

Demystifying the Cloud

Roger Chivers | roger.chivers@d-wise.com

Moving to the Cloud: Drivers & Consequences Simplified

The current trend within IT is to move to the cloud. What does this mean for organizations and individuals, and why is it happening? Moving any part of your footprint to the cloud, whether new projects, services, end-user equipment, or even a wholesale shift, can be daunting, but it doesn't have to be. In this poster, we will seek to understand the drivers and consequences of making a move.

Common Myths Debunked



My Data Won't be Secure.

Physical security, technical security, and high availability are all extremely complex and expensive to provide. These are a core part of cloud providers' business. They invest heavily in security and pass that investment on to you as a user.



The Cloud will Remove my Control.

The cloud offers more flexibility than any on-premise physical architecture. In the case of end-user computing, support staff have great access to your machine, but you can retain any rights you had on a physical machine. Hardware provisioning, for example, no longer requires physical installation and configuration, it's now merely a process of configuring any new assets, which can be "physically" provisioned in a matter of minutes.



The Cloud will be Cheaper.

A significant investment may be required to migrate to the cloud. By the time data transfer, computing resources, and backups/DR are considered, run costs are not necessarily cheaper than the current solution.

Benefits of Moving to the Cloud

- **Flexibility**
Provisioning new hardware in a cloud is a matter of a few clicks, and can be done in minutes.
- **Security**
The cloud is almost certainly more secure than an on-premise solution.
- **Personal Workspaces**
Moving to a cloud-based solution for personal workstations can be a very good solution, and remove VPN issues, data security issues, as well as reliability issues.
- **Resilience**
A core feature of the cloud is high availability, DR and resilience, significantly reducing the required workload.
- **SaaS**
Many services (e.g. filesystems, databases, load balancers) are made available by the cloud providers, preventing the need to support them.
- **Extendable**
The resources available to you within the cloud are almost limitless. On-demand requirements, such as a increase in computing power, even for a short-term need, can be readily accommodated.

What Does Moving to the Cloud Look Like?

Cloud migration doesn't need to mean a huge number of fundamental changes. In its simplest form assets can merely be moved from on-premise to a cloud. A server in a datacentre is just the same as a virtual machine in a cloud, there's no need to change the user experience or the architecture, it's merely a lift and shift.

At the other end of the extreme, applications could be rearchitected and significantly updated to fully utilize all of the services available in the cloud. This can lead to significant benefits in terms of resource utilization, supportability, and new functionality, but also comes with the need to significantly update existing applications, and leads to a high level of initial complexity and cost.

A typical experience is usually somewhere between the two extremes. It's unlikely that all applications are rewritten to migrate to a cloud. A lift and shift of some existing infrastructure with new projects being cloud-based is a popular hybrid model.

