

What To Consider When Choosing Between Desktop, Hosted Or Cloud

Currently in the market place, there is a lot of talk and comparisons being made between three accounting software platforms - desktop, hosted and cloud. But how do you decide which one is right for your needs - being business or personally?

By considering these before choosing a platform, it may help get the best setup.

You need to consider two areas. The first covers business considerations and the second list covers technology considerations.

1. What are some of the key business considerations to make when choosing an accounting software platform?

>> Business objective - Ok, sounds normal, but what do you hope to gain from using the program? Are you looking to be more productive or maybe more efficient? Is it to improve business reporting? There are lots of ways accounting software can help a business. Defining what you want out of a program up front will go a long way to helping you make the right choice.

>> Specialised industry needs – what specific needs does your business have that your accounting software needs to support?

>> Functionality – will your business need tools to manage inventory or payroll? Consider all the practical functional requirements your business has and what features are most important to you and your business.

>> User experience and preference – which accounting software platform would you prefer and why? There are plenty of examples of small businesses that prefer cloud accounting because they need access to the program in the office, at home, and while travelling.

>> Geographic location – could your location have an impact on the choice you make? It's important to look at internet speed and support options that you and your business need and certainly require!

>> Price – just about every product and every platform has a different type of pricing model, so consider what you're willing to pay to achieve the objective you've defined up front.

>> Number of users – how many people in your business need to access the program?

>> Training and support – Consider your level of knowledge now and what type of help you might need to get started or what you may need to do on a regular basis.

2. What are some of the key technology considerations to make when choosing an accounting software platform?

>> Internet connectivity – how reliable is your internet connection? This can impact how your software operates whether it is on the desktop, hosted or cloud platform. The last thing anyone needs is unreliable software.

>> Security – what security features will your business need? Will you have multiple staff access data and need to have user role permissions set up or will it be just you that needs access?

>> Mobile tools – will you need to access your business data on a mobile device or smart phone?

>> Data storage and recovery – what sort of back-up system does your business have? Your business set-up, as well as the accounting software program you choose will have an impact on how you save and retrieve data back-ups. If you choose accounting software on the hosted or cloud platform, your data is often safely stored offsite.

What is your preferred platform preference?

There is no right accounting software - it's all about what suits you and your business!

We hope these tips help with you with choosing your software platform between Desktop, Hosted or Cloud. Should you have any further queries, please contact our office on 03 9547 5022

