

Data Security - Cloud and Outsourcing

ICT

Factsheet

Data Security - Cloud and Outsourcing

Many companies are now completely reliant on the data stored on their network servers, PCs, laptops, mobile devices or in the cloud. Some of this data is likely to contain either personal information and/or confidential company information.

We have a related factsheet which covers the conventional data security considerations.

Here we look at some of the issues to consider when reviewing the security of your computer systems, and how to minimise the risks of data loss within the cloud and where some or all services are outsourced.

If you would like to discuss how we can assist you, please contact us on 01494 675321 or by email at info@rousepartners.co.uk

Whilst cloud data storage and outsourcing can often be more secure than using internal resources, there are some additional things to bear in mind when some, or all, of your data is not held on-site.

Audit use and storage of personal data

Consider the potentially sensitive and confidential data which is stored in the cloud by your business.

Find out what is happening to data and what controls are in place to prevent accidental or deliberate loss of this information.

Risk analysis and reduction

So the key question is - If all or some of this data is lost who could be harmed and in what way? When that is known, then steps to mitigate the risks of data loss must be taken. Here are some steps which can be undertaken to reduce the risk of data loss:

- Ensure that the cloud provider or outsourcer will not share your data with a third party
- Check in what countries the data will be stored and processed - as this could have Data Protection implications
- Ensure that you can take local backup copies of your data
- A data subject has the same rights of access wherever data is being stored, so ensure that a subject access request can be facilitated
- Try to minimize the amount of personal data stored in the cloud or with a third party
- What happens if the provider becomes insolvent? Have a contingency plan in place
- Is the data encrypted - if so have you got access to the keys and who else has access to the keys?

There are many resources available, but we have included two examples here:

<https://www.cesg.gov.uk/cloud-security-collection>

<https://ico.org.uk/media/for-organisations/documents/1540/cloud-computing-guidance-for-organisations.pdf>

How we can help

If you have concerns about your data security, we can discuss how we are able to support you and provide assistance. Contact us on 01494 675321 or by email at info@rousepartners.co.uk

Trusted advice, *imaginative solutions.*

It's the old adage that all accountants are the same, but ask yourself this; what kind of service would most add value to your personal or business position? In our opinion, the quality of advice and service is what separates a good accountant from a great one. This is where Rouse Partners can make a difference for you.

Our award-winning team make it their business to get to know you and your specific needs. Whether your goal is to grow your business, increase your personal wealth or improve your work-life balance, by understanding your challenges, we will address them together.

We also know how important it is for you to have a team that you can rely on for timely advice and reassurance. At Rouse, our people are our most important asset and we will select team members who offer an optimum mix of experience, specialism and knowhow. From your Partner, to your Tax Advisor, each team member will be accessible to you or your team and be proactive in seeking solutions.

At the heart of our way of working is a determination to think differently, to challenge the 'status quo' and to ask 'what if?'. Whether you are facing a complex tax, accounting or management situation, we are ready to find a solution.

Contact us today to discuss how we can support your personal or business tax needs:

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