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Learning on CLOUD



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The IT professionals today are trying to cope with the diminishing budget and the skeleton staff. The challenging environment has led to the adoption of cloud technologies in education as an easy attractive option. **Elets News Network** takes a look at the cloud solutions.

With cloud becoming an important tool in the education sector, the market of cloud seems to be growing with a CAGR of 19.9% every year. The barriers to cloud adoption will gradually reduce with passage of time and education industry can leverage business advantage with this new technology.

The education sector is one of the most demanding sectors of all, especially with the tremendous growth after the adoption of new age teaching methods. The higher education sector has seen massive growth spurring the demand for automation of education sector at all levels in order to cater to the needs of the industry.

With the burst of technologies in the education sector, the stakeholders expect correct information fast, accurate, anytime and anywhere. Cloud computing has been well accepted within the industry with a positive outlook.



Sameer Bora,
EVP, Research and
Marketing, Chalk and
Talk

Sameer Bora, EVP, Research and Marketing, Chalk and Talk feels that the schools today have realized the importance of



learning. The cloud computing brings out the best in the world. Bora adds that there is a lot of scope for education sector in imparting good quality education with the adoption of new cloud solutions specifically designed for the education sector.

Responding quickly to the students' demands, the IT professionals today are trying to cope with the diminishing budget and the skeleton staff strength. The challenging environment has led to the adoption of cloud technologies in education as an easy attractive option.

The Cisco cloud solutions are de-

signed in such a way as caters to the need of the schools and the colleges at par. The Cisco cloud for education combines Cisco Unified Data center, Cisco Cloud Intelligent Network, and Cisco Cloud services into an integrated architecture that helps the educators deliver highly secure, cloud-based services.

The benefits of using Cisco Cloud services for education include:

- Redefining teaching by extending interactive multimedia learning environments to anyone, anywhere
- Expediting delivery of administrative services

- ▶ Simplifying operations, saving time and cutting cost
- ▶ Reducing risk and reinforcing the security

Cisco has host of cloud solutions and services specific to every school and university. Building, deploying cloud networks, offering cloud services, or consuming applications from partner hosted cloud networks becomes easier.

Chalk and Talk, one of the solution providers of cloud solutions, has launched head modo, a cloud based solution for schools, to meet the requirement. The solution is customized according to the needs and requirements of the institutions or schools.

Manoj Davey, Co-founder and Head Engineer, Cherrypick Technologies has developed Cherrypick Box, a cloud based solution, that helps the schools and the colleges use in-house apps for any work like sharing calendars etc, which are common requirements. "There should be a mechanism to allow the pioneering teachers, students, to work on cloud, putting mass learning and so on so forth," feels Davey.

"No doubt, the cloud solutions facilitate communication and collaboration among the learners but learning can be accepted if group of learners interact with themselves which can be possible through cloud. Collaborations can make a big difference across the traditional boundaries," explains Uday Singh, President, Global Technology Strategy, NIIT Ltd.

"One of the advantages of deploying Cloud Solution is that people don't require any infrastructure. They can travel anywhere, can be based in any location and access the information from anywhere. They can also access it from e mail, reduce the size of IT team. In the education space, cloud is very good but how education industry embraces this technology is more important. It is a

The market for education cloud computing is fast gaining the traction and the key players like IBM, Adobe, Cisco, Huawei Technologies, EMC, NetApp, NEC, Salesforce.com are growing fast. According to the markets and the surveys, total education cloud computing market is likely to grow from \$5.05 billion to \$12.38 billion by 2019 at a compound annual growth rate of (CAGR) 19.9%.



Rohit Aggarwal,
CEO Koenig Solutions

very good business opportunity for the vendors or solution providers," feels Rohit Aggarwal, CEO Koenig Solutions.

