

# News You Can Use

Tools for Corporate Executives

## **Accounting: Anytime, Anywhere**

Many businesses are beginning to use “cloud computing,” a business approach that can help firms and enterprises conserve information technology budgets and physical space, and eliminate inefficient labor. Cloud computing allows companies to run business applications and services from remote servers that are accessed through the internet anytime, anyplace. This means that data is saved on server space in a data center across town – or another country – depending on the provider the company chooses.

Currently, still uncertainty and risk, but cloud computing, as a business strategy, could become the norm in the next few years. Although possibly intimidating at first, the user-friendly and efficient platforms are causing many companies to switch to this new strategy.

## **Scalability Saves Time and Labor Costs**

Great flexibility offered through cloud computing, which is well suited for companies with seasonal peaks. Because cloud computing is a pay-as-you-go model, CFOs can scale up or down on server capacity. Cloud computing eliminates the time and effort it takes to set up, manage and upgrade internal servers, which frees up employees to help the company grow.

## **Don't Skimp on Security**

Some companies that provide massive bandwidth and strong reputations may not provide high levels of security, such as firewalls installed on servers. When it comes to security, companies should be willing to invest in cloud computing that offers top level security. Make sure that the company that you use to host your cloud computing is located in a location that has privacy laws and regulations that you are comfortable with. Also, make sure that you are comfortable with the customer service before jumping on board with a cloud computing company.

## **Providers Offer Back-up Service**

The loss of any confidential data would be detrimental to any accounting firm. A firm should know if the cloud provider replicates all data in case of failure or outage.