



Epicor eBook

# Getting Comfortable in the Cloud

Reasons modern manufacturers thrive with  
innovations enabled by the cloud



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# What Is the Cloud?

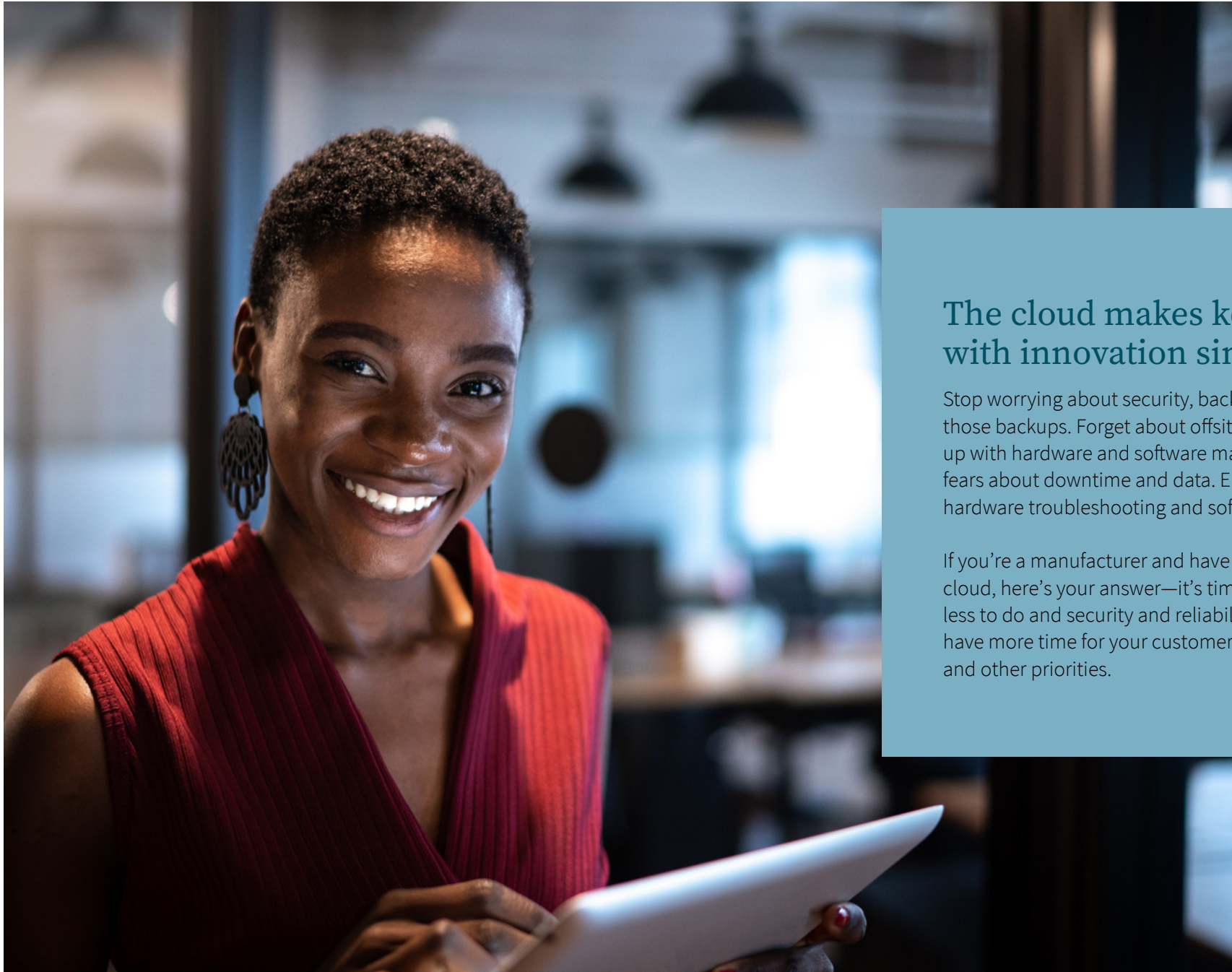
More than one third of technology decision makers surveyed report that their IT department feels pressure to migrate 100% to the cloud.\*

Everyone is talking about the cloud, but if you don't quite follow what they're saying, it comes down to this—using the cloud is using technology over the Internet.

