issues and ethics
  – Issues of data ownership
  – Wrap-up and conclusions
What do you see as the advantages/disadvantages of CC for your library?

• Advantages:
  – Uptime vs. downtime (uptime may be better in cloud than local IT)
  – Aggregation of data
  – Cloud makes a good place to do backup (expand storage as needed)
  – Cloud: Internet as done by someone else
  – Scalability

• Disadvantages:
  – Deskilling of library staff (?)
  – Library work becoming commoditized
  – Facebook is voluntary. Library is not. (Privacy issues)
What would make it easier for you to adopt CC in your library?

- Vendors: “Give us less marketing and more reality”
- Every library is unique, cannot imagine how to make that real in a cloud-based solution
- Is this more difficult in Europe than US? (More uniformity in North American market). More languages, different cultures, different ways of doing business.
What do you need (willing to pay for) in a Service Level Agreement (SLA)?

- Up-time promised (OCLC and Ex Libris try to be at least 99.5 percent)
- Response time/system speed
- Systems tuning (can remote system be tuned to meet needs)
- Loss of control (may need to be much more formal setup/agreement)
- When is scheduled maintenance going to happen?
- How to get in contact (support)?
Top 10 things to take away about cloud computing in the library context:

1. Understand *what* you are moving to the cloud
2. Understand *why* you are moving to the cloud
3. Have a plan for freed resources (Human and other Resources)
4. Find a cloud provider you trust
5. Articulate your requirements clearly
6. Get a lawyer involved
7. Understand local legal requirements (national/state, institutional, etc.)
8. Understand the costs of moving to the cloud
9. Have an exit strategy
   - Can I get my data back and in a format that can be easily put into a different system?
10. Understand your SLA