

# Tomorrow's Forecast: A Bright Future for Two Kinds of Cloud Computing

Dr. Heather Lea Moulaison and Nathan Lowrance

NIST definition: Cloud computing is a model for enabling ubiquitous, convent, on-demand network access to a shared pool of configurable computing resources (e.g., networks, servers, storage, application, and services) that can be rapidly provisioned and released with minimal management effort or services interaction.

## Cloud Computing for Personal Communication & Services

### Library uses for free Software as Service a (SaaS) products:

- Social networking
- Photo sharing
- Web conferencing
- Event advertising
- Marketing services
- Internal collaboration

### Benefits for free cloud-based communications and services:

- No cost
- Convenient when mobile
- Patron and librarian familiarity
- Minimal investment on the part of the library (staff hours only)

### Some free cloud-based SaaS products:

- Facebook
- DropBox
- Hotmail
- Twitter
- YouTube
- Etc.

## Cloud Computing for Library Data & Systems

### Library uses for cloud-based systems:

- Data storage for bibliographic data
- Data storage for repository data or archival data
- Discovery systems
- Shared collections of data
- Testbed for new technology-enabled services

### Benefits for cloud-based hosting of data and systems:

- Cost-effectiveness
- Flexibility
- Data safety
- High availability
- Massive data storage, (Han, 2010)
- Potential to be energy-efficient

### Some risks of cloud computing:

- Service failure
- Data confidentiality breeches
- Data transfer bottlenecks
- Legal jurisdiction (Han, 2010)

## TAKE-AWAYS ON CLOUD COMPUTING

- **WILL ALWAYS REQUIRE COMPUTERS AND AN INTERNET CONNECTION TO ACCESS CLOUD SERVICES**
- **MAY RAISE CONCERNS (FOUNDED & UNFOUNDED) ABOUT DATA SECURITY AND PRIVACY**
- **HAS THE POTENTIAL OF ALLOWING LIBRARY STAFF TO FOCUS ON THE MISSION AND GOALS OF THE LIBRARY INSTEAD OF TECHNICAL DETAILS (TENNANT, 2011)**
- **REQUIRES KEEN ATTENTION TO CONTRACT CONDITIONS (SLAS: SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS) (OVADIA, 2010)**
- **PRESENTS A WORLD OF POSSIBILITIES FOR ALL LIBRARIANS...**

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