What is a cloud POS?

A cloud POS is a web-based point-of-sale system that lets you process payments through the Internet — without clunky and expensive servers, or pricy software that makes you buy a new version to upgrade. Cloud-based point-of-sale systems process all payment transactions and updates online, rather than on your local computer.

What does "cloud POS" mean?

When used in the context of computer software, the word "cloud" is just a fancy way of saying "Internet." Cloud POS software is synonymous with "web-based Internet software." When a product is hosted in the cloud, it just means the software and data are stored and accessed on the Internet and not on your device.

Who Should invest in a web/Cloud POS?

All businesses can benefit from a cloud POS for various reasons, depending on the industry. Here are two examples of how a cloud POS works at retail stores and restaurants.

Cloud POS for Retail

Inventory management is a typical challenge for retail businesses and employees can waste a lot of time trying to fix inventory inaccuracies by manually recounting merchandise at the store. A cloud-based POS system for retail can help businesses significantly reduce human error and improve retail inventory management through automation. Sales and inventory information is synced and stored electronically as soon as a payment is made, which allows for better inventory control at retail stores. See other exclusive benefits of a Retail POS.

Cloud POS for Restaurants

Restaurants with multiple locations should also consider cloud POS. A cloud-based POS system for restaurants streamline and centralize your data across all of your locations. At any time, business owners can access sales data and other valuable information from any store as well as perform standardized system updates for every location. Restaurant POS has this functionality plus other additional benefits to help you manage your business.

Cloud-based POS systems vs. traditional POS systems

It's no coincidence that so many small and medium-size businesses are choosing a web POS. A cloud-based point of sale software has distinct advantages over a traditional server-based POS.

By taking credit card payments with a web-based POS system, your business eliminates the need for bulky, expensive server systems and a costly upfront POS software license. There are generally no annual maintenance or support fees.

And because software updates are as easy as updating your app, you can rest easy knowing you're taking payments with the most current, secure version of your web-based POS software. Having solid security measures in place is crucial to keeping your business and your customers' sensitive credit card information safe.

11 Benefits of a web/Cloud POS

1. No hidden fees. When you take payments, there are no term commitments. Additionally, Point of Sale (our free web POS solution) has no monthly SaaS or cloud POS fees.
2. Less downtime. No Wi-Fi? No problem. Use Off Line Mode to take secure credit card transactions that are processed automatically when you're connected again (within 72 hours).
3. Fast payments. Speed up your queue with mobile Mobile payments like Apple Pay, the fastest secure payment type. Process chip cards in just [4.2 seconds][12] — way faster than average chip speeds, which take between 8 and 13 seconds.
4. Accept payments on any device. Take credit card payments with a smartphone or tablet using a card reader. Key in payment info on a computer using Virtual Terminal.
5. Easy app integrations. Run your whole business through your web POS. Integrate with the e-commerce solution you already have. You can use leading third-party accounting and tax software that connects seamlessly.
6. Check sales analytics from anywhere. You can even check sales analytics from multiple locations on your web POS — right on your smartphone. However you choose to accept payments, you have all the sales data in one place, accessible from wherever your day takes you.
7. Easier inventory management. Manage your inventory free from anywhere and make sure you always have the right amount of stock on hand.
8. You can build a custom POS. If you need custom cloud POS software, developers can build you a tailored system with Point of Sale API.
9. Cloud POS systems are more secure. PCI compliance and payment security is our problem, not yours. Your data is secured in a robust data center using tokenization, and it's never stored on your device or locked in your personal server room (that could be easily hacked or peeked into by an employee).
10. No costly software upgrades or IT maintenance. Maintaining your own data server on your property is costly and time consuming, and it takes up precious space. With web-based POS software you don't have to worry about any of this.
11. Easy to get started with a web POS. No need to wait for a lengthy merchant service review process — sign up online for a free account or open a new location in minutes.   *Author by the Square Team*
https://squareup.com/us/en/townsquare/cloud-pos