



### *A Message from the Tech Practice Group:*

Imagine a world where you can access your accounting information from virtually anywhere, where you no longer have to worry about backups, where your hardware and software costs will be reduced. The time is now and the Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) cloud model is revolutionizing the way technology companies are handling their internal accounting processes.

The concept of “cloud computing” is not as foreign as it may seem. The concept is to take the service such as the infrastructure, platform or software off of the desktop and store it on another location or distribute it over many locations for access through the internet or other network. Your software is run on computers provided and maintained at your service provider. Your data is always backed up at multiple locations and you are able to access your information from anywhere that you have an internet connection.

Many Tech circles have gravitated to “cloud computing” over the past few years. Its cost flexibility, increased scalability, and improved mobility access are several of the reasons for its popularity and increased usage. Microsoft’s Steve Ballmer recently said, “For the cloud, we’re all in ... literally, I will tell you we are betting our company on it.”

As Accountants we know that time is money so the faster you can move the more revenue you are able to bring in to grow your business. We continue to lead the charge in our industry, leveraging available technology to make our clients more efficient. Please reach out to us if we can answer any questions you have about shifting your accounting software to the clouds.

All the best,

Steve, Jeff, and George  
Technology Practice Group  
Batchelor, Frechette, McCrory, Michael & Co.

### THINGS TO KNOW:

Cloud computing accounting systems offer several benefits as well as some potential drawbacks.

#### Some of the benefits:

1. Streamlined IT department, reduced hardware and software expense
2. Increased mobility with access to the program and system from anywhere
3. More timely advice from your accountant through instant access to live data

#### Some of the concerns:

1. Security of data
2. Downtime of service provider's network



Jeff Allain (center), meets with NuLabel Technologies leaders Max Winograd (left) and Ben Lux.



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## **A Closer Look at Cloud Computing**

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The era of cloud computing is being compared to the transition from DOS to Windows management software. We suggest you get out there and experiment, research and play with this technology then consider moving forward with implementation plans to ensure that you are not left behind during this critical time.

### **Some suggested resources to help you with your research:**

1. <http://www.cfo.com/article.cfm/14484960>
2. [http://www.cpatechadvisor.com/print/The-CPA-Technology-Advisor/The-Future-is-Finally-Here---How-Web-20-and-SaaS-are-Shaping-Your-Profession-and-Your-Firm/1\\$2825](http://www.cpatechadvisor.com/print/The-CPA-Technology-Advisor/The-Future-is-Finally-Here---How-Web-20-and-SaaS-are-Shaping-Your-Profession-and-Your-Firm/1$2825)
3. [http://www.cpatechadvisor.com/print/The-CPA-Technology-Advisor/2010-Small-Business-Accounting-Review-of-SaaS-Products/1\\$2784](http://www.cpatechadvisor.com/print/The-CPA-Technology-Advisor/2010-Small-Business-Accounting-Review-of-SaaS-Products/1$2784)
4. SBC2GO – Episode 29 Hosting Software Podcast; Small Business Consulting to Go; CPA Technology Advisor; Release Date – 3/25/10