

# The Expansion Into Cloud Based Services, And Its Impact On Traditional Infrastructure, Within Small And Medium Enterprises.

This research project surveyed a portion of system administrators to determine how they used cloud services within their organisation, and the impact they have had upon a traditional infrastructure. This included their uptake of such services, replacement of physical infrastructure, and intentions of future expansion.

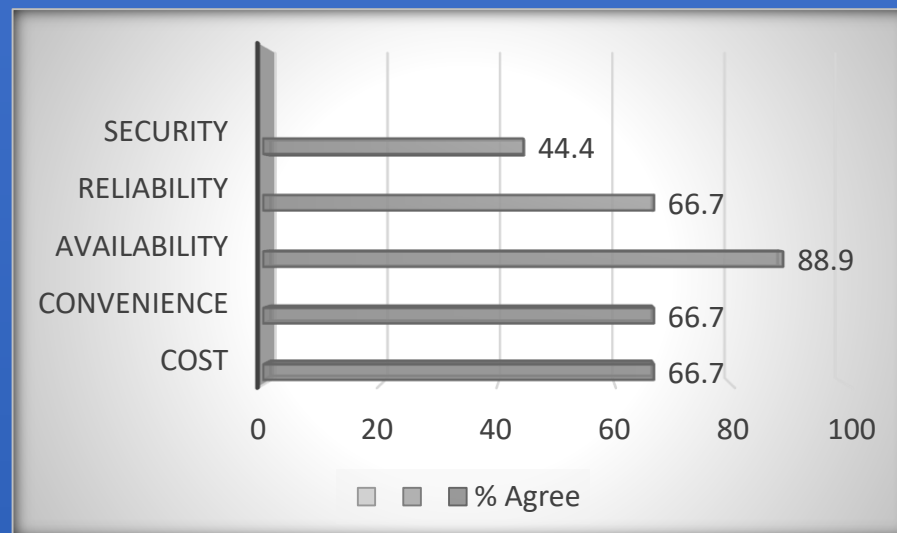
## Key Words & Definitions

- Cloud Systems: systems hosted by another provider, away from your location.
- Traditional Infrastructure: physical systems at your locations (servers, software etc.).

## Benefits Of A Cloud Based Infrastructure For Enterprises

- **Reliability** – Cloud services vary rarely encounter issues.
- **Cost Effectiveness** – cloud services are cheap as chips!
- **Availability** – Most cloud services are available 99.999% of the time.
- **Disaster Recovery** – Cloud services can provide business continuity at the drop of a hat!
- **Accessibility** – Cloud based services are accessible from anywhere, meaning that you too could work from home!... or Starbucks®.

When asked which of the following benefits influenced their decision to move to the cloud, respondents gave the following answers (shown as % agree).



## Uptake And Replacement

When asked, 88% of respondents stated that they had replaced some, if not all of their physical infrastructure with a cloud based equivalent. Several respondents reported that they were running both a cloud **and** a physical version of some systems concurrently.

22% of respondents signalled intent to replace all of their physical infrastructure with a cloud based variant within the next five years.

Respondents have begun use of the following cloud services:

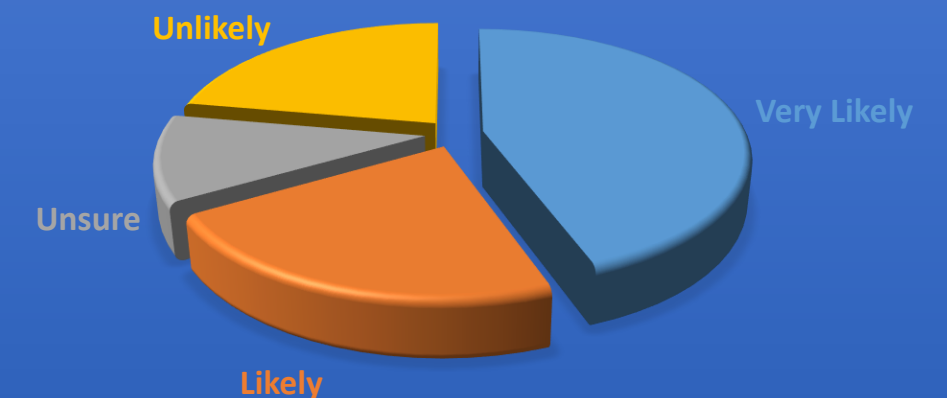
- Virtual Service Platforms
- Cloud Backup Systems
- Storage Platforms
- Hosted Telephony Systems
- Web Hosting

## Usage Statistics

The most popular cloud service type is virtual service platforms, with 66.7% of respondents. This includes platforms such as Microsoft Azure (Microsoft, 2017), and Amazon AWS (Amazon, Inc., 2017). Cloud backup & storage services were the next most popular, with 55.6% of respondents each.

## Expansion Intentions

When asked, over 60% of respondents signalled an intent to expand their current cloud standing over the next five years (Responses shown below).



## Drawn Conclusions

From the information analysed, it is concludable that a cloud based infrastructure ecosystem is steadily replacing physical infrastructure, and will continue to do so in future.

Looking at the benefits, this could be for the better!

## References

- Starbucks Corporation. (2017), Starbucks, Available at: <https://www.starbucks.co.uk> , (Accessed: 1st April 2017).
- Microsoft Corporation. (2014) Microsoft Azure, Available at: <https://azure.microsoft.com/en-gb/> (Accessed: 1st April 2017).
- Amazon.com, Inc. (2006) Amazon Web Services, Available at: <https://aws.amazon.com> (Accessed: 1st April 2017).