Unit 1 Cloud and Business

**Corey Crooks**

**Purdue University Global**

**IT402—IT Consulting Skills**

**Tom Olmstead**

**September 27th, 2023**

The cloud is a revolutionary concept in the era of modern computing. With the ability to transform most every aspect of business operation, it is important to consider what benefits it may provide. The cloud comes in many different forms. One more common form would be that of storage (Gagnon, 2022). Simple cloud storage solutions like Microsoft OneDrive, or Google Drive offer high-capacity storage available whenever an internet connection is established. Another form of cloud technology would be that of cloud computing such as Amazon’s various AWS packages (Amazon, 2023). All of these combined may be an excellent tool for a prospective business to employ in order to optimize workflows and keep costs minimal.

These cloud solutions and more can work to help small businesses effectively. As a budding business, it may not be feasible to invest in infrastructure to support the ideas this business venture may need. Indeed, certain small business may need much more than they may be able to afford using conventional means of buying server equipment, and hiring a professional to set it up. Instead, that business could invest in a cloud option, which would eliminate the need for the complexities of logistics, and deliver high quality storage and computing right to any device you may already have procured. This mitigates a significant barrier to entry into the technological landscape for business that do not have the organization or resources to invest into seriously powerful equipment.

This doesn’t come at all gain, however. There is a notable risk of security involved in storage and computing via the cloud. Storing information remotely, and accessing it remotely comes at a risk of the data being susceptible from both the storage location, and the requester’s site as well (Morrow, 2018). For instance, if a business set up an API key using an AWS storage and computing solution, they would need to take care that the API key is not hosted online. Should that event happen, anyone with access to that repository will be able to download, manage, and alter the data that is hosted using that API key. Although this scenario may seem far-fetched to the average small business owner, one does not need GitHub to leak a key like in the former scenario. It is just a matter of informational exchange. This is why there is currently a debate over Cloud computing vs physical servers, and to which is more secure. The human element is by far the riskiest of any system, and cloud solutions cannot eliminate that. Since they are simply just physical servers stored in alternate locations streamed remotely, those servers still have to be maintained by people on site.

# **References**

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