

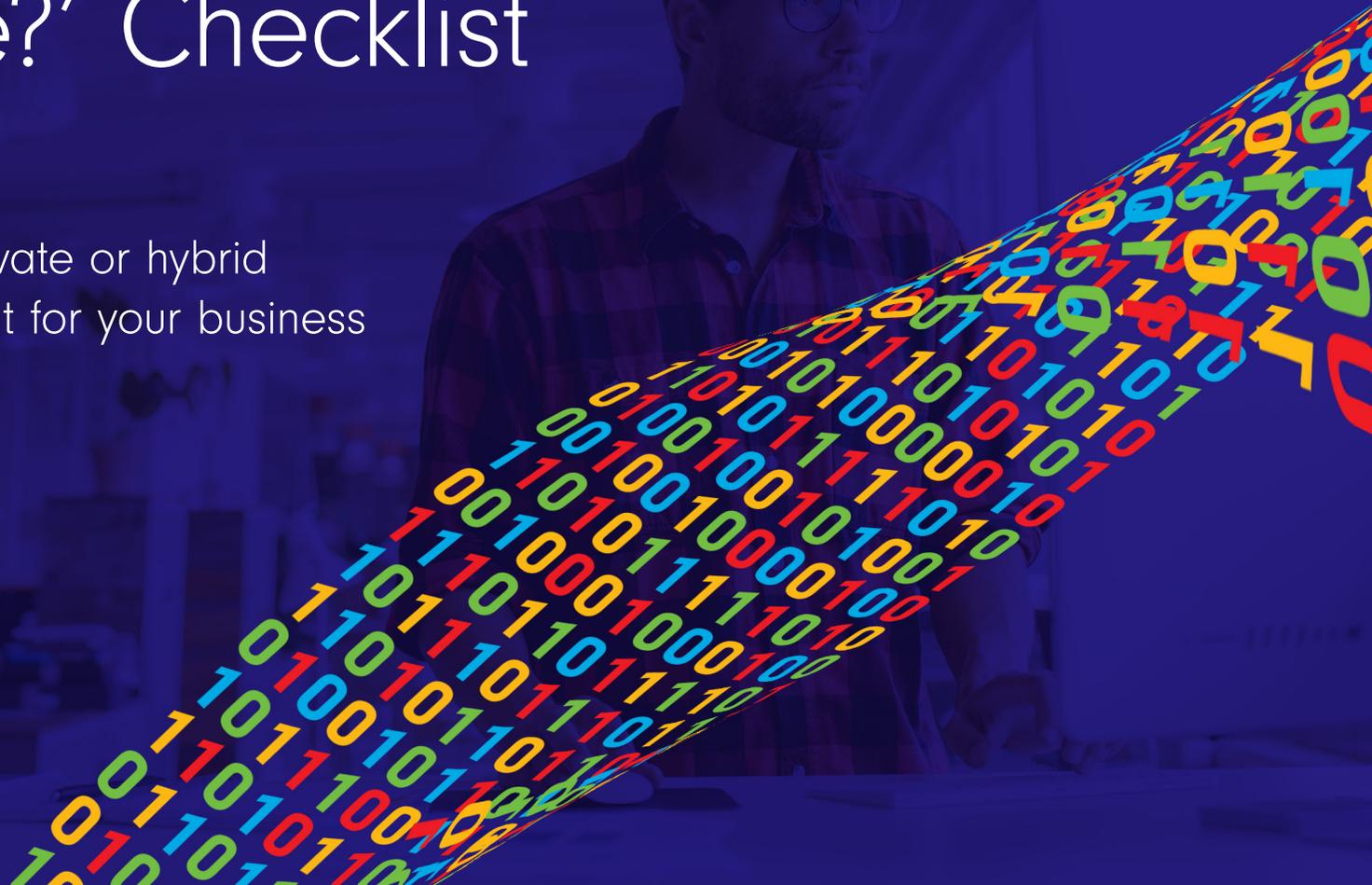
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Tectrade

Your Data Protection Partner

The 'Which Cloud is Right for Me?' Checklist

Assess whether a public, private or hybrid cloud storage solution is right for your business



The real cloud question

The cost benefits of storing data in the cloud are easy to see.

Cloud-based storage, with its scalable, on-demand pools of IT resources, is an opportunity to reduce your reliance on expensive, inflexible storage infrastructure.

By storing your data in the cloud, you can minimise both one-off capital hardware investments and ongoing operating costs.

But clouds, like their meteorological namesakes, come in various, distinct varieties. To realise the full potential of cloud data storage, you need to know if your ideal solution is:

- a public cloud (like IBM's So layer, Amazon's AWS or Microsoft's cloud)
- a private cloud solution, potentially managed and/or hosted by an external provider
- a private + public cloud, hybrid approach

You need to ask: 'Which cloud is right for me?'

The following checklist will help you find your answer, and understand what it means for your organisation – and what you need to do next.



The checklist

In each section below, pick the statement that best describes your own organisation:

Performance

The level of performance you need should be a key factor in deciding your cloud strategy.

- **All of** our data and applications have high performance requirements
- **None of** our data or applications have high performance requirements
- **Some of** our data and applications have high performance requirements

Compliance

Whether it's with internal policies or external regulations, the need to ensure continued compliance is also going to inform your choice.

- **All of** our data and applications have tight data compliance regulations (e.g. data in country)
- **None of** our data or applications have tight data compliance regulations
- **Some of** our data and applications have tight data compliance regulations

Security

Do you need to keep everything on site, with absolute control over access? Again, it's going to affect your cloud options....

