CHOOSING A CLOUD PROVIDER
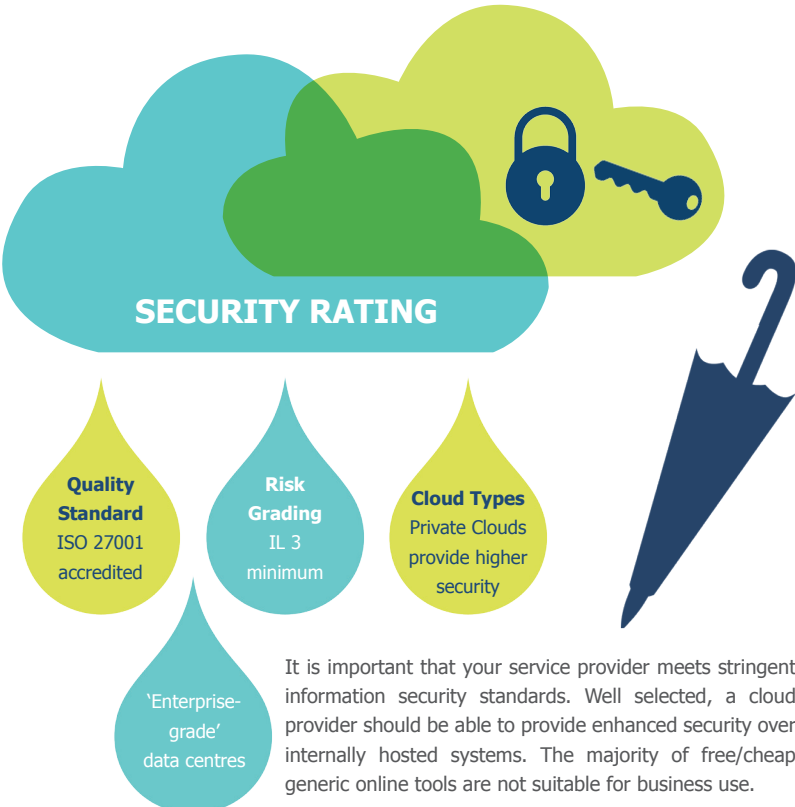
'CLOUD COMPUTING'
IS SIMPLY THE TERM GIVEN TO THE PROVISION OF SERVICES, ON DEMAND, VIA THE INTERNET.

The proliferation of cloud solutions in the market has given rise to increasing concern amongst regulators that the potential risks of cloud solutions are not always fully understood - and therefore firms may be exposing themselves and their clients to undue risk. If you are already using or are considering implementing cloud computing business solutions, our Cloud Computing checklist will help ensure that you have addressed all the essential issues.

CLOUD COMPUTING BENEFITS

- Flexibility and Adaptability
- State of The Art
- Monthly Service

Cloud Computing solutions have become increasingly popular because they provide professional firms of all sizes with access to state-of-the-art software solutions, with the inbuilt flexibility to adapt to rapidly changing requirements without the need for large-scale capital investment.

SECURITY RATING

Quality Standard
ISO 27001 accredited

Risk Grading
IL 3 minimum

Cloud Types
Private Clouds provide higher security

'Enterprise-grade' data centres

It is important that your service provider meets stringent information security standards. Well selected, a cloud provider should be able to provide enhanced security over internally hosted systems. The majority of free/cheap generic online tools are not suitable for business use.

SECURITY REQUIREMENTS

Quality Standard
ISO 27001 accredited (look out for cloud-specific ISO 27017 from 2015)

'Enterprise-grade' data centres

Risk Grading
IL 3 minimum (grading of suitability of systems based on impact assessment of loss of data, where '0' is not suitable for business use; 6 - meets the highest security requirements)

Cloud types
Private Clouds provide higher security

PROVIDER LOCATION

- Avoid
- Ideally
- Next Best

Ideally: UK or European Economic Area

Next Best: States approved by the European Commission

Avoid: USA

There are a number of reasons to select a UK or at least EEA-based provider. The recent scandal regarding NSA spying / surveillance has put in question the value of 'safe harbour' arrangements.

CLOUD PRODUCT

- Factor in Growth Estimates
- Check Functionality

CLOUD PRODUCT CHECKLIST

Check the features and performance against a clearly defined scope.

Can the cloud service provide the functionality you require?

Factor in growth estimates, and evaluate capacity of the cloud system, and your systems to cope, and undertake cost modelling.

SERVICE PROVIDER DUE DILIGENCE

- (Financial) Stability
- Reputation

DUE DILIGENCE CHECKLIST

(Financial) stability
checking company website, name and registration, trading names, directors, address, published accounts etc.

Reputation
References from current / recent clients

Security
Check security policies and procedures

information security audits evidencing compliance with ISO27001 2005 (minimum) confirming that the data centre has:
- security monitoring
- strict access controls

Business Continuity
Effective fire detection & suppression system, air conditioning, backup generators, internet suppliers, data centres.

LOCKTON