CPD - IT Services - The cloud

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Hi, I'm Jamie Warner, CEO of e-Nerds.

Today I'm here to talk about the cloud, and how this technology can improve the way you do business.

So, what is cloud computing?

In the simplest terms, cloud computing means storing and accessing data, programs and services over the Internet, instead of your computer's hard drive or local server.

There are 3 common definitions for cloud services.

The first is software-as-a-service, or SaaS, which represents software that you subscribe to typically on a per user per month basis.

The second is infrastructure-as-a-service or IaaS, which is defined as renting infrastructure to deploy your own software and you pay a per month fee based on the infrastructure used.

The third, platform-as-a-service, or PaaS, offers a subscription model to host all of your IT requirements in the cloud, such as files & folders, email and software applications and is usually accessed via CITRIX or Microsoft Terminal Services.

Cloud services are changing the way lots of small business use IT systems.

With the benefit of low upfront costs, and the reduced amount of hardware required onsite, more and more businesses are considering the cloud for requirements like data storage and backups, transferring large files, or accessing essential programs.

Maintenance, support, updates and hardware costs are often included in subscription fees, which makes this system worth investigating.

Here are my tips for considering the cloud as a service for your business:

- Make sure you know where your supplier's data centres are located; are they domestic or off shore?

- If your data is sensitive, consider any regulations or contractual terms that might prohibit you from storing data offshore.

- Ask yourself: does the software connect with your other systems?

- Consider your existing internet connection & services; are these compatible with the minimum requirements for a cloud system? We'll talk more about this one in the next video.

- Also consider experience and acceptance in the field. Does the solution connect to your client's systems?

You can read through Module 8 in the Digital Business Kit to find out more about the cloud.