**The advantages and challenges of moving MCTV Limited to The Cloud**

**Advantages**

There are many advantages when moving a business to the cloud such as cost savings, data safely protected, flexibility, manageability etc.

It is much easier these days to start a business inovation and initiatives. Also it reduces operational issues giving the business extra time to focus on what is important.

One of the most significant benefits of cloud computing is the **cost saving** in terms of IT. With cloud computing you can save costs without having in-house server storage and application requirements. You only pay for what you are using, cloud services are affordable for any businness regardless the size.

**Reliability** is very consistent, you can access anytime from anywhere. You never going to face problems of a server fail or any other techinical isse that may come up if you are hosting it on your own.

The IT part of maintenance, updates, infrastructure is eliminated and all of this will be managed by the service provider.

Cloud computing services can give you an advantage over your competitors, the business will save much more time to focus on main important objectives.

Cloud based services are very **flexible** and ideal for growing business, the services provided can scale up or down according to your business need.

**Team work** is also improved, once your whole team can access, edit, and share documents anytime and from anywhere, they will be able to work along together efficiently as all informations will be updated in real time with full visibility of each others collaborations.

Before the cloud workers had to send files all the time, using emails and attachments, and many times with conflicts of file formats.

**Challenges**

Moving your business to could computing seems to be the way to go now due to many benefits but there are some challenges as well that companies needs to be aware of, maybe the first one would be choosing your vendor.

Choose the right **Vendor** is an important step and you want to take your time and make sure you are choosing the right one. There are many deals and bundles offered by many different vendors, but you need to think of a vendor in a long term relationship, you need to see the vendor as a partner.

Choosing the wrong vendor can make your life very hard once there is so much work involved between both sides, you need to pay attention to your contract and make sure that if you are not happy, you can break that deal. You need to make sure that you will be able to migrate your data somewhere else if things don’t go as you expected.

**Security** also is a very important thing that you want to look at it, after all the must important thing of your business will be held with a third party company, and that important thing is your data.

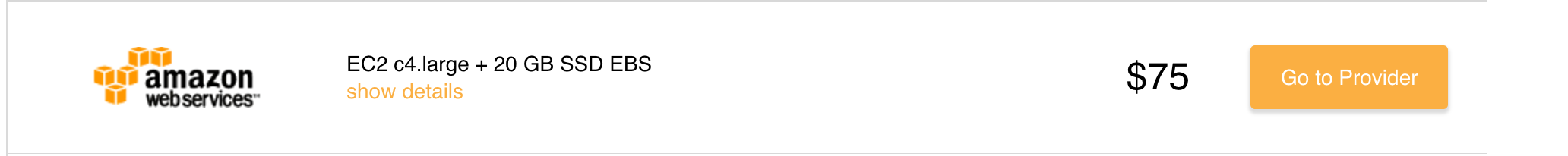
So make sure to check the security policies and make an audition from time to time after data been migrated.

Another challenge would be manage an employee related to that area, when a change like that happens, someone in the company may fell a loss of authority, powerm responsibility, and that sort of loss may cause resistance, so for the success of that move is important to minimize that resistance.

Probably some clouding trainning will be needed so the company need to get their employees trained for keeping the partnership with the vendor running smoother, it is important to start trainning as soon as the business has decided to make that move. So once the move is done, the business don’t have to sit and wait training to be finished or hire a professional for it.

**Cloud Costs and Benefits**

Before choosing the right Could Service Provider there is a lot of research to be done before you consider a long term service. A research based on finding a balance between cost and benefit will point us to the best solution for the business. Amazon offer a wide range of products, and on this research the EC2 product is the most suitable for our size business.



**Amazon EC2 Benefits**

**Elastic Web-Scale Computing:** It is flexible so you can decrease or increase the capacity quickly. You can also commission thousands or server instances at the sametime. It is controlled with web service APIs, so the application will scale itself depending on the business needs.

**Completely Controlled:** The business controls the instances such as root, access, etc. We can start or stop any instance using web APIs, they also can bee rebooted using the web service APIs, also access to their contole output.

**Flexible Cloud Hosting Services:** Multiple choices of instance types, OS( Including many Linux and Microsoft Windows Server) , and software packages. Select configuration of memory, instance storage, CPU as the boot partition size.

**Integrated:** Almost all of the AWS services is integrated with Amazon EC2 so it can provide a complete solution and secure for computing, cloud storage and query processing across a big range of applications.

**Reliable:** Replacing instances can be quickly done with a very reliable enviroment, the running services in Amazon is commited to 99.95% of availability for each Region of Amazon EC2.

**Security:** That’s a high priority when choosing a Cloud Service Provider, and Amazon meets the most security-sensitive organizations. The Amazon EC2 works along with Amazon PVC to provide a robust and secure network functionality.