Today what is required is a fundamental shift in the thinking of the end user about cloud technology before it has a chance to really benefit the schools. Technology vendors and solution providers must work to reposition IT within the mindset of the professionals working in the education sector. Singh opines, "There are two-three key points when we look at the number of potential students we have whether from schools or colleges. The total base of users is huge but the consumption is small. So to increase the consumption we need good infrastructure to support the learning which takes certain amount of time. Cloud solutions allow you to scale up and down based on actual use or consumption."

Market Size

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The education cloud computing market brings along innovative outcomes for K-12 and higher education. The market faces challenges in the form of compliances and slow advancement of technology among the buyers.

PWC India has proposed a 12.3% increase of budget for education with bigger thrust on schools and higher education. INR 100 crore has been budgeted to establish and start the virtual classrooms by leveraging technology for larger benefit of the population residing in the far flung areas. However, the increased spending needs to be accompa-





nied by higher penetration of education in the remote villages.

The expected market size for the Indian education sector in FY 2015 is INR 602,410 crore from INR 341,180 crore in FY 2012. At present, higher education system comprises of about 700 universities and over 35,000 colleges.

According to Rohit Aggarwal of Koeing Solutions, the cloud services market can be categorized into three categories based on the type of service offered:

- ▶ SaaS (Software as a Service)
- ▶ IaaS (Infrastructure as a Service)
- ▶ PaaS (Platform as a Service)

Of all three, SaaS is expected to grow the fastest, followed by IaaS. The market for SaaS can be further differentiated into: Cloud Security, Mobile SaaS Cloud offerings and Corporate & SMB SaaS Cloud services. The global cloud software services (SaaS) market is currently valued close to \$ 22 billion and is expected to grow to \$ 50.8 billion by 2018.

Adoption Rate

Despite a fast growing market, adoption of the technology ceases to be minimal. The IT departments or the IT advisers

must educate the head teachers by demonstrating the tangible and pecuniary benefits of IT to the school system not only from a budgetary standpoint but also the way it improves the educational experience for the students, the teachers and the parents.

As Sameer puts in, adoption of full-fledged cloud technology in schools today is between 5,000 and 10,000 among the private schools. Rest of the schools from the government and the public sectors must understand the benefits they accrue from the adoption. However, Sameer thinks that the adoption rate of cloud services will increase at school level in next 5 years. At the K-12 level the cloud technology adoption varies between 3% and 5% which is expected to grow to 10% in next 3 years.



Yogesh Agarwal,
CEO, Aplane

Expressing agreement with Sameer, Davey also sees minimal adoption of cloud technology at the school level and feels that the market for cloud services will likely to evolve in next

5 years. Yogesh Agarwal, CEO, Aplane feels that the adoption is less in the sector as they fear for the loss of sensitive data. The adopters have to change their mindset to embrace the technology and work in sync with the advancements. So



CV Raman,
Practice lead and Solution architect education

there is a need to educate the institutes about the security of the data.

CV Raman, Practice lead and Solution architect education 'school on cloud' platform, Xchanging, gives a very

interesting fact while talking about the adoption at the metro and tier 2-3 level cities.

He says, "We have cloud solutions for K-12 and higher secondary and we are deploying the solutions pan India. Today Punjab is providing education to secondary and higher secondary level and we are talking to both the sectors for the usage of cloud. Almost 3,000 to 4,000 schools have adopted the cloud solutions. Besides, we are also running a lot of projects in the metro cities but the size of adoption among the institutions is fairly high in the non-metro cities. They are growing in size and technology."

Benefits of adopting Cloud technology

To gain benefits of adopting new cloud technology are listed as under

- ▶ A standard content delivery is ensured through a central location through multiple remote virtual classrooms.
- ▶ The students and the teachers can collaborate and study
- ▶ Cloud technologies ensure rapid access to infrastructure services, thereby rendering agility in rolling out newer products
- ▶ The teachers and the staff can focus on the core functions of the institution instead of looking at IT infrastructure and the application set up.

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