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What is a Cloud Server?

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A **cloud server** little resembles the traditional server that we're all used to. A traditional server is a set of hardware that is stored on-site and includes standard components like a power supply, processor, hard drive and RAM. A cloud server, on the other hand, is actually a layer of software. This software layer acts like a dedicated server without the hardware. So what are the benefits of a cloud server over traditional servers?

Part of the attractiveness of cloud servers is scalability. With traditional servers, you actually have to change the hardware itself if you want to make your server more powerful or add more memory. A cloud server, however, allows you to quickly scale up or down without ever touching the hardware.

This line of thinking leads to another benefit of server virtualization: You eliminate the actual server. No more messing around with broken machines or servers in desperate need of updates. Cloud server providers allow you to order as much server as you need and nothing else.

So what really is the difference between a cloud server and a standard server? In the services realm, there's no real difference except that one is a software program and the other is hardware. The major difference

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between the two, however, comes with how many people can access the server. With your dedicated server, you're or your company have sole access to the server.

With a cloud server, your virtual server sits on a computer system within a data center (a collection of hardware systems) along with thousands or millions of other

people. While you don't have sole access, still no one else can access your data since you have to log into your cloud server via a secure username and password.

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