**Integrated Logic**

# Get your head in the cloud

## Streamline, simplify, and save with cloud migration

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# Contents

# Introduction

**In business, as in life, change can be difficult.**

When you're running a business with staff, products or services, clients or customers, and other complexities, a change of software or platform can be particularly disruptive and time-consuming. It's not surprising that business owners and managers are often resistant to making a move.

Cloud migration, which involves shifting business management systems from on-premise servers to a cloud-based platform, can seem daunting to business owners for different reasons. If you've been using on-premise systems for a long time, the migration process itself may seem overwhelming. Will your data be preserved? Will you have the same level of access and control? Many business owners also have preconceived ideas about the costs involved – although cloud options are often cheaper than maintaining on-site servers and IT teams.

> It can feel like a huge move – but the benefits are well worth the effort.

A cloud business management platform offers a range of upsides that traditional systems can't deliver. Business software is stored, managed and used through the cloud, making it accessible remotely from any connected device. Similarly, your business data is stored in the cloud, so it can be updated and viewed from almost anywhere. Because your systems are connected and seamlessly integrated, issues around disconnection, miscommunication, manual errors and delays are eliminated.

The result? A leap in efficiency, fewer errors, less rework, reduced manual tasks for your team and streamlined processes that help maximise productivity. In a modern business environment, with a constant influx of data, high productivity requirements and countless elements to balance, the cloud is the most effective place to work.
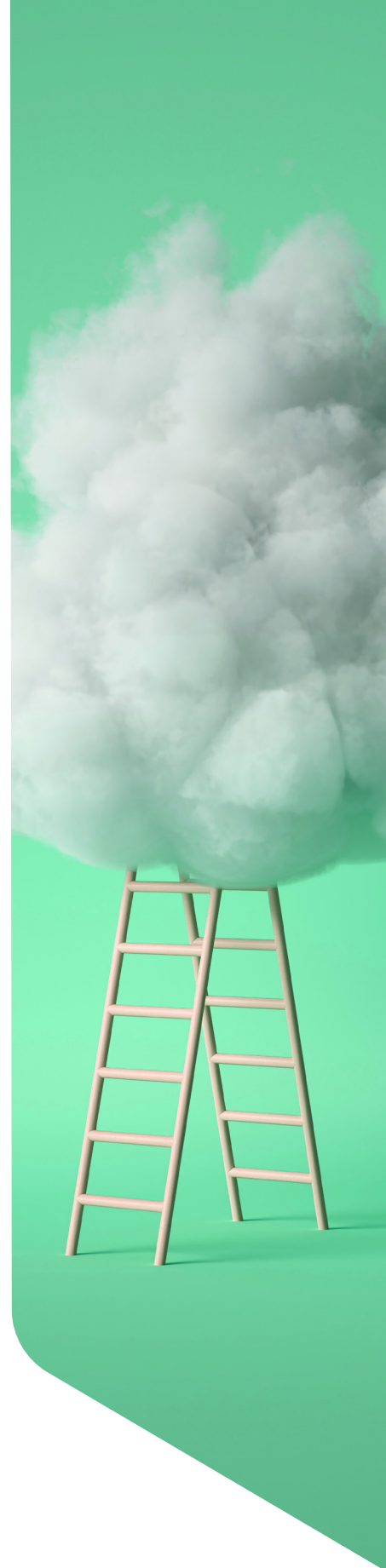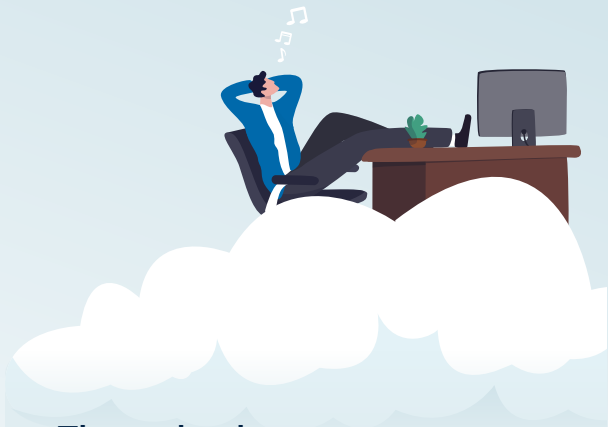
# Understanding the cloud

**You may have heard about the cloud as a concept, but not absorbed what it means in practice.**

In essence, the cloud refers to software and databases that are accessed and used through the internet, rather than from an on-site server. Data and software systems are stored in secure data centres that may be located anywhere in the world – and can be accessed through a portal or system on any device with an internet connection.

Unlike on-site servers, which require maintenance and IT support, cloud systems are external. They don't require storage space or special hardware. Rather than downloading a piece of software onto your device, you and your people work 'in the cloud', accessing real-time information and managing work from any device.

## Three cloud misconceptions

As a relatively new way of working, the cloud is widely misunderstood.

Here's a look at some common myths:

✖ **Cloud data is not secure:** this couldn't be further from the truth. Cloud data centres are designed to securely store vast amounts of data, with built-in security features and continual updates. If they didn't do it well, nobody would use them. In comparison, on-premise servers may be older, less advanced and more vulnerable to leaks or hacks.

