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# CIO Roundtable Atlanta

*Preparing your Development Team for Cloud Technologies*

May 16, 2017

# ▶ Agenda

- Welcome
- Upcoming ATL Roundtable:
  - June 20, 2017
- Host Introduction:
  - Jamie Usher, Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP
- Today's Topic:
  - Preparing your Development Team for Cloud Technologies
- Participant's Expectations:
- Presentation/Discussion:

# ▶ Presentation Agenda

- Assumptions and Considerations
- Staffing Considerations
- Education required for your development team
- Learning new APIs
- Where to begin and completing the development lifecycle
- Working in hybrid cloud
- Managing the move to the cloud for your custom apps
- Development considerations for Cloud based DMS
- Building apps for mobile and remote purposes
- Outsourcing
- Q&A

# ▶ So you want to move to the cloud...

- Assumptions made for today
  - You know *why* you need to migrate
  - You have a pretty good idea as to *what* to migrate
  - You have developers on staff or on retainer
  - You have custom apps/scripts/reports and 3<sup>rd</sup> party tools
- What is involved with a Migration?
- When to Migrate with a phased approach?
- Where to Migrate? Public vs. Private Cloud
- What about all of the custom apps and 3<sup>rd</sup> party tools (gap fillers) you purchased? How will they be affected?
- Are your developers ready and do you have the staff?
- ...Let's discuss this hour!

# ▶ Why and What?

- **Why firms move to the Cloud?**
  - Cut costs
  - Differentiation of services for clients
  - Mobile app development and scalability
  - Hardware and infrastructure complexity, cost
  - Time to move apps to the web
- **What apps are moving to the Cloud**
  - Standalone apps:
    - Exchange (through Office 365)
    - SharePoint (through Office 365)
    - DMS (through iManage Cloud or NetDocs)
    - CRM (e.g., MS Dynamics/CRM)
- **Challenges with rebuilding apps for the Cloud**
  - API changes
  - IP address dependencies
  - Security
  - New development standards
- **Migrate vs. Redevelop**

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A little education, not too technical

# ▶ Cloud Technologies



SaaS – Software  
as a Service

PaaS – Platform  
as a Service

IaaS –  
Infrastructure as  
a Service

**SaaS** – Software as a Service

**Includes:** Applications and Data

**System Types:** Monitoring, Content, Collaboration, Communication, Finance

**Examples:** DMS, Email and collaboration, CRM

**Description:** is a business application created and hosted by a service provider. In this model, users do not have any action on the environment and the vendor or service provider takes care of the entire infrastructure and also the application.

**PaaS** – Platform as a Service

**Includes:** Runtime, O/S, Middleware

**System Types:** Storage, Identity, Runtime, Queue, Databases

**Examples:** Users (mostly developers) are able to create new online applications in platforms provided by the PaaS provider. Google App Engine and Windows Azure are examples of a PaaS service model.

**Description:** A combination of IaaS and a set of middleware, software development and deployment tools that allow the company to create, develop and deploy on a cloud up to speed.

**IaaS** - Infrastructure as a Service

**Includes:** Networking Storage, Virtualization Servers

**System Types:** Compute, Block Storage, Network

**Examples:** Amazon Web Services (AWS), Microsoft Azure, Salesforce.com, Google Compute Engine

**Description:** The delivery of components such as hardware, software, data center space, networking and storage.

# ▶ Following Standards Considerations

- **Security** - Authentication based on Web standards will ensure compatibility
  - Azure AD
  - Oauth (Open Authorization)
  - SAML (Security Assertion Markup Language)
- **Browser Standards**
  - IE11, Edge, Chrome, Safari (FireFox is no longer following the standards)
- **Service-Oriented Architectures** – IaaS, PaaS, SaaS
- **WEB APIs:** Refers to both sides of computer systems communicating over a network: services offered by a server, API offered by the client such as a web browser. The server-side portion of the web API is a programmatic interface to a defined system. Two most dominant are SOAP and REST.
- **SOAP (Simple Object Access Protocol)** is a messaging protocol, apps run on disparate operating systems (such as Windows and Linux) to communicate using HTTP and XML.
- **REST (REpresentational State Transfer)** – The standard. It's an architectural style, unlike SOAP which is a standardized protocol. REST makes use of existing and widely adopted technologies, specifically HTTP, and does not create any new standards.



