

5 Reasons To Store Sensor Data In The Cloud



If you aren't storing your sensor data in the cloud, you might have been lied to.

Well, at least that's my assumption. When I discuss cloud options with customers and system integrators, I hear one of two responses. It's either, "*that makes perfect sense!*" or "*yeah, but what about...?*". The "what abouts" include data access and security concerns and are usually based on bad information received from someone else.

Has someone unwillingly lied to you?

Canary wants you to better understand cloud computing and all the benefits you can easily realize as a result. That's why we developed this short, but informative, guide to quickly summarize why your next project should include a cloud based approach if you want to save time and money.

Sincerely,

Jeff Knepper

Executive Director of Business Development

The push for cloud computing is spreading and companies are strongly considering hosted solutions for their production related software.

Here are five great reasons you should not only consider storing your sensor data in the cloud, but why it can actually be the best business decision you make.



Faster deployment and scalability

Generally software deployments take more time than necessary, especially when physical infrastructure is required. Avoid these time drains and additional headaches with a cloud deployment that can often be set up in just a few hours. This ensures that value realization is as rapid as possible and lowers the overall deployment risks. Once established, the solution can quickly grow, or if necessary, be reduced without any additional work. Combine dramatic decreases in turnaround time with the ability to scale at a moment's notice and any customer can quickly realize the cost benefits.



Reduced costs and increased resources

Even though cost savings are often the primary reason for considering cloud computing, it could be easy to miss just how many ways you can actually save money. Initial capital expenditures can nearly be eliminated by adopting a true SaaS (software as a service) model, allowing you to pay a monthly, quarterly, or annual subscription for storing and accessing your sensor data in the cloud. No longer worry about future upgrade costs, support contracts, or hardware costs associated with system growth.

Along with the reduction of upfront costs, personnel costs can be greatly reduced by offloading database management duties to the company hosting your cloud solution. Consider what a single database administrator costs your company. Now compare that savings with how much cloud computing can be provided for the same monthly subscription. In addition to being able to task your resources to other projects, you will gain the expertise of the cloud provider's specially trained team members that will continually manage your data and provide professional support.

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Ease of data availability

Imagine if you could give anyone in your organization access to the exact sensor data they need, right when they need it. You wouldn't have to deal with IT roadblocks, and they would have all the tools they require to learn from the data without having to install software. With cloud computing data availability becomes nearly instantaneous. Team members can easily share data and collaborate, even from different locations. Staff in the field can share real time data and updates with those in the office. Trends, reports, dashboards, and raw data can be accessed by anyone with permission, from any device, anytime. If you have a smartphone and a signal, you have access.

“Moving sensor data to a platform that gives the entire company easy access is a game changer.”

-Bill Behn, CSO, Tosibox



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Disaster avoidance and uptime

Not only can a cloud solution reduce your workload, but it can also decrease your risk while increasing your data availability. Businesses of all sizes should be investing in robust disaster recovery, but for smaller businesses that lack the required cash and expertise, this is often more an ideal than a reality.

Cloud computing helps organizations buck that trend as well as keep their databases available to users with higher reliability. An AWS (Amazon Web Services) hosted solution can provide highly resilient systems in the cloud by employing multiple instances in multiple availability zones that leverage data replication to achieve extremely high recovery times. In fact, most applications can provide a service availability of 99.999% and greater.

This means your data can always be backed up and available to you. In fact, you would experience less than five minutes of data unavailability in a full year without spending any extra money!

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Data Security

Surprised to see security as a reason to consider the cloud? Don't be. While housing your sensor data in the cloud may sound less secure than an in-house server, in many cases it creates a much more secure environment. Maintaining security on a local IT system requires a lot of time and manpower, making it difficult to consistently plug all the holes that are created by other users and an expanding system.

The physical security of the system is also quite different. Think about where the server is currently stored in your office. It may be in a closet or a storage room, or perhaps in an even more secure environment. However, it's doubtfully as secure as a fully managed facility with two levels of perimeter security, patrolled by professional security, complete with video surveillance and intrusion detection systems. And that is just the perimeter of the building. Once inside, staff must move through internal checkpoints requiring separate rounds of two factor authentication before they can gain physical access to the servers.

Data centers like the indiscreet Amazon Web Services (AWS) buildings described above, are built around rigorous security best practices and are equipped with unimaginable resources and highly specialized staff. All servers are heavily monitored and access to the premises of data centers is extremely secure. Not only is the cloud no less secure than your facility, it is likely much more secure.

Is Storing Your Sensor Data in the Cloud the Right Move For Your Organization?



Easy data access



Complimentary support



Our team partners with yours



Achieve your goals

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