



Moving IT to the Cloud.....Successfully.

The media hype surrounding the “cloud” has urged executives to adopt the technology as a blanket answer to their IT problems. However, the issues are more complex and worthy of additional consideration. One has to look no further than previous ERP and CRM installs to realize that careful planning is paramount to a successful deployment.

In this paper, we will describe some of the do’s and don’ts of cloud assessment in order to circumvent implementation issues associated with poorly-defined criteria for cloud adoption and deployment.

1. Treat the Cloud as a Corporate Initiative.

DO make sure that the financial, technical and business risks are well understood and effectively managed. Ensure alignment with all business unit objectives.

DO remember that corporate governance and oversight will enhance the cloud deployment and facilitate the data transition with minimal to no disruption to business operations.

DON'T settle for one-off deployments of cloud on a piecemeal basis. This “approach” diminishes the value of cloud, including cost-reduction via a scalable utility computing model and ease of IT management.

2. Vendor Selection, Relationships and Contracts become even more important as you trust your business-critical data to others.

DO make sure you get the best information available on the leading cloud vendors, their product/service roadmap, and their commitment to the cloud. Significant investment and focus are required of a cloud vendor to provide the level of service and support that defines its very existence.

DO use your supply chain experts and hire a 3rd party if necessary to help with your vendor evaluations and selections, as well as your contract negotiations. This upfront effort will cost time and money but will pay off with a smoother transition and integration.

DON'T make quick uninformed decisions based on vendor and media hype. Short- and long-term benefits can accrue to cloud adopters, but instant gratification is not one of them.



3. Plan, Prepare and Manage the Transition.

DO get your organization ready for this transformation. Ensure management understands how the cloud will enhance the business and can communicate the benefits to the stakeholders who will be affected (both internal and external to the company). Identify what a successful transition to the cloud looks like and toward it.

DO engage key executives to lead portions of the transformation and hold them accountable along with the vendors and your own IT team.

DON'T let cloud deployment establish a separate life and identity apart from the appropriate organizational governance and decision making. Include it in business plans and budgets to ensure cloud milestones map to your critical success factors.

Take a few minutes and visit our website. Take the [Brivea Challenge](#), and get a free summary report before investing your time and money in the cloud!

Brivea is independent of any vendors and has software that helps you understand your IT costs in detail before you make IT investment decisions.

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