# ▶ API (Application Programming Interface)

- The API is just a doorway into an application...a set of protocols that allow us to add or read data from another application
- With Cloud development, we often use the standard, REST API
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Party Apps in the cloud may have their own APIs which you can use to collect data**
  - iManage has their own for DeskSite/FileSite and now Work 10 Professional
  - NetDocs as well
- A large portion of custom Legal apps relies heavily on API development, which makes planning Cloud development crucial

# ▶ Hybrid Environments

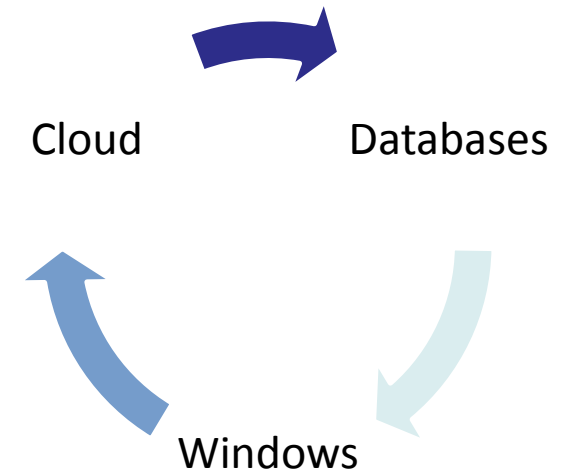
- **Windows Apps**

- MS Office
  - And Word, Outlook add-ins
- Accounting apps (Aderant Expert, Elite 3e)
- Integration apps
- Standalone apps

- **Cloud Apps**

- DMS
- CRM
- Case

- Custom apps will need to share data with both types
- May require different APIs and methods to get the data from Windows to Web/Cloud



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Moving to the Cloud for Developers

# ▶ Migration – “R”

- **Replace:** To discard an existing Windows application and switch to a SaaS model
- **Refactor:** To run an application on the cloud provider’s infrastructure, requiring application code or configuration changes
- **Revise:** To modify or extend the existing codebase to modernize the application (changes range from minor to significant), then deploy to the cloud using rehosting or refactoring
- **Rehost:** Also referred to as “lift and shift,” mass migration means redeploying an application to a different hardware environment, then changing the application’s infrastructure configuration to support the cloud
- **Rebuild:** To fully redevelop or rearchitect an application on the cloud infrastructure provider’s platform.
  - Can be expensive, can be time consuming, but ultimately where you will need to go.

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# ▷ Staffing Considerations

- Your developers know .Net *Windows* development, but what about .Net *Web* development?
- Knowledge of API development for Web
- Understanding of Cloud system security
- MS SQL Azure – not quite the same as SQL Server
- Understanding hybrid development (On-prem/Cloud)
- Maintain existing app development while working on the new Cloud projects
- Support

# ▶ Education Required

- Web/Cloud based development
- Education in REST APIs
- Learning about MS Azure services and Amazon AWS offerings
- Understanding interoperability between apps
- The different layers of Cloud development and systems (IaaS, PaaS, SaaS)
- Learning security models for the Cloud
- Who educates and how to teach the team

# ▶ Outsourcing

- Sometimes your development team may just not be enough
  - Maybe they don't have the knowledge needed
- Testing and Support considerations
- The existing team may be too busy supporting the existing app versions
- Outsourcing is a great way to keep two different lines of code going with constant knowledge transfer
- Take ownership of the source code and retain all backups
- Introduce development lifecycle standards, such as Agile/SCRUM
  - Sprints, standups, constant communication

# ▶ Development Lifecycle

- Decide to rewrite your app in the Cloud for Web
- Financial planning
- Requirements gathering and research
- Establish the development and testing environments in the Cloud (accounts vs. environments)
- Design the move for users from on-premises to the Cloud in a phased approach
- Support
- Final cutover in phases
- Maintenance releases



