

The Dilemma Of Aging Servers: Time to Embrace the Cloud?

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FOR MOST BUSINESSES, a crucial decision eventually looms: should they upgrade their existing IT infrastructure or migrate to a Cloud Hosting Platform? As in-house servers age, their ability to meet the demands of a growing organization diminishes. 3PLs especially handle vast amounts of sensitive data including shipment information, scheduling, and customer information. The criticality of these operations needs to be paired with a secure, robust infrastructure. Cloud-hosted solutions offer an exit from the substantial financial commitments required for the acquisition and maintenance of server hardware, operating systems, software applications, and IT infrastructure personnel.

Many companies grapple with the complexities of sustaining their server infrastructure. This involves tasks such as managing security updates and replacing outdated systems before they become obsolete. The relentless stream of security patches, along with the looming threat of “end-of-life” system constraints, amplifies the vulnerability to cyberattacks and IT system disruptions. Continuing to operate with end-of-life systems places a company’s financial well-being and reputation in serious jeopardy.

For a rising number of businesses, the preferred alternative is not investing in new on-premises servers, but rather transitioning to cloud-hosted solutions. This migration addresses many of the challenges associated with maintaining on-site servers, while providing more robust data protection and safeguarding critical systems against potential loss or corruption.

This shift is not just about upgrading hardware; it signifies a strategic leap forward that enhances efficiency, flexibility, and scalability – a transition that an increasing number of companies are undertaking. Approximately 44% of traditional small businesses opt for cloud infrastructure or hosting services, in contrast to 66% of small tech companies and 74% of enterprises.

The Tale of Aging Servers: Degradation Before Collapse

The journey towards an aging server’s “end of life” typically unfolds along a predictable path. Reliability becomes a concern, but the significant price tag associated with server replacement often deters management from giving the green light to the investment. Many companies must plan, budget, and allocate resources for this acquisition over an extended period, sometimes spanning years, which results in a prolonged reliance on aging servers. User issues mount, and downtime becomes a frequent occurrence. IT team members increasingly expend their time and energy on troubleshooting.

Embracing a cloud-hosted solution to break free from this cycle is invaluable.



ENLISTING A CLOUD SERVICE PROVIDER TO ASSIST IN MANAGING YOUR SYSTEM INFRASTRUCTURE NOT ONLY ENHANCES SECURITY BUT ALSO DELIVERS SUPERIOR DISASTER RECOVERY CAPABILITIES AND SUBSTANTIAL LIFECYCLE MANAGEMENT BENEFITS.

Enlisting a cloud service provider to assist in managing your system infrastructure not only enhances security but also delivers superior Disaster Recovery capabilities and substantial lifecycle management benefits.

Just as numerous software programs have shifted from desktop installations to cloud-based applications over the past decade, managing production server infrastructure or even your disaster recovery site can readily be accomplished through cloud-based service providers. This transformation disrupts the costly server lifecycle and offers advantages in maintenance, security, and costs.

Free Up IT Resources For Core Activities

Transitioning from on-site servers to cloud-hosted solutions significantly reduces the time and effort IT personnel must dedicate to server maintenance, storage, and security updates. The cloud-hosting model diminishes the need for maintaining an extensive and costly IT support team. Instead of nursing aging servers, the IT team can become more

proactive, addressing the company’s other requirements more swiftly and comprehensively.

Particularly in today’s increasingly remote work environment, on-site servers often support employees scattered across various locations, including cities, states, or even countries. Server downtime and disruptions can have far-reaching effects on a company’s workflow. The nimble response of a cloud-based solution, which incorporates more redundancy and can adapt quickly to mitigate downtime and restore operations, stands in stark contrast to the limitations of on-site servers.

Enhance Security and Reduce Data Risks

Transitioning to cloud server hosting also shifts the responsibility for security patches, updates, and backups to the cloud services provider. By nature of their business – 3PLs especially require timely updates and redundancy in place to minimize downtime and potential risks to your data, servers, and business operations. This transition can also enhance security as it allows organizations to retain control of their data while receiving expert assistance in managing and safeguarding it. A reliable cloud hosting partner regularly updates software, scans systems and files for issues, and monitors your systems.

Shifting from Capital To Operational Expenses

When comparing cloud server hosting to the in-house infrastructure, network, and technical expertise required, cloud server hosting is often significantly more cost-effective than the substantial capital investment needed for the acquisition and maintenance of new on-site servers. Migrating to a cloud-hosted server solution reframes data management from a server-based economy, dependent on expensive services, to a service-based cloud solution. Servers, like all technology, become outdated over time and cannot provide indefinite service. With each upgrade cycle, organizations must

purchase more capacity than needed today to accommodate regular growth. A cloud server hosting platform allows businesses to “pay as they grow.” The operational expense can be amortized over the period of use rather than purchasing new hardware as a capital investment like. This results in more predictable and manageable costs. With some cloud providers, you can adjust RAM/CPU for what you need today on a consumption-based model.

Prepare for Transition with a Comprehensive Plan

Transitioning to a cloud-hosted solution demands meticulous planning. A seamless transition includes a thorough evaluation of infrastructure, critical data, and systems to be migrated, data storage requirements, and compliance needs. Not all clouds are created equally; their scalability and the support included should be carefully considered. IT departments at 3PLs are often strained with user support requests, so having additional hands

available for infrastructure service is vital. After outlining your organization’s migration plan and establishing a timeline, a dependable cloud services partner can help you migrate workloads, implement the relevant network and security rules, and ensure users can resume work efficiently. Hands-on platform training should be pursued to educate your IT team on maximizing the value of the new solution.

Carefully Choose the Cloud Hosting Solutions Provider

Moving from on-premises servers to cloud server hosting is a weighty business decision. However, many organizations experience a substantial reduction in capital expenses compared to the initial investment coupled with the ongoing costs of maintaining and updating on-site servers. Furthermore, this transition enhances security by reducing the risk of potential cyberattacks or malware infecting end-of-life systems or those with outdated security patches.

Before making the shift from on-premises solutions to a cloud-hosted solution, it’s crucial to conduct thorough research on the benefits of different service providers. Not all cloud hosting service providers are created equal. Supply and demand fluctuate, a third-party logistics provider needs a cloud-hosting provider that has the flexibility to meet the scale of its operations.

When selecting a cloud hosting solution provider, inquire about the availability of support services that align with your organization’s requirements. Internal IT departments continue to play a vital role, and, in most cases, will work in tandem with your hosted provider to support and troubleshoot the network.

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