



## **THE RISKS AND REWARDS OF VIRTUALIZATION IN THE CLOUD**

*SMBs Leverage Solutions Designed to Enhance Productivity and Profits*

BEND, OR - January 30, 2012– Over the recent few years, virtualization has been gaining ground among small to mid-sized businesses. Essentially, it involves the creation of a virtual version of something, such as a hardware platform, operating system, storage device or network resource. The overarching goal of virtualization is to improve an organization's scalability and increase their capacity to handle heavy workloads. In a fast-paced business world, many business owners have been quick to take advantage of this opportunity but we are finally beginning to see some of the potential downsides. While adoption rates continue to grow, business owners must continue to ask themselves, "Do the rewards of virtualization really outweigh the risks?"

In examining this question, we must have a firm grasp of the main risks that businesses face when they make the decision to virtualize their assets. Firstly, a business must decide whether to handle the transition internally or externally. Often times existing IT staff lack the expertise necessary to manage the transition. New technologies require new skill sets and many IT professionals have not had sufficient experience to handle such a complex transition.

Another risk that business owners face is whether or not they're selecting the right software platforms to utilize in transitioning each part of their

business to the cloud. Each platform has different core functions, strengths and weaknesses and this needs to be considered when making a buying decision. Most businesses prefer to bring in third parties to leverage their technical expertise to make sure the new technology is tailor-fit to satisfy each SMB's individual needs. Additionally, third party technology providers, alleviate concerns regarding the challenge of how to gather sensitive information from IT personnel without endangering the business.

It's important to note that while these challenges are very real for business owners, the trend is still in favor of virtualization. The primary way that business owners are overcoming these obstacles is by partnering with a reputable technology provider to handle the transition and mitigate these risks. By bringing in a partner that is on the leading edge of technology, business owners can be rest assured that implementation will be handled professionally by experienced personnel.

New virtual systems are run remotely at high-security, often military-grade, facilities which offer far greater protection for sensitive corporate information. Additionally, these facilities are monitored by experts who continuously search for the latest technology to better protect vital business systems. Virtualization may have its downsides but as long as we are aware of the potential risks beforehand, the

transition yields very significant rewards.

### **ABOUT CASCADE TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC.**

Cascade Telecommunications is locally owned and operated and is Central Oregon's business owner's first choice for over 16 years. Cascade Telecommunications goal is to provide each client a custom designed telecommunications solution that not only enhances their customer's experience, but also provides increased profitability and a competitive advantage. Cascade Telecommunications is a single source contact for all voice, data, and video needs.

Cascade Telecommunications provides industry-leading products with Factory Certified Technicians, Sales and Customer Service Staff, to ensure customer satisfaction by maximizing system performance.

Cascade Telecommunications provides around the clock service to ensure system reliability with the mission critical nature of the telecommunications. Cascade Telecommunications offers comprehensive service 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and emergency service guaranteed within 1 hour.

For more information on Cascade Telecommunications, call 541-388-5158 or visit [www.cascadetel.com](http://www.cascadetel.com).