Blog Outline – 750+ words

Guest Blog Topic: "How Staffing is Easier in the Cloud" – The focus is on <u>how you manage remote staff</u>, as well as <u>get stuff done through cloud-based technology and/or applications.</u>

SEO Title (70 characters or less): Staffing: Why Aren't You Using Cloud-Based Technology?

SEO Description (150 characters or less): Do you struggle with managing your staff and getting things done? Cloud-based technology makes these easier. See how TODAY!

Keyword/Phrase(s): cloud-based technology
Secondary: cloud computing; manage your remote staff; supervising remote employees

Alt Text Tag for Image (70 characters or less): Staffing/getting things done is easier in the cloud.

Do all of your employees work in your office? Probably not. For example, your business may be based in the U.S., but your virtual assistant may be located in British Columbia, Canada. Another staff member, who doesn't live far from your office, may work remote 95% of the time. In fact, you may have less than 50 employees who 'physically' work in your office.

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But what happens when a key employee who physically works in your office moves to another state? Can they pick up their desk (phone, computer, etc.) and set it up in their home office? If you have a cloud-based system they should be able to do just that.

Keep reading to learn how you can manage your remote staff and get things done using cloud-based technology. It's easy!

<H2>Setting Up Your Remote Office</H2>

The beauty of the internet and cloud-based computing is that you can do almost anything remote. For example, if you use VoIP (voice over internet protocol) in your small business, an employee who moves out of the area can take their phone and plug it into their computer.

If you set up your office with cloud based computing applications and systems, you can hire anyone, no matter where the live, but you should purchase desktops or laptops for team members. Do not have them get their own technology! Why? Because they shouldn't be doing anything personal on work computers – they shouldn't look at their personal social networks during work hours.

So, how will you know if your remote team members use their computers for work? Hire an IT person who can log in to your computer network and audit the system. For example, they could look at browser histories to see which websites your staff has visited. This will ensure employees are not putting your company at risk for viruses and malware. However, your anti-virus and malware software and firewall should prevent these attacks. But sometimes they still happen.

Keep in mind that your remote staff will need fast internet service. You or your IT person may want to recommend a minimum Mbps (megabits per second) or MBps (megabytes per second). But most people have fast service. However, if your remote staff must upgrade to a higher bandwidth, you may consider reimbursing them.

Make sure your remote staff isn't saving passwords on their computers because you don't want everyone in their home to see them. It would be disastrous if a remote employee's friend accessed a client's financial statements via QuickBooks. Or if you use cloud-based tax software, someone could easily access a client's record. Use a cloud-based password application to protect passwords. You may also give passwords to a select number of staff.

If you're hesitant to allow people to work from home, you'll miss out on the following advantages:

- More flexibility.
- Save money.
- Stay on top of compliance.
- Create a better work/life balance.

The key to having a remote staff is hiring people you can trust – you have to trust that your employees are actually working and not goofing off just to get paid. And there are ways to track this. Here's an example:

Use TSheets, a time tracking, invoicing, and scheduling system. Your remote staff can "clock in and out" on their phone. Why? Because TSheets offers GPS tracking – you can see where your employees are (unfortunately, you won't be able to tell if they're at home watching a movie). Plus, if a client calls you and says, "I haven't heard from John all day." You know that you need to contact John and find out what he's been doing.

Before you hire remote staff, make sure you have policies and procedures and systems and processes in place to ensure everything runs smoothly and is a success.

<H2>How to Manage Your Staff Using Cloud-Based Technology</H2>

You can manage and supervise remote employees using cloud-based technology. Here are few tips:

- **Implement a Company Weekly Meeting –** Choose a day that works for everyone and schedule a weekly meeting. You can use FaceTime, Skype, Google Hangout, or some other platform.

- **Create a Division-Based Weekly Meeting –** You could schedule a weekly meeting for your human resources division, marketing division, small business division, tax division, etc.

- **Review the Engagements in your CRM Software –** You can see who's working on what projects, check deadline dates, monitor notes, and more.

- **Monitor Your Remote Staff's Time –** If you're not using a time tracking system, you may consider using TSheets. For example, you may notice that four people are working on an administrative task. Do you need that many people working on it? Probably not, especially if employees are billable.

<H2>Cloud-Based Technology Makes Getting Things Done Easier</H2>

If you're just starting out with cloud-based technology, you may have to manage your remote staff. But as your business grows, you can hire someone to do this for you. You'll have the freedom to "work on" your business instead of "working in" it.

Include your staff in the planning and implementing of cloud-based technology!

Remember, you'll want to monitor your cloud-based system because what you thought would work, from a technology perspective, may not work at all. Ask your team what they'd like to start doing, stop doing, and continue doing. Have them define each one of these for you. For example, an employee may want to stop logging in to your accounting system to enter their time. This tells you that you should think about implementing a time tracking and scheduling system.

Cloud computing can make it easier for you and your staff to get things done. However, you may have to learn how to delegate work and let go of being a control freak! Can you do this? If you can, you may free up your time and get your life back. Wouldn't that be nice? You bet it would!

Notes | Resources

Potential Headlines | Sub Headlines Emotional Value Score

Why Aren't You Using Cloud-Based Technology? [83.33%]
Staffing: Why Aren't You Using Cloud-Based Technology? [71.43%]
Are You Ready to Use the Cloud? [71.43%]
Why Aren't You Using Cloud-Based Technology to Manage Your Staff? [60%]
Are You Ready to Explore the Cloud? [57.14%]
Why Aren't You Using Cloud-Based Technology to Manage Your Staff and Get Things Done? [50%]
Are You Using Cloud-Based Technology to Manage Your Staff and Get Things Done? [46.15%]
How to Manage Your Staff Using Cloud Based Technology [44.44%]
Cloud-Based Technology Makes Getting Things Done Easier [42.86%]
How Can You Manage Your Staff Using Cloud Based Technology [40%]
Cloud-Based Technology Makes Staffing and Getting Things Done Easier [33.33%]
Cloud-Based Technology Makes Managing Your Staff and Getting Things Done Easier [27.27%]

Meta Samples – Research

Don't be that literally almost blogger. Here's a list of 50 words that you can shave out to instantly tighten up your blogging and make every word count. (That piece has been shared over 1,500 times on Stumbleupon alone!)

SAMPLE: Staging Your Content will make Human readers want to click and learn more about you. See how to implement this TODAY!

Facebook Shares / Buzzfeed Research – Popular Phrases

characters are you, x things only, before you die, is this the, you probably didn't, are the most, in your life, x things that