

Safe in the Cloud

How can you safely move in the new clouds, which promise flexible storage, gigantic computing power, versatile software and the platform for networking people and machines?

Compared to classical IT systems, cloud computing is far more flexible, more cost-effective and saves large IT projects and questions about updates. With the help of the cloud, almost all business processes can now be digitally mapped and automatized, but at the same time, this also entails risks, especially in terms of data protection. At least since the NSA- affair, where it became known that the US Secret Service access to the servers of the great US- web- and cloud- companies, especially in Europe vile companies are still storing their data gold in their own company or even on the local PC.

Hairy reports about spectacular cyber burglaries in companies, where millions of euros are blackmailed or simply transferred by transfer orders from the company account show, however, that their own security systems are often not secure. The biggest mistake is to assume that the company is not very interesting for the cyber-crooks. "The attackers do not care about the goal. Especially with the now widely used Blackmail- Trojans with fully automated systems worked", Dieter Steiner said, CEO of the German cloud and security company SSP Europe, which is mainly known for its highly secure cloud data exchange platform. The criminal methods are becoming more and more refined and provoke an annually damage of up to 500 billion euros.

Highly secure cloud servers

"Cloud servers are certainly more secure than the servers of most medium-sized businesses," said Edgar Weippl, research director of SBA Research, the largest IT security research institute in Austria. High-security data centers, which are certified according to all safety standards and are regularly updated and regularly reviewed, provide an infrastructure that even large corporations are not always able to afford. Especially for SMEs that are a popular target group for cyber attacks due to their often poorly protected or maintained systems, it makes sense to focus on the cloud.

Often, however, cloud solutions are used secretly by employees in order to start a project quickly and easily with customers or partners. "If the IT department takes too long to help, they are looking for alternatives in the cloud on their own.", said Stefan Trondl, CEO of the IT company EMC, who also offers cloud storage platforms. This so-called Shadow- IT represents a major security risk, because many of these solutions offer only a very low security standard and in the worst case even work with unencrypted data transmission. Since most offers come from the USA and the data are also stored there, the data protection standards also do not meet the European requirements. "The IT- Manager is ultimately responsible for problems and compliance violations, which is why it is better to offer cloud services internally," advises Jürgen Horak, Solutions- Austria Managing Director of IT service provider Dimension Data, a subsidiary of NTT- Group, which employs 330 employees.

Which Cloud?

The question now is, which of the many cloud providers you should trust? An important selection criteria is the location of the servers in order to ensure the European and national data protection standards. Thanks to the various certificates, customers can now rely on

precisely defined standards to be adhered to. Points include data security and data integrity, access security and identity management, legal certainty through national contracts and precisely defined service level agreements. Very important is also the data return on termination of a cloud contract. Security standards of the certified cloud providers are very high. If you want to have even more security, you can use special encryption methods that make reading the data unreadable even if the data is stolen by a server. Even more security is provided by new methods, where the data is first divided into packets and then stored in different cloud providers. Even after decoding, there are only unusable data fragments.

The original article can be found at https://www.ssp-europe.eu/fileadmin/Content/PDF/2016-06-14_-_Trend_-_Sicher_in_der_Wolke.pdf