

5 MYTHS ABOUT THE CLOUD

Cloud computing is no longer considered a new technology today. However, there are still many inaccuracies and misconceptions that surround this technology. With clouds rapid rise and use this is understandable. Although you might still be skeptical there is no doubt that cloud computing is here to stay.

The benefits of cloud computing for healthcare are well documented but many myths remain. We not only hope to provide insight to discredit them but also provide guidance on your next steps toward cloud adoption where it makes sense for your organization.

MYTH 2 The cost is too high to adopt cloud computing.

GUIDANCE

Not necessarily true. Our experience shows that most IT departments spend more in traditional on-premises hardware purchases. Often the thought is that “we need to purchase additional storage space now in case we need it later.” Or “the time it takes to purchase new hardware and implement is too long – let’s purchase more now so we have it on hand when we need it.” Many of these types of hardware purchases are expensive and wasteful, and these purchases are often not deployed or leveraged to meet day-to-day needs.

With cloud solutions you only need to purchase resources that are being used. And you can purchase and deploy them almost immediately.

MYTH 4 We cannot afford downtime and cloud environments are too dependent on the Internet.

GUIDANCE

Every hospital and physician practice need to maximize system uptime as patient care is often negatively impacted when systems are not available. With cloud environments you will lose access to data if your internet connection goes down. On-premises data is available because an internet connection is not needed.

However, when it comes to servers a cloud environment is likely to be more reliable. On-premises servers rely on a smaller number of servers and redundancy is cost prohibitive. In contrast, a huge cloud data center is highly redundant, and providers will guarantee a certain level of uptime. When a server goes down in the cloud the customer may not ever notice. Keep in mind too that there are generally more affordable options for backing up an internet connection.

MYTH 1

Cloud computing is all or nothing for healthcare organizations.

GUIDANCE

Actually, healthcare organizations favor hybrid IT models more than any of the other 12 business sectors – according to a [study](#) completed by Nutanix.

Much of the healthcare industry has increased their cloud and hybrid adoption due to the pandemic – many investing in public and private cloud environments. The cloud might not benefit all solutions equally so don’t be afraid to use non-cloud solutions when appropriate.

MYTH 3

The cloud is not secure enough for healthcare organizations.

GUIDANCE

We find that most security breaches involve on-premises data centers. News coverage often highlights public cloud breaches but there are very few security breaches in the public cloud to date. Security of data is highly important and protecting patient data is the law. Don’t assume that cloud providers are secure – ask them to demonstrate their capabilities and once they have there is no reason not to trust their offerings.

Keep in mind that large cloud providers have deep pockets, and many providers spend significantly on IT resources with extensive backgrounds in security. Most healthcare organizations cannot afford the IT security team that cloud providers require, and this often leads to less secure on-premises computing environments.

MYTH 5

We will lose control if we go to the cloud.

GUIDANCE

Not true. You decide what tasks you pass to your cloud hosting provider to manage. Your cloud partner will help you expand resources when needed for business growth, will help secure and monitor your applications and data with high levels of security, and will maintain and update your infrastructure. This frees up your IT team to focus on other business and clinical needs, which you are still in 100% in control of. The major change that occurs is where your data is processed and stored.

