

Acer to Venture Towards the Cloud?

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Acer buys US-based cloud computing firm iGware for \$320m, as it makes its moves towards fields outside its hardware business.



The acquisition includes another \$75m in performance-based earn-out.

The sale is the 5th-largest Taiwanese buyout of an American company. Acer itself made the largest of such deals back in 2007, when it bought out Gateway for \$761.5m

While iGware is not a very familiar name, the company provides cloud-based device ecosystems, virtual consoles and personal cloud services for more than 100m consumer devices-- including Nintendo's gaming systems.

"Companies can no longer rely only on hardware" Gartner's Tracy Tsai says on Acer's acquisition, describing it as a move towards "the right direction."

Following the sale iGware will become Acer Cloud Technology Company, and will launch Acer-branded cloud products and services in 2012.

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