

K2's How To Run Microsoft Office From The Cloud And Why You Should Consider It











Today's Learning Objectives



- List at least three benefits of using Cloud-based services for traditional computing activities, such as spreadsheets and word processing
- Differentiate between the features available in Cloud-based options relative to their desktop counterparts
- List at least two means by which you can access Microsoft's cloud-based tools





BACKGROUND TO GET STARTED



Why Is This An Issue?



- The growth of subscription-based, cloud-based platforms such as Microsoft 365 presents **options not previously available**
- The need for improved collaboration options continues to increase, and rapidly
- Moving forward, your "computer" may not be a computer instead, you may work primarily from a smartphone, tablet, or some device not yet conceived
- The growth of remote work, fueled by COVID-19, might alter the concept of a centralized file server



Subscription & Perpetual Licenses

- The legacy way of licensing software was to purchase a *perpetual license* and use that license until you chose to upgrade to a newer version of the same title or migrate to another application
- Around a decade ago, *subscription licenses* began to appear and are now used widely in all types and sizes or organizations







Subscription Licensing Examples







Licensing Matters!



- The most visible, **but not necessarily the most important**, difference between the two options is, obviously, how you pay for the license
 - A one-time payment for "forever" use
 - Monthly payments that establish your term of usage
- A less-noted but perhaps more important difference for many – is the addition of features, functions, and utility that software publishers add to the subscription models
 - Generally, the new utility provided to subscription users is not available right away in the perpetual models
- So, what's the potential impact on team member productivity?



Are There Multiple Options? Sure!



Cloud-based	Cloud-based	Cloud-based	Cloud-based
Applications	Data	Applications	Applications
• Local Data	 Local Applications 	 Cloud-based data 	 Local and Cloud-based data



Are There Multiple Vendors?



- Microsoft's 365 platform is the clear leader in providing traditional productivity tools in the cloud
 - But, Microsoft is not the only game in town
- <u>Zoho One</u> is a compelling option for those businesses seeking a wider array of tools, including accounting, CRM, HR management, and team member expense reporting
- And don't forget about Google, one of the very early players in this market...<u>Google Workspace</u> offers several options



What Are The Benefits?



- Anytime, anywhere access to your apps and data, provided, of course, you have an internet connection
- Improved collaboration with internal and external users
- No need to install and manage software (at least in some cases)
 - Obviously, if you choose to run local applications with cloud-based data, this would not be the case
- Less dependency on a specific device, such as a desktop or laptop computer
- Potentially improved security resulting from no local data