# ▶ Moving Custom Apps to Cloud

- **Take inventory of your apps**
  - SQL Scripts, Reports, Integrations, Standalone, Modifications of 3<sup>rd</sup> party apps, Macros, Templates
  - Ensure you have access to all source code
- **Any apps that are affected by a move to the Cloud**
  - Should be evaluated to see if it needs to be rewritten as a web app
  - Does it need to be turned into a service (i.e., no user involvement)?
  - Is it standalone or an add-in to an existing app?
  - If add-in, does the new app support the same API or now REST?
  - Costs? Security?
- **Standalone vs. 3<sup>rd</sup> Party apps in the Cloud considerations**
  - Example - DMS Monitoring
  - Mass import of Email

# ▶ DMS in the Cloud

- **Moving to iManage Cloud**
  - Synchronizing your local accounting system data to the Cloud
  - Add-ins for DeskSite/FileSite, do they need to be rewritten?
  - Going to Work Professional 10 – learning the new REST API library
  - Database specific scripts, reporting, and tools
- **Moving to NetDocuments**
  - Evaluate all of your existing add-ins for your local DMS
  - Learning a new REST API library
  - A new way to connect to MS Office
- An ALM/Thomson Reuters survey indicated the biggest challenges for law firms to shift computing resources to the cloud are squashing **security** concerns (86%) and providing firms more control over their **data** (61%).

# ▶ Building Apps for Mobile and Remote

- **Mobile**
  - Users demand mobile clients to match desktop clients
    - Ex: iManage 10
  - Mobile apps connect to Cloud differently
  - Requires different security models and considerations
  - The source application can have a different API for your custom mobile app
- **Remote Access to Cloud Apps**
  - How will your users connect to the new apps?
  - VPNs are no longer required with apps in the Cloud, necessarily
  - Do they require AD integration?
  - Biometric security for features of the app

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Next Steps for your firm

# ▶ Next steps moving to the Cloud

- Start simple with the obvious apps, such as Exchange in Office 365, SharePoint Online
- **If you are on-premises with iManage, then consider all of your custom apps and 3<sup>rd</sup> party tools**
  - Stick with DeskSite/FileSite v9.x until your custom and 3<sup>rd</sup> party apps have been redeveloped for Work 10 Professional
- **If you are moving to NetDocs from iManage on-premises, look through all 3<sup>rd</sup> party apps and custom apps**
  - Ensure there is a need to recreate your custom apps with NetDocs as some tools may come with NetDocs out of the box
- **When recreating custom apps to support a new platform or feature set, the following should occur:**
  - Learn the new APIs
  - Web or Windows development
  - Establish your deployment methodology, including the phased approach while part of the Firm is still on the pre-existing system
  - Establish your testing methodology
- **Cloud platforms can be slower than on-premises. Make sure your custom solutions properly handle caching and pre-loading technologies to ensure a quick system**
  - Ex: The smallest number of trips to the SQL Server, the better
- **Understand all integration points with your custom apps**
  - Synchronization with on-premises apps

# ▶ Next Steps, cont'd

- **Licensing** – should you have 3<sup>rd</sup> party tools or 3<sup>rd</sup> party add-ins to your custom apps, ensure they support Cloud based platforms
- **Support** – ensure your service providers support the new Cloud solution
  - Also ensure your development team or outsourced developers understand Cloud technologies
- **Security** – Custom software should support new Cloud security models
  - In addition, the security setup of the IaaS or the Application should support the Firm's security needs
- Ensure all Cloud housing is stored in the US data centers to avoid your data going outside the country, unless required
- App rewriting may be a requirement if the platform currently in use is outdated and not compliant with the new Cloud platform
- Developing cloud applications can be costly, but there are various tools and strategies that can help developers cut costs and optimize their cloud applications' performance. Among other steps, always perform a cost-benefit analysis of their cloud apps, have a solid understanding of their applications' total cost of ownership and deploy cost analysis tools.

# ▶ Q&A

