Silver Linings:
Protecting Your Data in the Cloud

THE CHALLENGE

More and more of our customers are taking advantage of cloud computing and are seeking our advice in securing their data. This is the case with our Department of Defense customers who work with immense amounts of data, as well as our commercial customers who are looking for ways to improve how they do business.

Using the cloud allows government organizations and small businesses to lower their expenses for space, equipment, software licensing and IT personnel. They can increase the volume of data storage, while managing backups and recovery more easily. By being able to use applications and access data anywhere, productivity improves. Simultaneously, cloud computing adds another layer of security-risk complexity to existing IT security issues.

THE SOLUTION

Every organization is different, so there's no such thing a one-size-fits-all solution to mitigating cloud risks, but there are key practices we share with our clients regularly. For example:

1 **Choose the cloud type that works best for your organization.** A public cloud is shared by multiple customers, a private cloud is accessed by one customer, and a community cloud can be shared by multiple customers with a common goal or business purpose. Limit your exposure based on your needs.

2 **Learn as much as possible about the potential provider of your cloud-based services.** For example, how will your data be segregated and protected from other customers? Where is the data stored? Nationally or internationally? How will you retrieve your data/applications should the vendor fail? How will the vendor help you to meet compliance and regulatory requirements?

3 **Put measures in place to encrypt sensitive data at rest and in transmission** (and don't store the keys in the cloud—a common mistake).

4   **Take advantage of any extra security features or Identity and Access Management (IAM) services** offered by the cloud provider, and seek outside recommendations for other security products.

5   **Never underestimate the human element of cybersecurity protection.** Limit the number of admin IDs you issue to your employees. Change passwords on a set basis.

THE RESULTS

Time spent researching and talking to cloud providers now will reap benefits for a secure, reliable, available and cost-effective solution in the future.

For additional detail on this topic, we encourage you to view our PowerPoint presentation entitled "Silver Linings: Securing Your Data in the Cloud" by clicking **here.**

Kaizen Approach has years of experience with evaluating vendors for services and setting up vendor management programs and risk management frameworks. Contact us for a needs assessment.

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