CLOUD COMPUTING QUESTIONNAIRE

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If your completed Cloud Checklist shows that cloud computing could help your business, your next step is to find a cloud services provider that you can partner with for all of your cloud service needs. Here's a list of questions you should begin thinking about as you continue researching your cloud options.

Eventually, you'll want to work with a provider to answer these questions, as they require some technical assistance to answer. Having answers to these questions will help you transition to the cloud.

1. Which internet connection do we use? (DSL, cable, fiber-optic, dedicated leased lines)

2. Do we currently have enough upload and download internet bandwidth to support a cloud environment?

3. How many users do we have?

4. Do we utilize 3rd party resources like Office 365 from Microsoft or Amazon Web services?

5. Do we have Outlook email or calendars through Office 365?

6. Do we utilize any 3rd party standalone email applications – that would need to be integrated (or installed and configured)?

7. Do we utilize any 3rd party applications that would need to be integrated (CRM, Inventory, Statistics, Credit Card Processing)?

8. Do we have anti-virus or malware software?

9. Are our workloads seasonal, cyclical or variable?

10. What are our storage capacity requirements?

11. Do we have specific compliance requirements?

12. Do we have manufacturing equipment that would need to talk to the Cloud?

13. How does the Cloud environment relate to the rest of our IT infrastructure?

14. Do our end users need support?

15. Do we need to have Cloud plans reviewed and approved by key stakeholders?

16. Do we have a legal team that can evaluate a Cloud contract?

17. Do we need resources and capabilities for solution design, migration planning and ongoing support?