

# WHY YOUR BUSINESS SHOULD MAKE THE SWITCH TO THE CLOUD

### Introduction

There's a good chance you've already heard the rhetoric - the talk of how cloud computing is basically a godsend for small businesses. Thing is, most of the pieces pertaining to cloud computing's potential don't offer much in the way of explanation. Sure, they'll tell you how it makes your business more agile.

But they won't offer much beyond that.

That's where we come in. In this short eBook, we're going to take a look at precisely why your small business should consider cloud IaaS. More importantly, we'll give an overview of how, once you've decided to make the switch, you can ensure it goes smoothly.

Let's get started.

### Infrastructure-As-A-Service Is Ideal For Small Businesses

Much of the dominant narrative in the cloud space concerns PaaS and multi-cloud; how the former will die at the hands of container technology and how the latter is the best thing that's ever happened to enterprise. There's another line of thought there, as well - one that's rather flawed in its perspective. It's the notion that Infrastructure-as-a-Service is only worthwhile if you're a startup with no prior architecture to speak of.

To be blunt, this is entirely false.

Small businesses certainly have significant infrastructure requirements, but this is nothing that cloud computing can't handle. And it certainly beats the alternative - a few PCs stuffed in a data closet somewhere; ticking time bombs that contain everything from mission-critical software to customer databases. This datacenter-in-a-closet model is barely functional at the best of times, and inherently risky besides.

Say, for example, a small business suffers an incident that wipes out their closet - that happens more often than you'd think. They're left in the lurch. Even with adequate offsite backups, it could take weeks to resurrect their data onto alternate hardware, during which time they're completely out of commission.

In addition to being a perpetual disaster waiting to happen, the datacenter-in-a-closet model is costly. Given that most small businesses lack the budget to employ a full-time IT department, they often must seek the services of a third-party IT professional. With the datacenter model described above, said professional must personally visit the business every time their servers require even routine maintenance.

The cloud suffers from neither of these faults. Routine maintenance can be carried out by third-party experts without necessitating any travel whatsoever, while the chance of a catastrophic failure wiping out critical data is vanishingly small. In addition, the cloud has yet one more advantage over physical infrastructure:



Scalability. The ability to quickly deploy additional servers as needs dictate shouldn't be undersold, as many organizations require additional processing power from time to time, whether to run tests, act as a staging environment, to spin up an extra database, and so on. On a cloud platform such as Outscale's, that's trivially easy, and takes only minutes - and you'll only pay for the environment you spin up as long as it's needed.

Sounds like a pretty sweet deal, doesn't it?

Let's move on, Now that you're sold on the idea of deploying IaaS within your small business, how can you do so? What's involved in making the leap from dedicated hardware to a cloud environment?

## Five Best Practices For Switching From A Dedicated Server To The Cloud

The switch from a dedicated server to a cloud server isn't one that you can simply make on a whim. That's a road you don't want to go down. It requires focused, careful planning coupled with an understanding of your business needs, your resource requirements, and the purpose of Infrastructure-as-a-Service.

### Understand Why You're Making The Switch - What Are Your Needs?

Firstly, what problem are you looking to solve, and what can the cloud do to solve it that your current setup can't? Figure out what specific issues your current installation is having first, then plan out how you intend to address them using cloud computing. You **cannot** make the switch if you don't understand what you need IaaS for.

What you want to do is set down a strategy and a set of realistic goals up-front, before you start using the cloud. Understand also that cloud computing isn't for everyone - You need to make certain that what you're doing with your server is something that can actually be done on the cloud. It may well be that your organization is one of those that's better off sticking with more traditional infrastructure.

### Don't Do Everything All At Once

Although the cloud can certainly do a great deal for your organization in the long run, it's reckless to dive headlong into a cloud installation. You need to make your move to the cloud a gradual thing, and slowly phase out physical architecture. Of course, it's also worth noting here that you needn't necessarily abandon your servers altogether - they may still have a role to play in your business.

### Don't Slack On Security

The cloud is not inherently less secure than a dedicated server, and many hosts will handle the basic details of cloud security for their clients. That does not, however, mean you can afford to slack off as far as keeping your data safe is concerned. Treat your cloud installation with the same care and scrutiny you treated your dedicated server: establish controls regarding who can access it, when, and from where; make sure you also keep a close eye on the devices your staff are using for their computing.



### Consider Whether Or Not You'll Actually Save money

Believe it or not, in certain rare cases, cloud computing can actually cost more than running a dedicated server. Make sure you chart out how much you'll need to spend on cloud resources in an average month before you make the switch - and consider whether or not your finances might be better off if you just keep doing what you're doing. Not only that, complications that arise from switching over might actually end up losing you money if you aren't careful.

### Conclusion

So, there you have it. A general overview of why your organization should consider IaaS, and what's involved if you want to phase out your physical infrastructure for the cloud. If you'd care to learn more, pay a visit to Outscale's website. We're always happy to hear from you.

