

Checklist 

# How To Choose A Cloud Provider



Cloud technology has been one of the prominent changes to drive innovation and advancement in today's world. Many businesses are considering moving their practices to the cloud as it provides on-demand availability of required resources.

However, migration to the cloud is not that simple. One must take a few considerations into account before choosing a cloud provider. As there are many cloud hosting providers in the market, all of them might not fit your business requirements.

Here are some important metrics to look for before choosing a cloud provider:

# Business Health



- 1. Financial Stability**
- 2. Risk Management**
- 3. Partner Ecosystem**

# Business Health



## 1. Financial Stability

Every cloud service provider needs capital to setup the cloud infrastructure with the required resources at server farms and hire workforce. The space for infrastructure, maintenance experts, and all-time available support team is required to keep the services up and running.



Therefore, a cloud hosting provider must have stable financial health to operate seamlessly. Check its stock prices, revenues, track records, and other financial reports to understand its position in the market.

## 2. Risk Management

Accidents and the occurrence of natural disasters, such as floods, earthquakes, and fires are unpredictable and can cause sudden disruptions in the business processes. Precautions must be taken to mitigate the damage caused by such attacks to the businesses.

Look for a cloud vendor that offers preventive measures and has a risk management structure in place to handle such mishaps.



# Business Health



## 3. Partner Ecosystem

A cloud hosting provider has to manage various aspects to provide the required level of service to its users. It can be fulfilled when the service provider partners with various solution providers.

Many cloud hosting providers partner with third-party technology developers like Microsoft, Intuit, and more to maximize their functionality to improve customer experience. Go for the service provider that has relevant partners in the field. For example, one should choose an Intuit Authorized Commercial Hosting Provider as they are licensed to sell genuine QuickBooks licenses and hosting services at a discounted rate.



# Expertise



- 1. Reliability**
- 2. Industry Experience**
- 3. Customer Loyalty**

# Expertise



## 1. Reliability

The dependability of cloud service is one of the most crucial factors to determine the perfect fit for any business.

One must evaluate various factors like the number of years the cloud vendor has been in the service, the number of clients it has served, its present client base, and more for long-term stability and trust.



## 2. Industry Experience

There are many cloud vendors in the market, and each of them has the expertise to serve a particular category of clients, such as accountants, lawyers, or retailers.

Select the cloud hosting provider that best suits the requirement of the business and has relevant experience in the particular field. Further, these service vendors can offer the best possible resources and environment to host business applications and data for a seamless workflow.



# Expertise



## 3. Customer Loyalty

Customer satisfaction says a lot about any service provider. The experience of the cloud hosting provider's clients adds to the consistency of the services.

Check for customer reviews on various websites like Serchen, Facebook, Quora, and more to understand the client's point of view and get better insights into the solutions offered.





# Infrastructure Design

A stylized graphic in dark blue on a yellow background. It features a gear mounted on a vertical post, which is part of a larger rectangular frame structure. This structure sits on a series of rectangular blocks that form a sloped base. A thick vertical line is positioned to the left of the gear structure.

- 1. Data Center Location**
- 2. HPC Server**
- 3. On-Site Security**

# Infrastructure Design



## 1. Data Center Location



When one opts for a cloud hosting service, the applications and data are stored at offsite servers by the service providers. The robustness and reliability of data centers are important considerations when choosing a hosting provider.

Evaluate the locations of data centers. Competent cloud hosting providers ensure redundancy of information and business applications by hosting data at multiple geographically isolated centers. Therefore, even if one of the centers is down, information can be retrieved from another location without disrupting business functions.

## 2. HPC Server



Every business requires best-in-class performance to gain a competitive edge in the market. Therefore, server performance plays an important part while accomplishing any business processes.

Select the cloud vendor that implements HPC (High-Performance Computing) servers for better working experience despite the heavy applications and files on the server.

High-Performance Computing (HPC) can be defined as a combination of various technologies that include the use of supercomputers, complex computing algorithms, and parallel processing that can handle heavy applications at high speed.

# Infrastructure Design

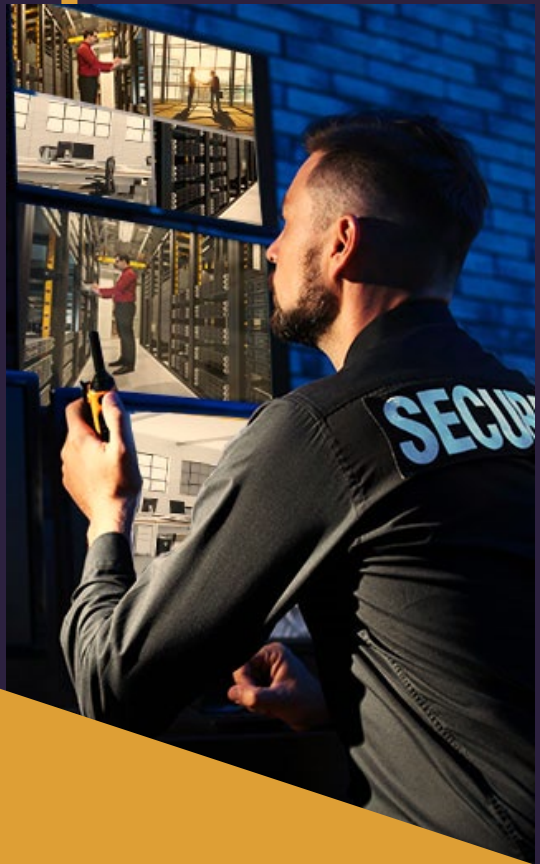


## 3. On-Site Security

Data requires security at physical levels to safeguard its privacy and availability from various accidents, thefts, or natural disasters.

