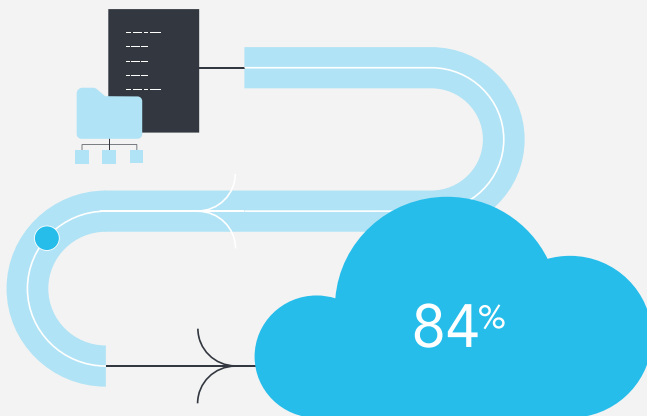


On-Premises vs In the Cloud: A Transformative Pivot for Law Firms

In the digital age, law firms stand at a crossroads between traditional on-premises technology and the soaring heights of cloud computing. The choice is not just about selecting a tech solution—it's about choosing a path that leads to increased efficiency, strengthened security, and a future-proof practice.



Current Landscape

Law firms have been relatively slow to adopt cloud computing, with cloud usage standing at 70% in 2022, up from 60% in the previous year. Solo lawyers led the charge with an impressive leap from 52% to 84% in a single year, followed by small to medium-sized firms at around 75%.¹ The legal profession is still behind the broader business world in cloud adoption, but that trend is beginning to shift.¹

On-Premises: Keeping It In-House

On-premises systems, like a library of legal texts, are familiar and secure. They're the sturdy oak desks of IT, hosting and managing your data on in-house servers. You have full control over the security of the data and all resources in use, a comfort in an industry where client confidentiality is paramount.

However, these systems come with their own costs. High ownership costs, maintenance, and regular updates can make on-premises computing demanding. Moreover, their limited scalability can restrict your firm's growth and adaptability to changing business needs.



In the Cloud: Scaling New Heights

Cloud computing is the modern high-rise of IT infrastructure. This skyscraper offers a panoramic view of resources, data storage, and computational power on-demand, residing on the servers of a cloud provider.¹ These services are cost-efficient, scalable, and mobile, allowing your law firm to adapt to varying needs and business processes.¹

Much like a high-rise, there are concerns about security and lack of control over resources. You're sharing the building with others and you're reliant on the building's management—the cloud provider—for security and maintenance.¹

Below we'll debunk a few myths surrounding cloud computing and how it can actually benefit law firms:

Cost and Maintenance:

- While it may seem expensive, storage in the cloud has minimal upfront costs with monthly subscription fees. Additionally, maintaining the storage is hands-off, as maintenance, up-to-date software, security, and support all fall to the cloud provider. Often, your overall cloud costs are less than the amount of money you would spend for on-premises storage/server use and other operational costs.
- On-premises storage, on the other hand, requires a large amount of capital upfront. Also, installation, software licensing fees, data backup, additional IT services, support and more, fall on you. To maintain your storage, you'll need to invest in IT staff for ongoing support, and security, as well as cover several overhead costs. A highly performant on-premises storage system can cost as much as \$100,000, whereas costs for cloud storage are based on usage and are typically much lower. In fact, the price of on-premises storage is almost 10 times higher than the price of 1TB of a Cloud Volume Service like NetApp.¹

Efficiency and Accessibility:

Cloud computing offers law firms the convenience of anytime, anywhere access to data and software. This advantage became a lifeline for many during the COVID-19 pandemic, with online meetings, court hearings, and collaboration tools becoming the new norm.¹

Disaster Recovery and Security:

Natural disasters and cybersecurity threats underscore the disaster recovery and security benefits of being in the cloud. Despite these advantages, the 2022 ABA Legal Technology Survey indicated that a sizeable proportion of law firms still lacked robust cybersecurity measures, highlighting a crucial area for improvement.¹



According to IBM, the average cost of a data breach is 4.35 million US dollars. Companies with mature cloud security had a lower-than-average cost of data breach, at 3.87 million dollars—15.7% less than those with early-stage maturity.²

Security/Threat Protection:

Companies that choose on-premises storage often feel that keeping everything onsite gives them more control because third-party providers aren't involved. However, this requires an elevated level of security expertise, constant monitoring of physical assets (i.e. hardware, servers, office space) as well as your network, and a lot of time and money. Cloud storage, however, takes the burden of security off your business.

