

Get ready to shift your business to the cloud



The cloud can save you time and money, but the real business benefits go even further.

The cloud

If you use Dropbox or Gmail you're already using the cloud. And if you haven't yet made the shift for your business, there are plenty of good reasons to consider making the move. It's more than simply changing how you pay for disk space or cutting infrastructure costs, it's about the flexibility to transform the way you, your people and your business works.

"There is a lot of confusion about what the cloud is. Put simply, the cloud is not that different from the server in that back room of your office building. However, it is a whole lot bigger and it's professionally managed to ensure it runs smoothly and securely."

Ken Tunnicliffe
Vodafone New Zealand
Enterprise Director

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Benefits of moving your business to the cloud

More control in the way you work

The cloud gives your IT team the freedom to work without fixed resources, using as little or as much as they need, as well as having the ability to quickly and automatically scale APIs (the Application Program Interface is what lets software programs interact with each other) and infrastructure. It all adds up to greater control and flexibility in the way your business works.

Better security for your data

Reliable cloud providers employ highly-trained staff and use physical protection, advanced encryption, multi-factor authentication and automatic backups as well as identity and access management controls. Plus they must adhere to the highest industry security standards. The cloud also offers the advantage of ensuring your employees cannot physically access your business data.

Let your people work on the go

Cloud services and mobility go hand in hand, which is why software-as-a-service (SaaS) tools like Gmail, Dropbox and iCloud let your team work more flexibly and productively at any time, from any location, and on any connected device. And because cloud hosts can take care of system administration tasks, your IT people are free to focus on big network challenges.

Advantages of cloud-based businesses



Lower your infrastructure costs



Easily scale to your business needs



Advanced security measures to protect data



Let your people embrace flexible working



Free your IT team from admin

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Tips to make the shift to the cloud

- 1 Get up to speed**

Network speed is critical, so you will need to ensure your team has access to a fast, reliable network connection if they're using mission-critical apps hosted in the cloud.
- 2 Ask the right security questions**

Confirm your cloud provider's data-protection policy and audit procedures and ask how information and systems are separated, how many copies of your data they will have and what kind of backup system is in place.
- 3 Decide what cloud services you need**

Consider the programs you are using and whether you need to update or move to a cloud storage and syncing system such as Microsoft Office 365. Your employees will have the best insight into what works, so get a clear understanding of their needs.
- 4 Start slowly**

Consider a redeployment of an internal system that doesn't contain any confidential customer data. Once you're comfortable using the cloud, gradually shift to a non-critical public system.
- 5 Backup from the get go**

Cloud providers assume no liability for complete loss of data, but it doesn't mean all is lost. Have your backup system perform monthly, weekly and nightly backups and keep a record of what was done during the day.

We'll be in touch soon to discuss some innovative cloud-based solutions that can help your business become a Ready Business.