

ERP Cloud Considerations

Drive Operational Efficiency

Introduction

According to the International Data Corporation, companies will dedicate more than 53% of their IT budgets to Digital Transformation initiatives by 2023. No doubt, much of those resources will be spent implementing enterprise resource planning (ERP) software.

From accounting to workforce management, ERP solutions deliver centralised control, increased efficiency and greater operational visibility. Recent research and industry case studies have revealed that cloud-based ERP systems have radical benefits in terms of efficiency, productivity and resource use if implemented correctly.

The smartest and most cutting edge organisations are moving their on-premise enterprises to the cloud, and it's proving highly beneficial for their business processes in the long run. Cloud ERPs are enhancing productivity, improving the user experience, reducing the paper trail and creating a significantly more connected and efficient business.

Location Matters

Where is your cloud?

- **Private**

The cloud infrastructure is used exclusively by a single organisation.

- **Public**

The cloud infrastructure is provisioned for open use and any entity can purchase capacity.

- **Hybrid**

A combination of cloud infrastructures where each one remains distinct but enables data and application portability among them.

Objectives Matter

What are your goals?

Before you choose a deployment model, clarify your goals for moving to the cloud.

What do you expect to accomplish?

What is the nature of the data? Is it sensitive?

Does the operation of the business depend on it?
Where should the data reside? Does it need to be close to customers? How important is network performance?

What's the level of expertise of IT staff when it comes to cloud operations?

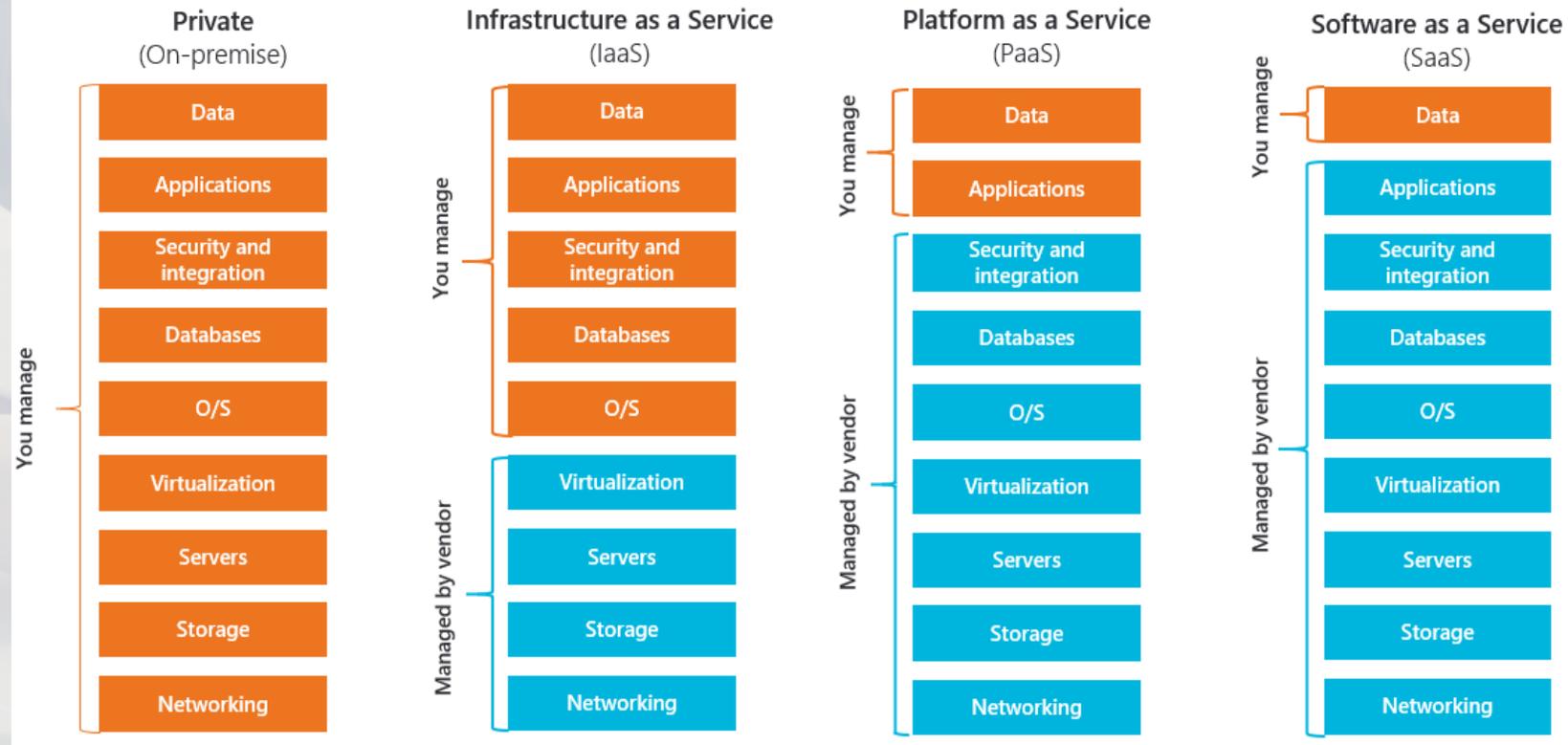
What are the organisation's compliance requirements?

