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Business-shaped technology

Top Ten Cloud Myths Demystified

Store your sensitive data in a place you trust

What even is Cloud Computing?

By definition, Cloud Computing is a metaphor for delivering on-demand computer resources and services over the internet. Including, applications, servers and data storage. This is considered an easy way for resources to be shared and accessed in a secure and scalable manner without making upfront large investments in hardware.

Cloud is considered to be a place where you can store all the information/tools you could possible need in one location, with the added protection of data security and backup and recovery process. Read our whitepaper on disaster recovery.

You can access as many resources as you need, almost instantly, and only pay for what you use. For example, you can use it for:

- Scalable Usage
- Communication
- Productivity
- Business Processes
- Backup and Recovery
- Application Development
- Big Data Analysis
- Social Networking
- Infrastructure

Think of it as all your resources floating up to a big fluffy white cloud in the sky.

Although, most people are still sceptical on the idea of sending their information to the cloud and believe many of the myths hovering around. That's why we have gathered all the information on the top ten myths regarding Cloud and demystified them.
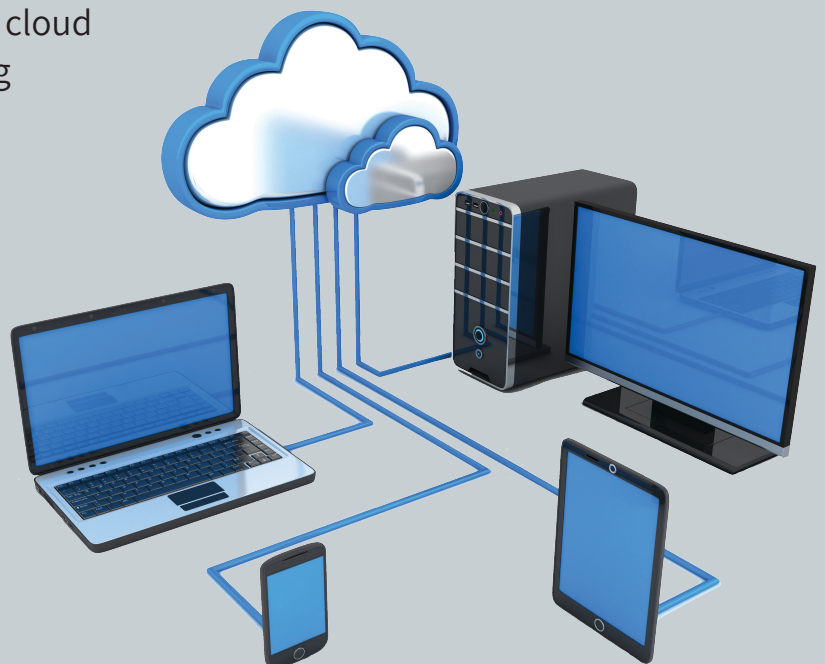
1. Data security is a risk and so are Cloud providers

MYTH! Cloud has a strong governance that can be much much more secure and reliable than on-premises security measures as it has multiple layers. Also, all cloud providers are extensively trained. In fact, over 80% of security failures have been due to the lack of security and Cloud training.

2. We are too small to reap the benefits of Cloud

MYTH! Remember that Cloud Computing comes with a handful of benefits, and with the choice of service, you'll be able to match your ROI with your requirements. Many businesses have benefitted from the use of cloud as it reduces cost, it's easy to use, it's flexible and it has automated system updates.

3. There are geographical restrictions

MYTH! Cloud providers ensure that their services are available regardless of location. This enables data to be dispersed between data centres across multiple cities.

4. Cloud Computing is too expensive

MYTH! The cost on Cloud is only dependent on your requirements. Cloud can be scalable, which means that you only pay for the power you use, so you're getting your money's worth!

5. We wouldn't have any control over our data

MYTH! Cloud only removes the hassle of maintaining physical servers, still allowing businesses to have control over who has access over their data and how they use it.

6. Cloud technology is not mature enough

MYTH! Cloud has been around since the 1960's when project MAC was first developed. Now Cloud is mature enough to outlast your PC, it's maturity is fast approaching with advanced innovations being developed each year!

7. We have to commit all of our data into the Cloud

MYTH! First of all, Cloud comes in a variety of different flavours for you to choose from, depending on what data you would like to transfer. For example, the hybrid Cloud allows you to access and deliver data on any device, anywhere.

8. On-premises is more secure than Cloud

MYTH! In terms of perimeter protection, on-premises and Cloud are very much the same. In fact, it's actually humans that are the main cause of a data breach. The only difference is that cloud would need less management in security compared to on-premises.

