Letter from the Editor

By Tim Young

Is it just me, or is the cloud *everywhere.*

It wasn't that long ago that talking about cloud computing was the domain of IT conference sessions or the sorts of boring dinner conversations that would get you kicked under the table by your spouse. Now the cloud is starring in multi-million-dollar Microsoft ad campaigns and becoming pretty pervasive in general speech.
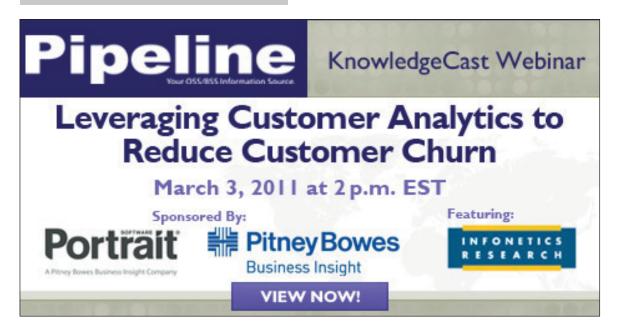
Seeing this concept balloon like this is strange. I feel like one of those guys who was a big fan of a band like Apples in Stereo in the early 1990s, and then didn't know what to do with themselves when songs by their favorite band popped up in Pepsi commercials.

> **"There's still an awful lot of confusion about what the cloud is and when it's useful."**

But despite the growing ubiquity of the cloud as a concept, there's still an awful lot of confusion about what the cloud is and when it's useful.

In this issue of Pipeline, we take on the cloud. We explore the cloud a bit, from the hurdles to cloud adoption to the growing use of the cloud to deliver hosted OSS/BSS services. We hear from NPRG's Ed Gubbins on what the cloud is, and why it's notable. We speak to AT&T VP of Cloud and Hosting Steve Caniano about why the cloud is useful for big carriers, and how AT&T is developing its cloud strategy. We also hear from Telcordia CTO Adan Pope on how the cloud is growing and changing. In addition, we hear from the cloud dynamos at Parallels about the cloud

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services opportunity as they see it.

In all that, we hope to parse out terms and send a little sunlight through the "cloud", which has proven to be a murky term, expanding to cover more than its fair share. However, for as long as the forecast includes clouds, we'll be around to talk about the impact of the technology on the communications space.

Enjoy,

Tim Young, Editor-in-Chief