More and more services and applications are moving to "the cloud." Which cloud-based services and applications do you use? What are the advantages and disadvantages of cloud-based services and applications in general? I think most of us are probably using Google Docs by now, and sites like GitHub where people can share source code repositories could also qualify as an example of this.

In particular, Integrated Development Environments (IDEs) are also starting to move to the cloud. Are any of you using cloud-based IDEs? Is this something you're interested in, or does the idea disgust and dismay you?

I'm looking forward to hearing your thoughts!

Every day, I utilize cloud services in some major capacity. Dropbox for data storage, Google for calendar synchronization, Microsoft Teams for work communications, and a host of others to streamline both how I work, and how I live life. Some of the most incredible services I use is Google Remote Desktop and VMware apps on my phone, that in conjunction with mobile networks, allows me always connect to a computer no matter where I am.

However, of the greatest downsides I see from cloud services is the reliance these services have on one another to stay operational, and the fragility that exists when one collapses. For instance, at my work we utilize a cloud hosted platform called Autodesk Construction Cloud for hosting data, collaboration, and some other tools. ACC is built with reliance on other cloud platforms such as Amazon Web Services to act as a content delivery network. Last year, AWS’s main primary region center US-East 1 suffered a major outage that devastated the entirety of Autodesk’s ecosystem of cloud serviced products. In a single moment, business operations at nearly every Arch/Eng firm worldwide had ground to a near halt, and in a state where no viable alternatives existed other than to wait for AWS to restore service. (This was the incident, it’s a fun read -> <https://aws.amazon.com/de/message/061323/>

While incidents like this are attention grabbing in a sort-of “doomsday” style attention grabber; the rarity of such events generates astronomically disproportionate levels excitement overshadowing the reality of the risks compared to premise solutions. I wholeheartedly believe cloud services such as Google Drive, Dropbox, AWS, Azure, GitHub, and more, are the most critical computational advancements in modern times.