

Why Cloud Computing Makes Sense for Nonprofits

If you are like most nonprofits, you are experiencing increased pressure, oversight, and demand for transparency from all sides. Whether your focus is government compliance, competition for funding, or accountability for outcomes, it is more important than ever that you have the edge in technology tools that improves your efficiency, reduces your costs, and increases your visibility. Significant enhancements and adoption of cloud computing have opened the door for you to greatly benefit from the latest technology innovations. At the same time, you likely have questions and concerns around cloud computing. Let's see if we can address these things by demystifying cloud computing and identifying its key benefits.

THE PROMISE OF CLOUD COMPUTING

According to the most recent Nonprofit Technology Network¹ survey, over 90% of respondents are using some kind of cloud-based software solution. Once an organization is successfully utilizing a cloud solution, it is likely to use more. In fact, of the nonprofits reporting, 80% were using more than one cloud solution for applications like email, project management, and video conferencing. While this situation is a pretty dramatic shift, there are still questions and uncertainties about moving critical applications (like accounting and financial management) to the cloud that we address from the perspective of nonprofit organizations in this piece. When asked why they were using cloud solutions, the nonprofits surveyed listed primary drivers as mobility and cost.



Find out why so many organizations are moving to the cloud to improve their efficiency, increase their mobility, and reduce costs.

Mobility & Remote Access

Mobility and remote access are especially important priorities for nonprofits. Whether your program managers work offsite, your grant writers work remotely, or your board members travel, mobility and remote access are requirements for efficiency and productivity. Sharing and 24/7 access of data over the Internet greatly improves your efficiency and provides you real-time management insight and action. With the mobility functionality of cloud computing, your internal and external stakeholders gain full access to metrics, approvals and financial reports—regardless of their locations.

For example, Intacct's financial management and accounting system gives you and your key stakeholders the ability to review budgets, approve payments, and monitor program impact metrics with real-time visibility, allowing you to make proactive changes that ensure program funding requirements are achieved. Mobility and remote access also can improve donor relations and your organization's credibility in a competitive and dynamic funding environment. With "always on" access to data and business intelligence, you have the visibility and tools to ensure timely communication with external stakeholders using simple reporting tools on the key success metrics that support your mission.

Intacct Benefits

- Data Access & Control
- Increased Privacy & Security
- IT Cost Savings
- Real-Time Visibility
- Improved Donor Relations
- Dynamic Fund Accounting
- Improved Credibility
- Greater Business Intelligence
- Mobility & Costs

COST SAVINGS

The second driver of adoption for cloud computing in nonprofits is reducing IT costs. With the cloud, you can dramatically reduce the Total Cost of Ownership (TCO) by eliminating hardware, decreasing software, and cutting IT costs. The cloud also eliminates the burden of installing, maintaining, and upgrading your software solutions, reducing your dependence on scarce IT resources, and freeing up your time to focus on your

mission. Plus, cloud computing reduces your technology risk with enterprise-class security, backups, and disaster recovery at a much lower cost than doing it by yourself.

REAL-WORLD INTACCT CUSTOMER RESULTS

"With Intacct, customers report a less than one year payback with 100%+ annual return on investment (ROI). For instance, Potential Church

is saving over \$80,000 annually in staff support, while expanding its ministry due to the extreme efficiency gains from utilizing Intacct. Great Books Foundation reduced inventory costs by 33% and invoice days outstanding by 38% - while slashing IT and power costs."

Concerns around Cloud Computing

It's easy to see why moving to cloud computing is attractive to nonprofits, but what about the questions and concerns surrounding cloud services? The NTEN survey¹ revealed that 59% of respondents cited security, privacy, control, and access, as concerns about the cloud. Let's look at these key issues and examine how the latest advances in cloud computing technology have addressed those concerns for nonprofit organizations.

PRIVACY & SECURITY

With increased privacy compliance regulations and the need to protect sensitive donor information, privacy and security should be at the top of your computing requirements list. You probably believe that on-premises systems offer more privacy and security because the hardware is physically located at your organization. But by capitalizing on the combined investment of major cloud providers in computer science and data security expertise worldwide, you can benefit from greater levels of privacy and security than using an on-premises solution.

Unlike on-premises solutions that may be located in an unsecured part of a local facility, cloud providers can scale for millions of users, and create more secure environments by incorporating the latest standards and controls for physical access. This capability results in a level that individual organizations cannot match.

For example, Intacct operates Fortune 100-class data centers that have a specific set of operational characteristics built into the system that ensures the highest levels of privacy and security. Data is encrypted when it leaves the cloud and in transit. Intacct follows the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standards (PCI DSS)

compliance policies and procedures. These policies specify how to store, process, and transmit cardholder data. By following these standards for all our data communication, Intacct ensures the highest levels of privacy and security. In addition, with role-based security policies and password changes enforced at specified intervals, Intacct ensures even greater security.

Intacct's High Security Standards

- Fortune 100-class data centers
- Encrypted data when it leaves cloud and in transit
- PCI DSS compliance policies and procedures
- Role-based security policies and passwords

Data Control & Access

To be prepared, you need to evaluate cloud vendors on specific criteria when it comes to data control and access. Verify their historical performance levels. Make sure the providers deliver 24/7/365 real-time information on performance levels. You should expect guaranteed performance at 99.8% or better.

Note you still have responsibility for your data even if you aren't managing the servers. Audit or certification of security, backups, and maintenance practices should be reviewed prior to choosing your cloud service, and on an ongoing basis after. Plus, make sure your organization still owns and can take the information when you want it. When you compare your internal on-premises system against cloud offerings, you typically find cloud offerings provide more benefits.

Intacct has invested in world-class practices in data availability and control, so you can move confidently to the cloud. For example, Intacct's "Buy with Confidence Guarantee" assures world-class service levels for system availability, disaster recovery, and response time. Intacct guarantees 99.8% or greater application availability even though the actual availability is greater. In major disasters, applications are running within 24 hours. Plus, Intacct maintains continuous local backups plus streaming backups to remote disaster recovery center. With Intacct solutions, you own and have access to your data anytime, anywhere. If you ever decide to leave the Intacct platform, Intacct stores your data for up to 90 days.

For customers, Intacct provides complete transparency into the system through Intacct.com/status, a web site that offers real-time information on its system performance, reliability and security. This information includes:

- Live data on system availability worldwide.
- Current and historical information on system performance.
- Information about Intacct's security, reliability and availability technologies.

Plus, Intacct has completed a SSAE 16 Type II Audit. This audit means the design and operational effectiveness of the system has been reviewed and tested by an independent auditor.

BEST-IN-CLASS PROVIDERS SHOULD GUARANTEE:

- Your applications are running within an agreed upon timeframe in major disasters.
- Continuous local backups plus streaming backups go to a remote disaster recovery center.
- They maintain SSAE 16 SOC1 Type II audited processes and controls plus PCI DSS certification.
- Constant monitoring of application performance and responsiveness from worldwide locations.
- Monitoring and management of system operations 24x7x365.

CONTACT INTACCT TODAY

Don't miss an opportunity to increase your efficiency and get better business insight faster. Check out Intacct today!



Best-in-class cloud providers guarantee world-class service levels for system availability, disaster recovery, and response time.

