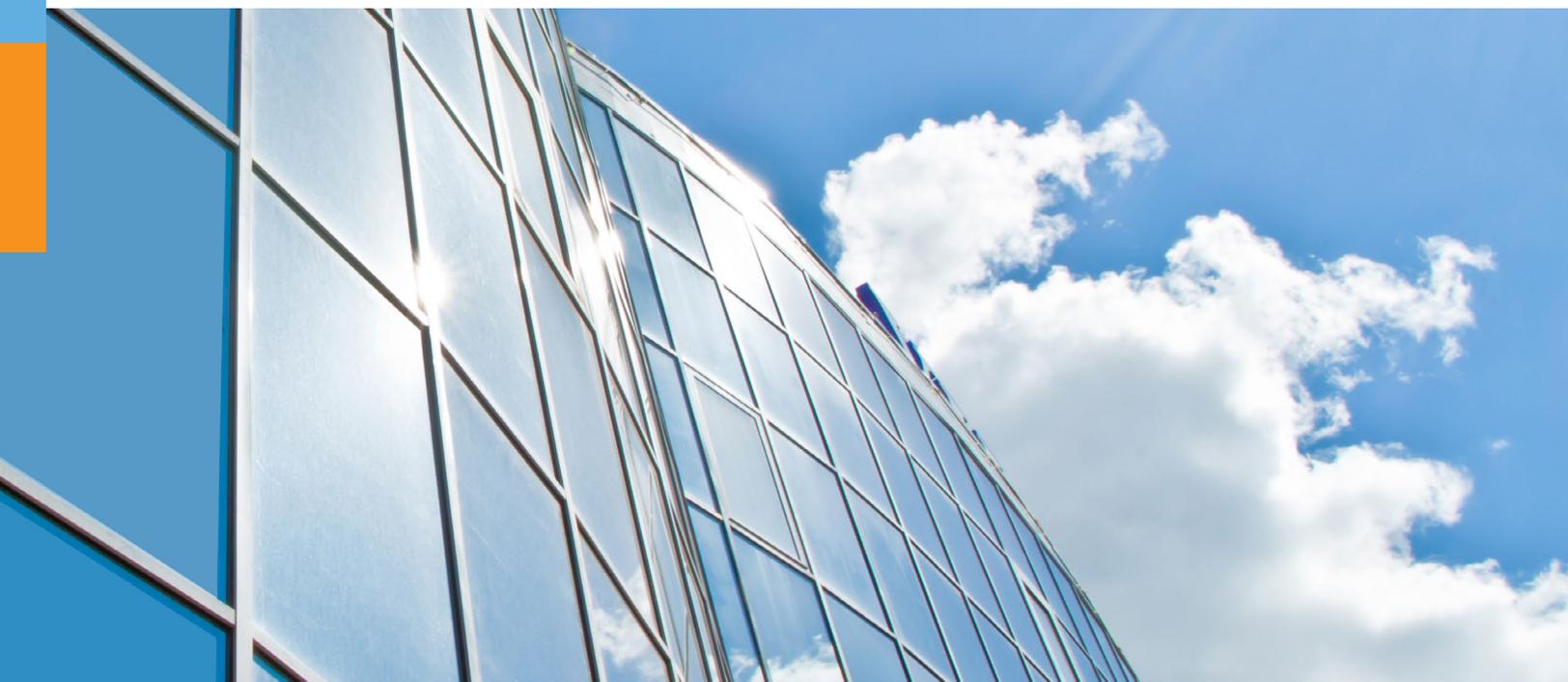# Moving to Cloud Communications – Are You Ready?

Across the business landscape, more and more companies are adopting cloud services for mission critical systems. While the advantages and ease of cloud storage and document sharing may seem obvious, moving to the cloud can feel daunting for communications.

Wherever you are in the move to cloud services, eventually it will make sense to consider moving your premise communication system to the cloud.

Here are **ten markers** to help you **assess your readiness**:

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Business Functionality

You use cloud services now
Many companies have migrated functions such as e-mail, storage, or customer relationship management (CRM) to cloud services. In such an environment, making the move to cloud communications can become the next step in a phased cloud implementation.

