

# Cloud Computing

EMAIL, LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS, AND PRODUCTIVITY TOOLS—YOU’VE MADE IT TO THE CLOUD! NOW WHAT?

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**The majority of IT workloads are already running in the cloud as school systems turn to software-as-a-service (SaaS) for email and other productivity tools, learning management systems, and other learning solutions. But SaaS is only one way to engage with the cloud—there are many other ways!**

- Solving a particular pain point, such as backups to protect against ransomware
- Providing for disaster recovery
- Trying new software and services quickly and easily
- Simplifying network management
- Refocusing on education and getting out of the data center business

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**New technologies and applications are being developed in the cloud for numerous industries, with many now becoming available to schools and school systems.**

- Data sharing across applications
- Data analytics solutions using disparate data from multiple sources to create insights about improving learning
- Management and innovation in the Internet of Things (IoT)
- Data-informed personalization technologies

**Moving to the cloud offers great benefits, but also requires new skills and analysis to determine what, when, and how to move.**

- Leveraging enterprise cloud security tools to better safeguard data
- Re-skilling of the IT team to move from hardware maintenance to customer-facing support
- Careful analysis of actual utilization of existing hardware, rather than a complete lift-and-shift, to determine a valid estimate of potential cost savings in the cloud

CoSN has developed comprehensive *resources* to support your technology and leadership teams in making critical decisions about the move to cloud computing. You can access this valuable resource at <https://www.cosn.org/edtech-topics/network-design/#cloud>