9. There are compatibility issues with existing software

MYTH! Every Cloud platform is different. For example, Google and Microsoft are completely different from each other. However, since people expect a great deal in terms of cross-compatibility, Cloud has partnered with various platforms to meet this requirement.

10. There is no support or training involved with Cloud

MYTH! Most Cloud providers offer user-based communities and a live support service to help users with common issues. Also, there are plenty of training packages and seminars to get a further understanding of the Cloud.

Myth 1.

Data security is a risk and so are Cloud providers

Cloud has a strong governance that can be much much more secure and reliable than on-premises security measures as it has multiple layers. Also, all cloud providers are extensively trained. In fact, over 80% of security failures have been due to the lack of security and Cloud training.

It's no secret that creating a security strategy is a complex challenge, especially when there's so many areas to cover, such as compliance, processes, data governance, training and what your business actually wishes to achieve. As one company, it's very difficult to manage, unless you are putting in all of your time and energy in maintaining security. You're better off asking for a little help and it just so happens that the Cloud can provide this for you.

Unfortunately, the only people responsible for the company's data, is those who are within the business - Not your Cloud provider. Therefore, to ensure you are covering all layers of data protection, we would suggest that the appropriate training is given to all employees, whether this is a receptionist or the CEO of the company, that your processes are detailed covering every outcome and that your technology is up to date. Also, just because a company is a Cloud provider doesn't mean they are properly secured, so try and take some time to do a little bit of research and make sure the provider you're using is legitimate and knows what they are doing.

In simpler terms, if Tesco provided a working trolley, but the user isn't paying attention and ends up crashing it into a wall, who's fault is that?

After all, a study by Gartner shows that by 2022, over 90% of data breaches will be caused by human error, whether it's customers or employees.

Myth 2.

We are too small to reap the benefits of Cloud Computing

Benefits, and with the choice of service, you'll be able to match your ROI with your requirements. Many businesses have benefitted from the use of cloud as it reduces cost, it's easy to use, it's flexible and it has an automated system update.

We're not even sure where this myth stemmed from as it's one of the best things to happen to small businesses since pen holders. Small businesses need Cloud just as much as any other business as it comes with a handful of benefits, such as:

- Flexibility Increase
- Access to Back-up and Disaster Recovery
- Automated Updates
- Pay-as-you-Go
- Mobile Working
- Information Sharing
- File Storage
- Scalable Infrastructure
- Big Data Analytics
- IT Security
- Better Collaboration

And you're telling us that a company will be too small to reap these benefits? We think not!

Myth 3.

Cloud has geographical restrictions

Cloud Providers ensure that they're services are working regardless of location. This enables data to be dispersed between data centres across multiple regions.

Again, there are a variety of deployment models when it comes to Cloud Computing, one of which, allows you to communicate data between data centres all over the world. Put simply, if you have an office in America, England and Thailand, you can share your data between these locations.

If you only wanted to store data in a specific region you can filter this as a geographical restriction.

It's completely flexible!

Myth 4.

Cloud Computing is too expensive

The cost on cloud is only dependent on your requirements. Cloud can be scalable, which means that you only pay for the power you use, so you're making your money's worth!

Imagine you want to buy a freezer, but you don't store a lot of frozen goods. Are you going to buy a large Freezer that costs a lot more and have a large amount of unnecessary space, or are you going to choose the freezer that's the right size for the amount of frozen goods you want to store?

It's exactly the same when it comes to Cloud. If you need to store a sufficient amount of data, you will need to deploy a Cloud product that fits your needs. If your needs change over time, that's ok as Cloud Computing is scalable.

What your Cloud provider does is provide maintenance and security costs within this, removing the constant stress and allowing you to focus on the future of your organisation.

Myth 5.

We wouldn't have control over our own data

MYTH! Cloud only removes the hassle of maintaining physical servers, still allowing businesses to have control over who has access over their data and how they use it.

We can understand why you would worry about this one as you can't see where your data is being stored. Well, depending on the Cloud provider you choose, you may have admin access to view and control the data from anywhere in the world at any time.

Also, without having physical servers to maintain, you will not be required to purchase Hard Drives, RAMs, processors etc, and free up your time to manage data.

You will also have control over who has access to specific data, enabling you to have control over data flows and work processes.

Even though you can never be certain as to what employees and third-party's are doing with your data, you can minimise risk by providing awareness and training. That being said, many Cloud providers will give you the option to implement an audit log, so you can see exactly who's accessed the data and when.

