CTC 9

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CSCE 525

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One of the largest functional communities that will benefit from cloud services is the cyber community. Currently, the amount of support IT that the cyber community is conducting is affecting its ability to conduct both offensive and defensive cyber operations (“Air Force’s Cloud Experiment Could Also Boost Cyber Operations” n.d.). The benefit of this move is that it allows the cyber community to transition more into an operations focused community without having to worry about the IT side. This also allows the cyber community to move a number of cyber personnel into the Mission Defense Teams as they transition out of the IT support role (“The U.S. Air Force Is Outsourcing All Traditional IT in Order to Build Cybersecurity Mission Teams” n.d.).

One of the concerns brought up with moving to the cloud is security. The thought here is that “if we don’t maintain our own services then how can we ensure security?” The argument is that outsourcing to a company such as Amazon with AWS or a similar company will obscure our ability to detect exploitation of these cloud services. However, there are some reasons that these concerns aren’t as bad as they seem.

First, its already happening. In November of 2017, AWS debuted its new AWS secret region, a section of amazon cloud services that can host information up to secret level (“Announcing the New AWS Secret Region | AWS Government, Education, &amp; Nonprofits Blog” n.d.). Additionally, the DoD is in the process of requesting proposals for a new Joint Enterprise Data Initiative (JEDI) (“DOD Releases $10 Billion JEDI Cloud Contract -- Defense Systems” n.d.). As proposed, this is a 10-billion-dollar contract for cloud service for the DoD. With this amount of money coming from the government, it will be in the company(ies) interest(s) that end up providing this service to keep it secure. If they do not keep it secure, then they will lose money and eventually business from the government. Thus, they are incentivized to keep the government’s data secure.

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