What Is Cloud Computing?

We are often asked by clients "What exactly is 'cloud computing'?" Cloud computing refers to computing which is carried out mostly over the Internet, using online services such as online storage, web-based applications and more.

Cloud computing is rapidly becoming more popular, especially in the business world. Cloud services are different from traditional hosting in a number of ways. They can, for example, be sold on demand, typically by the hour, so the user is able to use as little or as much of the service as they require. The service is entirely managed by the company which offers it, and all that the user requires is a computer with an Internet connection.

Cloud computing comes in private or public forms. Private cloud computing comes in the form of intranets and extranets used by companies and organizations as a way to keep employees connected. Public cloud computing refers to those services offered by companies like Microsoft, Amazon and Google, which are open to anyone who wants to use them. In these cases, cloud computing may include web-based productivity applications, as well as online storage solutions such as those offered by Google and Microsoft. One of the major advantages of this type of cloud computing is that users can access, edit and save their work from anywhere. Since the applications and storage are web-based, it generally doesn't matter what operating system or device is being used to connect to the Internet. Almost everything is dependent on the remote service provider rather than the local hardware, software and operating system.

Cloud computing can also refer to situations in which someone uses the actual processing power of a remote service provider. For example, a computer aided design artist may create a 3D scene, which, to turn into a proper image (a process known as rendering), may take many hours or even days. To greatly decrease the amount of time it takes to render the image, the designer might use a cloud computing service which provides a great deal more processing power, by combining the power of remote computers. Likewise, some password recovery software uses remote computers in this way to attempt to crack passwords in minutes rather than weeks, which it would take on a single processor. **T**

AccSys Solutions

Innovative Solution Feature:

Advanced functionality has Adagio well ahead of the competition

Companies using lower-end accounting software such as QuickBooks or Simply Accounting may need functionality not available in these programs. Adagio can be a great solution for companies wanting to do some of these things:

- Manage sales orders, especially unshipped orders and backorders

- Track inventory in real time, with the ability to maintain alternative units of measure, multiple costing methods, and bills of material

- Track sales taxes in multiple jurisdictions

- Track and print quotes and convert quotes to sales orders with one click

- Bill customers for both services and inventory, possibly on the same invoice

- Maintain many years of sales history for analysis and reporting

- Automatically generate sales commission reports, for companies that pay salespeople based on either sales or collections

- Easily record "drop shipment" sales or sales to alternative shipping addresses

- Send customer invoices or statements via email, fax or paper simultaneously and with one click

- Handle recurring billing to customers

- Have total control over the design of forms, such as purchase orders, invoices and statements, including selectable form layouts by customer

- Maintain complicated inventory pricing schemes, such as price lists by customer

- Properly track purchase orders, including purchase order history by vendor

- Consolidate multiple General Ledgers

- Create complicated financial reports, especially for non-profits and not-for-profits

- Track revenue and/or costs by project or job

- Track and bill employee time by client/project

- Implement better security so that only authorized users can access specific functions

- Import transactions from other programs. Examples include vendor or customer invoices from Excel, or sales orders from a website

- Allow a larger number of simultaneous users.
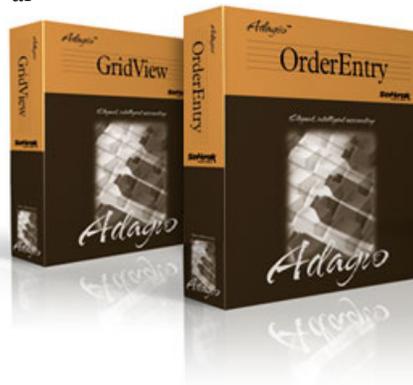
Let us show you how Adagio Accounting's enhanced functionality can save you time and money. Call today for a free demo! T

the TechnoTips

How to Create a Screen Shot of Your Workstation or Active Windows

Creating a screen shot can be very useful for a number of purposes. If you are creating a training manual, inserting screen shots for each step gives the reader a visual representation and makes it easier to follow the written instructions. Screen shots can also be useful if you are seeing an error message on your computer and need a way to communicate that problem to a service technician in a remote location. We ask our clients to send us screen shots all the time. We can help them so much faster if we can see exactly what they are seeing. A picture is worth a thousand words!

1. Log on to your computer and open the screens you want to include in the screen shot.

2. Hold down the "Alt" key and press the "Print Screen" key if you want to capture only the active window in your screen shot. Hold the "Ctrl" key and press "Print Screen" if you want to capture the entire screen, including all of the open windows.

3. Open your email, word processing, spreadsheet or presentation software package, and open a new document. Click the "Paste" button on the toolbar, or hold the "Ctrl" key down and press the "V" key to paste the contents of the texts and screens into the document. Save or send the document.