



STAYING SAFE IN THE CLOUD

ADDRESSING SECURITY CONCERNS WITH **CLOUD-BASED DATA SYSTEMS**



Enterprise Visions – Twin Cities Office
1030 West County Road E Suite 150
St Paul, MN 55126
651.450.7900



ENTERPRISE VISIONS
DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION **SIMPLIFIED**

Making use of cloud services for business critical computing is not a foregone conclusion, however. Before making a decision on whether to go with company owned data services, or a cloud-based solution, it's important to carefully consider the security implications of both.

THE PROS AND CONS: PREMISE-BASED VERSUS CLOUD-BASED COMPUTING

There are advantages and disadvantages to both approaches. While cloud-based solutions might be the better fit for most businesses, there are cases when a premise-based approach makes more sense—particularly when it comes to business-critical computing.

PREMISES-BASED

- Dedicated computing power and capacity
- Dedicated storage
- Simplified security, budgeting, and provisioning
- Lacks mobility
- Requires over-provisioning against contingencies

CLOUD-BASED

- Scalable storage and computing capacity
- Delivery of data and applications wherever needed
- Private cloud solutions alleviate the need for restructuring
- Security risks in application and network layers

In terms of security, the difference between premise-based and cloud-based solutions can be reduced to the idea that cloud computing offers flexibility and

roll-on effects in rapid provisioning and de-provisioning of resources on a user by user or group basis. Adequate identity management tools are vital to a successful and rewarding cloud computing experience.

There are a number of powerful and flexible identity management tools that can be used effectively in a cloud environment. Secure file sharing tools allow data to be used where it's needed without compromising compliance. Single sign-on protocols are quite easy to implement in the cloud, and still allow for multi-factor authentication where required or desired. With everything keyed off of user identity, it becomes trivial to initialize access to new applications, modify access to existing applications, or provision applications for new users.

CONCLUSION

For businesses to stay competitive, flexibility, mobility, and the ability to react to changing conditions is key. However, those qualities can't come at the expense of security.

Thanks to modern cloud services providers, trading security for capability is no longer an issue. Businesses can choose exactly the right type of cloud service to get the perfect balance of flexibility and security.