



Windows Server 2012 and cloud computing

How charities can reduce cost and improve IT performance

Windows Server 2012 makes cloud computing more powerful and easy to manage than ever, giving charity and third sector organisations a cost-effective way to simplify IT while improving performance.

Windows Server 2012 simplifies the process of developing cloud services and delivers powerful new tools for managing the network. The introduction of Windows Server 2012 represents an ideal opportunity for organisations to cloud-optimize their IT and so reduce cost while improving resilience and freeing staff to work from anywhere, on any device.

Built for the cloud

Windows Server 2012 is one of the biggest updates to the Windows Server products in its history. It delivers hundreds of new features and enhancements spanning virtualization, networking, storage, user experience, cloud computing and automation. The biggest change is the shift is towards "Cloud OS" and Windows Azure technology which deliver new ways of providing cloud apps and data storage. It includes a common identity and management framework for highly secure and reliable cross-premises connectivity, whether within your own private cloud or with a specialist cloud service provider.

Blend private and third party cloud services

One of the most exciting possibilities offered by Windows Server 2012 is the relative ease with which organisations can deploy mixed cloud solutions. For example, a large charity might deploy core applications on its private cloud and additional apps using a third party cloud provider. Or the third party could be used to provide backup and failover services, or additional computing power at specific times of the year to cope with seasonal fluctuations.

Charity Licensing

The Charity Cloud is provided with charity based SPLA licensing from Microsoft. SPLA licensing is designed specifically for cloud based services to ensure organisations only pay for what they use and provides end-users with the flexibility of changing their solution as and when required. This ensures that costs are kept to an absolute minimum without breaching licensing agreements.

Enabling modern work styles

Charities and non-profit organisations are under constant pressure to make the most of precious resources and achieve more at less cost. Making staff more productive is the ideal way to accomplish this, and cloud computing is one of the keys to delivering more efficient ways to work.

The in-built cloud optimisation within Windows Server 2012 makes it easier to provide users with flexible access to data and applications while simplifying management and maintaining security, control, and compliance. You can give all your users, from casual and volunteer staff to senior executives:

True mobile working - with access to data and applications from anywhere and on any device with internet connectivity including home computers, laptops, smartphone and tablets. Delivers seamless, on-demand access to virtualised work environments.

Specialist cloud solutions for the third sector

The Charity Cloud provides enterprise-level cloud solutions to the charity and non-profit sectors, helping organisations reduce the total cost of IT ownership while also improving performance, reliability and resilience. The Charity Cloud provided by Cloud 9, a data centre, IT services and hosting provider based in London and Oxfordshire.

Cloud 9 is one of the first service providers to build a hosted desktop platform on Windows Server 2012, delivering a faster and significantly improved deployment of cloud-based services. We provide a comprehensive package of cloud services from our ISO27001 data centre. Our cloud expertise and familiarity with Windows Server 2012 is also available to assist clients in building their own private cloud solutions.



A familiar Windows experience - a full and rich Windows experience on almost any device.

Improved security and control - enhanced data security and compliance functionality makes it easier than ever to enable granular access to data and corporate resources.

How charities can use the cloud

Cloud computing can help charities improve the way they work in a huge variety of ways. For example:

Collaboration: A blend of cloud and social networking services make it possible for varied teams of staff, volunteers and other agencies to work together seamlessly.

Campaigning: Cloud applications can help charities use social media networks such as Twitter and Facebook.

Volunteering: Cloud technologies make it easy to allow short-term and ad hoc volunteering, allowing charities to harness the enthusiasm of supporters. Micro-volunteering allows members of the public to donate a few minutes of their spare time to help out using a computer or mobile phone.

Reduced costs: Economies of scale mean that cloud services from data centres are usually significantly cheaper than running your own servers and desktop PCs.

Modern working: with applications and data in the cloud accessible on any device with an internet connection, staff and volunteers are free to work from anywhere.

Training: Cloud applications can be an ideal way to deliver training to staff remotely, without the need for time-consuming and expensive travel and meetings.

Flexibility: Many charities experience strong seasonal fluctuations. Cloud computing allows an organisation to add and remove capacity quickly and easily to save money while delivering powerful and effective services.

Security, reliability and resilience: Data is stored on secure servers in a purpose-built data centre, monitored by expert staff, in an ideal environment. Your data is backed up, access to it is strictly controlled, and services are protected by redundant hardware, power and connectivity.

For more information on Windows Server 2012 and how it can help third sector organisations implement and improve cloud solutions, please contact The Charity Cloud:

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