

HOW SAFE IS YOUR QUICKBOOKS ON THE CLOUD?



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Are you afraid of losing control over your data when it's on the cloud? Do you feel hosting your QuickBooks on the cloud will put your work at risk?

With every day that passes, more and more areas of our life move to the cloud. Accessing emails, sharing vacation photos, or listening to music — these are the activities taking place on the back of cloud computing. And it is no different for enterprises.

The 2020 Cloud Computing survey by IDG shows a staggering 92% of organizations are partially on the cloud already. Even the IT budgets allocated for cloud computing over the next 12 months rose by 58% as compared to 2018. Clearly, the future is the cloud.

For CPAs and small business owners, QuickBooks is indispensable. Financial data is one of the most critical and confidential information for an organization. It includes customers' credit card details and Social Security numbers. So, it makes sense that any decision to move that data will not be taken lightly. It is an evolving environment, and there is ambiguity surrounding it at first glance.

Questions like "Will my data be safe?" and fears of viruses or getting hacked are natural among users of QuickBooks contemplating a shift to the cloud. Since QuickBooks are hosted on third-party servers, security concerns are quite common. But on the contrary, these fears go away when we realize the numerous ways in which data is protected on the cloud.

This eBook is designed to quell your fears and answer all the critical security related questions on your mind.

QuickBooks on the Cloud v/s on-premise QuickBooks

How does QuickBooks on the cloud provide better security than on-premise QuickBooks? Does the cloud make QuickBooks safer?



Cloud technology is equipped with various safety and continuity measures. When hosting QuickBooks on the cloud, you get to safeguard your work using all those measures. On-premises QuickBooks lacks the opportunity to leverage the cloud's safety features.

There are three security areas where your on-premise QuickBooks is lacking safeguards. QuickBooks on the cloud provides the necessary safeguards for your data security and uninterrupted business continuity.

1. Viruses and Malware

Viruses and malware are the dark side of technological evolution. They become more and more enhanced every day, and our protection measures need to be constantly updated to provide all-round protection. Malware such as ransomware can encrypt user data and extort money, or viruses like Zeus target bank accounts and carry out fraud transactions. Staying abreast of sophisticated threats like these is difficult for terrestrial data systems as they are generally outdated.

Moving your QuickBooks on the cloud ensures that your application and data are not easily targeted. The cloud is equipped with antivirus and antimalware solutions that are updated automatically, and are regularly monitored and analyzed by a group of experts. Service providers ensure that all the endpoint devices are covered by cybersecurity solutions, and they also deploy AI tools to access vulnerabilities and predict threats.

2. Unauthorized System Access

An unfortunate fact is that most data leaks involve illicit or negligent activities by insiders. This is all the more concerning for accounting businesses, as their data is especially critical and highly confidential.

With QuickBooks on the cloud, you can restrict administrative access with strong, unique passwords. You get to create restricted-access lists, and monitor data-related activities on the cloud. You have control over data visibility and are allowed to keep a check on who has access to the data, along with time stamps.



3. Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity



Business disruptions due to natural disasters or technical errors are a very real risk. Losing critical data can be detrimental for any business, but all the more so for an accounting firm that works with sensitive and complicated data. Such a loss can mean long-term financial and reputational consequences.

Cloud accounting eliminates this risk to a large extent. Your data is stored on a remote server, and backed-up in multiple servers across diverse physical locations. Adding to that, data back-ups are regular and automatic. So, you don't have to worry about forgetting back-ups or tediously making multiple copies.

Cloud Features To Protect Your Data

What measures are employed by the cloud providers to keep your data safe? How does the cloud keep your QuickBooks data safe?

1. Multi-factor Authentication

Logging in to access your QuickBooks on the cloud is as simple as it is safe. Legitimate users with predetermined passwords are identified by the system at multiple levels of the cloud infrastructure. Even if an authorized user's password gets compromised, confirmation from their secondary device is required for a successful login.



2. Multiple Data Centers

Cloud vendors have data centers in different states or even different continents to ensure that all the data isn't stored in one place. Multiple servers in different locations means that your data is safely copied, and any risk of destruction due to natural or man-made causes is eliminated.

Adding another layer of safety is that most reputed data centers have environmental controls and onsite security.



3. Automatic Backups and Edit History

We've all forgotten about making copies of important documents at some time or another, it's a natural human error. With cloud-based accounting, you can rid yourself of these worries.

When you're working on the cloud, it automatically backs-up your data at least once a day. You can receive the back-ups via email as soon as you make a request. Also, changes you make while you're working are reflected in real-time. You can look at the edit history of a document and review previous versions of the same document.

4. Audit Trails

A very beneficial security feature of having QuickBooks on the cloud is that the software keeps track of every login as well as any and all changes made to every financial transaction that is in the system.

The activity log, that is always-on and cannot be turned off by any user, keeps a comprehensive record of all activities. It also records an easily accessible history of all the changes a user might have made. Nobody can take any action without you or your CPA knowing about it.

5. Data Encryption

QuickBooks, when operated via the cloud, uses encryption to store and move data. Which means that your data is rewritten into a code. Encryption provides a vital layer to security, especially for contingencies such as your data getting stolen or hacked. This prevents unauthorized loss of data.

6. Anti-malware

Cloud providers arm your QuickBooks on the cloud with sophisticated anti-malware, that is compatible with cloud technology. Financial businesses face a higher risk of getting attacked with malware and ransomware.

With automatic updates, enterprise-grade virus scan and quarantine suite, anti-malware in cloud QuickBooks is guaranteed to keep up with the latest attacks.

