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## savvisdirectBlog

Escape the labyrinth and get to the cloud with savvisdirect

## Cloud Computing and Higher Education: On a Collision Course

Posted by **Misty Faucheux**

May 1, 2013 | [Cloud Storage](#)



Most institutions of higher education have been using some form of cloud computing for years, generally in the form of [SaaS applications like email](#). Educational institutions, however, are only now considering branching into using other cloud technologies, including IaaS and [PaaS](#), as a method for improving efficiencies and reducing costs.

### What Are the Benefits for Colleges and Universities?

Just like a business, an institution of higher learning must weigh the pros and cons of trying new technologies, especially state or community colleges which usually have limited budgets. So what are the benefits of cloud computing solutions over traditional technologies?

- **Mobility:** Today's students are using a lot more mobile devices to access data. Students want to easily be able to pull up textbooks, syllabi and even their homework online via their smartphone, laptop or tablet. Cloud-based classroom applications are the best way to facilitate this exchange between student and faculty.

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- **New Services:** Many colleges and universities today are starting to offer virtual classrooms via online learning and video conferencing. [Cloud servers](#) allow institutions to offer these innovative teaching methods that students can access from anywhere that they have Internet connection via tablets, computers or mobile devices.
- **Storage:** Scalable cloud storage offers colleges and universities the ability to quickly expand storage capabilities. Institutions of higher learning have a lot of data to contend with, including everything from student and faculty information to course material. This data can quickly overwhelm traditional on-site storage options. Plus, if a natural disaster happens or if a server fails, colleges and universities can quickly lose data that may never be retrievable again. [Cloud storage](#) also offers business continuity and disaster recovery.
- **Efficiency:** Institutions of higher learning are looking for new ways to make their organizations more efficient. A [recent survey by Faronics](#) in their “State of the Cloud” report indicated that nearly 55% of institutions want increased efficiency and believe that cloud computing is the best way to make this happen.

Do you work for a college or university? Has cloud computing changed your workplace in any way?

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