8 BUSINESS BENEFITS OF A CLOUD ENVIRONMENT FOR YOUR ERP

From simple deployment to enhanced security and scalability, discover how a multi-tenant cloud set-up for your ERP could offer major advantages to your enterprise

Com*Activity*

For supply chain organisations across all industries – from food and beverage to distribution, retail and manufacturing – adopting the latest digital technologies and finding innovative ways to remain agile can be a critical point of difference that keeps you ahead of the competition.

Without the higher operating expenses of an on-premise ERP solution or the singular nature of a private cloud, a multi-tenant cloud set-up for your ERP offers a host of business benefits, ranging from cost savings and a highly scalable platform to robust data recovery and always-current software.

Whether your organisation is expanding and needs a flexible ERP SaaS solution to accommodate business growth, or you need to upgrade your existing ERP to enable deeper functionality or greater agility, moving to a multi-tenant cloud environment will provide a solid foundation to support your digital transformation.

What is a multi-tenant cloud?

If your software is hosted on a single tenant cloud, it means your organisation is the only one on that cloud. This means you have full control, and responsibility for deploying, managing, security, monitoring and upgrades.

A multi-tenant cloud is a business structure where many organisations share resources, including a single version of the software, but your company's data is isolated and invisible to other companies.

When making a business case for a multi-tenant cloud set-up, here are some of the key organisational benefits to be gained by making the move to multi-tenant cloud.

1 Accelerate digital transformation

As technology-driven solutions transform the way all industries operate, supply chain enterprises need to leverage the latest digital technologies to stay competitive. Moving to the cloud supports this digital transformation and helps to accelerate the shift to business digitisation.

From automated workflows and digital document management to real-time access from anywhere, at any time, on any device, running on a multi-tenant cloud allows you to digitise the workplace while improving visibility and integration across the supply chain.

What's more, by moving your infrastructure management to the cloud, you free up your IT team so they can focus more on core business value through digital enablement, taking advantage of technology such as AI and machine learning.

2 Powerful out-of-the-box security

For a complex supply chain enterprise, the impact of a cyber-attack can be totally devastating to the business, with the potential to cease operations and bring the entire organisation down.

With a multi-tenant ERP cloud set-up such as Infor's CloudSuite™ solution, you benefit from the most secure cloud computing environment available today. Provisioned on Amazon Web Services (AWS) servers, CloudSuite leverages the security expertise of this world-leading enterprise, allowing you to scale securely, automate and reduce risk with deeply integrated services, and build with confidence on the most secure global infrastructure.

Meanwhile, out-of-the-box data recovery means you get added peace of mind knowing your data – and your business – is protected should the worst happen.

3 Sky-high scalability

Without a doubt, one of the biggest benefits of a multi-tenant cloud environment is the high level of scalability, which allows enterprises to scale up and down seamlessly to match the peaks and troughs of business.

Running in the cloud means having the ability to expand your infrastructure at the exact time you need it – such as in response to seasonal changes – so you can extend your capabilities on-demand to suit your requirements.

Should you need to introduce new entities to your ERP system, a multi-tenant cloud set-up means deployment will be fast and simple, enabling you to scale with ease to accommodate additional users or emerging business needs.

4 The last upgrade you will ever need

With the multi-tenant cloud, upgrades are a thing of the past. Rather than having to upgrade every few years as you would in an on-premise environment, a multi-tenant cloud-based system means you'll always be running the most cutting-edge version of the software, with all subsequent updates included in your investment and made automatically on a monthly basis.

5 Simple application integration

With an open API gateway providing authorised public access into the solution, multi-tenant cloud set-ups facilitate improved capabilities for interacting with multiple applications. The open gateway enables ease of access to the API via authentication and the system can then interact with a vast suite of applications to support the core ERP.

6 Powerful data capabilities

In order to maintain security protocols and avoid potential disruption to data, the multi-tenant cloud utilises data lakes, which provide access by synchronising data into the database. This model opens up a huge range of opportunities for rich data analysis and interrogation.

Using the data lake, data can be pushed into other data warehouses to support areas such as supply chain planning tools or business intelligence activities; alternatively, ERP data can be blended with other data-sets to enable in-depth comparison and more comprehensive reporting and forecasting.

7 Significantly reduced TCO

The shared infrastructure offered by a multi-tenant cloud set-up lowers your TCO by drastically reducing operating expenses, minimising implementation time and costs, and eliminating the need for software upgrades or costly on-premise maintenance.

On the multi-tenant cloud, investment in IT infrastructure is reduced. Being able to scale to suit your business needs – using what you require, when it's required – ensures your capital and operational costs will be optimised.

Meanwhile your IT team will be freed up from activities such as server maintenance, monitoring, and upgrades to focus on strategic objectives, thus adding more value to the organisation.

8 Simple ongoing deployment

Once you're set up on a multi-tenant cloud, rolling out to more facilities, locations and geographies or scaling up to meet business requirements is fast, simple and hassle-free. The multi-tenant cloud makes integration to other applications and external systems more straightforward.

Deploying in the multi-tenant cloud avoids the significant work and infrastructure that would be required in an on-premise environment, enabling changing demands to be met with ease to seamlessly support your business growth.

Ready to experience the multiple benefits of the multi-tenant cloud?

To find out more about how moving your ERP to a multi-tenant cloud environment can ensure your enterprise is equipped to thrive and grow, **contact ComActivity** about your unique business requirements.

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CASE STUDY

Making the Move to Multi-Tenant Cloud

In 2020, ComActivity supported Lineage Logistics – a leading global provider of temperature-controlled storage and logistics solutions – in designing a business-wide, multi-tenant cloud implementation across its numerous regions.

Despite a number of project stages taking place amidst the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic – which placed significant restrictions on operations and on-site visits – the migration was seamless and the project was a huge success.

The Client
Lineage Logistics, the world's largest temperature-controlled storage and logistics company.

The Need
Following significant growth that saw multiple acquisitions in locations including New Zealand, Sri Lanka and Vietnam, Lineage Logistics required a single, easy-to-access ERP system that could be deployed across its global network.

The Solution
With deep expertise in cloud migration and ERP, ComActivity was able to seamlessly migrate the organisation from an on-premise environment to the M3 multi-tenant cloud. A smooth implementation was delivered across New Zealand and Sri Lanka (Vietnam currently being rolled-out), with fast deployment and no operational disruption.

The Benefits
As a result of migrating to a multi-tenant cloud environment, Lineage Logistics experienced a range of business benefits, including:

- Easy deployment in every region
- Enhanced disaster recovery and robust back-ups
- Always-current software that upgrades automatically each month
- Improved visibility and reporting across the network
- A highly secure environment provisioned on Amazon Web Services (AWS) servers

"Using the cloud, we benefit from advanced visibility which allows us to see 'at a glance' exactly what's happening in any business in any of our worldwide locations."

Raelenne Smith
Senior Financial Accountant
Lineage Logistics