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SPEECH

“Wherever You Go, The Cloud is With You”
*[Speech delivered by Mark Zuckerberg at the Dean E. Smith Center on
Sunday, December 16 as the commencement speaker for the UNC-Chapel Hill winter
commencement ceremony]*

Before I begin, I’d like to ask for a quick raise of hands ***[raise hand]*** how many of you have ever used any sort of cloud technology before? iCloud, Google Drive, Dropbox, any of those, or something similar? ***[wait for audience to raise hands]*** Yeah, we’ve all at some point in our lives used cloud computing, whether it was for backing up our phone, editing a document with multiple people, or sharing files with a coworker, the concept of ‘the cloud’ has taken over how we manage productivity. As college graduates, I’m sure you all are familiar with this concept, but today I want to share with you how the cloud will stay with you long after you venture out into the world and pursue your goals.

I’m sure at least some of you remember the days before ‘the cloud’ when the thought of being able to access a document on another device without having a USB or some other hard drive device attached to your hip. We all remember plugging in a USB ***[motion of plugging in a USB]*** and hoping that the file would 1) be there and 2) be what you expected when you opened it, because if not, there was often no convenient way to go back to the computer you took the file from. We know that cloud technology has essentially gotten rid of that problem, as we no longer need specific hardware to access the files we

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need, when we need them. The notion that we once needed a “specific type” ***[make air quotes with hands]*** of technology to be able to be productive is interesting when considering that the innovation and freedom of ‘the cloud’ greatly disrupted that traditional way of doing things. Think about that going forward; remember that there really is no “specific type” of doing things in this day and age, as the world is always looking for liberating innovations. You all have a chance to be the next “cloud” of whatever you go into.

Moving on, in regards to security, the infrastructure of cloud computing protects your data fiercely, as your account, and therefore your files and information, can only be accessed by you and those you give permission to. I urge you to employ this approach to security in your own lives as you enter the professional world. Take ownership of what you create and fiercely protect it; don’t grant access to those that don’t deserve it. The whole principle behind security in cloud computing is that your cloud completely belongs to you, and you have the autonomy to do with it what you please. In this metaphor for life, it’s so important to remember to proudly take possession of your creations and keep them close. ***[put hands over heart]*** You’ll find with this approach that not only are you more successful, but also more confident in the work you do.

I would say that the biggest appeal of cloud computing is that it gives you the ability to take your data with you wherever you go. You can create a file at home and then drive 2,000 miles away, only to be able to open up your cloud account on any computer and

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access your file with ease. I'm sure a lot of you are far away from home right now, and you may be going even farther following your graduation, but regardless of how far you go, you know that if nothing else your Google Drive account will always be with you. If we're going off of the notion that what you create and subsequently, your identity, are ingrained in this idea of "the cloud", please remember that no matter where you end up, the cloud will be with you. Take that as a comfort as you leave this building today and enter into the big wide world outside.

In conclusion, I want to reinforce the following ideas: There is no specific type of success, take pride in your creations and keep them close, and always remember that 'the cloud' is forever with you on this journey of life. I urge you to remember these things as you enter the professional world. Be like 'the cloud'; be innovative, be confident and secure, and don't be afraid to go far.

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