

Running your IT solutions made simple!

WHAT YOU NEED

GETTING STARTED

Firstly, look at what software and hardware you currently use, how these are run, and what the full costs are (don't forget 'hidden' costs!). Then, review how these could be delivered and the costs/benefits.

BROADBAND / MODEM

If you've had the same Broadband contract for some years you could be missing out on the best deals now available.

ROUTER

Your Router will be the Access Point for your Network. If you have an old Router, for less than £100 you could upgrade and improve the speed and reliability of your network.

PC'S & PRINTERS

PC's, Printers and other devices will connect to your network through your Router, either wirelessly or by cable. Try to ensure that PC's run the same Operating Systems and versions of software to make support easier. Ensure PC's have a reasonable spec processor and Memory so they don't slow down the use of your software.

The old way

Running a Recruitment Agency has in recent times involved the set-up of a Server and Network connecting users to the server within a branch, plus Internet connection. The server ran the front-and back office software, emails, and any shared documents were stored on the server.

This was great! But, complex and costly. IT staff and companies were needed to set-up and manage the infrastructure, and large licence fees were required by software companies (but **you** still had to manage the upgrades and back-ups). Sharing any data between branches (let alone people at home or on client sites) was impossible without even more complex and costly IT solutions. And, then there was the risk to the business should the server stop working and/or software break, and Perhaps this wasn't so great after all.

The new way

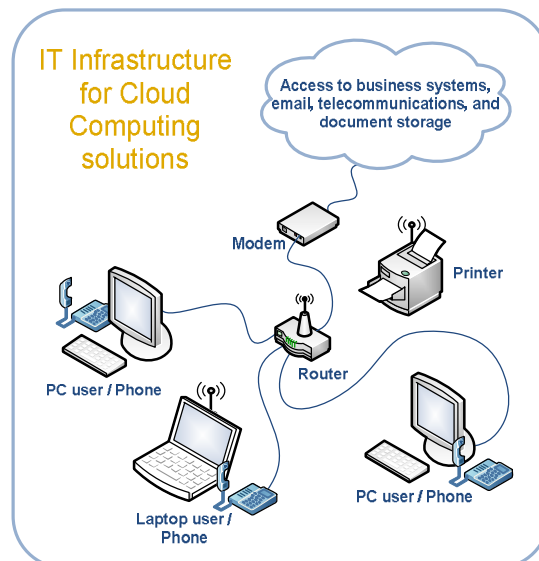
'Cloud Computing' solutions are rapidly becoming the established way for businesses, particularly SME's, to manage their IT solutions. With these solutions the IT systems and services needed by a business are provided through the Internet by specialist suppliers. The suppliers manage all of the complex IT infrastructure required and all you need to do is to manage your connection to the Internet and a simple office (or home) network infrastructure.



With only a simple office/home network set-up in each office/home location and access to the Internet you can run your business systems and can:

- Lower your IT hardware and software purchase and management costs,
- Improve the management of risk for your business (you don't need to worry about what will happen if your server goes down or data is lost).
- Reduce your own management time on IT issues
- Give immediate sharing of data between locations (branches, home, or on the road) as needed
- Link together staff in any location on the same telephone network as if they were in the same office
- Gain access to the latest software and services on the market, but without large costs

The benefits are clear, and implementing a simplified IT Infrastructure is also straight forward. We've provided an overview of the IT requirements in this article to adopt a Cloud Computing IT strategy. Below is also an example of what the running costs for your IT might look like after achieving your new strategy, together with details of how you can **arrange a free IT audit for your Agency.**



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Looking at costs

To help you think about the cost savings of arunning a Cloud-based software strategy we've provided below a breakdown of cost areas for an example 8 user Branch. The infrastructure in this example would be everything required to run Temp and Perm business across the sales process from prospecting to payment. There are of course differences in every agencies specific requirements, i-BR therefore provide a **free audit of your IT costs and requirements** and a specific illustration of the savings you could make, which may differ from the example below.



WHAT YOU NEED

VoIP TELEPHONES

Simply connect your Hosted VoIP telephones to your Router and wherever users are they are instantly connected to the same telephone network.

DOCUMENT SHARING

Document sharing and management service are available through the Internet. Free services such as MS Office Workspace will give you everything you need, plus probably more!

EMAIL ACCOUNTS

Gone are the days when your email server needed to be in your office. There are now countless email hosting services available on the Internet that will do the job for you.

BUSINESS SYSTEMS

Utilising Business systems provided on a Software as a Service (SaaS) basis provide secure and functionally rich solutions for recruitment businesses without IT support overheads. The services you can obtain will be key to ensuring your Cloud Computing strategy is successful and delivers cost savings and other benefits.

Item	Description	8 User example
Modem	Support will be provided by your Broadband provider.	£ None
Broadband	In a competitive market you probably would be able to obtain fast connections at costs lower than this example.	£ 70
Server	Adopting a strategy utilising Cloud Computing solutions means you don't need to buy, run, and support a server.	£ None
Your website & job-board	Hosting for your website including a job board linking your recruitment system for your website is available from i-BR.	£ 80
Email	This example cost from i-BR would give you unlimited company email accounts.	£ 10
Front-Office system *	Adopting an Internet system such as Quick-Recruit provides all the functionality you require for Temp and Perm business.	£ 224
Back-Office (Timesheets, Payroll, Invoicing / Credit Control)	By using Quick-Recruit to fully integrate your back-office and front-office systems you will save admin costs, as well as IT running costs.	£ 132
Document sharing and storage	Utilise free services such as MS Office Live Workspace. Not only free, they are also excellent for sharing and collaboration.	£ None
Hosted VoIP Telephones **	Adopt the new standard in telecoms. Low monthly phone rental with free inter-company and landline calls.	£ 80
IT support staff	Adopting a Cloud Computing strategy means you are only left with PC's to support. Do you need IT staff for this?	£ None?
Software licence fees	For Cloud Computing solutions there are no licence fees. All you pay is for the services you use.	£ None
Time from you and your staff	With simple IT infrastructure requiring less management, no system upgrades to conduct, no back-ups to perform, and all support fully included with your Software Services; what could you do with the extra time available?	£ None
Monthly total		£ 596
Monthly cost / User ***		£ 74

* Costs illustrated do not include costs for services such as SMS texting from Quick-Recruit based on volume of use.

** Additional call charges would apply to mobile and premium rate numbers

*** The more users you have the lower the cost per user will be.

For a free audit of your IT and an illustration of the costs you could save, call i-Business

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