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TeeCards Software and the Microsoft SQL 'Cloud' Database

Some of you may be aware that Microsoft recently started hosting services in the Cloud, 'the cloud being synonymous with servers hosted on the Internet for computational purposes'.

One of the uses Microsoft has for the Cloud is a version of SQL Server; this is a database that can be used to underpin TeeCards. To date only larger companies have opted to use the 'local' SQL version as it requires additional expenditure, and technical resource to create and maintain databases.

Fundamentally if all of your use is/would be in house on your local or wide area network then this is probably of no interest to you, however if you engage personnel who wish to view the board from home or somewhere other than their desk then this has big implications, and best of all we still retain all of the rich TeeCards functionality.

Up until now we have relied upon Citrix, Terminal Services and other services like Logmein, VNC or GoToMyPC to provide wider visibility, all of which in my view provide excellent results but each has its own drawback whether that be cost, or leaving a PC permanently turned on.

Who is this suitable for?

Type of Use	Suitability
Organisations with satellite offices and no IT infrastructure connecting them	Yes
Organisations who engage home workers	Yes
Organisations who want to share up to the minute information with partners or subcontractors	Yes
Organisations who's work can span many countries or continents	Yes
Organisations who engage mobile technicians/engineers/workers	Yes
Organisations who want greater security over their database(s)	Yes
Organisations who want to extract to or input data from other systems and are remote from the office.	Yes
Organisations who need country wide coordination e.g. Coastguard	Yes
Single Users	Unlikely but…
Organisations who's work is predominantly shop floor based and don't want staff to have access to the internet.	Unlikely
Organisations who's work will take them to places where there is no or poor internet connection.	No

If you wish to view this, or explore the concept further, then please contact me, you will need to install 3 components and it will not affect your existing data. There would be no charge for a simple demonstration.

Bear in mind that this is an internet driven service so you always need a connection to the internet. I have tested with a 2mb wireless connection and there is no noticeable difference between a '20mb' cable connection.

If you are in the situation of operating many boards/databases and can see advantage of having one or a couple of boards/databases in the Cloud then that would be possible, it would currently require two desktop icons. Transferring cards between different database types would be another issue which I do not propose to address here.

To use this service you will need the SQL version of TeeCards. If an upgrade is required we would only charge the difference in price. This carries a premium e.g. a 5 user system of Plus costs £895 a 5 user SQL version costs £1,042.50, so just £147.50 to pay. A fee would be charged to establish each board and migrate your data, but you could, and may prefer to do this yourself.

Microsoft have released a document on proposed pricing, which appears to be reasonable. Note that using the TeeCards SQL version requires a minimum of 2 databases, and Microsoft is proposing a charge for each database. Size wise one database would not get anywhere close to 10gb, (a factor of MS charging). My current proposal is that you own the database and thus incur the monthly charges.

http://blogs.msdn.com/windowsazure/archive/2009/07/14/confirming-commercial-availability-and-announcing-business-model.aspx

I hope that you have found this bulletin helpful and that you can see benefits for your organisation.

Regards

Steve Rabone
Director
01562 884297