



Top 6 Considerations for Cloud vs. On-Premise

by John C. Stucky

In this whitepaper, I'm taking a closer look at cloud-based solutions versus on-premise solutions and covering the top six considerations when deciding which solution is right for you. If you are considering new software and comparing the pros and cons of cloud versus other deployment options, then keep reading.

There are many factors to consider when making this decision. And despite what some vendors may say, the answer is not the same for everyone! Here are the top six things to consider when choosing your deployment model.

#1 Security

We've all seen news reports about hackers accessing confidential information. Security is not only an important decision to avoid becoming a statistic, but also one that may be government regulated. Depending on your industry, market, and location, you may have to abide by an array of rules determining how you use and store sensitive data. In some cases, as we often see in healthcare and financial services, sensitive data can require private data centers. Cloud security has come a long way, though, and is arguably as secure as most private data centers. In either case, security (and regulations of your industry) is something to think about when considering cloud and on-premise.

#2 Data Access

Every successful organization needs to focus on what they do best: whether it's manufacturing, distribution, or some other product or service. But to be able to really focus on a specialty, employees and outsourced service

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providers need access to specific data while the company must protect its sensitive information. This is a big factor when considering cloud, on-premise or a mix of the two. Cloud applications can often be easier to open up to third parties while on-premise applications might require increased security. On the other hand, if you do business internationally and have mandates as to where data can be held, cloud might not be right for you.

#3 Existing Infrastructure

When you've invested a lot of time and resources into an existing infrastructure, and the time comes for that infrastructure to change, it can be difficult to decide how best to move forward. Moving some existing IT systems to the cloud can be especially beneficial for companies whose offices don't lend themselves to be the most secure data centers. If the company is leasing space, they may not have control over sprinkler systems, power, and even access to the building at off-hours. However, moving those systems is not always simple. Legacy applications may need the on-premise equipment to run at peak efficiency or particular technology stacks may require complicated set-up in the cloud.

#4 Integration

There is no end to the amount of useful applications customized for the specific needs of every industry today. However, each of those applications may operate in different ways. For example, your organization may use an on-premise database in conjunction with a cloud-based CRM. Insuring that these systems integrate prevents rekeying information and enables having the right data available when you need it. You need the option of deploying your integration technology so that it works in both environments. To decide whether your integration technology will reside in the cloud or in a rack in your data center, you have to start with the specific requirements of your business.

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#5 User Locations

Does your business have more than one location or remote workers? Having multiple locations can challenge organizations and their employees' ability to be as productive and efficient as possible. This is a huge factor to consider when deciding between cloud or on-premise software. The cloud is credited with being easily accessible by anyone at anytime, but it is also touted as sometimes being less secure. At the same time, on-premise software has long-standing remote solutions, but those may still limit functionality for traveling employees.

One thing everyone can agree on is that remote access is becoming increasingly important with the rise of mobile devices used for business. The best way to choose the right solution is to find an expert who can help you evaluate your business needs now and in the future.

#6 Bandwidth

Have you ever tried to download a file and been stuck waiting what feels like forever? We've all been there. Low bandwidth can be a serious problem when you factor in a large number of employees sharing the same network. Sometimes cloud solutions don't offer enough bandwidth, especially when it comes to uploading larger files such as videos. However, creative solutions are helping to address this issue. Outbound bandwidth is another consideration—some cloud providers let you move everything onto their servers, but it may not be so easy to get it back out. On the other hand, in-house servers are only limited by your internal network's infrastructure, and you always have access since it's onsite. On-premise solutions may cause other issues, though. To decide what's right for your business, consult an expert and discuss your current and future needs to find something that is flexible and scalable enough to grow with your organization.

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All of these considerations should be reviewed in-depth before making a decision. TrinSoft exists to help your company use technology to be more efficient and profitable. If you have questions about cloud versus on-premise, please contact me directly. I'll be happy to answer any questions you may have or review options and alternatives.

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