



HYBRID CLOUD COOK COUNTY HOSTING STRATEGY

COUNTY CLOUD STRATEGY

When it comes to where its data and applications live, Cook County is lifting off to the clouds. One of the biggest tech buzzwords of 2015 is “cloud,” but what does that mean?

Moving something to the cloud just means that it lives in someone else’s data center. Since its home is elsewhere, it commutes to work via broadband internet.

In the past, everything—data and applications—lived on servers on premises in County buildings. Then, large corporations with bigger, better and faster data centers began to rent some of their space.

Big names such as Microsoft have also begun to offer web-based applications and online file storage, which provides access to users where ever they might be by moving everything to the cloud.

Why choose to move to the cloud? Cloud solutions can offer the ability to deploy and scale on-demand applications, 24-hour monitoring of the environment and faster, seamless upgrades without downtime.

Under the leadership of President Toni Preckwinkle, Cook County has established high standards, and cloud solutions must meet or exceed our criteria for security, usability, scalability and uptime.



When evaluating whether to move something to the cloud we have to look at the total cost of ownership and weigh that against benefits. BOT is designing a comprehensive strategy that will provide significant improvements in how we support our data needs.

For the foreseeable future, some things will continue to live in-house. Some applications and data from the public safety and justice agencies of Cook County are legislatively mandated to remain in-house. Also, the funds and resources needed for re-engineering certain systems for new cloud-based architecture will mean that cloud technologies will have to be phased in over the coming years.

We recognize that the cloud is a means and not an end. It is a means for expanding modernization, collaboration, shared services and innovation. We look to the cloud as we zoom skyward to the future.

PROVIDENT GETS 10 GIG BROADBAND

The BOT is excited to announce that Provident Hospital is now connected to Cook County's 10-gigabit fiber broadband network. The fiber optic cable connection will allow the transfer of digital communications—including internet, phone and video—at much faster rates than currently available at Provident.

The high-speed, secure connection will increase speed by which doctors and specialists can access medical records, test results and radiology reports. It also allows remote viewing of radiology records by the medical staff.

The Cook County broadband network is the result of an intergovernmental agreement with the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA). The agreement allows Cook County to extend the fiber optic lines that follow CTA tracks to County network core sites. From

the core sites, the network then extends to dozens of County facilities throughout the region.

"Connecting Provident Hospital to the County fiber network is an important step in building a strong broadband infrastructure for the 21st century," President Preckwinkle said. "The Cook County-CTA collaboration is a committed partnership and will provide a positive impact for residents."

Cook County Commissioner Jerry Butler (D-3rd), whose district includes Provident Hospital, said, "I am proud to see that we continue to invest in technological advancements to support high quality, advanced medical care."

The new fiber optic cable will help in network and data center administration, including electronic medical records, health information exchange and tele-medicine.



NOV. 17 IS COUNTY GIS DAY

Cook County is celebrating GIS Day on Tuesday, Nov. 17. Join us from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the 69 W. Washington Lower Level Conference Room. BOT will have presentations, contests and opportunities to learn more about GIS.

OFFICE365 ROLLOUT

BOT's rollout of Office365 is nearing completion, with over 13,000 users now migrated to the new cloud-based system.

WI-FI UPGRADE

This month BOT is kicking off wireless surveys of all County buildings as a first step in a countywide Wi-Fi upgrade.

MARY JO HORACE RECEIVES GIS ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Cook County Deputy Chief Information Officer, Mary Jo Horace, was awarded the Dahlberg Distinguished Achievement Award by the Illinois Geographic Information Systems Association (ILGISA) at their Annual Conference in Springfield this September.

The Dahlberg Distinguished Achievement Award is presented to an individual who has made a significant contribution to the development and advancement of geographic information systems. Only one such award is made each year.

Mary Jo has been the champion of collaborative GIS in Cook County since the 1980's. In 1996, Mary Jo was a leader in the procurement of funding to build the county-wide GIS system. Mary Jo put together a countywide GIS



steering committee to collaboratively decide future county GIS projects and to promote the use of GIS in improving government transparency and efficiency.

Recent achievements include the mobile enabled Tax Increment Finance Viewer, Unincorporated Land Viewer and Tax Delinquent Parcel Viewer developed for Local municipalities.

Also, Cook County GIS Manager Amber Knapp was nominated and elected to the ILGISA Board of Directors at the meeting.