When you update your Facebook page, you're using the cloud. When you check your bank balance on your phone, you're using the cloud. When you stream music, movies, or games, you're using the cloud.

But is it that easy for business? Yes! The cloud has proven to do several things very well—improve your cash flow, increase business capabilities, and simplify processes across the board—all in an access-from-anywhere system that's far more reliable than hardware you have on premises.

\* 2018 Cloud Computing Survey, IDG.



## The cloud makes keeping up with innovation simpler

Stop worrying about security, backups, and verifying those backups. Forget about offsite storage and keeping up with hardware and software maintenance. Ease your fears about downtime and data. End the hassles of hardware troubleshooting and software upgrades.

If you're a manufacturer and have questions about the cloud, here's your answer—it's time to move. You'll have less to do and security and reliability to gain—so you'll have more time for your customers, your employees, and other priorities.



## The best part about the cloud? It's easy, economical, and reliable

Business in the cloud is better business. And when you move your software to a safe, reliable, and efficient cloud system, you'll see how much simpler it is to focus on what matters most.



# The Cloud is Simple

While on-premises deployments give you the confidence of storing your data on servers right down the hall, it comes at the expense of your IT team and other resources. Right now, they're trying to keep up with your hardware and software when they could be working on what's next for your business and your customers.

With cloud deployments, your hardware is out of sight and out of the way. Your system is managed by teams of professionals whose primary goal is your system uptime. And you're free to focus on growth.

In the cloud, everyone sees the same information and therefore operates according to one version of the truth. Collaboration is faster and free of confusion, which reduces complexity while improving business performance.

If you're growing or want to grow, moving your ERP to the cloud allows you to increase capacity easily—without additional software, hardware, or IT personnel. If you don't need as much, you can pull back.

It really is that simple.

\*Worldwide Team Collaborative Applications Forecast, 2019–2023: Collaboration Growth Impacts the Future of Work, IDC, Doc #US44662619, August 2019.



## Get it together

One of the biggest benefits of moving to the cloud is something that happens at the department level—collaboration.

“The rise of the collaborative workforce and workspace is underway. Increasingly, tech-savvy mobile users are ready for collaborative workspaces with deep integrations to the software they use daily. Collaboration is a key element that helps create the future of work.”\*



# The Cloud Saves Money

The top benefits of working in the cloud all come down to the cost of doing business. Which, incidentally, is coming down.

## Lower total cost of ownership

Cloud computing removes upfront hardware costs, and the pay-as-you-go subscription model eliminates large initial layouts for software. Easy setup and cashflow-friendly monthly payments make it even easier to see why cloud deployments are so popular—especially when you add the fact that Epicor cloud business software deployments typically cost 25–40% less\* than on-premises deployments.

## More-for-your-money competitiveness

The cloud gives you and all your employees access to enterprise-class technology, so no matter what size your company might be, you can take on the biggest and be the best. Because cloud computing frees up time and money, you can stay lean, nimble, and competitive.

## Work-from-anywhere productivity

If you've got an Internet connection, you can work. With the cloud, you can give your employees the ability to produce wherever they happen to be. So they can enjoy the work-life balance that suits them, and you can enjoy greater loyalty and output.

\* Epicor Cloud TCO Workshops estimate 25–40% savings over five years. Of course, any expected savings will vary from customer to customer and will also depend on adopting best business practices.



## The Cloud is reliable

If you're not sure if you can count on the cloud, count on this:

### Uptime in the cloud

Downtime is costly, and keeping your apps up and running is more critical than ever. Cloud-based SaaS applications are proven to minimize downtime, reduce the costs that go along with it, and keep your people productive.

# 99.98%

Historical Uptime

The Epicor cloud historically performs well above the Epicor service-level agreement of 99.5% guaranteed uptime.

**Keep your data safe**

Sure, you're backing up your software and data files, but if you're keeping those backups on site, you're not keeping them safe. If there's a fire or natural disaster, backups are lost. Even if they're stored in a backup facility across town—that same natural disaster could still destroy them. True backup—the safekeeping of a redundant set of data—is best left to the cloud. It's the safest, most affordable, and most efficient way to make sure that if you lose everything, all is not lost.