CLOUD-BASED APPLICATIONS WITH LOCAL DATA

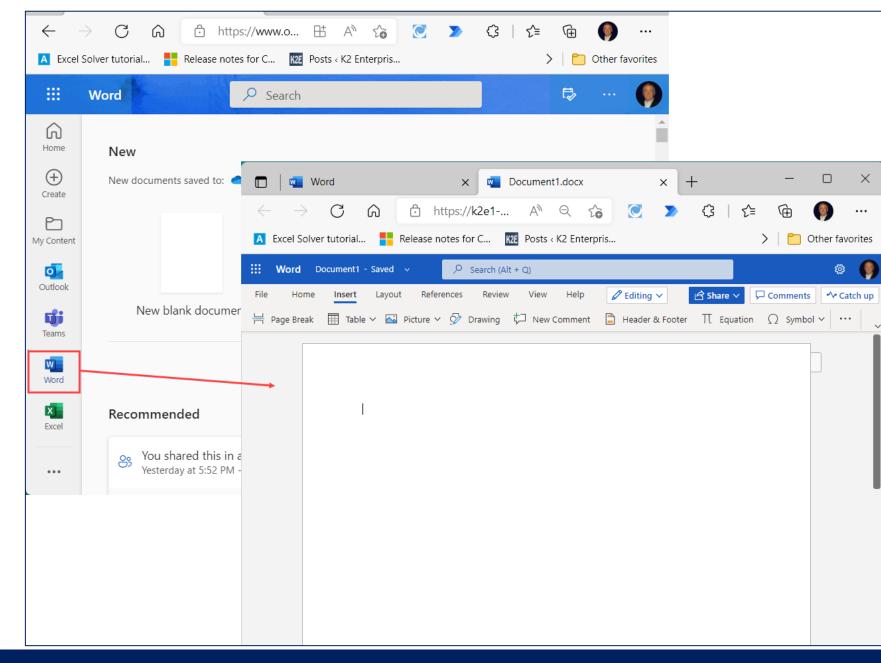


Cloud Apps & Local Data



- Cloud-based apps with data stored locally is one popular option for many
- In this example, suppose you run Microsoft 365
 - 1. Log-in to your Microsoft 365 account
 - 2. Choose the app you need from the left-side menu bar
 - The app opens with the Simplified Ribbon, by default, instead of the Classic Ribbon





Cloud Apps & Local Data



Simplified vs. Classic Ribbon



• Very easy to switch Ribbons, as shown here

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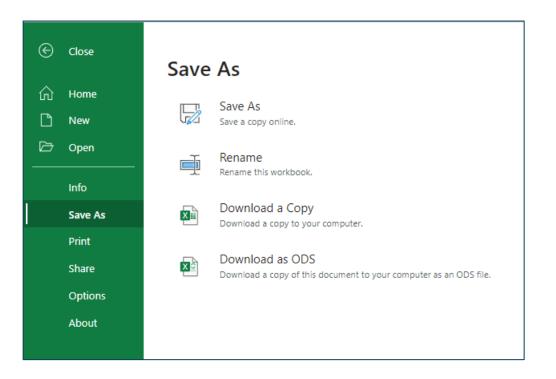
Functionality In Cloud Apps



- From a functional perspective, the cloud-based apps have virtually all the major features and functions as their desktopbased counterparts
- However, there are a handful of features that are missing
 - For example, the Cloud-based version of Excel does not offer Power Query
- Nonetheless, an overwhelming majority of features used by most professionals are available in the Cloud



What About Data Storage?

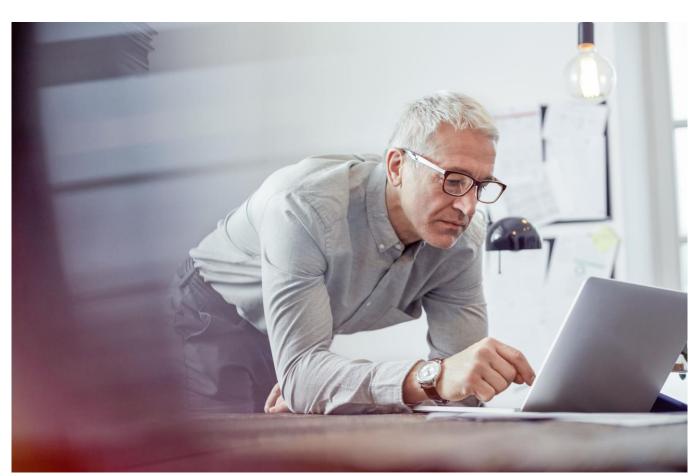


- As you can see, if you're working with a Cloudbased app, where you choose to store your work is up to you
- It's just as easy to store locally as it is to store in the Cloud



One Potentially Very Big Issue...





- By running apps from the Cloud, end-users are freed from the timeconsuming task of updating software periodically...your software provider handles that for you!
- This can also be a HUGE security issue/benefit!



Another Potentially Very Big Issue...