Myth 6.

Cloud technology is too young

Cloud has been around since the 1960's when project MAC was first developed. Now Cloud is mature enough to outlast your PC, it's maturity is fast approaching with advanced innovations being developed each year!

You may feel that the Cloud still needs more time to evolve before it's adopted all over the globe. But when you think about it, Cloud Computing has been around since project MAC was developed and that was in the 1960's! Think of how much it's grown since then and how it will continue to do so!

Maturity is fast approaching as new applications are being developed for the next generation as we speak!

We rely on the cloud to the point that's it's more than a trend, it's involved within our everyday lives through the companies we interact with - technically you've already migrated, just not fully...
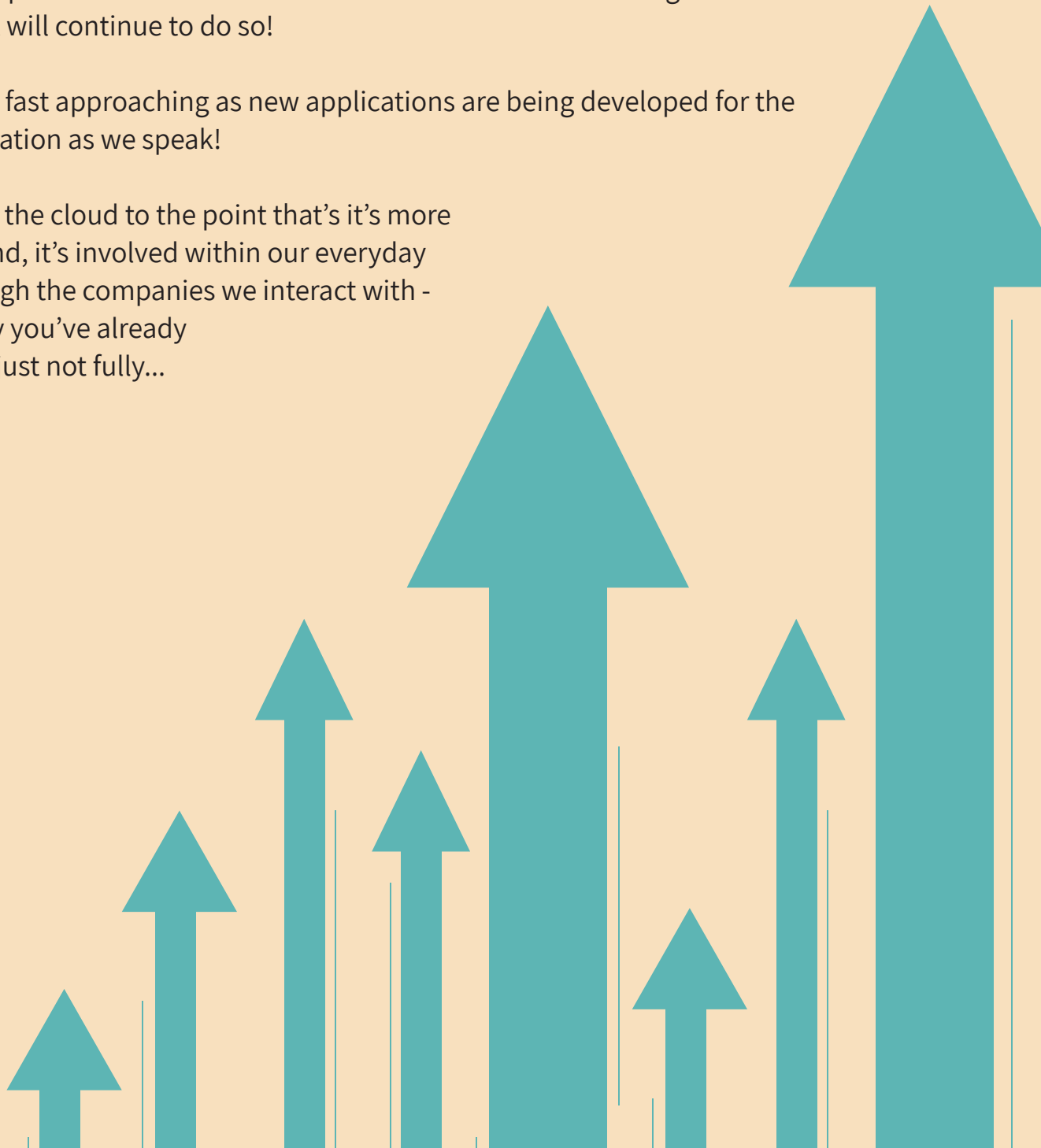
Myth 7.

