

Why Move to the Cloud? 6 Must-Ask Questions

The public sector's embrace of moving to the cloud is transforming the national data landscape. Local governments of all sizes, school systems, and special districts are increasingly recognizing the value of moving from on-premises servers to cloud-based, software-as-a-service (SaaS) solutions.

And the trend is accelerating. By 2026, public cloud spending will exceed 45% of all enterprise IT spending, up from less than 17% in 2021, according to Gartner.¹

Below are key questions to ask when considering moving to the cloud.



1 How Does the Cloud Influence Infrastructure Spending?

Purchasing and maintaining the infrastructure required for on-premises hosting is costly. Because of this high cost, organizations sometimes keep systems running past their ideal retirement date. The result of maintaining old systems, which may have hard-to-find replacement parts, is that organizations don't have access to the latest software and security safeguards. Cloud hosting removes the need for costly infrastructure updates.

Also, unexpected hardware failures can play havoc with IT budgets and staffing. In comparison, cloud-hosted SaaS solutions offer clear-cut costs that are easy to plan for, eliminating unexpected expenses.

The cloud makes budget planning more predictable and saves money in the long run by eliminating expensive equipment purchases and maintenance.

2 How Can the Cloud Reduce the Burden on IT Staff?

Maintaining on-premises servers 24/7 requires a sizable commitment for IT staffs already stretched thin. Removing the onus of maintaining servers frees up time for IT departments to concentrate on work that directly impacts the lives of community members. The burden of performing backups, restoring software, and maintaining data shifts from the organization to the provider.

Taking the pain out of software upgrades is a key benefit of moving to the cloud. Less disruptive and more dependable than on-premises updates, cloud-based upgrades are handled by the SaaS provider. These upgrades are typically automatic and more frequent, ensuring that software is always up-to-date. The result? You spend less time managing infrastructure and applying software and operating system upgrades.

Eliminating the management of on-premises servers frees up IT resources that can be redirected to deliver better services and solve community issues.

3 How Does the Cloud Impact Security?

Keeping data secure is a full-time job. Experienced SaaS and cloud service providers have teams of security experts to make sure data is safe. While you might think your on-premises data is secure, how confident are you that your IT resources are comprehensive enough to ensure 24/7 security?

A vendor with decades of public sector cloud experience understands the critical importance of security and will use the latest technology along with a highly skilled team of specialists to keep data secure. An established solution vendor and proven cloud environment will be managed by leading cybersecurity experts and hardened for resiliency and scale. This adds up to uninterrupted performance with reliable applications available to conduct business and meet department needs.

Equally important, a proven cloud environment provides superior disaster recovery capabilities. Unlike on-premises software solutions, which can be vulnerable to localized events such as flooding or fire, cloud-based solutions benefit from widely dispersed, redundant storage. This redundancy ensures the information is available despite disruptive localized events.

The cloud is a more reliable environment because of increased security, automated backups, and server redundancy.

4 What's the Value of Scalability in the Cloud?

We are all familiar with the rapid pace of technological change and the growing expectations of our communities. To meet these needs, the public sector must continuously improve its technology capabilities to allow residents to access government services online and via mobile devices.

As expectations evolve, so must the public sector's software systems. Increasing the capabilities of on-premises servers to handle growing demands is a costly and complicated process. On the other hand, cloud solutions are designed for scalability, so when the needs of a community grow or change, capacity can easily increase. This scaling is achieved without the need for organizations to make costly hardware purchases. Elasticity of cloud resources meets your business needs by scaling up or down as your demands change.

Because of its inherent agility and flexibility, cloud hosting is well poised to help government and school districts of all sizes in times of crisis. Whether supporting remote working or scaling up to meet the community's digital needs, the cloud is built to help the public sector meet community needs.

The scalability of cloud solutions increases functionality and eliminates the need for expensive hardware purchases that will be outdated in a few years.

5 How Does the Cloud Help with Access to the Latest Tech?

Selecting a top provider for a cloud-based SaaS system ensures access to the newest technology and software. Cloud tooling and delivery pipelines bring modern technologies and innovative applications to you quicker and with less disruption. Keeping up-to-date in a cloud environment is not dependent on budgeting for the purchase and installation of hardware or waiting for the IT staff to

deploy software upgrades. Instead, in a cloud solution, a dedicated team of specialists frequently updates hardware and software to improve functionality and ensure the latest versions are in place.

A cloud solution keeps software up-to-date, ensuring access to the latest tech functionality.

6 How Does the Cloud Affect Connectivity?

A cloud solution also keeps organizations connected internally and with their communities. It is ideal for connecting workers in the field to data systems, keeping decision-makers informed of information and progress from any location at any time, and streamlining connections for remote workers.

Finally, a cloud system is built to allow mobile functionality, which is increasingly important because, as Statista notes, more than half of all internet traffic is from mobile devices.² As mobile use continues to increase, engagement opportunities grow. The cloud enables connectivity to applications from anywhere there is internet access. Whether paying utility bills on the go or consulting online FAQs about trash pickup, community members are counting on mobile engagement.

A cloud solution enhances remote and mobile functionality for improved worker and community connections.

What is SaaS?

Software as a service (SaaS) is a subscription model in which client data is hosted in the cloud rather than on-premises. SaaS eliminates the need to install and run applications on individual servers. It streamlines maintenance and support because functions can be managed by a software provider, including applications, storage, and networking.

For more information, contact us at info@tylertech.com.

¹ Gartner. (2021). Gartner Says Four Trends Are Shaping the Future of Public Cloud. [gartner.com/en/newsroom/press-releases/2021-08-02-gartner-says-four-trends-are-shaping-the-future-of-public-cloud](https://www.gartner.com/en/newsroom/press-releases/2021-08-02-gartner-says-four-trends-are-shaping-the-future-of-public-cloud)

² Statista. (2022). Share of global mobile website traffic 2015-2021. [statista.com/statistics/277125/share-of-website-traffic-coming-from-mobile-devices/](https://www.statista.com/statistics/277125/share-of-website-traffic-coming-from-mobile-devices/)