# The Sinister Seven

Top Mistakes to Avoid When Moving to the Cloud

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## Introduction

For most businesses, a carefully managed switch to cloud services could save you thousands in up-front software costs as well as deliver a number of efficiencies and time-savings.  However, the perceived simplicity online services can mask the true complexity. Managing a successful transition requires skill, experience and careful cost control.

Before you begin your journey to the cloud, consider these seven common (and costly) errors and how you can avoid them.

## Rushing In

Just because it's easy to subscribe to a cloud service, doesn't necessarily mean it's easy. Especially for organisations that are moving from existing on-premises accounting solutions. Cloud transitions required just as much careful consideration and planning as any other strategic IT project, with particular focus on data migration. Make sure you know exactly what is involved before you subscribe to a solution (or series of Apps). If you don't have personal experience, partner with someone who does.

## Getting Distracted

A move to the cloud is an excellent way to reduce your capital expenditure. However, it's easy to become distracted by exciting Apps. It's important to stay focused on satisfying your most critical business outcomes and avoiding "scope creep". It's easy to find yourself "oversubscribed", paying for more functionality than you need or functionality that you never use. The key to avoiding this is to working with an experienced Cloud Integrator like Logisoft who can help you understand what services you really need to meet your business requirements. They can help you review all the available options and make recommendations on which service to use so you only implement and pay for solutions you need, as a price you can afford.

## Ignoring Bandwidth Requirements

The very nature of the cloud means that the speed and reliability of your internet connection becomes critical. When considering a move to the cloud or preparing to roll-out cloud applications to all employees; take the time to verify that you have the necessary bandwidth and connectivity. You should also include a review of your data plans on mobile devices. A thorough review will help you keep all of your users happy and efficient and control costs.

## Not Planning for the Future

As your business grows, your technology needs will change. For example, do you plan to hire more employees, add a new revenue stream, open up a new location? Carefully consider the scalability requirements you have in the future and work with a Cloud Integrator who can help you monitor the performance of your cloud services at key times in the future to make sure that they are keeping up with your needs.

## Worrying about the Wrong End of Security

Many clients express their concern about the safety of their data once it's "in the cloud". Fortunately, when you have a reliable cloud service provider (CSP), you can rest assured that your data is very secure in the cloud. The reality is that statistically; the biggest security risk comes from your own employees. Your cloud transition plan requires careful consideration and planning around who within your organisation will have access to different types of data and functions. For example: while you may want everyone to have access to tracking their time and materials on a project. Not everyone should have the ability to add users to the system, delete files or view private client information such as email addresses and payment details.

## Failing to comply with Privacy Laws

Some industries like finance and insurance have limitations on the type of data they can save in the cloud. Failure to comply with such privacy laws can result in heavy fines and other losses. Don't risk it! When considering your move to the cloud, define the data your company is going to store and then learn about any applicable privacy legislation. Make sure that you work with a Cloud Service Provider and Cloud Integrator that can help you identify and comply with relevant privacy laws.

## Failure to plan for a disaster

With every IT solution, there is the potential for a serious failure. In the event of a disaster, make sure you know how you will retrieve your data and how you will continue to run your business while you wait for the service to be restored. When considering a Cloud Service Provider, carefully review and understand their disaster policies and procedures. Learn about how you can retrieve stored data in such an event and what to do if your company needs disaster assistance.

## Next Steps

There are many advantages to cloud computing.  Do your homework; ask the right questions and plan ahead to make your small business move to the cloud a breeze.

Invest up front in the services of an experienced Cloud Integrator who will meet with you, deeply understand your requirements and help recommend the best solutions and processes for your organisation.

A small investment in this service upfront, could save you thousands of dollars and hundreds of hours down the track.

To receive your complimentary 30-minute phone consultation, call Josephine Roberts on 1300 360 746 and let us discuss how we can help you achieve your goals.