

Heads in the cloud, how worried should we be that so much of our data is in the hands of the few

In a world where so many companies are struggling, cloud computing stands out as that rare thing: a **fabulous** growth business that shows no sign of slowing down soon. Measured by market value, three of the world's four biggest companies are now cloud providers: Microsoft, Amazon and Google.

fabulous 极好的; 传说的

Put together, these three alone are worth more than \$2.8 trillion — and much of their value flows from the highly profitable businesses they have built storing and managing data on behalf of others on the public cloud.

Last year, AWS — the world's biggest technology infrastructure and cloud computing provider — raked in \$25.7bn, a 47pc jump on 2017. AWS rents out computing power by the hour and storage by the gigabyte, enabling customers to access it much like a utility.

But Amazon is facing a curious dilemma. The success of its cloud **division** is becoming a **liability**. Retailers have long been **wary** of using AWS, given the huge **clout** its parent wields over that industry and fears that Amazon could abuse its access by peering at their data. But there are signs that governments are starting to feel the same way, fretting about the risk of having so much of the critical data on which our modern lives depend in the hands of a single company.

division 部门; 专区

liability 责任; 债务

wary 谨慎的; 机警的

clout 影响力; 势力