



Pastoral Care 12 Cloud

With the redevelopment of Pastoral Care 12 a new and exciting product has been released that can be purchased as an add on to Pastoral Care 12.....Pastoral Care Cloud.

To some people this is an unknown area to others they can hardly wait to get their hands onto it.

To understand Cloud it is simply a place where either files are stored on the internet or a program you access via the internet is being run on a server that you rent.

In our discussions with churches we have discovered that not only do churches want a Cloud connection but they also want Cloud when they are not connected to the internet! For example when doing remote visiting and wanting to update the visitation notes on the family file or even when working at a remote office with no connection to the internet. Obviously this is not possible....or is it?

Looking at various Cloud technologies has meant that for churches to use Cloud a regular monthly fee would be required which we have found discourages churches from considering using Cloud.

So the brief we had for developing Pastoral Care Cloud was a simple one...

- 1) To be able to have an unlimited amount of users connected to Pastoral Care Cloud remotely away from the church office, these people are to be known as Guests.
- 2) The Guests are to have access to the entire Pastoral Care database so that all reports and viewing of all information is possible. Naturally the Security Settings of Pastoral Care are still functioning when used.
- 3) A Guest having the ability to edit or create family files, including the family notes and portrait areas as well edit and or create Custom Letters, Custom Directories, Custom Reports, SMS & Email Templates and for all this information to be automatically synchronised with the church office.
- 4) The ability for the Guest to leave an internet connection with their laptop, make changes within the family file \ custom areas and when next the computer is connected back to the internet for all the alterations to be updated on Cloud automatically! All of this to also occur if the internet connection goes down either at the church office or at the Guests location.
- 5) Not having the need to have a computer running 24/7 at the church office to manage the Guests when they need access to or they update the Pastoral Care records.
- 6) For Security and integrity reasons to have the church remain in full control of the master database by it remaining on the churches premises.
- 7) For all of this to work and set up simply without requiring an IT expert.
- 8) Most importantly, for all of this new technology to work on a Cloud service that costs the church nothing to run.

How this all works is very simple, the Cloud technology we are using is called Dropbox. Dropbox is available for free giving a 2G Cloud space, Pastoral Care on average only requires about 10 to 20 Meg within Dropbox. Once Dropbox is installed on the church computer and then on the Guests computer they both share a common folder for sharing files, this is done by either having the same Dropbox account details or the main account sharing just the Pastoral Care data folder with another Dropbox account.

We have developed a new add on program for Pastoral Care 12 that can be purchased from the Pastoral Care web site www.pastoralcare.com.au , called Pastoral Care Cloud. This program runs at the church office on the persons computer that will be managing all the Guests, or it can be run on your church file server. The Pastoral Care Cloud program watches the Cloud space you have set up via Dropbox and either updates the family files from the changes the Guests have made or the the program updates the Cloud records so all the Guests receive the latest information when they startup their edition of Pastoral Care.

As complex as this can get, we have managed to make this as simple as possible to setup and use.

Enjoy ☺, The Pastoral Care Development Team.