

Advantages of Cloud Computing

	Traditional Enterprise Software	Cloud-Based Software
Pricing	large upfront capital cost for hardware and software	economical and predictable subscription fee to expense
System Maintenance	purchased from vendor and deployed by client to affected local servers and clients	included in subscription fee and managed entirely by vendor
Technical Support	purchased by contract or paid per incident	unlimited technical support included in subscription fee
Infrastructure	costly standalone server hardware and server software	multi-tenant infrastructure managed by vendor
Communication	costly and slow document printing for direct mail	electronic communication by EDI, or email
Reliability	varies with backup/restore procedures and in-house skills	professional maintenance included in subscription fee
Security	depends on skill-set of internal IT compared with hackers	regularly tested for threats and vulnerabilities
Scalability	increase in usage requires costly hardware upgrades	add users or increase transactions at any time
Availability	downtime can last for days depending on the problem	24x7 network monitoring included in subscription fee
Accessibility	only internal employees and some limited remote access	staff and business partner access from anywhere
Accountability	no vendor obligation after initial implementation	vendor must continually 'earn' the subscription fee
Accuracy	information is often posted daily or weekly	information is updated in real-time
Learning Curve	proprietary interfaces with steep learning curve	standard html web pages with very little training required