

5 COMMON QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER  
BEFORE INVESTING IN A

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# MICROSOFT CLOUD SERVICE

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ALIGNING POWERFUL TECHNOLOGY WITH YOUR BUSINESS VISION

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## What do you need the cloud service to do?

Many organizations are feeling the pressure to go into the cloud, even if they aren't sure what the benefit might be.

The cloud is a wonderful tool, but it is just a tool. It is important to think in terms of how the cloud can improve your organization instead of how your organization can get into the cloud quickly.

If you are unsure how to get started, Admiral can work with you to evaluate your environment and architect a clear, pragmatic and successful path to the cloud, making sure you get the best cloud experience possible.

## What is the full cost of the service?

One of the major benefits of many cloud services is that you only pay for what you use, but this flexibility can also lead to several unexpected charges.

For example, two of the most popular cloud services – Microsoft Azure and Amazon Web Services charge not just for the compute and storage space being used but also for the amount of data transferred across the Internet and the amount of storage transactions (I/O) being performed.

The cloud could be very costly for your organization if you don't know which features are included and which features you have to pay for.

## What level of support are offered?

Each cloud service offers different support and SLA options and with many vendors you have to pay extra for full support.

One of the best benefits of a cloud service is that someone else has to worry about your hardware and uptime, so make sure that when there is a problem you have someone ready and waiting to resolve the outage and get you back online quickly.

## How easy is it to get your data into and out of the cloud?

When setting up a cloud service, you may have a lot of data that needs to be imported to get you up and running. Many cloud services have tools where you can send them hard drives or do batch imports of data through special tools.

Before picking a vendor, see if they have a tool that will fit your needs so that you don't have to manually recreate all of your data to get it into the cloud.

## Do you have legal compliance considerations?

Many cloud services are certified compliant against common security standards (ISO, SOC, PCI, etc.), but if your organization requires these certifications it is important to communicate that requirement so these protections will be implemented.

# Bonus: More to consider

## **Deployment Experience**

Have you and your team been unusually slow to embrace new technologies, whether because of staff or budgetary constraints?

## **Downtime**

Is one of your primary objectives to eliminate the potential for system interruption?

## **IT Staff**

Is your IT staff stretched thin or unable to stay up to date on the latest technologies and software updates, especially in regards to mobility and remote access?

## **Current Infrastructure**

As you continue to evolve your business and operations technology, are you faced with overhauling your technology infrastructure?

## **Optimization**

Do you have the storage, bandwidth, security, encryption and other IT resources available to best connect your users and systems?

## **Access**

Is your workforce becoming more mobile or global, requiring remote access to your systems?

## **Budget/Timeline**

Is your budget or timeline insufficient to accommodate a six-month to one-year deployment process

## CONCLUSION

With Microsoft Cloud Services, your people will have the innovative, flexible tools they need to work faster and more proactively.

They can easily turn insight into action, making every interaction and transaction productive.

Set a new pace for your business, uncover and create new opportunities. Stand apart from your competition and drive long-term growth with the Microsoft Cloud.



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