Web Hosting and iCloud…

With 14-plus pages of postings that address *web hosting and iCloud*, more than 200 postings and the number of issue views now approaching 14,000 [not to mention some additional, similar streams and others that relate to the *future of iWeb* and *the end of Gallery*], I am confident that there is a significant community out there that feels the way that I do about the future of Apple services.

This isn't simply bickering over the functionality of different web tools or the pros and cons of alternative web hosting services. This is about fundamental Apple philosophies and directions. What has always made Apple great was that it offered a common sandbox *'for the rest of us'* to use while it kept watch over the hardware, the software and the interface.

In the early AOL days, I used to wish that Apple would provide that connection piece too and simplify the process that much more. Fast-forward to today and Apple is *the* major influence on communications to date with its **iPod**, **iPhone**, **iTunes**, **iPad**, **Safari**, **Gallery**, **Mail** and **MobileMe** services. Fifty years after Picturephone® was introduced, Apple made it all work easily and showed the world how FaceTime could be an inherent part of the Apple experience. ***Insanely Great stuff!***

Apple cannot forget the value of its community, the people at the heart of this experience, who live it, build upon it, support it, drive it and make it all work. These postings contain invaluable data and when they are analyzed in concert with **MobileMe** data, Apple has all the information it needs to make decisions about improvements and new services. From its current position as the leader, I can only hope that Apple doesn't discard our relationships of the past 20 or 30 years as invaluable and not contributing.

It was one thing to see the dotmac.info community fall by the wayside since it wasn't Apple's. But casting ones own users to the four winds is crazy, particularly when you could build better services for them and they would help you do it and pay you for it too! I am hoping that iCloud will simplify the synchronization of Calendars for my wife and I across our iMacs, our iPhones and our iPads. If this part of Apple is changing, then anyone who has posted their concerns about losing their pages, their galleries, their shared sites and their unique services is sadly out of luck. **I can't envision Apple Support that can't work across any of my devices and services.** *If Apple forgets about its base, it might as well go into politics!*

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