**Ensure protection**

Cloud systems are more stable, better monitored, and more secure than any on-premises system anywhere. Unless you have an impenetrable data center protected by intrusion detection, fire suppression, advanced power grids, backup generators, environmental monitoring, and six separate HVAC units inspected every day—all connected by multiple T3 pipelines from multiple vendors and all in a distant geographic location—you're not as safe as you think.

**Ensure accessibility**

Lost laptops are a billion-dollar business problem. But the greater problem is the loss and possible theft of the sensitive data stored on those laptops. When your data is stored in the cloud, you can access it no matter what, no matter where. You can remotely wipe data from lost laptops at any time.



# Top 10 Reasons Epicor Customers Thrive in the Cloud

1

## Ease Into Innovation

Epicor makes keeping up with innovation as achievable as possible, so you can remain competitive and grow your business.

2

## Compelling Economic Benefits

Epicor cloud business software deployments typically cost 25–40%\* less than on-premises deployments.

3

## Better Use of IT Resources

If your IT team didn't have to patch the servers and keep the system running, what sorts of innovations could they be working on?

4

## Greater Security

Your firewall isn't the fortress it once was—at least not compared to the massive redundancies and failsafe procedures afforded by 24/7/365 cloud protection.

5

## Updates

When you don't have to manage upgrades anymore, you can focus on growing your business.

\*Epicor Cloud TCO Workshops estimate 25–40% savings over five years. Of course, any expected savings will vary from customer to customer and will also depend on adopting best business practices.

6

**Mobility and Collaboration**

Your team no longer needs to be at the office to access ERP or collaborate. The cloud brings them all together—no matter where they are.

7

**Alignment and Engagement**

With a standard set of processes accessible in the cloud, current and future generations of employees can engage easily—increasing productivity.

8

**Reduced Risk**

Redundant data backups coupled with advanced security systems run by technology experts mean you can rest assured you won't lose critical data.

9

**Faster Time to Value**

Built on best practices and customized to your requirements, Epicor cloud solutions can be deployed quickly and reflect real-time updates.

10

**Social Responsibility**

Using cloud solutions rather than on-premises equipment minimizes impact to the environment such as waste from retired hardware.

# The Cloud for Manufacturers

Manufacturers need a proven, comprehensive ERP platform that helps them grow now, and positions them for success in the future. With decades of industry expertise and thousands of manufacturing customers, Epicor understands how to create value for customers through best-fit, cloud-based ERP solutions.

## Epicor cloud offerings

Epicor cloud solutions are proven to increase business capabilities—helping manufacturers in a variety of industries. Epicor cloud solutions provide:

- Order Management
- Inventory Management
- Warehouse Management
- Financial Management
- Purchasing
- Reporting
- Faxing Integration
- Forms
- Shipping Manifest Integration
- Analytics
- eCommerce





# Keeping Up and Getting Ahead

As the movement toward digital transformation marches on, your ERP system—the very backbone of your information systems—must keep pace. Epicor helps manufacturers differentiate and—ultimately—grow. We're a high-value, low-risk, deep-experience pathway to bring your ERP systems to the cloud.

Epicor is uniquely positioned to manage the requirements of multiple manufacturing segments with a single solution. We have developed solutions to fit the unique requirements for providing these industries with robust functionality, including:

- Centralized customer relationship management
- Efficient sales and service management
- Embedded advanced planning and scheduling
- Extensive materials management—including cradle-to-grave serial and lot control
- Rules-based product configuration
- Real-time equipment production and process monitoring
- End-to-end management of complex, multi-phase projects
- Quality and compliance management
- Comprehensive supply chain management
- Enhanced financial transparency and accountability
- Business-wide collaboration

These are all rolled into a complete package tailored for manufacturers like you. If you want to grow your business, Epicor can help.



We're here for the hard-working businesses that keep the world turning. They're the companies who make, deliver, and sell the things we all need. They trust Epicor to help them do business better. Their industries are our industries, and we understand them better than anyone. By working hand-in-hand with our customers, we get to know their business almost as well as they do. Our innovative solution sets are carefully curated to fit their needs, and built to respond flexibly to their fast-changing reality. We accelerate every customer's ambitions, whether to grow and transform, or simply become more productive and effective. That's what makes us the essential partners for the world's most essential businesses.

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