- Potentially less confusion over licenses and easier license administration
- Cloud-based, subscription-based apps are typically licensed to named users
- These users must log in with their individually-assigned credentials
- So, provided these credentials remain confidential, other users can't use the apps





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CLOUD-BASED DATA WITH LOCAL APPLICATIONS



Local Apps & Cloud-Based Data



- Running local apps should be familiar to almost all business professionals today
 - After all, this is what we've been doing since August 12, 1981 when IBM introduced the IBM Personal Computer
- Buy the device, buy and install the software, and get to work!
 - This practice is the traditional business model





Local Apps & Cloud-Based Data



- The difference between the legacy practice and the modern practice is data storage
- We can easily store our data in one or more "Clouds" and there are many advantages to doing so
- These locations include
 - OneDrive (personal), OneDrive for Business, and SharePoint Online
 - Zoho
 - Google Workspace
 - Dropbox
 - iCloud
 - And many, many others



OneDrive



- OneDrive is Microsoft's Cloud-based storage option targeted primarily to individuals
- Free version provides 5GB of storage
 - If more space is needed, 100 GB of storage costs \$1.99 per month
- You can also get access to OneDrive as part of a "personal" Microsoft 365 subscription, including your Cloud-based apps
 - 1TB of space, plus apps is \$6.99 per month
 - Up to 6TB of space and app licenses for up to 6 users is \$9.99 monthly
 - Note that these licenses are for personal use and business use is generally prohibited...you can however purchase business-oriented subscriptions



OneDrive For Business



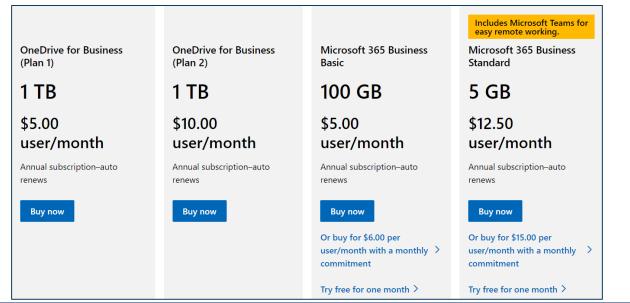
- OneDrive For Business (ODB) provides options for businessoriented Cloud storage
 - Namely, these options include organizational and administrative controls that the <u>subscribing business</u> can manage
- A key feature of OneDrive and ODB is the integration with Windows and the ability to bi-directionally sync data to the local hard disk if desired
 - Thus, if you don't have Internet connectivity, you can still access your data and, upon regaining connectivity, your data will sync



OneDrive For Business



- You can subscribe to ODB as part of a Microsoft 365 subscription or a la carte
- Generally, 1TB per user, by default, expandable up to 25TB per user by contacting Microsoft support





SharePoint Online



- SharePoint Online provides enhanced managerial controls, above and beyond those provided by ODB
- These include versioning and check-in//check-out capabilities
- You can **bi-directionally sync data** locally with SharePoint Online
- You can also use SharePoint Online to power automated workflows by integrating with Forms, Power Automate, and Power Apps and other apps and services
- Again, SharePoint Online is included as part of most businessoriented Microsoft 365 subscriptions





Huge feature for those who might have unreliable internet access!

Can sync a SharePoint Online folder to a local drive very easily

This facilitates on-line/off-line access to your data

If you make changes while off-line, all your changes will sync the next time you have internet connectivity



Zoho WorkDrive



- <u>Zoho's WorkDrive</u> service in many ways resembles the OneDrive for Business/SharePoint Online offerings from Microsoft
 - Cloud-based storage, administrative controls, bi-directional sync, etc.
- WorkDrive is provided as part of a <u>Zoho One</u> subscription, and it is available on an a la carte basis



Potential Benefits Of Local Apps



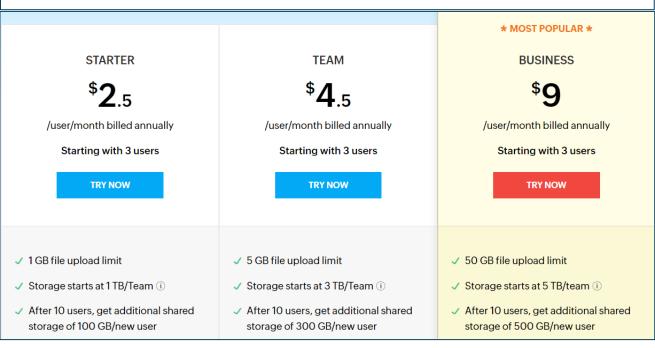
Compared to Cloud-based apps, the primary potential benefits of local apps include the following