- **All of** our data and applications have specific physical security requirements
- **None of** our data or applications have specific physical security requirements
- **Some of** our data and applications have specific physical security requirements

The checklist

In each section below, pick the statement that best describes your own organisation:

Confidence

It's not just about picking the best option from a practical point of view. You've got to sleep easy – and act in keeping with expectations of your brand.

- We're not comfortable storing **any of** our data in the public cloud
- We're comfortable storing **all of** our data in the public cloud
- We're not comfortable storing **some of** our data in the public cloud

Budget

Some clouds require more upfront investment than others. Let your available budget be your guide...

- We have CAPEX budget allocated for **all of** our forthcoming IT infrastructure requirements
- We currently have **no** CAPEX allocation for any more IT infrastructure
- We have CAPEX budget allocated for **some of** our upcoming IT infrastructure requirements

Your results

If you answered...

All As – A private cloud is the cloud for you. Go to page 6 to learn more.

All Bs – You're in an ideal position to take advantage of the public cloud. Advance to page 7.

Any other combination – You should be looking to get the best of both cloud worlds, with a hybrid solution. Skip straight to page 8.

Meet your perfect cloud – the private cloud

Getting Acquainted

Private clouds are...

- Dedicated to your organisation
- Hosted in your data centre, or the data centre of a trusted third party

They apply the principles of cloud computing within a dedicated infrastructure – to reduce the costs of data storage, without risking compliance, latency, or performance.

Read on to learn about public and hybrid clouds, or **skip to page 9** for the next step.

Things to remember before getting involved

- Know your bandwidth requirements – planning and understanding your needs will help you avoid bottlenecks, and ensure you'll benefit from your private cloud's full potential
- Know your new cloud's responsibilities – know the demands your internal policies and external regulations place upon your cloud, and ensure it can deliver

What to look for when choosing a private cloud provider

It's possible you don't have the time, in-house expertise, or simple inclination to build and manage a private cloud yourself. If so, a private cloud provider can help. You'll want one that:

- Has a proven track record
- Will guarantee to meet your uptime requirements
- Has the experience and resources to deliver a smooth execution
- Offers management tools, and a 'single pane of glass' view of performance and availability
- Has a comprehensive range of disaster recovery options

Meet your perfect cloud – the public cloud

Getting Acquainted

Private clouds are...

- Hosted outside your data centre
- Maintained and supported by an external provider
- Shared between multiple users

Taking advantage of large, shared infrastructures, public clouds offer low costs – thanks to great economies of scale – and extreme flexibility, with the ability to add resources as and when you need.

Dive into the next section to learn about hybrid clouds, or **skip to page 9** for the next step.

Things to remember before getting involved

Public clouds, however, do have drawbacks – frequently delivering lower availability and bandwidth than private solutions, as well as a lower level of security. (Put simply, with a public cloud, you don't have ultimate control of access). Before you go 'public' you should:

- Know your bandwidth, compliance, availability, security and data recovery requirements (essential before moving data to any cloud)
- Know your contingency plans in case of service downtime
- Know who'll own your data once it's in the cloud
- Know how easy – or difficult – it will be to access, reclaim, and move your data

Choosing a public cloud provider

Once you know your own requirements, you'll want to:

- **Do your research** – shop around potential providers, and find the one that most closely fits your needs. It could be a cloud giant, like IBM So layer, or a smaller, open source player like Rackspace.
- **Take a free trial** – most providers will offer free 30 day trial (or something very similar). Take them up on it, and treat the free period as a controlled experiment, carefully choosing your data, and carefully monitoring performance.



Meet your perfect cloud – the hybrid cloud

Getting Acquainted

A hybrid cloud combines public (shared) and private (dedicated) cloud infrastructures, and has the potential to offer you the best of both:

- the secure, available, high-performance storage of a private cloud for the data and applications that demand it
- the flexibility, simplicity and cost efficiency of a public cloud, all for the data and applications that don't

Look back at our previous sections to learn about public and private clouds, or **read on** for the next step.

Things to remember before getting involved

A successful hybrid infrastructure is built on a comprehensive understanding of your services, applications, data, and their associated needs.

It's this understanding that will help you decide what data and applications to put where, and ultimately how to make great use of both types of cloud.

It's a good idea to create a set of rules to decide which of your applications and data would be best entrusted to each. (And if there's any that should reside in a private cloud, but be allowed to 'burst' to a public cloud at times of peak demand.)

You'll also need to think about how you'll manage both clouds, and particularly, how you'll move data between the two –

ensuring your chosen public cloud supports your private cloud's management tools.

What to look for when choosing a hybrid cloud provider

Building and managing the perfect hybrid cloud isn't easy, and it may make a lot of sense to get some specialist help. You'll want a hybrid cloud provider that:

- Has extensive experience in planning, delivering and managing hybrid cloud environments
- Will work closely with you, taking the time to understand your organisations existing architecture and current challenges, as well as its long and short term goals

Your next steps

Public, private, or hybrid – get it right, and get ahead

Between them, private, public and hybrid clouds can deliver some serious data storage savings – while helping deliver the flexibility organisations need to soar in this brave new Age of Data.

[Find out more](#)

This checklist should help your business get off to a flying start by choosing the most suitable solution for your data. If you need help along the way, however, our team are among the best qualified, most experienced cloud advisors in the business

Book your free cloud readiness workshop

Not only will we verify the findings of this checklist, but we'll assess your current and future requirements to create your very own free cloud migration strategy! Click **here** for more.



At Tectrade, we live and breathe data. It's in our DNA. And we're relentless in finding the solution that's right for your business. With teams in Europe, the US and Australia, we can deliver projects and managed services on a truly global scale.

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