Ahead in the cloud

How moving your WMS to the cloud improves supply chain performance

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Introduction

Complex flows of goods, more product variety and increasing customer demands mean that businesses have to continuously optimize their supply chain operations to remain competitive. Cloud solutions can help organizations meet these growing demands.

Today's cloud offerings typically include support and maintenance, offer SaaS fee models, a variety of SLA options, and more. As a result, cloud adoption has increased over recent years, across all industries. In supply chain execution, it can be used to run most IT solutions, including Warehouse, Transportation and Yard Management Systems.

The challenges of traditional on-premises IT infrastructure

For supply chain operations, the move to cloud-based IT systems is well under way. For example, experts estimate that cloud-based WMS will account for 55% of total revenues by 2025.[1]

This growing trend is primarily a result of the need to increase the agility, performance and productivity of supply chain operations, while reducing total cost of ownership (TCO).

Meeting these demands using traditional on-premises WMS and TMS solutions is becoming harder, due to a number of challenges, including:

- **In-house IT infrastructure**
  Establishing and constantly maintaining in-house IT systems requires high up-front investment and incurs ongoing expenses. Also, increasing or reducing system capacity takes more time and effort when compared to cloud solutions.

- **Maintaining IT expertise on-premises**
  In-house IT infrastructure requires a team of experts to deploy, test and operate the solutions. They also need to be trained continuously and often have to be available outside of core business hours – in the case of mission-critical systems, up to 24/7.

- **Ongoing compliance**
  In light of growing cybersecurity threats and concerns about data privacy, maintaining compliance with data security and privacy regulations becomes increasingly difficult. It also requires staff to keep track of regular systems changes and update them accordingly.

- **High opportunity cost**
  Most businesses find that the resources and time spent maintaining in-house IT infrastructure would be better spent enhancing supply chain and core business operations.

The benefits of moving to cloud

A move to cloud can help your warehouse management and other supply chain solutions become more scalable, agile and cost-effective. The mature cloud delivery models available today have eliminated many early-stage concerns around accessibility, control and reliability.

When leveraged correctly, cloud solutions offer numerous benefits, including:

- **Higher flexibility and scalability**
  The IT infrastructure is provided as part of the cloud offering, and system capacity can be scaled up or down at short notice. This enables businesses to adapt to changes in workload, and makes their supply chain operations more agile.

- **Improved availability and reliability**
  Maintaining uptime for mission-critical solutions like WMS is essential. Cloud data centers offer comprehensive backup capabilities and redundancy measures, ensuring that supply chain solutions will be continually available in the event of system failures and disruptions. Also, ongoing performance and maintenance of the solutions and underlying IT infrastructure is typically included in the cloud offering, which ensures continued reliability and improved system performance.

- **Anywhere-access to supply chain data**
  System data is accessible centrally through the cloud platform, from desktop or mobile devices via an internet connection, and can be made available across geographical sites to employees, vendors and customers. This creates increased transparency, and aids in collaboration between locations and with different business partners.

- **Built-in security and compliance**
  Most cloud providers' security policies are far more stringent than those of many companies' IT departments. Typically, these providers maintain teams of security experts who implement multi-level, highly effective security measures to safeguard customers' systems and data. They also ensure that the cloud hosting environment meets data security standards and data privacy regulations.

- **Reduction in TCO**
  An immediate benefit of cloud is the replacement of high, up-front capital expenses with stable, predictable monthly fees. The transition to an op-ex financing model helps reduce costs, as does removing the need for maintaining dedicated IT staff and associated resources.

Why Infios?

Infios's cloud solutions are designed to help optimize customer warehouse operations. They support the full range of our WMS and other supply chain solutions, and can be adapted to meet customer needs, fully integrating into their existing IT landscape.

They also offer numerous incremental benefits. Our cloud operations team can deploy solutions with minimal provisioning times, and can scale system capacity to support growing and shrinking workloads. We offer a subscription fee model, which helps reduce TCO and facilitate IT budget planning. Maintenance and support are included, with options tailored to customer SLAs and operational needs.

Other core benefits include:

- A customer-dedicated cloud environment
- Comprehensive multi-layer security measures to protect customer data and systems
- Maximum resilience and uptime due to extensive backup and disaster-recovery capabilities
- 24/7 monitoring and support by a global team of cloud experts
- Data centers compliant with GDPR and other applicable data privacy regulations
- Data centers certified according to ISO 9001, ISO 27001, SOC 1 and 2 standards

Infios has extensive cloud operations expertise and today we host over 1,000 customers across our platforms. With data centers on five continents, we can implement advanced supply chain solutions for clients worldwide, and support them with regional cloud-hosting capabilities.

CONCLUSION

Cloud solutions have become significantly more mature and performant in recent years. Not only can they make your supply chain operations more agile, lean and efficient, they also offer significant improvements over on-premises solutions in terms of accessibility, availability and TCO. And most importantly, running supply chain solutions in the cloud releases valuable IT resources, freeing you up to focus on your core business operations.

Discover how Infios's cloud-based solutions could improve the efficiency and efficacy of your supply chain operations.

READ MORE

Reference

1. https://www.grandviewresearch.com/press-release/global-warehouse-management-system-wms-market

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