Aptean Distribution ERP

How can the cloud support your business?

Critical considerations when deciding between cloud and on-premise software deployments

Cloud deployments can make your business more agile. More flexible. More robust.

There's a lot of talk these days about the value of ERP cloud deployments.

And with good reason.

Cloud computing offers significant benefits to companies that want to get their ERP software backed by the security, scalability and accessibility of a cloud model.

But your business is unique, and whether or not you're ready for cloud deployment is entirely up to you. But is a deployment in the cloud right for your business?

Learn more about the many benefits this cloud-based solution can bring to your business:

Integrated, completely

Cloud deployments can make your business more agile. More flexible. More robust.

But all that depends on whether you have a single, fully-integrated software solution or whether you deploy several best-in-breed applications.

Integrated software deployed in the cloud offers benefits that a cobbled together, best-in-breed system simply can't. That's because integrated software requires little to no interfaces to disjointed third-party solutions. ERP software that is fully integrated simplifies your cloud deployment and allows you to hand off management and maintenance tasks to your provider.

For companies using a fully-integrated ERP, the cloud offers many benefits. Integrated software in the cloud should deliver hefty ROI benefits in the form of cost and resource savings, as well as quick deployment.

On the other hand, best-in-breed systems require multiple interfaces as well as more time and resources to support them. Let's say, for example, you're using a best-in-breed warehouse management system, a separate financials package, third-party EDI, and other bolt-ons. That means your software requires multiple interfaces that need to be maintained and monitored by your IT team, negating some of the cloud's significant advantages.

Available, always

Where are your global operations?

While the cloud is everywhere, you may have trouble accessing your data if one or more of the regions you operate in have unreliable internet access. This tends to be more problematic for companies with offices in developing countries where internet access is still growing. If this is the case, we encourage you to choose an on-premise deployment.

Cloud deployment is a good option for companies operating in regions with reliable internet connectivity. If this is the case for you, you can access your ERP from the office, at home or on the go.

Costs, lowered

Hardware has a high price tag. And running your own data center comes with additional IT costs.

A cloud ERP eliminates the need for both, all while helping you avoid unplanned expenditures later down the line. When operating in the cloud, your vendor is responsible for the time-consuming management and maintenance tasks, freeing your team to work on other objectives.

Cloud solutions enable companies to get up faster, with lower upfront costs and predictable monthly payments.

On-premise solutions, on the other hand, give you maximum control over your IT investments. They also require maximum effort from your IT team. If you want to retain responsibility for firewall security, bandwidth, hardware, customizations, upgrades and backup and recovery tasks, then an on-premise solution is the choice for you.

With a cloud deployment, your data is hosted remotely, and your provider is responsible for backup and recovery. Data access should never be a problem.

Data, protected

Your data is your most valuable asset. Both cloud and on-premise models offer the security you need to run your business successfully.

In a cloud deployment, your software and cloud provider will manage and monitor all the systems needed to keep your business safe and running as expected. They'll have a IT team dedicated to your data protection.

On the other hand, with an on-premise deployment, your software provider will recommend best practices regarding data security. And really, their involvement ends there.

With an on-premise solution, you should expect to employ a highly-skilled and fully-capable IT team. They'll be necessary to protect your assets, actively monitor your firewalls, manage data back up, and ensure your hardware and software are functioning as planned.

Access, anywhere

With a cloud deployment, your data is hosted remotely, and your provider is responsible for backup and recovery. Data access should never be a problem. Choosing a software provider that gives you the flexibility to change your deployment method from one delivery model to another provides even more peace of mind. Just be sure you understand how quickly and in what form your provider will return your data at the end of the license period, in the event you want to move to a different delivery model.

An on-premise deployment model ensures you always have physical access to your data. Which also means you're responsible for backing up your data and providing a reliable failover—like a redundant ISP—in the event of business disruption. Changing software providers or deployment methods is never a problem because your data is already in your possession.

Growth, enabled

Sometimes you need to scale your business based on seasonal demands.

Choosing the cloud enables you to eliminate hardware and bandwidth responsibilities from your IT team. Instead, you can rely on your cloud vendor to provide just the right amount of bandwidth you need.

Depending on your cloud provider, they can likely purchase bandwidth at bulk-rate prices that would be unavailable to your organization. In global regions with less total bandwidth available, a large cloud provider will also have an advantage in securing bandwidth volumes.

An on-premise solution may be the right choice for companies with few concerns regarding bandwidth volumes since there is little seasonal variability in their business.
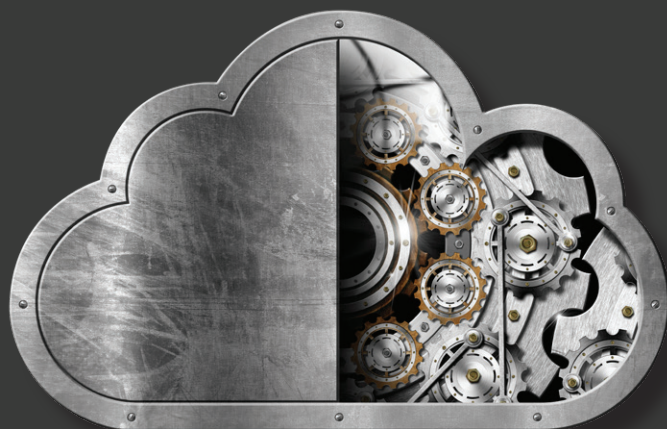
Real results start with the right partner

There's real opportunity in the cloud—your business is scalable, protected, accessible and secure. We think this is the future for most consumer goods businesses.

But when deciding between an on-premise solution and the cloud, only you know what's right. You know your business better than anyone. And we want to be your partner for whatever solution you choose. For a migration to the cloud or an on-premise implementation. And we want to be a partner for the long haul.

Ready to talk about your ERP options? Find out how, now.

Are You Ready to Learn More?

Contact us at **info@aptean.com**
or visit **www.aptean.com**.

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About Aptean

Aptean is one of the world's leading providers of industry-specific software. Our enterprise resource planning and supply chain solutions are uniquely designed to meet the needs of specialized manufacturers and distributors, while our compliance solutions serve specific markets such as finance and life sciences. With both cloud and on-premise deployment options, Aptean's products, services and unmatched expertise help businesses of all sizes, across many industries, to scale and succeed.

For more information, visit **www.aptean.com**.