System Source IT Management Update – Is Cloud More or Less Secure?

Clients ask whether cloud computing has higher or lower security risk versus on-premises.

We see similar security risks between cloud and on-premises computing with the following non-exhaustive exceptions. The reason for this conclusion is cloud providers use a "shared responsibility" security model. The client is still responsible for security except for server infrastructure maintained by the cloud provider. We've discussed shared responsibility in depth in our [public webinars](#). Note cloud computing requires learning new security skills and will increase IT workload in hybrid environments.

The results of security risks include loss of business, not having the data when you need it (i.e., legal risk) or reputational damage. The conclusions below might change depending on your definition.

1. Organizations without the budget to refresh on-premises hardware or software may have a lower risk profile in the public cloud.
2. If your industry is subject to compliance regulations, cloud computing may speed your compliance efforts as you build on existing audits from cloud computing platforms.
3. Warm/hot recovery sites in the cloud are easier to create and more affordable.
4. From a PR point of view, it's easier to blame a cloud provider for an incident versus an on-premises team.
5. If IT personnel turnover or lack of IT discipline is an issue, cloud security looks stronger.
6. The cloud version of an application is sometimes more mature and has better upgrade rights than on-premises.
7. Cloud providers usually have more advanced protection against Denial of Service attacks.

For an in-depth look at insuring against cyber risks, [view](#) our "What Cyber Insurance Companies Look for to Minimize Premiums in 2023" recorded webinar where our insurance provider and I recently discussed cyber insurance with an urgent claims update.

Maury Weinstein
President and Co-Founder
System Source
410-771-5544 x4319

P.S. For in depth security training, consider these [courses](#).