

IS THE CLOUD Right For Your Company?



Today it seems like everyone is on the cloud, and for good reason. There are a ton of benefits to the cloud: unlimited storage, easy remote access, and increased project collaboration. But unfortunately, the cloud isn't right for everyone. Every company has different IT service needs, which means that while the cloud might be right for the local business down the street, it could be a poor choice for your company. Since we know IT can get a little confusing, we went ahead and made this checklist to help you decide if the cloud is right for you! Check it out to see if you should be switching to the cloud, or keeping your options open:

Do you have reliable and redundant internet and bandwidth?

If you want to switch to the cloud, it's paramount that you have a great internet connection that will be stable for the largest amount of traffic your office has at any given time. If you don't have great internet, or if your office has trouble maintaining a connection, then you may decide against the cloud, since it requires an internet connection for access. If it's difficult for your employees to access the cloud, then your switch to the cloud will only reduce productivity, meaning another option might be a better choice.

How important is security to your company?

It's good to know that once you've put your information on the cloud, there's no getting it off. This is totally fine for a lot of companies, but it's good to know that if your business really needs to keep client and company information secure, you may have to consider a different method.

There's still a lot of dispute over who will ultimately have ownership of cloud data, which can make storing sensitive information on the cloud a little risky. Again, this certainly doesn't mean you shouldn't use the cloud, it just means that if security is very important to the everyday function of your company—say you're storing clients' personal information—the cloud may not be your best bet.

How many users will you have?

The cloud is a really great option for businesses with less than 10 cloud using employees. At this size, you'll be saving a significant amount of money on your IT services, since you won't have to pay for an entire server. But once you get to more than 25 employees, it becomes less cost effective to be on the cloud, and it may even be cheaper to be server-hosted. It's a good idea to look at the price comparison, especially if you have somewhere between 10 and 25 employees that would need the cloud.

Do you need scalable service?

When you switch to the cloud, you pay for a certain amount of users. But what happens if you let 50 people go, or if you decide they don't need to be on the cloud anymore? Well, you'll still be paying for the service for those 50 users, regardless of the fact that they're no longer on the cloud. When you own your own server, you simply pay for the server, and so long as it can handle the amount of traffic you need, you're not paying more for additional users. This isn't a problem if you plan on having a relatively stable number of users, but if you're not sure, you could end up paying more.

What kind of data back up are you looking for?

This one really comes down to personal preference. The cloud will backup all of your data on a regular schedule, and it is, objectively, the easiest way to backup your data. While it is very easy—backups happen automatically—cloud backups have the same potential downsides as cloud services: if you don't have a bulletproof contract, you could lose that data, and there are questions about the level of data security on the cloud.

Cloud backups are best suited to smaller companies with less data, since large backups can take a really long time to recover. This means that in the event of a disaster, your business continuity is likely to be disturbed if you need to recover a lot of data.

A server has its downsides as well, since you often have to store physical copies of duplicate data in an off-site location, which presents security issues, and can be a hassle. The upside is that a server will backup and retain your data, including large backups, and it's often much faster to restore those larger backups with a server.

How much access do you need?

It's also good to note that switching to the cloud will take away some of the access you would have with your own server. When you go to the cloud, you'll have to deal with any problems through customer service representatives. This is a good thing for smaller businesses, since many of them can't afford an IT tech to monitor and fix their server, but may not be the best option for larger companies.

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The choice to switch to the cloud isn't an easy one, and it's not for every company. That said, it is a very useful, convenient tool, that can save your company a lot of money on IT services. If you're not sure which way to go, go ahead and give RedFive IT a call! We'd love to answer any questions you may have, and get you headed in the right direction. **Call our office at 1-877-890-7335, or contact us online today!**