

10 Great Reasons to Relocate to the Cloud

...and not one of them is fluffy



Why are so many organisations switching to the cloud?

Here at makepositive we've seen pretty much everything over the past 12 years and there aren't many systems and process we haven't moved or connected.

Many of our clients are in the process of moving on-premise systems and processes to the the Salesforce platform and connecting other platforms, services and systems to the cloud such as a legacy ERP or a booking system. Reflecting upon those 12 years experience and thanks to insights shared by our key partner, Salesforce, these are the 10 Top Reasons why moving to the cloud is based on sound business motives and clear logic.

What is the cloud?

Simply put, cloud computing is computing based on the internet. Where in the past, people would run applications or programmes from software downloaded on a physical computer or server in their building, cloud computing allows people access to the same kinds of applications through the internet.

When you update your Facebook status, you're using cloud computing. Checking your bank balance on your phone? You're in the cloud again. Chances are you rely on cloud computing to solve challenges whether you're firing off emails on the move or using a bunch of apps to help you manage your workload.

In short, cloud is fast becoming the new normal. Why are so many businesses moving to the cloud? It's because cloud computing increases efficiency, helps improve cash flow, enables flexible working and offers many more benefits.

Check out ten of the most common reasons we come across

1. Flexibility

Cloud-based services are ideal for businesses with growing or fluctuating demands in bandwidth. If your needs increase it's easy to scale up your cloud capacity, drawing on the service's remote servers. Likewise, if you need to scale down again, the flexibility is baked into the service. This level of agility can give businesses using cloud computing a real advantage over competitors – it's not surprising that CIO'S and IT Directors rank 'operational agility' as one of the top drivers for cloud adoption.

2. Disaster recovery

In robust disaster recovery, but for smaller businesses that lack the required cash and expertise, this is often more an ideal than the reality. Cloud is now helping more organisations buck that trend. Those who have implemented cloud-based backup and recovery solutions can save time, avoid large up-front investment and access third-party expertise as part of the deal.

3. Automatic software updates

The beauty of cloud computing is that the servers are off-premise, out of sight and out of your hair. Suppliers take care of them for you and roll out regular software updates – including security updates – so you don't have to worry about wasting time maintaining the system yourself. Leaving you free to focus on the things that matter, like managing your staff and growing your business.





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4. Capital-expenditure free

Cloud computing cuts out the high cost of hardware. You simply pay as you go and enjoy a subscription-based model that's kind to your cash flow. Add to that the ease of setup and management and suddenly your scary, hairy IT project looks at lot friendlier.

5. Increased collaboration

When your teams can access, edit and share documents anytime, from anywhere, they're able to do more together ... and do it better. Cloud-based workflow and file sharing apps help them make updates in real time and gives them full visibility of their collaborations. In practice, this should result in more accuracy first time around as documents are automatically updated in realtime.

6. Work from anywhere

With cloud computing, if you've got an internet connection, then you can work! And with most up-to-date cloud services offering mobile apps, you're not restricted by which device you've got to hand as they respond automatically to whatever device you are working on.

The result? Businesses can offer more flexible working perks to employees so they can enjoy the work-life balance that suits them – without productivity taking a hit. One study reported that 42% of workers would swap a portion of their pay for the ability to telecommute. On average they'd be willing to take a 6% pay cut. Considering the average commuter costs plus time wasted whilst travelling, a 6% pay cut starts to look insignificant against the benefits to be gained.

7. Document control

The more employees and partners collaborate on documents, the greater the need for watertight document control. Before the cloud, workers had to send files back and forth as email attachments to be worked on by one user at a time. Sooner or later – usually sooner – you end up with a mess of conflicting file content, formats and titles.

And as even the smallest companies become more global, the scope for complication rises. According to one study, "73% of knowledge workers collaborate with people in different time zones and regions at least monthly".

When you make the move to cloud computing, all files are stored centrally and everyone sees one version of the truth. Greater visibility means improved collaboration, which ultimately means better work and a healthier bottom line. If you're still relying on the old way, it could be time to try something a little more streamlined.

8. Security

Lost laptops costs industry billions of pounds per year. And potentially greater than the loss of an expensive piece of kit is the loss of the sensitive data inside it. Cloud computing gives you greater security when this happens. Because your data is stored in the cloud, you can access it no matter what happens to your machine. And you can even remotely wipe data from lost laptops so it doesn't get into the wrong hands.

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9. Competitiveness

Wish there was a simple step you could take to become more competitive? Moving to the cloud gives access to enterprise-class technology, for everyone. It also allows smaller businesses to act faster than big, established competitors. Pay-as-you-go service and cloud business applications mean small outfits can run with the big boys, and disrupt the market, while remaining lean and nimble. David now packs a Goliath-sized punch.

10. Environmentally friendly

While the above points spell out the benefits of cloud computing for your business, moving to the cloud isn't an entirely selfish act. The environment gets a little love too. When your cloud needs fluctuate, your server capacity scales up and down to fit. So you only use the energy you need and you don't leave oversized carbon footprints.

Ready to move to the cloud?

As mentioned in some of our other articles, makepositive have a defined step-by-step process towards implementing and supporting your move to the cloud. We deliver a secure knowledgeable and professional service. Please contact us for further information on how to move to the cloud!

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