Will it be easy to get the data out of cloud storage?

On Premise vs Cloud

ON-PREMISE VERSUS CLOUD

CLOUD TYPES



Cloud Options

Private / On-premise

This is the traditional way, pre-cloud where all your data, all your applications, security, the operating system, servers, storage, networking are all within your area of responsibility.

Infrastructure as a service (IAAS)

Here you outsource to servers, the storage and the networking to a third party. You are still responsible for the provision of the application (the software), the operating system, data management, security and integration with other systems. Effectively you place an on-premise version of your ERP on a supported infrastructure but the software itself is your responsibility.

Platform as a service (PAAS)

This is a step up from infrastructure as a service whereby it has all the same outsourced functions to your vendor as IAAS but also the management of your OS, your databases and your security integration is now managed by this third party vendor. You are still responsible for the ERP data and the application itself namely the updates and security patches.

Software as a Service (SAAS)

This is where everything is outsourced. You're not responsible for providing the servers, you're not providing the network management, operating system management, database management in the background, the security of the application itself or any upgrades. You're solely responsible for the data within that application. That would be your master data or your financial data.

Cloud technologies are now embedded in enterprises' business strategies, as 92% say their IT environment (infrastructure, applications, data analytics, etc.) relies on the cloud, predicted to grow to 95% in 18 months.

Forbes*

storm
technology

Benefits of a Cloud-Based ERP

Faster & Cheaper Setup

No Upfront Costs | Monthly User Subscription vs. License Purchase and Hardware Costs.

Reliability

Enterprise Grade Platform | Latest Version | Backed by Knowledgeable Experts.

Scalability

Need more storage or extra users? Respond quickly to changing circumstances.

Access & Update Information Instantly

Access from anywhere and update instantly.

Remote Working

No need to always be in the office.

Simplified Solution

Easier to support.

Benefits of a Cloud-Based ERP

Financial Sense

Initial capital investment low (no hardware/licenses)
Quicker ROI and lower total cost of ownership TCO).

Data Always Backed Up

Backup as standard.

Disaster Recovery

Employees can continue to work remotely.

Business Continuity Planning

Demonstrates ability to operate in the event of a disaster.

Third Party Access

Interaction is easier with customers and suppliers.

Compliance

Address privacy and data protection concerns.

Why Dynamics 365 Business Central?

MICROSOFT VISION AND ROAD MAP

WEB-BASED LOOK & FEEL

The image displays the Dynamics 365 Business Central user interface across three devices: a desktop monitor, a tablet, and a smartphone. The desktop view shows a dashboard with a headline: "The largest sales invoice posted in the last 90 days was for \$19,944". Below this, there are sections for "Top Five Customers by Sales Value" with a donut chart, and "Favorite Accounts" with a list of account types like "Checking account", "Savings account", "Petty Cash", "Accounts Receivable", and "Accounts Payable". The tablet and smartphone views show a similar dashboard layout, demonstrating the responsive design of the application.

Dynamics 365 Business Central



In the cloud



On-premises

Benefits of Dynamics 365 Business Central

Consolidation of business operations into one standalone management solution has reduces time wasted switching back and forth between different applications.

