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Cloud and IT Infrastructure I Article

Ahead in the Cloud: Future-Proofing Your IT Infrastructure

Imagine a world where businesses effortlessly ride the wave of technological advancement, using IT infrastructure that not only keeps them ahead of the game but propels them to new heights of success. This is the power of future proofing, and it's what sets forward-thinking organisations apart from the rest.

In today's tech-driven world, it's essential for businesses—especially organisations that have made the "work from anywhere" concept a reality—to future-proof their IT infrastructure. By embracing modern technology and agile solutions, your IT infrastructure can adapt to changing trends and evolving business needs to ensure business continuity for long-term success.

One effective approach is by investing in cloud computing solutions. According to EY, "cloud computing is foundational for companies that are ambitious about moving and transforming at speed, meeting elevated customer expectations, and future-proofing their business."[1] Let's address a few key questions around what a future-ready IT infrastructure entails and how cloud computing solutions can help you achieve it.
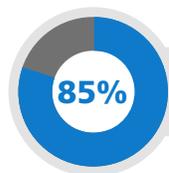
[1]Global, E. (2022). Is your cloud journey moving fast enough to realize your business ambitions? EY Finland.

What makes a future-proof IT infrastructure and how can the cloud enable it?

Future-proofing an IT infrastructure involves designing and implementing IT systems that are adaptable, scalable, and resilient.[2] By investing in cloud computing solutions, businesses can prime their infrastructure to seamlessly integrate new technologies and software updates, eliminating the need for costly replacements or downtime.[3]

Historically, small and medium-sized businesses (SMBs) faced challenges in building and maintaining on-premises IT infrastructure due to high costs and technical requirements. However, the emergence of cloud infrastructure services has brought about a revolutionary change in the industry, providing companies with on-demand access to the data storage and computing capabilities they need.

85%   "**85%** of organisations will embrace a cloud-first principle by 2025"[4]

Cloud solutions are increasingly included in digital transformation strategies, with 94% of enterprises using some form of cloud computing today.[5] This shift not only offers a more flexible and scalable solution—it reduces the upfront costs associated with traditional infrastructure setups. With a modern cloud infrastructure, businesses can allocate their resources more efficiently, focus on their core competencies, and propel their growth.

[2]Sbalckiero, N. (2023, January 3). A Comprehensive Guide to Building a Future-Proof IT Infrastructure. CompanionLink Blog.
[3]Rosencrance, L. (2022). Breaking Down the Cost of Cloud Computing in 2023. WhatIs.com.
[4]Gartner Says Cloud Will Be the Centerpiece of New Digital Experiences. (2021b, November 10). Gartner.
[5]Flexera 2023 State of the Cloud I Report. (n.d.).

What cloud solutions are available?

When considering moving to the cloud, it's important to understand the different solutions and services available to help future-proof your IT infrastructure and your business' growing needs. The trending cloud computing solutions today are "as-a-service" models:

1

Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS):

IaaS enables organisations to build and manage their business resources, including networks, servers, and data storage, through virtualised computing resources on the cloud.

2

Platform as a Service (PaaS):

PaaS provides businesses and developers scalability and flexibility for hosting, building, and deploying consumer-facing apps. It simplifies development by offering a framework to construct customised applications online, eliminating the need for infrastructure management.

3

Software as a Service (SaaS):

The most common cloud service, SaaS, delivers software applications over the internet on a subscription basis. It provides everyday cloud-based tools and applications to consumers and businesses without requiring installation and maintenance.

The following table provides an overview of what you can expect from each model.

What's the difference: IaaS vs. PaaS vs. SaaS

IaaS vs. PaaS vs. SaaS			
Cloud solution	**User vs. Provider Management**		**Advantages**
IaaS	**Provider manages:** • Infrastructure (network, virtualisation, hardware)	**User manages:** • Platform (operating system, middleware, runtime) • Software (data and apps)	• Scalable, flexible, and cost-effective • Provides complete control over infrastructure • Does not require a physical server
PaaS	**Provider manages:** • Infrastructure • Platform	**User manages:** • Software	• Flexible, scalable • Simplifies development by eliminating the need for infrastructure management • Enables developer collaboration on a single app
SaaS	**Provider manages:** • Infrastructure • Platform • Software	**User manages *nothing* and can simply use the software**	• Scalable, cost-effective, easy to use • Provides accessibility from anywhere (with an internet connection) and automatic software updates • Eliminates the use of local resources • Requires less upkeep

These cloud computing models offer a unique scalable, flexible, and cost-effective approach to future-proofing your IT infrastructure. The right choice depends on your business needs.

What's in it for your business?

Organisations that want to stay ahead of the curve and position themselves for success must overcome the challenge of adapting their computing tasks across different resources in hybrid or public cloud environments. This is also known as workload change. Cloud computing enables companies to optimise resource utilisation, performance, and cost efficiency.

Key benefits include:

Reduced infrastructure costs

Improved capacity and scalability

Enhanced connectivity and collaboration

New business opportunities

Business continuity

In today's competitive market, businesses can gain a significant advantage by proactively planning for the future and embracing cloud technology. By doing so, they can effectively cater to changing customer demands, open new revenue streams, and thrive amidst fierce competition.

Instead of spending valuable time and resources deliberating over which cloud computing service to choose, it is wise to partner with a provider that offers a comprehensive range of solutions. Look for a provider that enables you to leverage the benefits of IaaS, PaaS, and SaaS while ensuring your specific IT needs are met. You can establish a change-ready infrastructure that supports your business growth and transformation goals by opting for such a provider.

How Ricoh can help you get ahead in the cloud

At Ricoh, we understand the importance of future-proofing IT infrastructure in today's rapidly evolving business landscape. That's why we offer a comprehensive range of services and products designed to help businesses stay ahead and thrive. Our expertise lies in providing agile cloud solutions, resilient cybersecurity measures, and reliable managed services that empower organisations to embrace the future with confidence.

By partnering with Ricoh, you gain access to a trusted technology partner committed to helping you future-proof your IT infrastructure. With our extensive portfolio of services and products, we can provide the tools, expertise, and support needed to navigate the digital landscape with confidence and achieve long-term success.

Let us empower your business to embrace the future and unlock its full potential.

Learn more about **Ricoh Cloud Computing** and how we can help you unlock the power of agile solutions for your business.

About RICOH

Ricoh is empowering digital workplaces by utilising innovative partners and technologies and providing expert services that enable individuals to work smarter from anywhere. With cultivated knowledge and organisational capabilities nurtured over its 85-year history, Ricoh is a leading provider of digital services, process automation, and information management solutions designed to support digital transformation and optimise business performance.

Learn more about our Cloud & IT Infrastructure at **ricoh.com.au**

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