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New CloudConnect Offering Enables Interagency Collaboration and Sharing

New Jersey CTO Touts Potential for Enhanced Productivity, Efficiency and Security

Trenton, New Jersey – At a gathering of top public sector technology professionals, New Jersey’s Chief Technology Officer, Dave Weinstein, introduced *CloudConnect* to the State’s Executive Branch agencies.

Powered by the New Jersey Office of Information Technology, *CloudConnect* is a bundled offering of cloud-based services, including email, instant messaging, video conferencing, file sharing, and storage. In partnership with Microsoft, *CloudConnect* enables user-friendly interagency communication and file sharing, multi-device content synchronization, and two-factor authenticated remote access. Effective immediately, over 34,000 State employees will enjoy access to *CloudConnect*’s full suite of tools.

“*CloudConnect*’s value proposition is measured not only in enhanced productivity and security for the user, but also in cost savings for the State,” said Dave Weinstein, selected by Governor Chris Christie as both the State’s first Cabinet level Chief Technology Officer and leader of the New Jersey Office of Information Technology (NJOIT). “Collaboration is at the core of every agency’s business. *CloudConnect* will help New Jersey’s government cut through our digital siloes while enabling a more mobile workforce.”

CloudConnect is the product of strategic investments in upgraded infrastructure and fiber-optic networks, said Odysseus Marcolus, NJOIT’s Chief Operating Officer.

“Without secure and modern infrastructure, New Jersey could not tap into the growing possibilities offered by cloud-based services,” Marcolus said. “These investments position the state to unlock the enormous potential of cloud computing in government.”

Not all cloud-based services are accessed from off-site servers, pointed out Dr. Elliott Lynn, who manages *CloudConnect* for NJOIT. *CloudConnect* also includes capabilities that are housed inside New Jersey’s data centers while leveraging state-owned fiber-optic connections. “When an agency requires an on-premise solution, NJOIT’s local cloud is available,” Dr. Lynn said.

The *CloudConnect* services included in today's release include:

Allowing Work to be Done Anywhere

Employees can more easily work wherever citizens need them to be – at any time. Each user can store a terabyte (1 trillion bytes) of data that can be accessed from anywhere using a secure device and connection. Security features such as two-factor authentication help keep public data secure wherever it is accessed.

Tools That Encourage Collaboration

SharePoint Online has team sites that allow collaboration on content across departments, agencies, and offices. Skype for Business lets users instant message each other – and then switch those conversations to multi-party audio and video meetings if the occasion requires. The latest versions of systems with the most up-to-date capabilities are provided for messaging via online or in-office Outlook services. *CloudConnect* also offers Microsoft Project 365, which can leverage SharePoint, Outlook and Skype for Business on big initiatives that require even closer collaboration.

Controlled Maintenance and Hardware Costs

CloudConnect relies on cloud-based systems that greatly reduce State hardware purchases. The cloud-based provider supplies most of the equipment, upgrades, and maintenance needed for *CloudConnect* services, so that departments and agencies are not burdened with the task or expense. NJOIT leverages 24/7 services of Microsoft to ensure that connectivity is monitored and maintained regardless of when New Jersey's citizens demand it.

World-Class Training

All *CloudConnect* customers have access to the most comprehensive and accessible training provided by Microsoft. Regular participation in NJOIT's "community of interest" encourages users to discuss issues and possibilities – including successful use of *CloudConnect* services to improve how New Jersey's State government delivers services to its citizens.

For more information about [*CloudConnect*](#).



About NJOIT

The New Jersey Office of Information Technology's mission is to provide and maintain the information technology infrastructure of the Executive Branch of State Government, including all ancillary departments and agencies, and to coordinate and conduct all information technology operations in the Executive Branch of State Government.

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