

Why you should move your business into the Cloud

Cloud-based applications are found across almost every possible industry and marketplace globally and they are here to stay. These browser-based applications can be found in the accounting, marketing, sales, H.R. finance and banking industries and help businesses of all sizes drastically reduce their IT expenditure and restructure their business. Despite the benefits, there are still many who are reluctant to make the move.

For those ready to take the leap, here are five reasons why you should consider relocating your data to The Cloud.

1. Financial Considerations

The cloud can save businesses up to 80 per cent of their IT budget by avoiding time-consuming admin tasks. Cloud-based service solutions manage all hardware updates, system restores and security software, so IT resources can be re-deployed from these routine tasks and are free to deal with more pressing business issues. In the case where a business engages an outsource partner, hardware and software costs and complexity are dramatically reduced.

When considering how to pay for technological business services, legacy networks traditionally require capital expense (capex), whereas when engaging cloud-based services operating expenses can be applied to the cost of these services. Capital Expenditures cannot be fully tax deducted in the period when they were incurred. Instead, tangible assets are depreciated and intangible assets are amortized over time. By contrast, Operating Expenses (Opex) are fully deducted in the accounting period during which they were incur.

Have a look at this independent article for some interesting comparisons:

<http://betanews.com/2013/11/04/comparing-cloud-vs-on-premise-six-hidden-costs-people-always-forget-about/>

2. Security

Security is a big concern for many businesses. With properly implemented security policies, any business can migrate to the cloud knowing that their data is secure as all cloud-service providers must adhere to rigid security standards. Microsoft also found that 94 per cent of SME owners who had moved to the cloud had gained security benefits that they hadn't anticipated. Also, did you know that the CIA has moved its entire organisation to the cloud, so if cloud computing meets the CIA's security requirements, it will work for your business.

3. Scalability

When businesses are in a growth phase and as businesses go through the ebb and flow of changes, you can add and remove employees at the rate your business is performing, reducing unnecessary additional cost or

increasing with growth with minimal time and effort. Businesses that are in the cloud, again, do not have to scale up on internal hardware infrastructure or increased security licensing which would result in Capex budgeting expenses.

4. Disaster Recovery

Businesses need to know that their data is safe. Whether there's been a theft, natural disasters or viruses, cloud servers ensure your data is backed up. And there can be no unauthorised access to data, so you don't need to worry about your sensitive security information being accessed. With legacy IT Infrastructure, the additional costs of having data stored off-site through engaging professional services increases the costs of ensuring data is secured off site as well as increasing the appropriately-skilled resources required.

5. Flexibility

By using cloud-based systems, employees can work anytime, and from anywhere; all they need is an internet connection. This means they can work as productively outside the office as they do in.

Moving to the cloud may seem like a big step but it's the best long-term decision you will make for your business. Aside from the financial benefits, it ensures flexibility, security and scalability for your business.