Offices in the Cloud: how Virtual Offices benefit from flexible cloud services

Submitted by: Kiss Communications
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Vice President of IT Optimisation at Intergence predicts that by 2020, around 80 per cent of employees may be working outside their organisation.

Dr Steven Turner, VP of IT optimisation consultancy Intergence (http://www.intergence.com), has outlined how using cloud services benefits mobile workers and those operating virtual offices that traditionally have to rely on high speed broadband links to their corporate data centres for connectivity.

Dr Turner explained: "Cloud computing enables businesses to make use of software and services as and when they need them, requiring only an Internet connection and a web browser, going some way towards solving the problems of resourcing and collaboration. One of the largest challenges of running a small business is trying to predict what services will be needed in the future if circumstances suddenly change; for example, if the company expands quickly, then more employees and resources will be required to support and enable the business to perform optimally. However, investing too much, too soon could also be potentially disastrous."

"Secondly, regardless of location, employees can use cloud services to share files, access business services, talk to each other or collaborate on shared documents in real time. Cloud computing allows people to build a geographically diverse team that works together with all the benefits of improved productivity and better communication. A good example of a popular cloud-based service is Google Documents which allows businesses to create and manage documents online. Some users probably don't even realise they are using the cloud when accessing services they use on a daily basis."

Cloud based services can improve the remote worker experience in the following ways:

• Easy-to-access resources anywhere without specialist software; only requiring a standard web browser.

• Secure access to corporate resources, ensuring the user has access to only the systems and services for which they are authorised.

• Flexible computing power which can grow with the business needs, guaranteeing the infrastructure is sized for the demands of the users.

• Greater available bandwidth to users than would be feasible for an organisation to provide itself.

• Higher application performance via cloud hosting regions which are local to the user, hence reducing latency.

Dr Turner concluded: "Traditional remote access is not flexible enough to support business growth and can often suffer from congestion and latency during periods of heavy use.   To help ease the burden on the business, remote employees should be able to take advantage of cloud services which provide users

with virtually unlimited computing power, whilst establishing a much more flexible infrastructure that can grow with the business requirements."

Intergence (http://www.intergence.com) has recently announced a series of IT Optimisation health check seminars (http://www.intergence.com/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&id=111:event-three&Itemid=178) being held in Leeds, London and Edinburgh during May 2012. The health check seminars will explain how to optimise and fine tune an organisation's infrastructure to best take advantage of cloud technology.

Click here (http://www.intergence.com/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&id=111:event-three&Itemid=178) for further information on attending the health check seminars.

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Notes to Editors

About Dr Steven Turner

Steve Turner is the VP of IT Optimisation at Intergence. He specialises in Network Optimisation and has successfully completed a large number of optimisation projects for clients in both the public and private sector. Steve is Cisco CCNA and CCNA security certified and is currently studying CCNP. Steve has gained a BSc (Hons) in Computer Science from the University of Warwick, and an MSc in Network Systems from the University of Sunderland. He has also completed a PhD using genetic algorithms in conjunction with parallel processing to produce a multi-utility network optimisation tool.

About Intergence

Intergence (www.intergence.com) is a leading independent IT Optimisation Consultancy, headquartered in Cambridge, UK, with a regional office in the Middle East (Dubai, UAE) and was founded in 2003 to address the growing requirements of clients demanding high-level impartial expertise in networks and IT.

The company has recently (February 2012) been announced as one of the suppliers of the UK Government's cloud computing procurement initiative, G-Cloud. The framework will feature services divided into four segments, with Intergence forming part of the specialist cloud services.

Our close relationship within the Cambridge academic community enables us to innovate in partnership, rapidly incorporating the latest technology advances into our products and services.

Intergence operates over two distinct lines of business; people and performance. Our expertise and knowledge within the field allows us to resource the right people in the right place, getting your IT projects completed quickly and hassle free. Utilising world first products and professional optimisation services, Intergence has a clear and common purpose- to improve performance and extract more value from your IT infrastructure.

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