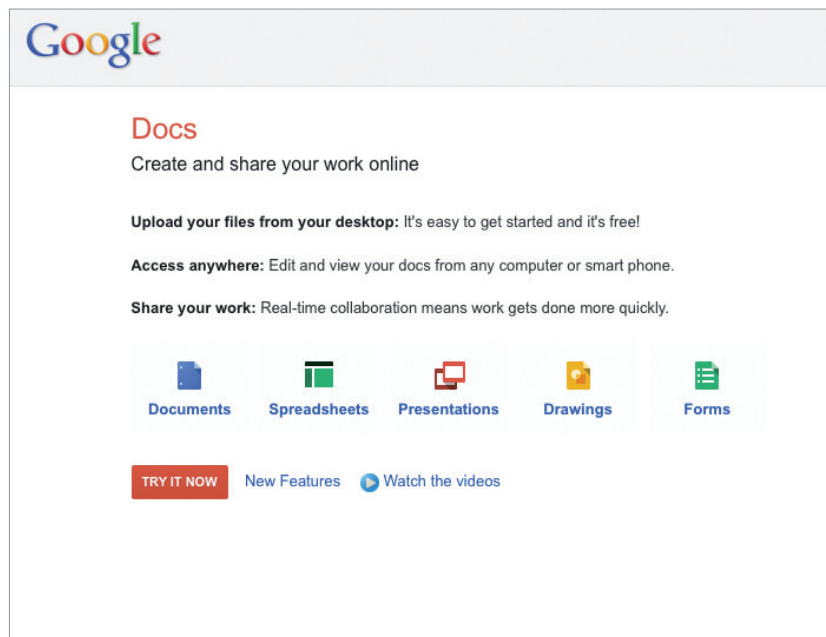# How cloud computing works

Cloud computing takes the emphasis away from local computers. It is less about the machine you use at home or on the move and more about what is happening on computers many miles away.

Instead of having to store information on your PC, smartphone or tablet, your data can be kept remotely. It will then be made available to any device that is capable of reading it.

Typically, most cloud computing is conducted via a web browser but there are other ways, including specially-made apps for computers, tablets and smartphones. These act as access points for cloud services. They also mean that you don't always need to have dedicated software installed on your machines.

The benefit of this is clear: suddenly you are not tied to your own computer. You do not even need to be tied to your own phone. All you need is a way of accessing the data and that be done from any machine.

As you can see, this differs from traditional computing because you do not need portable storage media nor are you relying on how robust or fast your machine is. With cloud computing, you are seeing programs and data being managed and provided as a service over the internet and it opens up many possibilities.