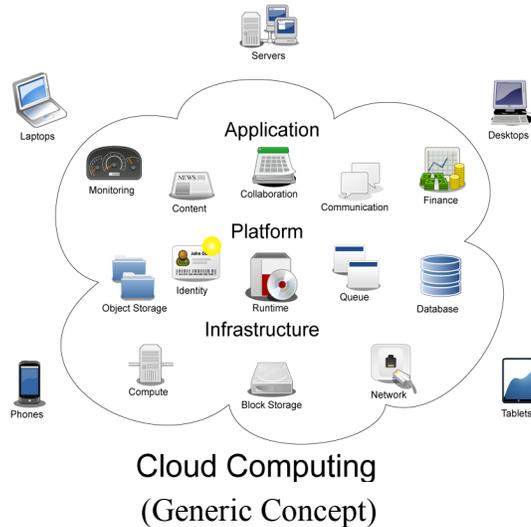


Ministry & Oversight – Electronic Communications Subcommittee Report to Representative Committee 2014



Why did Pacific Yearly Meeting start this “cloud” project?

To improve the current institutional memory of the organizational structure of what it takes for Pacific Yearly Meeting, Quarterly Meetings, Monthly Meetings, Worship Groups, and all their related committees to function as a religious society of Friends. Currently many of these functions are duplicated at each level, and committees frequently rely on the gifts of Friends who know where the treasures of our history lie undiscovered, forgotten or unintentionally obscured. This is not an efficient way to use our valuable skills and limited volunteer time and resources.

What is Cloud Computing in general?

From Wiki: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cloud_computing

Cloud computing is an [informal] expression used to describe a variety of different types of computing concepts that involve a large number of computers (actual or virtual) that are connected through a real-time communication network (typically the Internet). Cloud computing is a jargon term without a commonly accepted non-ambiguous scientific or technical definition... The popularity of the term can be attributed to its use in marketing to sell hosted services....

OK, so what is “PYMcloud” as a project?

(“PYMcloud” name is optional marketing term. Alternate name suggestions are welcomed)

We envision creating various web services to fully support the organizational function of Worship Groups, Monthly Meetings, Quarterly Meetings and Pacific Yearly Meeting inclusively.

Some examples of these functions are:

- ⤴ Yearly Meeting Annual Session Registration functions using the same database of individual contacts as is used for the Directory and Communication functions listed below.
- ⤴ Secured Directory service with granular details of Member/Attender status, Member of/Attending location(s) ... Monthly/Quarterly/Yearly committee work, preferred method of contact etc.
- ⤴ Basic web presence for each entity within PYM, with Meeting location (with maps/directions option), hours of Meeting for Worship, contact information etc.

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- ▲ Focused communication at all levels using the single-source of real-time Directory data e.g. Presiding Clerk (or the Assistant to the Clerk) could send communication to all Monthly Meeting Clerks; Peace & Social Order Committee Clerk could distribute a Minute from Yearly Meeting to all local Monthly Meeting P&SO committee clerks; Youth Program Coordinator can locate all meetings with certain age groups to provide local service-work opportunity in a geographically-centered area; Clerks from Finance committees or Treasurers could communicate directly with each other about best auditing practices, etc.
- ▲ Shared Calendar of events for all entities so everyone can see scheduling conflicts before events are planned.

Some optional functions that can be added to the base-line concepts are:

- ▲ Open-Source Library database system that is shared between Monthly Meetings.
- ▲ Searchable Document storage and retrieval system for Minutes (both inward-focused private content and outward-focused public interest), Committee reports, etc.

Who is responsible for setting up and managing this system?

The Electronic Communications Subcommittee of PYM Ministry and Oversight Committee. We are reviewing the need to hire an independent contractor to help us set up some of the advanced functions needed.

Who will manage the Directory Content type of data?

Once the infrastructure is setup and tested, we envision current Monthly Meeting Database clerks would have direct access to manage their own Monthly Meeting's data via a web interface. We would have secure access controls and full revision tracking so we would know who accessed the database and which data was changed.

I'm concerned about the privacy and security of my personal data.

While no one can truthfully tell you all data is 100% secure, 100% of the time, we will use industry-accepted best practices to protect the database and on-line access to it. We expect to have independent security audits performed to review our system prior to it going live to the public and periodically there-after.

Will I be able to opt out?

Generally, yes. However, if the cloud is to function properly for all of us, certain data points will be required: First Name (at a minimum), Meeting/Worship Group you attend, Member/Attender status, including Monthly Meeting name if Member, and Age (required for proper program planning, staffing and Insurance policy of Annual Sessions).

What are the underlying technologies used to build the PYMcloud?

This project will consist of a primary hosting provider using Virtual Private Servers (VPS) (physically located in the Netherlands); Drupal, an open source web development platform for web content controls; CiviCRM, an open source Constituent Management System (CMS) for database entry and event registrations; and other open source modules can be added as options and needs grow, such as the Library system or Document Storage systems. MySQL is the database format that Drupal and CiviCRM use, which gives us flexibility in the future to grow and scale resources as needed, or move to other platforms if needed.

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What is the annual budget for PYMcloud?

An annual budget of \$1500 was approved in Annual Session at Mt Madonna, August 2013. This amount can be augmented in future years as more options and functions are added. This starting budget amount allows for annual contributions to the open-source community once we have a working system in place, as well as contingency fees should we need to hire outside technical assistance.

What is the timeline for building PYMcloud?

Currently, our primary goal is to have on-line Registration for 2014 Annual Session at Walker Creek ready to go live by April 1, 2014. As we envision the process, as Friends register, the information they enter will be used to build the individual contact information needed to realize some of the future plans such as targeted communications. Second priority is to create the database structure needed to support Arrangements Committee and Registrar duties such as lodging assignments, meeting spaces and needs for Interest Groups, etc. More functions will be added as resources and needs dictate.

We welcome feedback and questions about this project.

If you have graphic design skills and would like to create a Friendly image for us to use as our “branding” logo on PYMcloud, please submit your ideas via email below or in person to one of us on the committee.

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