Check on-site security protocols implemented by the hosting providers, which include:

- ❖ 24/7 CCTV surveillance
- ❖ A security guard on the premises
- ❖ Fire alarms
- ❖ Biometric scanning
- ❖ A cooling system



# Server Availability



- 1. Uptime Guarantee**
- 2. Disaster Recovery Options**
- 3. Downtime History**

# Server Availability



## 1. Uptime Guarantee

Every business needs services that are always up and running. Cloud hosting providers mention the uptime guarantee offered through their services in the SLA (Service Level Agreement).



**Uptime 99.999%**

The cloud hosting provider offering at least a 99.999% uptime guarantee is a must for any business to run efficiently.

## 2. Disaster Recovery Options

In case of any disruptive event like a natural disaster, the cloud vendor must be ready with defined procedures and a high-availability environment.



Evaluate cloud hosting provider's disaster recovery plans to ensure continuity of business.

Some of the cloud vendors offer BCDR (Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery) service included with their package, while others offer it as an additional service. In BCDR service, the entire business process is replicated on cloud servers in real-time so that, even in case of an accident or mishap at the site, there is no disruption in the business operations.

# Server Availability



## 3. Downtime History

The best way to analyze the cloud hosting provider's services is by looking at its history of downtime.

Check for the planned and unplanned downtime of a business. It gives an overview of how cloud vendors handle the serviceability in case of any unplanned unavailability of servers.

Availability Measure	Downtime Per Year	Downtime Per Week
90% (one nine)	36.5 days	16.8 hours
99% (two nines)	3.65 days	1.68 hours
99.9% (three nines)	8.76 hours	10.1 minutes
99.99% (four nines)	52.6 minutes	1.01 minutes
99.995% (four and a half nines)	26.28 minutes	30.24 seconds
99.999% (five nines)	5.25 minutes	6.05 seconds
99.9999% (six nines)	31.5 seconds	604.8 ms

# Support



- 1. Technical Assistance**
- 2. Contact Medium**
- 3. Time Duration**

# Support



## 1. Technical Assistance

One might face IT-related issues while working on the cloud environment. Therefore, it is crucial to have technical assistance to troubleshoot issues at this time.

The support person must have the required expertise and knowledge to understand any issue faced at such time. Check the certifications held by the team, offering cloud support to the business.



## 2. Contact Medium

One should be able to contact the support team from various possible mediums.

The cloud service provider should provide different ways to contact them like email, contact number, chat services, etc. considering the comfort level of the clients.





# Support



## 3. Time Duration

Many of the cloud providers might add constraints on the time of their service availability. However, IT issues can occur at any time, and even the slightest delay in any business process can lose them a fortune.

Therefore, consider a cloud vendor that offers round-the-clock support for the continuity of the business.



# Cost



- 1. Pricing Plan**
- 2. Billing Cycle**
- 3. Refund Policy**

# Cost



## 1. Pricing Plans

Cloud offers the option to upscale or downscale the amount of resources depending upon the business requirements. Hence, the pricing plans offered by the cloud provider should be designed in such a way that it can be customized according to the usage of resources. Opt for the cloud hosting provider that offers pay-as-you-go pricing plans and provide cost-effective benefits to the business.



## 2. Billing Cycle

The billing cycle of the cloud hosting provider can reoccur monthly, quarterly, or annually. Consider the type of plan that can suit the requirements of the business. Small business owners mostly go for monthly-based plans, while large enterprises choose the annual subscription.



# Cost



## 3. Refund Policy

One might not be satisfied with the cloud hosting provider even after investing their money in the services.

Check the refund policy or go for a trial period by implementing it in a real-time work environment. Also, read the service policy carefully to avoid vendor lock-in, which can restrict one from leaving the cloud services in the future.



# Conclusion

Cloud is a powerful platform that can aid any business towards success and growth if given the right hosting environment.

The key factors mentioned above can form a base for finding the perfect fit for the business. Additionally, one must go through the security measures offered by the cloud hosting provider- data encryption, multi-level authorization, multiple firewalls, anti-virus, and anti-malware system, and more to prevent any malicious attacks on the server data.

Choosing the right cloud provider can help broaden the capabilities of a business and aid in achieving long-term objectives, so choose wisely.



# About Ace Cloud Hosting



Ace Cloud Hosting is an Intuit Authorized Commercial QuickBooks hosting provider that offers cloud solutions to various industries including, accounting, construction, real estate, legal, and several others.

It has also won awards like K2 2019 Award for Customer Satisfaction, FinancesOnline Great User Experience Award 2018, and Accountex USA 2016 User Favorite Award in the Application Hosting category.

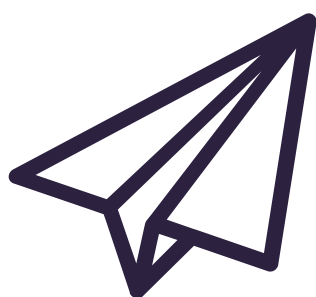
Ace Cloud Hosting offers application hosting on superfast SSD-based servers with 99.999% uptime, 100-day rolling data backup, and Always-on support.

To know more, visit - [www.acecloudhosting.com](http://www.acecloudhosting.com)



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## Contact Us

Contact our Solutions Consultants anytime to get assistance on the best cloud solution for your business.



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