**Collaboration Tools**

In a modern workplace enviroment those days team work is extremely important, many times members of your team at work could be in different places.

It is important for companies to progress along with the techonologies to help co-workers share their work in an efficient and simple way. That’s where a great collaborative tool is in need.

A good collaborating tool will have some characteristcs such as:

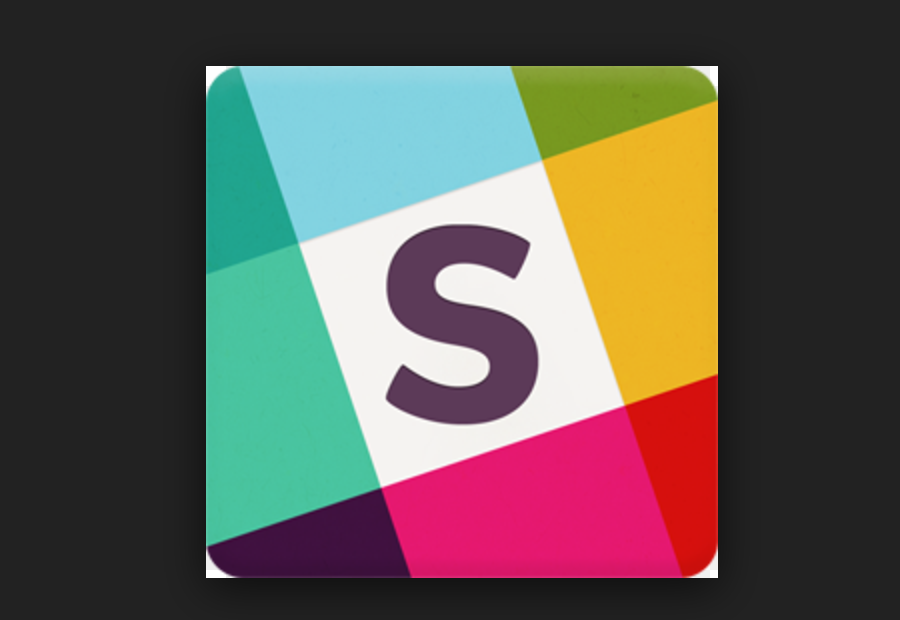
-Easy to track projects

- Generating Reports

- Be able to upload documents to and download documents from

- All documents been stored in a single place of easy access to team members.

Based on the size of our business, costs, benefits, we will start a research on what collaborative tool will suit better for our needs.

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**SLACK**

Slack is a cloud based instant messaging and collaboration tool, where you can set up group channels, direct messages, share files. All contents in Slack is searchable and that means files, people, and chats. Also supports a huge number of integrations services with products such as GitHub, Trello, Google Drive, DropBox, etc.

Initialy Slack was menat for organization communication, but now it has been more of a community plataform. Most of those communities are categorized by topic this specific group of people to discuss.

Slack has a free version and a paid version(Standard and Plus) which offer few extra features.

**Channels:** You can separate, topic, discussions, messages or purpose

**Private Channels:** You can set up private channels or direct messages as well.

**Direct Messages:** Sometimes you don’t need to talk with a whole team so you have the option to direct message members of your team.

**Sharing Files:** One of the most basic functions of any collaboration tools is the ability of sharing files. Slack provides an easy system of drag and drop for sharing files.

**Search:** Slacks search functionalitly helps you finding key information, even if it is inside of a document shared before.

**Notifications:** You can customise your notifications and give priorities to it, so you can focus on what’s more important, if you don’t customise you may get many notifications a day and end up ignoring them, so the customisation option can be quite important.

**Preferences:** The preference feature enables your team at company level or team level to customise your own slack while you still have total control of the situation

**Platforms:** Slack can be accessed from anywhere once you have an internet signal, there is an app for android, IOS, Windows, or simply can be accessed on the browser too.

**Integration:** With this feature Slack isnt only a normal messaging tool, you can get notifications from any social media or any other tool integrated with Slack.

**The free version includes:**

* Two person video calls and voice.
* Two factor authentication
* Max of 10 app integrations
* Apps for IOS, Android, Mac&Windows Desktop
* 5GB of storage for the team.

**The Standard version($8 per user monthly) includes:**

* Unlimited integrations with apps
* Guest access
* Mandatory two factor authentication
* Group voice and video calls
* Custom policies for files and messages and all sort of notifications by topic, department or p
* Unlimited searchable message archives
* Priority Support
* 10GB of storage per team
* Custom Profiles

**The Plus version($12.50 per user monthly) includes:**

* Compliance Export messages
* Support 24/7
* 20GB of file storage per team
* User deprovisioning and provisioning
* SAML based single sign on
* Real time Active Directory sincronization with OneLogin, Centrify, Okta, and Ping Identity