7. Security Analysis

Security of QuickBooks on the cloud has a much sought-after predictive quality to it. AI enabled thorough analysis of the security logs brings out patterns, which are further analyzed to predict future attacks and foresee vulnerable areas. The analysis is constant, and goes a long way in keeping your QuickBooks on the cloud safe.



8. Endpoint Firewall

Endpoint firewall allows only specific services to be accessed via the same cloud that hosts your QuickBooks. This layer of protection keeps out harmful or distracting avenues on the internet, and acts as a sieve.



9. Network Security

Network security is an essential feature in keeping your QuickBooks on the cloud safe. It comprises of an Intrusion Detection and Prevention System, which monitors all incoming traffic for suspicious activities. Another element is the Remote Desktop gateway that creates a secure, encrypted channel between the servers and all the endpoint devices.



<Explore Ace Cloud Hosting's Security Features>

Selecting the Right Cloud Hosting Service Provider for You

How should you pick a cloud provider who will keep your data safe?

Picking the right hosting service provider is the most crucial decision in keeping your QuickBooks on the cloud safe. As we saw in the previous chapter, the vendor carries most of the burden when it comes to your data's safety. So, you have to pick the provider who has the security features best suited for your operation.

Following are the keys to choosing a QuickBooks hosting service provider.

1. Are they Authorized by Intuit?

This is the most important criterion. Since you're working with QuickBooks, it is paramount that your host also works in 100% compliance with QuickBooks policies. Look for the Intuit authorization badge on your prospective host's website. Once a hosting provider passes the Intuit screening, you can rest assured that they are trustworthy.

Ace Cloud Hosting is an Intuit Authorized commercial hosting provider with 15+ years of experience.

2. Standards of their Data Centers

Your data is stored in the cloud provider's data centers. Ensure that your chosen hosting provider has data centers with state of the art of on-site security, environmental controls, and is compliant with all the regulations.

Ace Cloud Hosting ensures the best geographical redundancy with SSAE-16 Tier 3+ and Tier-4 data centers in multiple locations in the U.S.

3. Check Available Security Features

We have discussed the security features that you cannot compromise on. Before picking up a hosting provider, carefully investigate whether you will receive all the security benefits.

Ace Cloud Hosting provides multi-factor authentication, strong anti-malware, Business Continuity Disaster Recovery (BCDR) services and frequent security audits. With state-of-the-art data centers, the physical security of your data is taken care of.

Ace Cloud Hosting focuses on End-Point security with an impenetrable firewall and the latest security patches on the operating system. Additionally, the network is made secure with a distributed firewall, secured remote desktop services and brute force protection.



Best Practices for Ensuring Safety of Your QuickBooks on the Cloud

What can you do to keep your QuickBooks secure?

While the right cloud vendor goes a long way in keeping your QuickBooks secure, you as the user also have some responsibility in ensuring safety. You play a vital role in this process. So, what can you do?

1. Clearly Define User Permissions

QuickBooks allows you to assign specific roles to your teammates, and their scope of activity will be limited to the role that has been assigned to them. They are equipped with a unique password that controls their entry. As the administrator, you can also employ multiple levels of permissions to create a hierarchy of privileged information and share workloads accordingly.

These measures are a step towards preventing illicit access to data from inside your organization. When combined with the Audit Trails feature mentioned in the previous section, you get a complete map of the activities – from logins to file transfers and edits – undertaken in the virtual workspace by your entire team

2. Change Your Passwords Frequently

Ideally, any and all passwords should be changed every 30 days. It's no different for your QuickBooks account. Along with changing passwords frequently, creating a strong one is equally important. Ensure that the passwords you create are 8-10 characters in length, and include numbers and special characters.

3. Stay Vigilant

Unfortunately, even the best of us have fallen prey to fraudsters on the internet. It is one of the biggest challenges of our modern lives. The first step to preventing financial loss and data breach due to fraud is to be vigilant.

When working in collaboration with external parties, ensure that they are trustworthy and vetted. In case of unsolicited contact from people outside your organization, verify the identity of the individual and their company.

Be very careful before clicking on ads, unsolicited links, or attachments received from contacts outside your organization. These are some popular avenues through which malware can enter your system.

Staying vigilant has a lot to do with using common sense and being cautious. It's important to train your employees in cyber-secure behaviors and internet-usage best practices.

Hope you're feeling relieved by now!

I am sure that after reading about all the ways your data is kept secure when hosting QuickBooks on the cloud, you must be feeling way more comfortable with your decision to move to the cloud.

It can be daunting to shift your QuickBooks to the cloud, no doubt. But there's a lot you can do to ensure your organization's safety after moving to the cloud. And the right cloud hosting provider will protect your data while giving you several other benefits.

It's time to move your QuickBooks to the cloud and be stress-free!

Your data's security is Ace Cloud Hosting's highest priority. With our state-of-the-art data centers and Inuit authorization, we ensure that your QuickBooks data is always safe.

Try Intuit authorized QuickBooks hosting with instant deployment and data migration. Join ACE's 10-Day Free Trial Today.

About Ace Cloud Hosting

Ace Cloud Hosting is an Intuit Authorized QuickBooks hosting provider and a winner of "Top QB Enterprise Winner" by Intuit (2021), "Expert Choice" by FinancesOnline (2021) and "High Performer" by G2 (2022).

We offer all editions of QuickBooks up to 2022 and all versions such as Enterprise, POS, Accountant, Pro, Premier, and Mac too.

We also provide QuickBooks on cloud with other software like Drake, ProSeries, ATX and many more along with 200+ add-ons. Work seamlessly on a dedicated cloud for QuickBooks customized as per your unique needs.



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



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