

# How the cloud drives growth in manufacturing

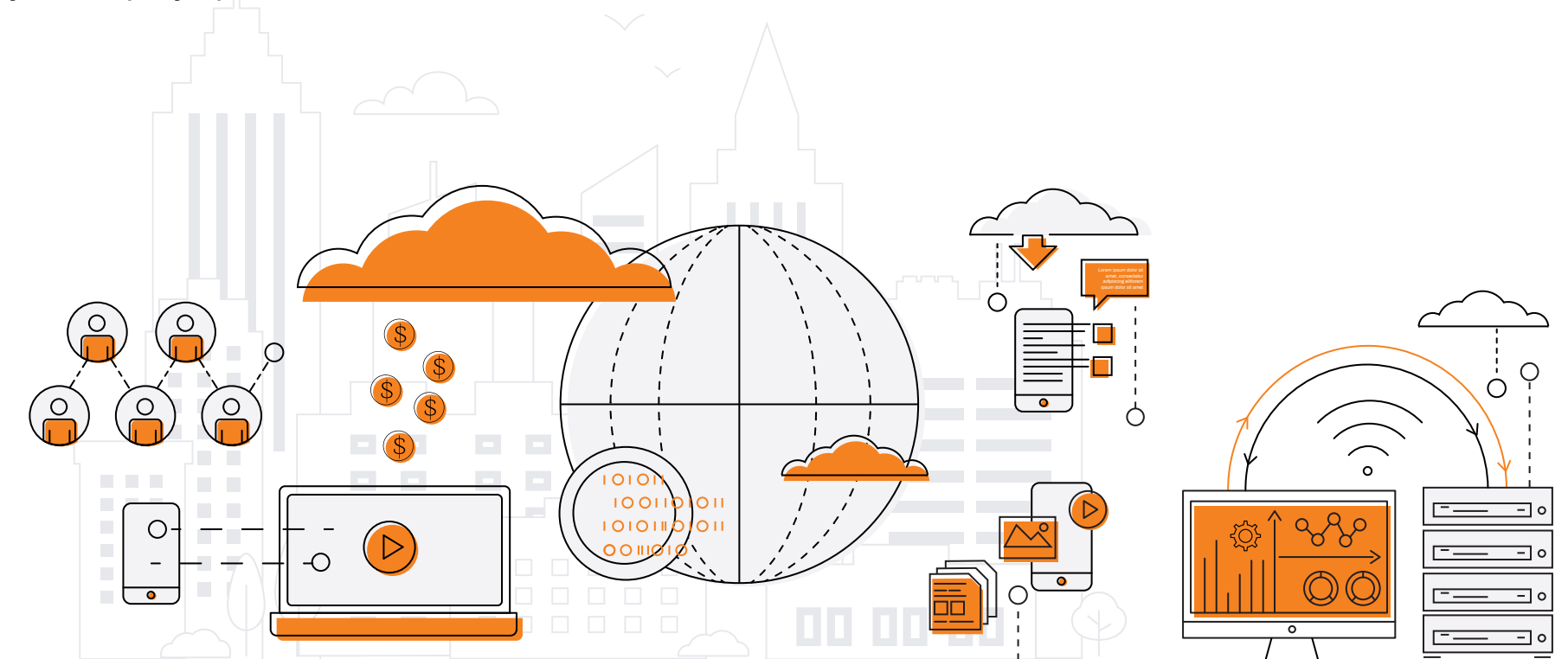
Manufacturers are embracing cloud computing to optimize operations

# Welcome to the cloud

The momentum of cloud computing is stronger than ever. Manufacturers are embracing cloud computing to optimize their operations in a cost-efficient way.

Conducting business in the cloud is important to manufacturing companies to reduce risk and increase agility. This provides the ability to collaborate with different applications, users and systems in a cohesive ecosystem. Its your business anywhere, any time and on your preferred device.

But, does the cloud live up to its hype? Is it practical in the manufacturing industry? Let's look at some of the benefits of using the cloud to unlock your company's potential.







## Investing in cloud computing

Spending on cloud computing infrastructures grew 30% annually between 2013 and 2018, compared to just 5% for overall enterprise IT.

