Demystifying the Cloud

What is the Cloud?

The cloud refers to any content that is not stored on your computer. Usually this means that your files (music, photos and documents) are stored online or on someone else's servers.

What are examples of cloud based services?

1. Tools that store/share _Documents_: Dropbox, Google Drive (Docs), iCloud, and Evernote
2. Tools that store/stream _Music_: iTunes Match, Pandora, Spotify, and iTunes Radio
3. Tools that store/stream _Movies_: hulu, youtube, Netflix, Redbox, iTunes, HBOgo, or Amazon
4. Tools that store/share _Photos_: Flickr, Photobucket, Snapfish, Shutterfly, Picassa, iCloud Photo Stream, Smugmug, and Facebook
5. Security: Find my iPhone, iPad, and Mac

What are the advantages of cloud tools?

1. Storing files online can free up space on your computer at home, can allow you to access your content from anywhere with Internet and share your files with others.
2. These sites also help protect your files by saving a copy of them on their servers. This means you have a backup of precious items in the event that your computer/device were ever lost or damaged.

What do I need to be aware of with cloud storage?

1. You will need to be aware of sharing settings within online storage to ensure you know who has access to your content and that your settings meet your needs.

Example: Be aware of iPhoto's Photo Stream feature. When turned on, it will share your last 1,000 photos with all of your devices, including images captured with your iPhone's camera.

2. Remember that you may only have access to some online tools in places you can connect to the Internet. Be sure you have locally saved copies of any content that you will need away from Internet.

Cloud-Enabled Devices

Many digital tools can access cloud based services, such as your phone, computer or iOS device. Some new tools are made with streaming in mind.

1. _Apple TV:_ Connects your TV to online streaming services such as Hulu, Youtube, Netflix, HBOgo, iTunes, Flickr and more...
2. _ChromeBooks:_ These netbooks have smaller hard drives and connect directly to online tools such as GoogleDrive and Chrome.

Backing up your Content to 4J Servers

You can back your computer up in a variety of ways. Some options are external hard drives, iCloud, or backing up to our 4J Servers.

Backing up routinely will decrease the amount of time it takes to save your files. The first time may take quite a while and will need to be done from school. Remember to leave your computer open, logged into the Internet and connected to power.

To Create a Backup of Your Computer

1. Connect to the Internet
2. Connect to the Server: Click on Finder, then Go Menu, Connect to Server
3. Type in files1.4j.lane.edu in server address
4. Press Connect: enter your user name and password
5. Open a New Finder Window: File, New Finder Window
6. Show Computer in window: Go Menu, Select Computer
7. Click HD, Users, then the House (Your account)
8. Create a folder called backup in your server and drag your house into the backup folder. It will copy all of your files to the server.