



# In-House Hosting vs. Cloud-Based Hosting

DOES YOUR IT STAFF HAVE THE SPECIALIZED KNOWLEDGE IT NEEDS TO SUCCEED?



When it comes time for a software upgrade or a hardware refresh, you may find yourself deciding whether or not to move to the cloud. Running your hosting in house requires specialized knowledge that some IT generalists simply may not have. Additionally, using in-house staff to maintain your systems may be costing you more than you think.

In this Sisu Healthcare IT Solution Brief, we'll examine the potential pitfalls of maintaining your servers on premises through the lens of your staffing solutions. We'll also show you how moving to the cloud can offer you several distinct advantages.

## 4 Potential Pitfalls of On-Premises Servers

### #1 UNRECOGNIZED STAFFING COSTS .....

Have you truly identified what supporting your IT systems on site is costing you? You might be surprised when you examine your own organization.

For example, what portion of a nurse's time is spent supporting IT, instead of caring for patients? You'll also want to ask yourself who in your organization is:

- Taking on the required clinical and financial reporting?
- Completing your Meaningful Use reporting?
- Performing any analysis as it comes from the regulatory bodies?
- Interpreting regulations from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and applying system changes?

If it's your clinical staff, it may be costing you money. As you evaluate cloud-based solutions, you'll want to examine the percentage of staff time that's attributable to IT. Maintaining your servers on premises may be costing you more than you realize.

### ● CRITICAL ACCESS HOSPITAL CASE STUDY

During a recent audit at a critical access hospital, Sisu discovered some surprising unrecognized staffing costs.

This particular hospital reported its IT staffing costs as four full-time equivalents (FTEs). Sisu worked with the hospital to more closely examine the actual IT work performed by many members of the clinical staff. The reality? The facility was using the equivalent of seven FTEs to perform IT functions—and none of these individuals was classified as IT staff.

*How much unrecognized time is your clinical staff spending on IT issues?*

## #2 GREATER POTENTIAL FOR SECURITY GAPS .....

IBM called 2015 “the year of the healthcare security breach.” Yet security is often overlooked when examining cloud-based solutions. When you choose an on-premises solution, the responsibility for protecting your data falls solidly on your staff. Are they on the cutting edge of cyberthreat trends? New gaps are discovered every day, and you need someone on your side who has the skill and experience to deal with them—quickly. Ask yourself: Does on-premises hosting or cloud-based hosting offer you the best protection from a threat-rich environment?

## #3 INABILITY TO TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF YOUR TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT .....

You would probably be surprised to discover that you may be using a fraction of the technology you’ve invested in. This can often be the case when you employ IT generalists who don’t specialize in your software. Does your staff have the expertise to ensure you’re using all of your software’s functionality? Or are you left trying to make up for “gaps” in your systems? Most cloud-based solutions are administered by highly trained software experts who can make sure you’re getting the full suite of features you’ve paid for.

## #4 CHALLENGES OF STAFFING IN SMALLER COMMUNITIES .....

One of the unique challenges facing health organizations in smaller communities is your ability to attract, hire, afford and retain top IT talent. With an on-premises solution, you may struggle to staff your IT department with the specialists you need. A cloud-based solution can offer you virtual access to an entire staff of highly trained specialists, including desktop technicians, network technicians, systems and storage technicians, advanced clinical analysts, application engineers and integration engineers.

One of the biggest decisions you’ll face as a CIO or IT manager is whether to move your organization to the cloud. Although there’s no one-size-fits-all answer, keeping these staffing issues in mind will get you closer to making the right decision for your organization.

Considering moving to the cloud—or want to discuss our cost-effective ways for solving your IT staffing challenges?

GET IN TOUCH WITH US. WE’LL HELP YOU PUT TOGETHER THE RIGHT SOLUTION FOR YOUR ORGANIZATION.

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