



HOW TO SELECT AND MIGRATE TO SAAS BASED HOTEL SOFTWARE

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CHAPTER 1: Introduction



To start us off, it's wise to have a general overview of what SaaS is all about especially in the hotel industry. In the past, there was a use of traditional systems of hotel management that differed from SaaS in some areas. One of the most conspicuous and perhaps the most important one was the mode of installing PMS (Property Management System).

PMS was installed directly and made to run on computers physically found in the hotel. However, SaaS takes a different approach to this particular sector with its management software not being physically found in computers. Instead, it's found in cloud service providers and you can only access it via URLs like in the case of logging into Gmail.

It's a significant improvement from the traditional means of hotel management and in the next part of this article; we'll look into the best methods of selecting and migrating to SaaS hotel software.

CHAPTER 2: How to Select SaaS Based Hotel Software



Your Hotel's Current Needs in Infrastructure

The first thing you should put into mind when selecting hotel based SaaS system is studying your hotel's current usage, needs, and general IT infrastructure. This will help you to determine what's best required for the operations to attain the optimal and best cloud performances. Thus when searching for this SaaS hotel software, you will have an idea of the features and modules the software should have in order to provide better staff efficiency, and improve guest services at the hotel.

Installation and Setup

After identifying the software that would be most beneficial to your hotel, it is prudent to look further at what's required for its installation. When looking into this, it's best to consider the factors surrounding the actual installation too. These factors include the whole installation process, the process of the software's configurations and how it will go live at your property.

In a traditional system you will find that a service providers personnel will come down to your hotel, and sit with your team to understand your hotel operations and accordingly will setup the product. In cloud based products usually systems come with a witty wizard and online setup teams, some systems may offer setups and some may expect yourself to do all the setup work. So email/call up the company and check with them how the setup will be done, understand the documentation and process involved, it is a good idea to ask vendor to help you setup the product so you don't miss out on good features and also you can get a properly configured system and you are ready to enter your operational transactions. Also understand how easy it is to update masters by yourself and change some of the things that you would need to update frequently like rates, room attributes, pictures, and guest related data.

Usability of the Software

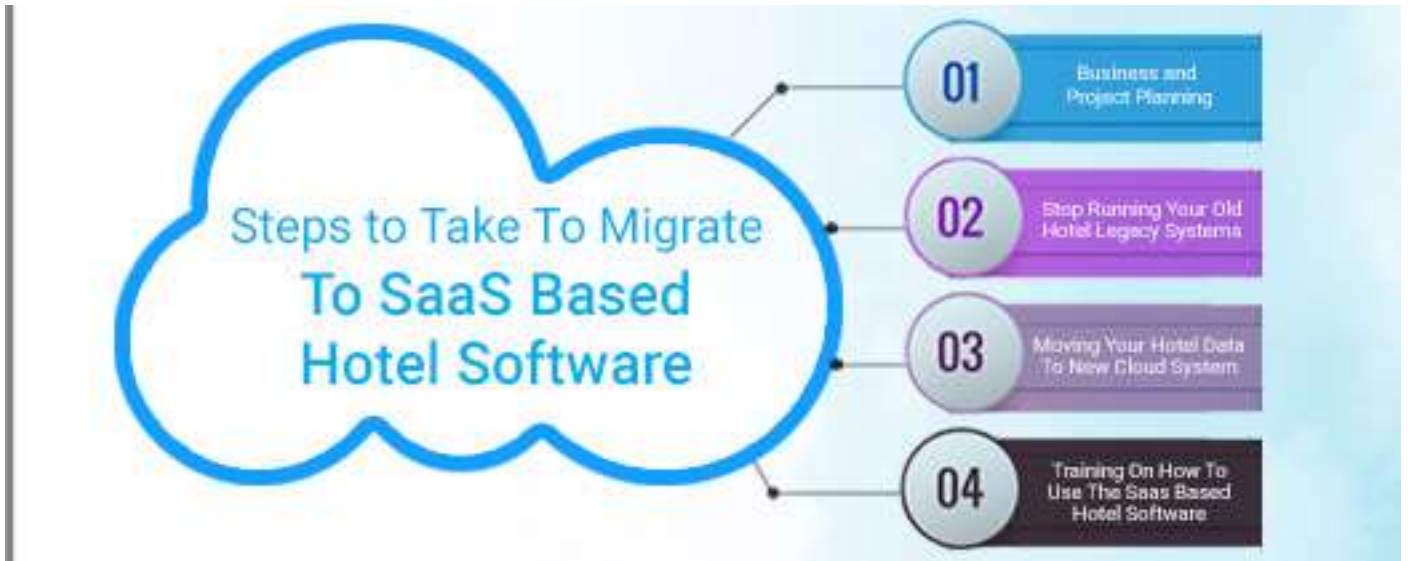
The first thing that you should consider when buying SaaS software is the reputation behind it on its user friendliness. This entails doing some market research and finding out if the specific application you wish to subscribe to is being used by any reputable hotels by your standards. After that, you must also consider if the software suits the need of your management and your clientele perfectly. With all that in mind, you will be able to exactly pinpoint the product's real reputation in relation to your hotel. Having this knowledge, you can, therefore, choose to purchase the product or let it slide depending on how usable it is to you.

