



WHY THE CLOUD?

Learn more about today's cloud computing solutions for law firms.



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Why the cloud? In short: security, accessibility and savings. If you're surprised by any of these reasons, it's time to learn more about today's cloud computing options for law firms.

As the Internet has become ingrained in our daily lives and online security has increased, the use of web-based services – from shopping to file sharing to project management – has become routine. Still, one of the prevailing misconceptions regarding the cloud is that it puts your data at risk. Never mind the fact that we all feel comfortable enough with online security and encryption to share credit card numbers, addresses and other personal information almost daily.

Files Stored in the Cloud Are Actually More Secure

Many attorneys have trouble believing that their data is more secure on a server they may never see or touch than on a computer in their office. The truth is, servers run by professionals and backed by an established IT firm are going to provide more data security than most small to mid-size law firms can provide.

According to the ABA website, "a legitimate argument can be made that files stored on the vendor's servers are more secure than those located on a typical attorney's PC, as the vendors often employ elaborate security measures and multiple redundant backups in their data centers."

Despite the name, "The Cloud," which brings to mind an amorphous, shifting entity, it's important to remember that files are stored on physical servers in a real-world, secure location with remote, secure backups at additional locations. The servers may not be located on-site in the firm's own server room, but they exist physically, albeit remotely, in the vendor's data centers.

This is key for law offices in disaster-prone areas. In the event of a hurricane, flood, tornado or fire, if your office suffers catastrophic damage, you still have access to the important documents and tools that allow the firm to operate.

Files are Accessible Anytime, From Any Computer

Similarly, if an attorney loses a laptop on which he has locally-stored, vital information – case files, legal documents, time tracking or appointment information – that data is gone. If he were using cloud-based tools, he could simply log in from a different computer and not miss a beat. This ubiquitous access also translates into convenience. Attorneys can access the same files and software from home or on the road as they do in the office. They don't have to settle for a downgrade



to a lesser web-based portal or slow-running mirroring program to do so. What they experience at the office is what they experience when they log in remotely.

Cloud-based Software License Bundles Save Money

Legal Workspace provides seamless IT solutions for almost every aspect of managing a law firm, so the cloud translates into cost savings. We allow the firm to create the perfect suite of software in order to run their practice:

- Practice Management Software
- Document Management Software
- Time & Billing Software
- Legal Document Generation Automation

By bundling licenses for programs such as Amicus Attorney, Timeslips[®], Worldox[®], Quickbooks[®], Windows, Microsoft Office and more into one cloud-based access license, firms find savings compared to individually buying and renewing multiple software licenses.

As Nick Pournader points out in his article for the ABA's *Law Practice Today*, "[Embracing Technology's 'Cloudy' Frontier](#)," making the necessary infrastructure upgrades to stay functional can also add up. "[I]n most law firms, the demands for feature-rich, robust technology solutions often outpace the appetite and/or ability to invest the required capital for traditional, internally deployed and managed solutions. When faced with these circumstances, cloud computing solutions can provide effective alternatives."

With Legal Workspace's cloud-based solution, these server upgrades fall to us, and since it's the backbone of our business, it's in our best interests (and yours) to stay up-to-date. For small to mid-size firms, this means focusing more time on running your law firm and almost no time dealing with expensive, time-consuming infrastructure upgrades.

So – Why the cloud? For new firms looking to start with a competitive edge, attorneys branching out on their own on a limited budget and existing firms assessing the cost of upgrading their current infrastructure, perhaps the question shouldn't be "Why?" but rather, "When?"

Legal Workspace is a pioneer in cloud-based work environments and data storage designed specifically for law firms. Learn more or arrange a free demo at legal-workspace.com. [Click here](#) to watch our video.