✖ **Cloud software is unreliable:** as long as you have good internet access, cloud systems are just as reliable as older versions.

✖ **Cloud tech is expensive:** new tech is always pricey, right? Not necessarily. Cloud systems don't require the space, hardware and IT support needed for on-premise systems, which can offer significant savings.

# Why now?

In a connected world, businesses still using older systems with on-site servers will struggle to manage and use their business data effectively – if they can access it. And that's before you consider the price rises and inflation, increasingly fierce global competition and high customer expectations that are cutting deep in many industries.

In 2022, businesses still using old, non-integrated, server-based systems should be taking a hard look at their options. Although the cloud isn't necessarily the answer to every question, it could be a major force for change in your business. **Here's how:**

## 1 Fully connected, fully integrated

Imagine you have a different person, speaking a unique language, managing each part of your payroll process – one collecting timesheets, one recording hours, one sorting taxes, one handling the money. That's what managing a business without a centralised system is like. Rather than working in sync, your systems don't 'talk' to each other, increasing the risk of errors, miscommunication and delays.

> **With a cloud system, everything is housed in one virtual place.**

This means all your systems – from payroll and accounts to staffing and stock management – are automatically connected and accessible through a single login. They're working from the same, real-time dataset, so there's no need to transfer information or double-check figures.

# 2 Data access and delivery

These days, accessing vast amounts of data is easy – it's what you do with it that counts. With a cloud system, you get access to your business information, supplier information, customer order data and real-time information about global currency changes, weather patterns and anything else that might impact your work.

Better yet, filtered through your cloud platform and displayed on a custom dashboard, this data can be used to inform day-to-day work and long-term business decisions. Many cloud platforms will integrate information from all your systems and create automated reports to make it useful.

### EXAMPLE
### Pattern-spotting and pivots

When all your data is in one place, it's far easier to see patterns and trends before they hit your business. If a particular product line or service has a leap in popularity, you can look at bringing in more stock or more staff to meet demand.

# 3 Efficiency plus

Maximum results, minimal time and cost. That's the dream of almost every business owner.

The cloud can deliver efficiency at scale, automating some parts of your process and streamlining others. Manual tasks can be simplified or automated, saving time for your people and reducing staffing needs. Every small moment of streamlining, every tiny inefficiency that's eliminated adds up to real savings in time and money.

### EXAMPLE
### Streamline and save

With an older system, payroll might involve physical timesheets being filled in manually, sent to a manager, signed off then sent to another team member for payment. With an efficient cloud system, staff can complete timesheets in an online system – even from home – which are then automatically sent to the right person for approval before going to the payment team.

# 4 Flexibility, mobility and more

The pandemic showed us that working from home can be just as effective as working from the office. Now, more staff have made the shift to permanent or part-time work from home, while others may be out on site visits or client outreach.  You might also have a workforce spread across multiple premises: offices, factories, warehouses, shops, or distribution centres.

Whatever your setup, remote access offered by the cloud makes it simple. All your staff, no matter where they are, can see up-to-date information and use work tools when they need them. They just need a cell phone, laptop or other connected device, and an internet connection. This can be a major timesaver, cutting down on rework, calls between different premises and errors caused by miscommunication.

**EXAMPLE**

## Working from anywhere

If your sales staff can check inventory and complete orders while they're out on a job, the process is streamlined and effective. There's no need for salespeople to double check-information back at the office or go back to the client if stock isn't available – it's all done on the go.

# 5 Cutting costs

Cost reductions don't just come in the form of efficiency – they can also come from the cloud itself. Unlike on-premise servers that need storage space, hardware, maintenance and IT support, cloud platforms are relatively cheap to run. There's no need for specialist equipment, storage space or full-time IT teams. Many cloud platform providers offer remote support if needed.

Because cloud systems are generally simpler to scale, they can also be a cost-effective choice for growing businesses. Rather than needing to upgrade your software and your data storage as you grow, the cloud allows for gradual expansion and endless storage options.

# Time for a change

If your business has made it to 2022 without migrating to the cloud, now is the time to make the leap. We're all operating in a fast-paced, hyper-competitive environment, with increasing pressures from globalisation, inflation, supply chain issues and shifting markets. This is unlikely to change soon, so it's essential to use all the tools at your disposal to improve the way your business works.

With fully-integrated systems, a single source of truth and remote access, the cloud offers a host of opportunities for efficiency gains and boosts to productivity. Your business can streamline workflows in a range of areas – from payroll and finance to inventory and ordering – and get real-time data to inform decision-making.

While individual changes may be small, the overall impact of cloud migration can be a significant driver of efficiency – cutting manual processes, eliminating bottlenecks and reducing expensive and time-consuming errors.

# Start your cloud journey

**MYOB Advanced Business is a powerful cloud platform designed for SMEs in New Zealand and Australia.**

It offers full integration, secure data storage and mobile access to all systems. Information flows freely between functions, and custom dashboards give you crucial data at a glance. It's a unified platform designed to make connections and reduce miscommunication across your business.

Best of all, we can guide you through the migration process, minimising disruption and maximising the benefits to match your specific business needs.

Ready to move to the cloud? **MYOB Advanced Business** can take you there. Get in touch to find out more.

**Learn more**

**Phone**
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**Website**

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