- Perhaps greater functionality...for example, access to Excel's Power Query feature
- Possibly better performance, particularly if you have marginal access to the Internet
- Access to some add-ins that may not be available through the Cloud



Zoho WorkDrive Pricing

WorkDrive Pricing If Acquired A La Carte



On the other hand, if you choose a Zoho One subscription, WorkDrive is included in your subscription, with pricing starting at \$37 per user per month







CLOUD-BASED APPLICATIONS WITH CLOUD-BASED DATA



Both Data And Apps In The Cloud



- This scenario appears to be where we are heading
- Microsoft, Zoho, and Google all presently enable this option and have for at least a dozen years
- In this model, we'll run everything from the Cloud and store all data in the Cloud



Microsoft, Zoho, And Google



For all three providers, the process is essentially the same

- **1.** Subscribe to your desired service and set up user accounts
- 2. Choose your Cloud-based storage platform(s)
- 3. Enable data synchronization options if desired
- **4. Train users on how to capitalize on specific features**, such as collaboration options



Collaboration Options



- With your data stored in the Cloud, you will be able to access collaboration options not otherwise available
- For example, if you're using Microsoft 365 and you store a Word, Excel, or PowerPoint document in OneDrive, OneDrive for Business, or SharePoint Online, you can co-author the document simultaneously with other users
 - These collaborators do not need to be in your organization or have a Microsoft 365 subscription
- When co-authoring, multiple users can access and edit the same document simultaneously!
- See this article for more info or use this QR code







CLOUD-BASED APPLICATIONS WITH CLOUD-BASED AND LOCAL DATA



Yet Another Approach...



- Cloud-based apps with a mixture of local and Cloud-based data is likely to be a transitory practice for many
- This practice will help to get many users accustomed to and comfortable with Cloud-based data
 - Many are not yet willing to trust that dynamic although they may not realize that much of their data is already in the Cloud
- It also addresses situations where reliable and fast Internet connectivity is not always a given
- The bi-directional synchronization options available can support this environment





AND WHERE IS TEAMS IN ALL THIS?



Teams Is Influencing Change!



- Teams is a **communication and collaboration platform** available from Microsoft
- Teams is available as a free tool and as part of many Microsoft 365/Office 365 subscription plans
 - Notably, the free model provides a surprising amount of functionality and will fit the needs of many small businesses
- Teams provides voice, video, and chat communications; file storage, sharing, and synchronization; meeting capabilities; external and guest user options; and options for integrating apps
- Of course, tremendous increase in usage during the Pandemic

Teams Versus Microsoft 365





Meetings and Calling





Productivity Apps and Services









Teams And Collaboration











Co-authoring

Working with Guests and External team members

Synching SharePoint Online to local drives Security and compliance in Teams



Co-Authoring



- If you store an Excel, Word, or PowerPoint document in Teams, you and other users can collaborate simultaneously and in real-time on that document...this feature is known as *co-authoring*
- Note that co-authoring is also available in you save the document in SharePoint Online, OneDrive, or OneDrive for Business
- Think about the productivity, accuracy, and security improvements available with co-authoring compared to legacy methods
- Further, note the built-in access to the Cloud-based versions of Excel, Word, and PowerPoint
 - Will you miss features? Likely not!

Guest And External Users



- You are not limited to internal team members
- You can "share" Teams to persons outside your organization to expand its reach and usefulness
 - Clients, professional services providers, subcontractors, etc.
 - There's no added cost for doing this!
- An "external" user is limited to chat, call, and meetings
- A "guest" user can access almost everything in Teams





SUMMARY



Summary



- Increasingly, the location of our apps and data is becoming less and less important
- This is relevant from many perspectives licensing, security, collaboration, functionality, remote work, and the devices you use, just to name a few
- With Microsoft 365, Zoho, and Google, you can choose how you want to run your apps and also where you want to store your data...choices that didn't exist until just a few years ago!
- Carefully consider your options to ensure you maximize your productivity





THANKS! WE HOPE THIS WAS HELPFUL!