60% According to Gartner, public cloud service workloads will suffer at least 60% fewer security incidents than those in traditional data centers.

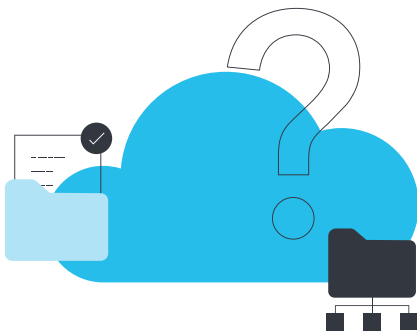
The top cloud providers offer comprehensive, multi-layered security, and you'll have a team of global cybersecurity experts helping to safeguard your business assets and data at all times¹.

93% According to a report by McAfee, 93% of organizations experience business benefits from adopting cloud services, with improved security being one of the key advantages.

Client Focus and the Cloud

While the benefits of cloud computing are manifold, the 2022 ABA Legal Technology Survey suggested that client-focused considerations were not a primary driving factor for many law firms. As firms consider transitioning to the cloud, focusing on how such a shift could better serve client needs, expectations, and desires could be a key area for innovation.¹

However, concerns about confidentiality and security, along with perceived lack of control over data, remain significant obstacles to cloud adoption.¹ Therefore, it's crucial for law firms to balance these concerns with the potential benefits of cloud computing. As the legal profession continues to evolve, firms that can successfully navigate this balance are likely to emerge as leaders in the field.



Not Ready for the Cloud?

In the world of IT infrastructure, there's a place for both on-premises and cloud computing. The choice ultimately depends on your firm's specific use cases for data use and storage, security needs, and cost considerations.¹

Remember, even in the fast-paced world of technology, transitions don't happen overnight. Just as the law itself evolves and adapts, so too can your approach to IT infrastructure. Whether you're rooted firmly on the ground with on-premises computing, soaring into cloud-based services, or riding the elevator of hybrid infrastructure, your law firm has the power to choose its path.




How Litera Can Help


The top cloud security concerns are data loss and leakage (69%), data privacy/confidentiality (66%), and accidental exposure of credentials (44%).¹ The best way to address these security challenges is a comprehensive governance platform. Litera’s CAM governance platform aids firms in provisioning, managing, moving, analyzing, protecting, and maintaining compliance for matters across collaboration systems, including Microsoft Teams.

By providing a logical place for users to store data and tracking rich custom metadata, firms can improve collaboration and productivity while reducing the risk of data loss and cyberattacks. With CAM, you can seamlessly manage your legal matters and ensure regulatory compliance, whether you choose to stay on-premises or venture into the cloud.


CAM empowers you to achieve this goal anywhere, providing a versatile solution for your firm’s unique requirements. But don’t take our word for it. [Book a demo](#) today to witness CAM in action and experience its transformative capabilities firsthand.



PROVISION
Streamline Your Workflow




- Boost your team’s productivity with easy setup processes
- Create workspaces that match your firm’s unique needs




MANAGE
Centralized administration of matter content



- Permit administrative activities without the requiring administrative access to the DMS
- Optimize data management with PowerDesktop license




MOVE
Effortless Document Mobility Across Platforms



- Keep your firm’s operations running smoothly with seamless data mobility
- Encourage collaboration with easy content transfer across workspaces and systems



ANALYZE
Intelligent Data Insights for Informed Decisions




- Leverage data insights to drive success
- Track key metrics with easy-to-use dashboards
- Get a bird’s eye view of all workspace activities for swift decisions
- Action on data derived from multiple data sources in a flexible graphical interface




CAM PROJECT TEAMS
Manage Add-On



- Fortify your client data with advanced access management (Project Teams)







BUSINESS CONTINUITY
Analyze Add-On






- Minimize loss with built-in business continuity features

Collaboration Systems



For a closer look, visit www.litera.com or [request a demo](#).