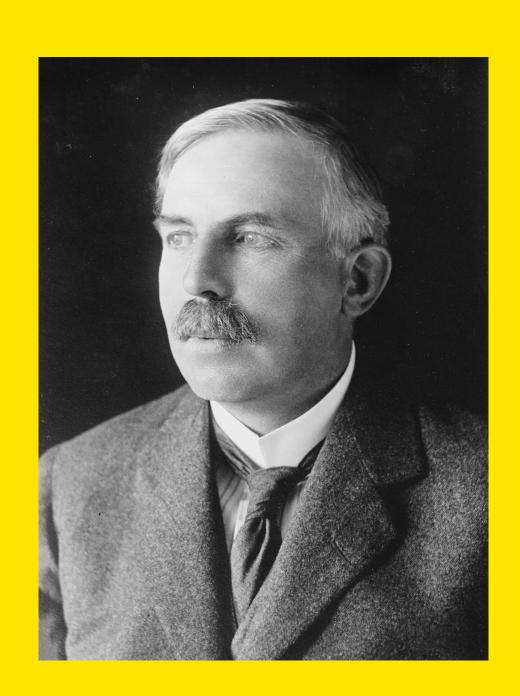
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Who Coined 'Cloud Computing'?

Now that every technology company in America seems to be selling cloud computing, we decided to find out where it all began.

By Antonio Regalado

October 31, 2011

Cloud computing is one of the hottest buzzwords in technology. It appears <u>48</u> million times on the Internet. But amidst all the chatter, there is one question about cloud computing that has never been answered: Who said it first?

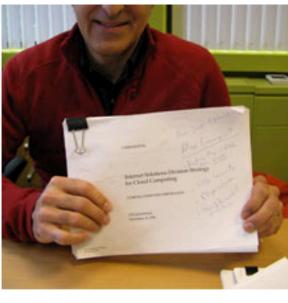
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Proof of concept: George Favaloro poses with a 1996 Compaq business plan. The document is the earliest known use of the term "cloud computing" in print (click **here** to view).

Some accounts trace the birth of the term to 2006, when large companies such as Google and Amazon began using "cloud computing" to describe the new paradigm in which people are increasingly accessing software, computer power, and files over the Web instead of on their desktops.

But *Technology Review* tracked the coinage of the term back a decade earlier, to late 1996, and to an office park outside Houston. At the time, Netscape's Web browser was the technology to be excited about and the Yankees were playing Atlanta in the World Series. Inside the offices of Compaq Computer, a small group of technology executives was plotting the future of the Internet business and calling it "cloud computing."