You aren't sure how your employees would communicate in the wake of a business disruption
Business continuity is a growing concern in the modern era. If you are concerned that your employees would not be able to communicate with each other or with customers in the event of a disruption, it's time to consider cloud communications. Moving to the cloud can reduce outages to almost zero and ensure that your business is always available to customers — no matter what the nature of the disruption. Transitioning from an office based workforce to a home or remote office is much simpler with a cloud solution.

It's tough to keep your network secure
On-premise systems are more vulnerable to security breaches than cloud systems. Cloud providers have secure data centers and experienced teams dedicated to keeping your data secure.

Scalability and Flexibility

Your people work remotely more often
A variety of factors has led to increasing numbers of office workers conducting business from home. Cloud communication systems make this move as easy as unplugging a phone and plugging it in at home.

Your business is growing quickly
Growth is the goal, right? But if your growth is contingent on buying new hardware, you might be hampering your own efforts. Cloud services can expand quickly and easily, allowing you to focus on growth.

You have multiple locations
If your business has multiple locations, cloud services could be essential to maximizing communication between departments and employees.

Affordability

Your hardware is getting close to end of life
If your hardware is aging or discontinued, it's a good time to look at cloud services before you make a large hardware investment.

You're spending more each month to keep your communication systems running
Premise systems are not a one-time expense. They require maintenance and support. If your expenses to maintain your system are slowly increasing, it may be time to consider cloud services. With one recurring monthly charge, you can know exactly what your communications system will cost each month — no surprises!

Evergreen Technology

It's becoming difficult to get parts or software updates for your phone system
In the past, a phone system would last many years with little reduced functionality. Manufacturers are now discontinuing entire product lines and many phone models. Software is changing more rapidly than ever. Outdated phones will no longer function in the new environment.

Your customers are starting to ask for communication options you can't provide
If your systems still provide mainly voice interaction, you could be putting your business at a competitive disadvantage. Modern customers like to have communication options such as live web chat and SMS text. Cloud services give you the options you're missing that help you connect with your customers the way they expect.

How did your system fare?

✔ 1 to 3 checkmarks

Your communications systems are still functional, and you do not have any pressing concerns or needs. As you continue to adopt other cloud services, keep an eye on your communications and revisit this checklist in a few months. Allstream can help you determine options and a plan for moving to the cloud in the future.

✔ 4 to 6 checkmarks

You know cloud services are the way to go and you are eager to adopt more. You might even be feeling growing pains that you know could be resolved with cloud services. **If you are planning to upgrade your communications system within the year**, now is a great time to consider Allstream's Unified Communications (UC) Cloud Voice for a managed cloud communications solution.

✔ 7 to 10 checkmarks

It's time to look at cloud communications. Allstream's UC Cloud Voice solutions give you the flexible, scalable, secure options you need to accelerate your enterprise.

Now that you're ready... what's next?

1. Assess your technology.
Which system is the most critical to migrate to the cloud right now and which one can wait? It can help to prioritize these systems.

2. Define a plan.
Consider project management, budget, urgency and other factors to help you come up with a timeline for migration.

3. Contact vendors.
Allstream's network of experts and partners are ready to help you make the next move to a fully integrated cloud-based system.

Allstream provides all the cloud voice, data and connectivity services you need to maximize your efficiency and run your business without disruption. Contact us to learn more.

Visit allstream.com to learn more.

Contact

About Allstream

Allstream is a leader in business communications throughout North America. Founded over 170 years ago in parallel with Canada's first transcontinental railroad, Allstream continually re-invented itself to remain a leading provider of business communication services. Allstream's offerings include a range of innovative, highly scalable managed services including voice and collaboration, connectivity and managed IT services for enterprise customers. We combine scalable solutions with exceptional customer service to deliver the latest technology, and we're positioned to help our customers accelerate into the future.

Your trusted business communications partner

Voice and Collaboration | Connectivity | Managed IT

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