

10 Reasons Why Law Firms Should Migrate to the Cloud

In the past, law firms would run their applications or programs from software that was loaded onto their physical workstation. With cloud computing, applications are loaded in data centres and are accessible through the internet from any number of devices.

Gartner defines **cloud computing** as a style of computing in which scalable and elastic IT-enabled capabilities are delivered as a service using Internet technologies.

Why have so many law firms begun the migration into cloud computing? Check out 10 reasons why below:

1. Flexibility and Scalability

Cloud-based services are ideal for firms that have fluctuating workstation demands. Whether you need to add 2 or 20 users, they are able to be up and running in a matter of minutes. Likewise, if you need to be scaling down, it can be completed in minutes. Flexibility is essential to the cloud model, as you only pay for what you use.

2. Decrease in Capital Expenditure

Cloud computing virtually eliminates the need for large capital outlays for hardware and software, or unexpected technology expenses. Regardless of the physical device, you are working off a high-powered computer in the cloud. Cloud computing can be up to 50% more cost effective than traditional PC's, and creates a fixed monthly pricing with no unexpected surprises.

3. Disaster Recovery

No matter the size, firms should be investing in disaster recovery, but for small to midsize firms that lack the money and expertise to implement disaster recovery, the cloud creates an affordable recovery plan. No data is housed on the physical device, but rather in secure data centers with electrical and internet redundancies that are backed up hourly, making your data accessible at all times. At i-worx we can guarantee a 99.9% uptime for our servers.

4. Software is always up to date

The files and systems on the cloud servers are fully integrated and stay compatible, meaning employees always have access to the latest software and applications. Because the servers are off premise, suppliers are the ones that take care of the software updates. This eliminates any stress or worry about maintaining the system yourself. This leaves you free to focus on the things that matter, like growing your firm.

5. Mobility

With cloud computing and hosted services, you and your team will always have access, anywhere, anytime from any device. Users can always access and share up-to-date information, including emails, calendars, and contacts. Now your work is wherever you are, not just where you have your computer.

6. Security

With cloud computing you gain better physical and software security. You can rest easy knowing that your data is held in advanced data centers with multi-layered physical security, as well as enterprise level software encryption. Because data is stored in the cloud and not on the device, if the device is lost or stolen, the sensitive data that is stored on it is still safe. And you can even remotely wipe data from devices so that it doesn't get into the wrong hands.

7. Document Control and Increased Collaboration

The more employees you have working on a document, the greater the need for document control. When you move to cloud computing, all of the files are stored centrally, and all users are able to view the same version of the document. With this increase in collaboration, your team can save time and effort, and focus on their work.

8. Competitiveness

Moving to the cloud gives you access to enterprise level software and speeds. It allows for smaller firms to be able to act faster than larger more established firms. Cloud pay-as-you-go services allow for small to midsize firms to make their impact on the market, without having to pay through the nose to do so.

9. Compliance

i-worx data centers follow PIPEDA standards to maintain the safety and security of your data. As well, all data is housed in Canada, which is a necessity law firms. Because we only hold your data in escrow, unlike some consumer cloud services, we gain no rights to it, so you can have peace of mind knowing that your data is safe and remains your property.

10. Environmentally Friendly

Because cloud computing is more energy efficient than traditional in-house infrastructure, it is a green alternative. When your cloud needs fluctuate, your server capacity is scaled to meet it, this means that you are not utilizing energy and space that you don't need.

Cloud computing is the way of the future for law firms. If you or your firm are thinking about moving to the cloud, take our [cloud readiness test](#) and find out how the cloud can satisfy your needs.

Find out more about what we do at: <http://www.i-worx.ca/>