Why? Because the cloud offers scalability, affordability and flexibility. Without the cloud, mobility, social media, IoT and big data would come at a much higher cost to companies and require significant overhead and continuous data center management.







# Predictive maintenance ensures optimal performance

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Companies make strategic investments in business-critical machinery, production lines, facilities, warehouses and different types of vehicles and fleets. Keeping these assets in working order and maintaining the best environment for them can make a big difference in how well you control costs, manage resources and meet customer commitments.

For those reasons, many companies rely on data from the Internet of Things (IoT) to enable better use of their assets and resources, maintain desirable environmental qualities and evolve maintenance from condition-based to predictive. These are important, frequent use cases where cloud technologies can excel.

If you need to keep tabs on the performance of a complex machine—the real-life usage scenarios for your products in customers' hands, or the location and fuel consumption of your delivery vehicles—cloud technology and analytics can provide real-time visibility and enable you to create the outcomes you want to see.

Predictive maintenance with IoT ensures uptime, productivity and optimal performance of assets.





# Gather information on critical business interests and priorities

When you take advantage of cloud-based analytics and business intelligence capabilities, data can be presented in an insightful way. In the cloud, you can set up data stores and insight tools with great flexibility to get to meaningful, beneficial decisions.

Imagine you already rely on cloud-enabled IoT intelligence to control and maintain machinery and equipment. With the cloud you can layer that data with contextual information about materials planning, operator training or the supply chain. Your results might then include less costly and more timely procurement of crucial components and materials, streamlined transportation route planning or more effective scheduling and training.

You can increase this intelligence by connecting it to the people, systems and processes involved in the development of new product designs and services. Furthermore, you can add data-driven assessments of customer behaviors, market trends and competitive threats. Cloud-powered insight can range from keeping a vehicle or machine running to developing products.



# Service provider expertise

If your IT department is fully occupied with the day-to-day activities of keeping applications, networks and infrastructures running and secure, you can move most of these routines to the cloud and let your service provider handle them.

You can then use in-house IT resources to perform custom development and other high-value tasks. Working with a strong cloud service provider, your IT team can efficiently learn the skills of development, provisioning, resource management and security in the cloud.

This enables your business to become proficient in managing a cloud and on-premise hybrid environment and its integrations. You can draw on your service provider's specializations, for instance, to enable advanced intelligence, collect and process large masses of data or take the complexity out of working with the IoT.

Your cloud service experts will also be able to help you decide when to move which workloads to the cloud and which you might want to keep on-premise. Modern ERP and CRM systems no longer need to be deployed in their entirety, which might give you functionality you don't need. Instead, you can implement in the cloud those capabilities that are of value.

Service provider expertise lets you make more strategic use of your own IT department.







## **The future is cloud-native**

Efforts are underway to ensure cloud-native applications continue to support real-life business advantages. The Cloud Native Computing Foundation brings together several leading cloud technology companies to standardize application development. Current spending trends in IT clearly favor cloud-native apps due to cloud economy growth and its close alignment with business objectives.





# The global cloud lets you grow at your own pace

In the cloud, you can grow as you like, without being hampered by artificial limitations. If that entails other countries and regions, there's no need to slow your momentum.

Leading cloud providers maintain advanced cloud infrastructures in global networks of data centers. One of those facilities will be close to your headquarters. Modern cloud infrastructures with multi-language and multi-currency features of cloud-based ERP and CRM solutions, easily accommodate international business and communications.

If you're operating production plants, distribution facilities, sales offices or branches in several countries and regions, the cloud offers an efficient way to make corporate systems and information available to them and connect their processes to the entire organization.



# Transform your business in the cloud

You can now act on the cloud opportunities that offer the highest benefits.

Leveraging the intelligent cloud service of Microsoft Azure, Columbus services and solutions make lasting, controlled business growth in a practical, fast and affordable manner. Optimize processes, increase efficiencies and reduce costs within your business ecosystem.

We offer proven, practical solutions and approaches within an affordable subscription model that eliminates distractions and lets you focus on results.

This isn't just about connecting devices or machines—connect your business to everything. Unlock the potential of growth and keep your company competitive in the digital age.

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# Why Columbus?

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