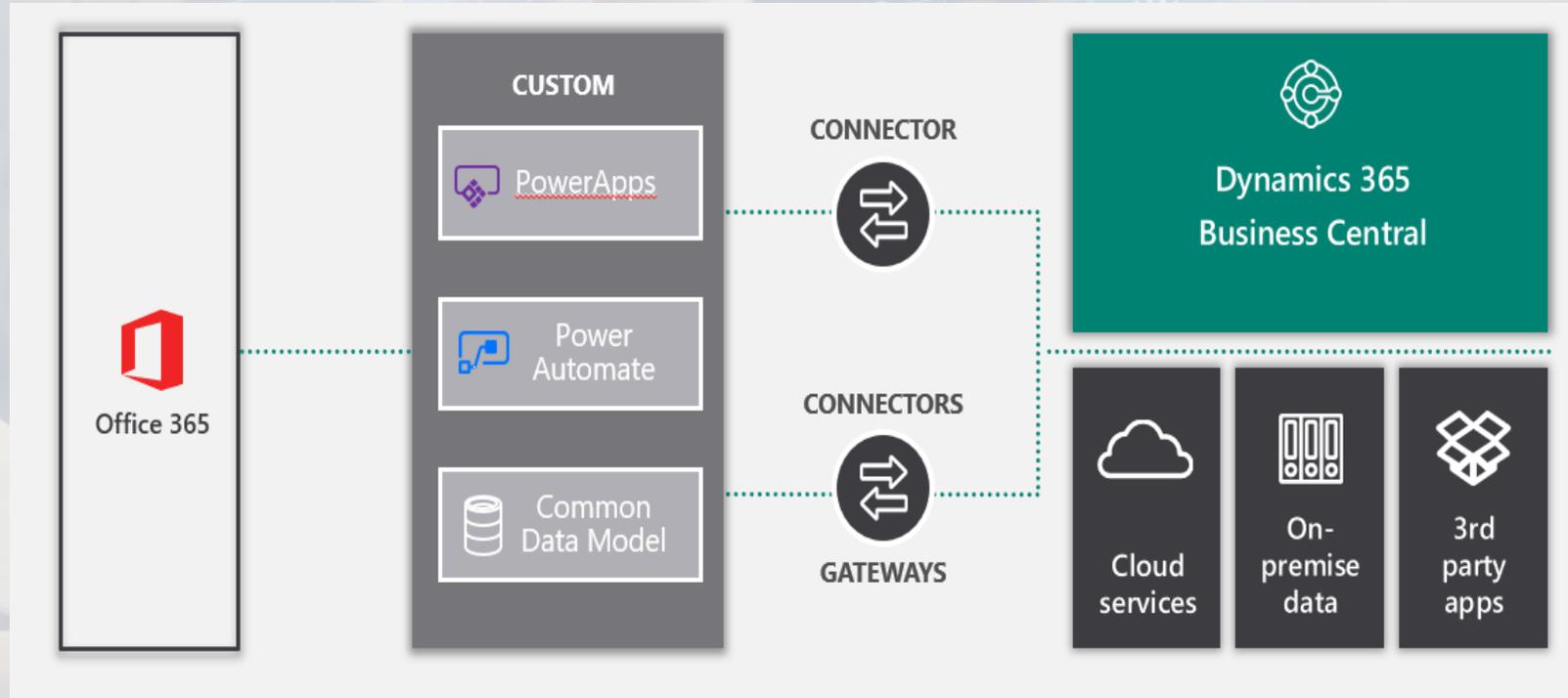
Connect data from accounting, sales, purchasing, inventory and customer interactions to get an accurate end-to-end view of your business, which has helped many businesses spot trends, anticipate demand and in turn outperform competitors and drive better business performance.

Being based in the cloud also means that Business Central can be scaled up to meet the needs of a business as it grows.

Easy integration building through web APIs.

Extensibility Built In

Expand and add new capabilities and functionalities or applications to your Business Central environment



- Your Business Central Data to build a business app using PowerApps.
- The Common Data Model makes it possible for data to be shared across applications and business processes such as [Microsoft PowerApps](#), [Power BI](#), [Dynamics 365](#), and [Azure](#).
- And all of this is natively linked to your Microsoft 365.

54% of enterprises' cloud-based applications moved from an on-premise environment to the cloud, while 46% were purpose-built for the cloud.

Forbes*

storm
technology

Enterprise Software leads all Cloud Migration Plans for 2021.

According to a recent Forbes study, 17% of enterprises plan to migrate to cloud-based Customer Relationship Management (CRM), Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP), Human Resource Management (HRM) and various other line-of-business applications in 2021.

16% say they are planning to migrate their collaboration and communication solutions to the cloud in 2021, accelerated by work-from-home health considerations being a high priority for the foreseeable future.

15% of enterprises are also planning to migrate to more cloud-based Business Intelligence (BI), Data Warehouse (DW) and Data Analytics systems.

Our Approach

Our Skilled Professional Team

Storm have cultivated a team of highly skilled professionals by carefully selecting the very best talent from around the globe and providing them with the resources and training to become innovators in their field.

Proven Project Methodology

With over 25 years experience, Storm have created a proven project methodology for success which carefully balances our technology capabilities with our clients needs and challenges.

Deep Partnerships with Microsoft & Other Vendors

Storm Technology is a trusted Microsoft Gold certified partner, with a deep understanding of the Microsoft solution stack, Storm is a trusted supplier for leading brands across many industries and has a wide partner network from which our clients can benefit, offering an unbiased opinion of the best technologies solutions for business challenges.

Future-Proof Technology Development

We work with businesses to set out a roadmap for future technology developments and ensure they remain well familiar with any relevant technology advancements.



Conclusion

Today, the support, technical upgrades, and security patches for on-premise ERP are slowly grinding to a halt. Moreover, businesses are seeking ways to empower their employees to work better. One of the ways to ensure that your business is agile enough to meet the stringent demands placed on it is moving your on-premises ERP to the cloud.

With the entire world working remotely, on-time access to different applications, verified and updated data, access on the move, and ensuring security and compliance becomes critical. D365 offers a modern interface with in-built best practice processes, which makes migration to the cloud a smart move.

However, to migrate from on-prem to cloud-based D365, you need an in-depth assessment, the right preparation and the help of an experienced partner.



Get In Touch

Storm Technology is a trusted business technology partner to some of Ireland's leading brands. Storm leverages over 25+ years' experience developing innovative business solutions tailored to your unique business challenges and goals all backed by the technical expertise of one of the leading Microsoft Gold partners.

Get started today by scheduling a free one-hour assessment to determine if [Dynamics 365 Business Central](#) is the right choice for you.

To contact our solution experts, [click here](#)

