

APPLICATION OF CLOUD SERVICES IN PROVIDING SOFTWARE FOR SCHOOLS

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Providing educational institutions, especially schools, with computer hardware is not always prioritized. Learning the basics of computer science, using office software or the Internet does not require powerful hardware. As a result, school budget planning does not normally consider the possibility of upgrades. Meanwhile, when hardware requirements are low, and an older machine can sufficiently satisfy the educational needs, acquiring licensed software becomes an issue.

The main challenges that schools face when introducing software into the learning and work processes are:

- the available computers do not meet the hardware requirements of the software;
- software licenses are costly;
- outside experts have to be involved to provide technical support and instructions for the users.

One possible solution to this issue is cloud-based rental software represented by the institute of higher education. This approach allows to provide schools with the necessary software without the need to pay full price. This also alleviates the hardware issue and allows the computers to be effectively used longer.

It would also significantly prolong the equipment's service life and increase the security of operating within the work network. This innovation would bring conceptual changes to the management and administration of workplaces and servers, while maintenance would be entrusted to the cloud service support staff. This would remove the need to hire a separate system administrator and would provide flexible customization. The institute of higher education that provides the cloud service would gain a research platform for the use of cloud technologies, a way to more efficiently utilize academic licenses, as well as an opportunity for wider application of its technical and intellectual facilities.