

Healthcare Moves to Cloud for Security, Scalability, and Accessibility

Over 83 Percent of Healthcare IT Executives Report Utilizing the Cloud

As stated in Forbes magazine, “The most recent [HIMSS Analytics](#) survey of cloud computing adoption in healthcare provider organizations found that 83 percent of IT executives report they are using cloud services today, with SaaS-based applications being the most popular (66.9 percent).” HIMSS found that \$3.73 billion was spent on healthcare cloud services in 2015, and projected [that number to rise to \\$9.5 billion](#) by 2020.

These data point to a telling fact: the cloud is no longer the place for healthcare IT “early joiners.” It’s the place your healthcare data needs to be, or you are falling behind and placing your organization at greater risk. Healthcare organizations have moved to the cloud for three primary reasons:

- **SECURITY:** securing sensitive data while also advancing data-driven clinical research and care delivery.
- **SCALABILITY:** scaling the access and use of data that is not possible or affordable with on-premise infrastructures.
- **AGILITY:** quickly and efficiently making organizational changes that enhance healthcare delivery and overall business performance.

Data is Safer in the Cloud

While some IT healthcare professionals worry about cloud security, the highest profile and costliest breaches have been to on premise and/or mobile devices, not to cloud endpoints.

“With the cloud, the data centers have specialized safeguards such as perimeter controls, cameras, armed guards, and biometrics as well as encryption, firewalls, authentication, anti-malware and more,” said Chief Security and Privacy Officer, ClearDATA, Chris Bowen. “In addition, healthcare-specific cloud providers can help you further secure your sensitive data with specialized devops, security expertise, and automation to enhance workflow and identify risks.”

Focusing on Core Competencies in Healthcare

Because IT security is not the core competency of most healthcare providers, turning to cloud providers can quickly pay off since they focus extensively on security and aren’t trying to balance that with providing high-quality patient care.

The Healthcare Cloud Advantage.



DATA AGGREGATION
Centralized,
high-performance access



AGILITY / SPEED
Speed & Flexibility to
implement new services



SIMPLICITY
No hardware,
no software, no new staff



REDUCE COST
Lower cost, no capex,
pay as you grow



SECURITY
70% less breach,
HITRUST certified



RELIABILITY / SCALABILITY
Greater uptime/redundancy,
SLAs, scalability

Additionally, the investment of resources and staffing expertise by cloud-based providers is difficult to match with in-house employees. The flexibility, durability, and accessibility needed to quickly scale up and down is also hard, if not impossible to match outside of the cloud, at any cost. “What’s more,” said Chief Technology Officer, ClearDATA, Matt Ferarri, “the speed of cloud innovation has proven difficult for healthcare IT professionals to keep up with, as they are tasked with running their healthcare business systems, whether it be an EMR, phone system, population health app, or other system.”

Collaboration and Research Flexibility

As noted [here in Cloud Computing News](#), healthcare professionals once relied on the cloud largely for back-office needs such as email and data storage, but now are expanding use to include big data analysis and patient empowerment tools that help patients better understand their health, monitor that health, and have access to superior 360-degree care from their providers. And, moving forward, the cloud opens up collaborative research and big data projects like the one Mount Sinai is crunching – more than 100 terabytes – in their breast and ovarian cancer research. Cloud computing allows Mount Sinai to store their files securely, with flexibility and agility, in a cost-effective way that can help them collaborate on their path to the cure.

The Advantages of a Healthcare-Exclusive Cloud Platform Provider

Unlike some cloud platforms that focused on multiple industries and later moved a portion of their resources and attention into healthcare, ClearDATA was built from the ground up to be healthcare-exclusive. This narrow and deep focus assures you unparalleled expertise in healthcare security and compliance. ClearDATA is HITRUST certified (the healthcare industry’s gold standard for measuring compliance and security), HIPAA compliant, GxP compliant, and holds multiple AWS competencies, all of which is backed by the industry’s most comprehensive Business Associate’s Agreement.

About Us

ClearDATA is the nation’s fastest growing healthcare cloud computing company. Top healthcare professionals trust ClearDATA’s HIPAA-compliant cloud computing platform and infrastructure to store, manage, protect and share their patient data and critical applications.

Not all Cloud Providers Are Created Equal

As Infosec Institute states: “Data breaches will always be one mistake away from occurring.” Continuous monitoring and auditing by a qualified healthcare cloud provider helps demonstrate a culture of compliance within the organization while also protecting your PHI perimeter. “They must be actively monitored and logged. While some cloud platforms may be built with these features, the logging requirements in healthcare are stringent and must be protected and archived according to specific data retention policies dictated by the Health Information Trust Alliance (HITRUST) Omnibus and Privacy Security Rules. “Furthermore,” said Chris Bowen, “the covered entity’s BAA should ensure ongoing diligence and monitoring to maintain security and compliance.”