

**Wisconsin Department of Transportation
Transportation Library Connectivity Pooled Fund Study
TRB Annual Meeting, January 10-14, 2010
Session Summary and Value**

Attendee: Maggie Sacco

Date/time: 1/12/10 1:30-3:15PM

Session title/number: 492 Cloud Computing for Transportation

Presiding officer, Francis Harrison, SpyPond Partners

Presentations:

Introduction to the Cloud: Will It Be a Smooth or Turbulent Ride? (P10-0171) – Douglass Couto - Citrix Systems, Inc.

Software as a Service for Transportation Agencies: Case of Electronic Bidding (P10-0102) – Ozette Brown - Info Tech, Inc.

Deployment of Cloud-Based Applications in the District of Columbia: Benefits, Lessons Learned, and Future Plans (P10-0656) – Christopher Willey - District of Columbia

Hosted Customer Care Management System at Maryland SHA (P10-0196) – James Yarsky - Maryland State Highway Administration

Using the Cloud to Handle Peak Demand for Traveler Information (P10-1070) – Grant Rodeheaver - Washington State Department of Transportation

Key points from this session.

- What is the cloud? The cloud is shorthand for the Internet; you don't know details of the infrastructure, but you can use it and know it works. Cloud computing is cheap utility-supplied computing and will ultimately change society as profoundly as the Internet. It is flexible, customizable and on demand. Computing in the Cloud is cheaper and faster and is standardized. The Enterprise Cloud is not using an outside provider. You turn your own data center into a cloud. Cloud centers allow you to pay for your actual use and are good for disaster recovery. If I do this, where is my data? This depends on the terms of service, but providers sell storage.
- Cloud computing helps reduce IT friction and fixes broken a economic model, as capital expenses are operating expenses and cloud computing is a pay for usage model.
- Challenges: security, data ownership/management, service levels, exit strategy, risk management (is it greater with a provider than internal?), staff acceptance, public policy risk. Where is your data? If it resides in another state with more or less control than yours, is it still yours?

Information or PowerPoint presentation to be shared with TAC members.

- Not everything belongs in the cloud. Benefits are cost, flexibility and data replication.
- Cloud Phase 1- Software as a service (i.e., Google)
- Cloud Phase 2- Infrastructure as a service. There is no need for your own server (i.e., Amazon web service, Softlay).
- Cloud Phase 3- Platform as a service

Information that may help shape the National or Regional TKNs.

- Cloud computing can present cost effective solutions that a fledgling network can benefit from.
- A new concept to transportation, TKNs may be positioned to pursue innovative, cost saving solutions to information needs - cloud and Web 2.0 may flourish in this new environment.

Information that may be included or referenced in the pooled fund study final report.

- Survey member states and include examples of member states computing in the cloud, if applicable.

Attach relevant handouts from session.

Name and contact information of presenters that should be contacted for further information.

Douglass Couto

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