desktop version of a product. Using an application hosting service, users can access their favorite products remotely.

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A short twenty years ago, when a business decided to implement new software, a variety of things had to happen prior to that software being installed. First, IT staff needed to determine if the current system in place had enough memory available to run the program. If the hardware checked out, IT could proceed with purchasing the product. If it didn't, additional memory would need to be installed, or worse yet, the hardware would need to be upgraded, or replaced.

Once the software was received, IT staff would proceed to install the product from

spend valuable time and resources to install and manage the product locally.

Shortly thereafter, some software vendors began offering online versions of their product, where users would purchase a subscription and simply login to the product. Unfortunately, many of these early online products were pared down versions of the desktop product.

The growth of the application hosting industry has changed all that. No longer do business owners have to choose between an online version and a desktop version of a product. Using an application hosting service, users can access their favorite products remotely. The use of virtual private servers has taken this capability to a new level, allowing users to create a custom server with all of the applications they need – managed by an application host.

The benefits of using an application host in your office can be tremendous and include:

- **Ease of Access** – Employees can access the product from anywhere with an Internet connection; a must in today's mobile society.
- **Simple Product Integration** – For business owners using multiple software products, integrating multiple software systems has always been a logistical nightmare. Not so when the products are hosted on a single server.
- **Reduced IT and System Maintenance Costs** – Remember the example above? How many times did you find the perfect software for your business or your firm, but had to spend significant amounts of money to upgrade your system in order for that software product to work effectively? Or your IT person is on vacation when the software crashes? Using an application hosting service, all of those problems go away. The software and the maintenance are the responsibility of the hosting service, while you can concentrate on the important things, like keeping your clients happy.

- **Automatic Updates** – Users will always have the latest version of the product

Click to read the reviews of these prodcuts:

Cetrom CPA Cloud

Cloudnine Realtime

Cloudvara

InsynQ

Right Networks

Xcentric

So whether you're looking for a host for one or a half dozen applications, taking a look at the products in this review is a great place to begin.

Accounting