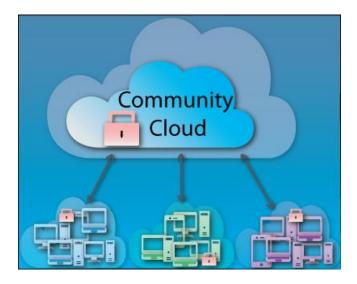**Synopsis**:
Cloud Computing

       As we continue to expand the infrastructure of computing in a general sense, we begin to see the absolute advantage of cloud computing. One of the fundamental elements behind computers and why they have become so convenient is size. Accessibility to a full office suite such as Microsoft Office from a tablet is truly revolutionary. That is what cloud computing is, a model for enabling ubiquitous, convenient, on-demand network access to an array of storage, power, platform, and infrastructure, all from any device, anywhere. Most of this I already knew, but what really stood out to me were the deployment models. It never occurred to me that there would be a differentiation between cloud configurations except for how to access or who got access. However, there are four deployment models that a cloud deployment can provide: Public, Private, Hybrid, and Community.

       The most appealing of the models is the Community Cloud. Between some friends in Austin, some friends in California, and some friends in Houston (including myself), we manage a web server, and a game server. We run some scripts, and backup applications on the same web server, but its main use is for web services. Both of these boxes are in Austin, in the home of one of the admins, Marcus. We've been trying to decide on a method of taking away the responsibility and burden of having to manage these two machines physically and taking a hit for power consumption. Because Marcus doesn't send us bills to pay, this is all cost that comes out of his pocket. Community cloud services share the characteristics of both private and public clouds. We need restricted access for the security of our data, code, and ideas, resources to be spread among all of us, specifically the cost, but also be available to our users. So we can move our backups and scripts to a private cloud storage area, and leave the public web and game servers outside of our secure network. And split the costs evenly. Although I'm sure Marcus wasn't complaining about buying higher Internet speeds from his ISP.