We have to commit all of our data to the Cloud

First of all, Cloud comes in a variety of different flavours for you to choose from, depending on what data you would like to transfer. For example, the Hybrid Cloud allows you to access and deliver data on any device, anytime, anywhere.

You can migrate to the Cloud at your own pace or choose a development that's suitable to you, there is no rush or deadlines - you are in complete control with how you manage your data.

Most people start with a hybrid approach, which is moving a single section of your workload over to the Cloud, for example, email.

Myth 8.

On-premises is more secure than the Cloud

In terms of perimeter protection, on-premises and Cloud are very much the same. In fact, it's actually humans that are the main cause of a data breach. The only difference is that Cloud would need less management in security compared to on-premises.

This is one of the more popular myths out there regarding Cloud Computing. Most people believe that just because their servers are within their physical protection, they will not experience a data breach, although this is not the case.

In fact, most breaches will originate from the company's own employees or firewall system, which is less likely to happen if your data centre is offsite constantly being monitored.

- **Location Independence** - If you upload your files on to a Cloud platform, you can access them from any computer or mobile device as long as you are connected to the Internet.

- **Controlled Access** - While data is stored off-premises, it reduces the risk of human error as they are physically separated from the data.

- **Thorough and Frequent Auditing** - Many Cloud providers will undergo regular checks against the flaws in their system, which will be patched immediately if found.

- **Automatic Software Updates** - Cloud providers take care of the software update, which includes new security patches.

- **Disaster Recovery** - Cloud comes with a built in disaster recovery and equipment designed specifically to prevent unplanned outages.

- **Encryption** - Many Cloud providers offer encryption to add another layer to secure your data. This will only grant you access to sensitive data if you have a decryption key.

Myth 9.

There are compatibility issues with existing software

Every Cloud platform is different. For example, Google, AWS and Microsoft are completely different from each other. However, since people expect a great deal in terms of cross-compatbility, Cloud has gained access to these different platforms to allow you to use both existing and new software.

As mentioned earlier, Cloud has come a long way since the 1960's. Before, there was no way your hardware would be cross-compatible! Nowadays, especially with such a high demand for cross-compatibility, Cloud Computing enables you to access anytime and anywhere!

Also, with it's automatic system updates, Cloud will continue to be cross-compatible across multiple devices, platforms, applications and even environments.

Take a look at our Whitepaper on Microsoft Azure

Myth 10.

There is no support or training within the Cloud

Cloud providers offer user-based communities and a live support service to help users with common issues. Also, there are plenty of training packages and seminars to get a further understanding of the Cloud.

Most Cloud providers build/host live support services to help users with common issues. This could either be a ticket support system, a dashboard or a live chat. Once you've decided on a chosen provider, they will give you access to these.

In terms of training, your company may provide a Cloud overview once you migrate over. If not or you want additonal training before making a decision, there are plenty of online training courses and seminars to help you with the details. Once you've really become a Cloud know-it-all, you can look into certification. That would be nice to have in your office!

What are you talking about?

There's a lot of terminology when it comes to Cloud. To ensure you completely understand what we are talking about, we created a glossary for all the techy jargons you've been hearing. If you still don't understand, well then we are not doing our job properly.

- **Cloud** – Metaphor for the internet
- **IaaS** – Infrastructure as a Service
- **SaaS** – Software as a Service
- **PaaS** – Platform as a Service
- **Public Cloud** – A third party service provider that can be openly used by the general public.
- **Hybrid Cloud** – Combination of two or more cloud infrastructure: public Cloud services, private Cloud services or community Cloud services.
- **Private Cloud** – Infrastructure exclusively used by an organisation's internal users
- **Community Cloud** – Infrastructure is shared between multiple organisations
- **Virtualisation** – Virtual version of a device or resource
- **Infrastructure** – The physical structure of an organisation
- **Application** – Programs that are designed for the end-user.
- **Server** – A computer programme that manages access to a network.
- **Storage** – Set of hardware that stores data in a network/organisation.
- **Network** – Organisation internal structure
- **GDPR** – General Data Protection Regulation

Now that you know most of everything that you need to know, speak to an expert

If you haven't already done so, it's time to speak to a Cloud Services expert. Not doing so runs the risk of your business becoming just another company who's not with the program!

SPEAK TO YOUR OWN CLOUD SERVICES EXPERT

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