

BENEFITS AND RISKS OF CLOUD SERVICES

“Cloud services” are application and infrastructure resources that exist on the Internet. Third-party providers contract with subscribers for these services, allowing subscribers to leverage powerful computing resources without having to purchase or maintain hardware and software.

POTENTIAL RISKS



Speed and bandwidth limitation: when you subscribe for an annual fee, as your bandwidth needs grow, you may be locked-in to a single provider.



Lack of control over any customisation / integration.



Risk of security and privacy breaches.



Handling **cross-border privacy legislation** as servers may be located anywhere in the world.



Reliability of the cloud services provider and access to customer service.



Difficulty in assuring clients that the data is secure

BENEFITS



Reduced infrastructure and technology costs, resulting in better economies of scale.



Flexibility in subscription packages and storage capacity.



Better quality servers with better data handling capacity and security.



Reduced document management cost and stress in managing software updates / upgrades.



Improved backup and disaster recovery services.



Enables remote working for employees

Advocates and solicitors using cloud services must understand their priorities. They should evaluate the risks in line with their fiduciary responsibilities to their clients, the Courts, and other stakeholders, as well as consider their business goals.

*Please click [here](#) to view the full “**Guidance Notes on Cloud Services | Ensuring High Cybersecurity Standards for Law Firms**” and the first infographic of this series.*

