Disadvantages of Cloud Computing



* Connectivity. Cloud computing requires access to the internet to function. Given that most organisations are now completely reliant on email, electronic order processing and potentially VoIP to run their business all of which need continuous access to the web this is less of a consideration.
* Security. Perceived security of cloud computing services is contentious and may be delaying its adoption. It is argued that physical control of the Private Cloud equipment is more secure than accessing equipment off site under someone else’s control. This physical control plus the ability to visually inspect data links etc. is required to ensure data links are not compromised and some parts of the private and public sectors unease lies in external management of security-based services. To balance this, cloud computing service providers prioritize building and maintaining strong management of secure services with their reputations and client base contingent on these practices.
* Physical location of the data. Certain vertical markets legal, insurance, banking etc. are heavily regulated with stringent regulations surrounding the location of their own and their clients’ data. This is dealt with by choice of provider and publication of the location of their data centres.
* Privacy. Cloud computing allows a client to log in from any location to access data and applications, so it seems possible the privacy could be compromised. Cloud computing companies protect client privacy using authentication techniques with user names and passwords and authorization format so each user can access only data and applications relevant to their job. Also cloud computing providers are completely reliant on their reputations for protecting client data; consequently they are focussed on the most advanced techniques available.
* Legal/philosophical issues. These relate to concerns over who actually owns the data; is it the property of the user or the cloud computing service provider? And is it possible for a cloud computing service provider to deny a client access to said data? These are the subject of debate in academic and legal circles relating to cloud computing.

