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Cloud Computing

Cloud computing is transforming the way businesses use technology. It is not a technology of the future, it is no longer waiting in the wings.



The cloud is here today and in use all around us. From Office 365 to IBM Softlayer, Google Drive, Dropbox and more, public cloud usage is growing by the day.

In the same way that email cut across all industries to change the way people communicate when it first arrived in the workplace, cloud computing is having a similar impact on the way organisations pay for and use technology, and ushering in an era of collaborative working.

You can compare the evolution of computing to the early stages of the electricity industry. At first, businesses had their own generators to produce power, just as companies had their own servers for computing power. Eventually, businesses no longer needed to produce their own electricity but could buy it over the grid. Similarly, businesses can now buy computer services on demand over the internet, rather than installing and maintaining hardware and software themselves.

The challenge for businesses is not to be found in the question should we migrate to the cloud. It is how to put your business in the best possible shape for the future. The next wave of business challenges will require organisations to be agile and more flexible. Cloud computing allows any organisation to access the technology they need when they need it, without cumbersome and costly installation projects. It also means you are never stuck with obsolete assets while the world moves on around you.

The pace of change facing your organisation today is the slowest pace of change you will ever experience again; the world of business is not slowing down for anyone. Ensuring your business is agile and flexible enough to cope with this pace of change means you are well placed to seize opportunities. It could also mean the difference between success and failure.

Your organisation needs to be lean and efficient, but also able to rapidly scale

up to cope with peaks and then instantly scale back down again to avoid wasted expenditure.

Whether it's the threat of disruption to you or your markets, or new forms of service delivery, predicting the future of business has never been harder than it is today. Doing nothing is not an option, you have to keep moving forward – but flexibly so.

Buying more hardware may have been the answer 10 years ago, but it is no longer a viable option; you need an infrastructure, a backbone, that supports a more utility computing outlook – *give me what I need, when I need it, and make sure it works every time; then when I'm finished take it away.*

The ability to quickly scale up – and back down again – to react in an agile manner to changes in the market, to peaks in demand, to much more besides, is inherent in the cloud.

As well as being able to quickly scale up and down, cloud computing lets you deploy resources where you need them. If one of your sites is affected by a natural disaster and is no longer operational, could you afford for it to be out of action indefinitely? You need operational efficiency at all times, and that means the answer is no. Being able to deploy people at an alternative location, which gives them immediate access to the same systems, processes and data – regardless of location – will stop a disaster becoming a calamity.

An integral part of scalability and flexibility is manageability. A cloud management platform can be combined with well-defined business rules to allow decisions around deploying applications, or bandwidth, or resources, automatically. Time and money can be saved by allowing actions to be triggered by events, so that high volumes of traffic to your site can always be catered for, yet once levels return to normal, additional servers, storage, bandwidth and so on will automatically scale back down – Service Level Agreements (SLAs) can be met without unnecessary cost.

If you had needed to scale up your operations 15 years ago you would have been faced with making significant investments in servers, networking and software licences. Once your busy period was over, however, you were stuck with them.

It can also support your DevOps environment, allowing colleagues from different functions to collaborate on new process and application deployment by facilitating true cross-departmental integration of software developers, your wider IT department, and other connected teams who may be focused on service delivery, for example.

Your corporate network must, of course, be shielded from unnecessary security risks, which is another tremendous cloud advantage. You have to be able to mitigate against data leakage, and put a stop to any backdoor access points. But while cloud computing can make this a possibility, you will need an implementation partner that lives and breathes data security.

Throughout our 60 years in business we have worked on many complex and highly sensitive projects, and have been granted the highest degree of security clearance through our work with the government. This is crucially important to any client with sensitive or confidential data of their own; no one should have to take risks where security is concerned.

The right cloud architecture will put you in the driving seat when it comes to maximising your investments in next generation applications.



MANUFACTURING

The manufacturing sector is confronted by challenges on all sides; margins are under pressure, demand is unpredictable and costs are often in the spotlight. Added to which, manufacturing is now a truly global concern.

Cloud computing has made it possible for manufacturers to adopt ERP via the cloud, to help them hit highest levels of production, and quality, while achieving maximum efficiency. Stock control, invoicing, procurement, logistics – all controlled at the optimum levels.

Business information from different divisions and units can be pulled into a cloud-based

ERP system by virtue of a secure internet connection, with none of the high investment or maintenance costs of a full ERP deployment. This can be the ideal scenario for manufacturers responding to a particular need, perhaps scaling up quickly to react to a new contract, for whom flexibility is vital.

Whether it's just-in-time manufacturing and ordering, or the eradication of inefficiencies across their internal supply chain, maybe it's the need to identify patterns in demand, or improve communications, ERP has a long history of assisting in the manufacturing space. The right investments in infrastructure today can pave the way for the use of flexible cloud ERP tools, that can be switched off as soon as they are no longer needed.



RETAIL

Retail businesses experience some of the most exaggerated seasonal peaks of those in any sector. Whether it's New Year's Eve, Single's Day, Black Friday or Boxing Day, the same systems they rely on all year round need to be able to cope with staggering increases in sales and site traffic, order processing and warehouse management.

With front-end sales staff equipped with mobile payment technology, connected to real-time stock information, customers can be served faster than ever, and be on their way with their newly purchased items without any of the waiting around that has typified the retail experience for years.

Queue-busting like this can increase your store's throughput of customers, but will only work if your infrastructure can support real-time order processing from anywhere, with live stock updates at all times.

The pace of change in retail is so fast that any system deployed today must be inherently flexible and adaptable to avoid becoming obsolete in no time at all. JOS has experience of helping many retail customers overcome a reliance on silo-based working practices, where one department cannot see what another is doing, despite their shared goals. When everyone has the same information at their fingertips, the results you achieve can be so much greater.



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Why JOS?

A leading provider of integrated IT solutions in Asia with a track record of success spanning more than 60 years, JOS has a strong heritage in the region. We have earned our customers' trust through a reputation for high quality, reliability and always taking the long-term view on their best interests.

Our core capabilities include big data, cloud computing, enterprise applications, enterprise security, mobility, internet of things and next generation infrastructure. JOS has built partnerships with highly capable IT partners across the globe to deliver on customers' worldwide IT requirements. Wherever our customers want to do business in Asia, we have trusted partners they can turn to. Carrying a broad selection of enterprise technologies from market-leading and pioneering vendors, our independence means that we can always choose the solution that's right for them.

JOS delivers tailor-made cloud solutions for your business. We are well placed to advise you on and manage the transition from traditional to cloud computing – whether this is helping you move business applications and infrastructure from on-premise to the cloud, information and data migration, changes in business and administrative processes, or ongoing management of your cloud services.

As a regional leader in systems integration, JOS can leverage partnerships to deliver the right cloud solution. Our wide range of experience in vertical sectors means we can deliver tailored consultancy to help you find the right solution, as well as provide effective management of cloud systems on and off-site. Having worked on an array of complex and highly sensitive systems integration projects, we are well placed to help your organisation unlock the advantages of cloud computing while keeping sensitive data secure.

JOS operates nine offices across Asia's major business hubs in China, Hong Kong, Macau, Malaysia and Singapore.

