

What is in the Clouds for Rice?

Services that can be accessed through the Internet are considered to be "in the cloud," and using these services is called Cloud Computing. For resources in the **public cloud**, the physical location of the equipment running the application is unimportant as long as the subscriber can get to their account, data, or files at any time, from anywhere in the world, over the Internet. Because the subscriber does not know the physical location of the computers which are providing the service, the public cloud is not a secure resource for sensitive university data (Social Security Number, employee or student number, grades, academic information, health information, financial information, etc.)

Rice University has a secure, **private cloud** that is also accessible from almost anywhere in the world. Students and employees with NetIDs can continue to work on files, research, and class projects from off-campus through VPN connections to the Rice network. Webmail and webcal provide access to correspondence and calendaring from any computer with an Internet connection. Personal web sites are part of the storage.rice.edu account available to every student and employee. In addition, new or improved technology services available beginning with Fall 2009 include wikis, blogs, a new Linux environment, JIRA, Subversion, and a new web hosting environment for organizational accounts.

New Services in Rice's Private Cloud

Blogs

Essentially an electronic diary (web log), blogs can be set up to allow readers to add their comments, or they can be restricted so that the content in the blog is read-only to everyone except the administrator. Blogs can be a useful supplemental tool for class reading discussions or group projects. OWL-Space (Rice's course management tool) is automatically set up for privacy and restricts membership to instructors and students registered for the course. Blogs are more appropriate for information that is to be shared beyond the members of the course.

CLE@R

Curricular Linux Environment @ Rice: this Linux cluster for students, instructors, and researchers, provides a clean environment for research and class projects. To ensure continued robustness, the computers are purchased and supported by IT on a 4-year life-cycle replacement plan.

Wikis

An electronic knowledge management tool that consists of a number of web-style pages of content in a "space," wikis can be set up to allow members of a group to add and edit pages in the space. The format of a wiki is better suited for collaborating on documentation than a blog because the group members can actually change each other's content instead of being restricted to commenting on the published content. OWL-Space has a collaboration component included in all spaces, but wikis are useful for less formal group projects.

Dropbox

For attachments too large to attach to an email or other dense files, Dropbox provides a temporary dock where students, faculty, and staff can leave, retrieve, and share documents.

Subversion Repository

The Subversion application provides file check-out and check-in services. This type of application is also known as a version tracking system.

JIRA

A new-to-Rice application, JIRA tracks bugs or issues in the development and programming of software. IT can also be used for project management.

and more...

There are many more services in Rice's private cloud, including Voice over IP, Unified Messaging, Sharepoint and Filemaker database hosting. See the IT web site for details.



RICE



<http://it.rice.edu/> 713.348.HELP(4357)

lots of people connected

Rice Private Cloud

SUG@R

OWL-Space

ADA

Dropbox

Purchasing System

Subversion

Ticket Payments

CLE@R

Donations

JiRA

Storage

Software (pushed to classroom/labs)

Blogs

Email

Wikis

FIS

Websites

Voicemail

VOIP

Personal and Academic Information, Crisis Contacts, Grades, HR, Benefits, Timesheets, Earnings

TeraGrid

LEARN

ReNoH

GigaPop

Members Only Research Cloud

Which Cloud?



lots & lots of people connected

Public Cloud

Google's App Engine

Amazon's Web Services

Microsoft

Yahoo's Hadoop

Facebook

Twitter

Virtual Data Centers (virtual servers)

3Tera

Wikis

Email

Phones (Skype, Vonage)

Blogs

Podcasts

Music

Software

Videos

Online Backup (Mozy, iDrive)

Websites



RICE