Integration of the Software with Other Applications

The third step you need to follow up on is learning how the software communicates with the other systems available. The application that you should settle down for is one that can perform all the needed tasks and run seamlessly with any other app. If you were previously using Microsoft Excel, the web-based software that you install should integrate such data. The

hotel PMS solution should also be of assistance to your hotel customers with its approach of integration and consolidation. Clients should be able to access the key functionalities of the system from one simple login. The hotel manager should also be in a position to manipulate the interfaces and connections of distributors to the hotel with simple clicks from his or her computer.

CHAPTER 3: Steps to Take to Migrate To SaaS Based Hotel Software



Business and Project Planning

This is the first and most vital of steps to take when subscribing to a SaaS based PMS. With a clearly outlined framework of how your business operates, its objectives, and your desired ideal business model, you can design your business project plan. You need to decide on what modules you wish to use, PMS can come with over 20 or more modules but all may not be applicable for your business. First list down key features you need, then look for modules that will add value and help you improve your business, as an example, today e-distribution, social media, marketing and revenue management and forecast are most desired features which can tightly integrate with PMS. This will help you in finding the correct path of deciding between two possible routes of coming up with a SaaS system. The first of them is whether you need to simply add modules to your current product which is on premise. The second one, on the other hand, is whether to subscribe to a new SaaS system from scratch.

Stop Running Your Old Hotel Legacy Systems

The first step to take when moving your hotel system into a new PMS is doing away with your old legacy systems. It's worth understanding the importance of having the shift take place in an instant. The gradual process which many might be tempted to follow is not the best option because it ends up doubling your workload and delaying the implementation of your new system. So, it's important that you desist from running the legacy system co-currently to your new system by making an instant transition.

Moving Your Hotel Data to New Cloud System

The second step involves moving your data from the old legacy system to your new hotel cloud systems. In the past, when hoteliers needed to upgrade or change from one hotel PMS system to another, they had many weeks of interrupted services due to the complexity of the move. In order to avoid this, it is best for you to have a good service provider to help you ease into the cloud-based territory in a smooth fashion. Your new service provider will offer you a framework to follow while filling in reservations to avoid data losses when migrating to your new system. Excellent SaaS system vendors for hotels offer good setup within few hours to avoid affecting your hotel reservations. Depending on your hotel's amount of data, there is the possibility of having users enjoying your new system in as little as two days.

Training On How to Use the SaaS Based Hotel Software

After all this is done, the third step entails your provider of the SaaS PMS for your hotel giving some training on-site. This training is meant to cover all aspects that the system has and also remote training that has day and night on-going coverage. Because the SaaS for your hotel is quite easy to incorporate and use, the training process for your employees is both short and effective.

CHAPTER 4: Conclusion

The SaaS system has brought about a paradigm shifting experience from more traditional and on-premise methods of system management. As mentioned earlier, SaaS takes a different approach in that you don't have to invest in hardware since the management software is cloud based. This makes it cheaper for even small businesses to adopt.

Migration of management software to the cloud has its advantages and we hope that you have learned what to consider when moving into SaaS and how to migrate there.

About mycloud hospitality

mycloud has been developed by Prologic First, an independent, private company with over a decade and half's experience delivering end to end technology solutions to the hospitality industry across the UK, Asia, Africa and the Middle East. Prologic First's "WISH", "Touché" & Web Prol'IFIC brands are used across 30 plus countries by over 1,600 clients offering some of the most advanced features to hospitality professionals.

<http://www.mycloudhospitality.com>

Contact: +1-415-390-5039