

CYBER PRECEDENT

Strengthening the
legal profession's
defence against
online threats

CHECKLIST: CLOUD COMPUTING SECURITY

What is cloud computing? Cloud computing refers to the use of remote servers on the internet to store, manage and process data, rather than a local server or PC.

Use this easy checklist as a starting reference to see if your cloud-based service provider is appropriate for your requirements. Please note that this just a starter's list of issues that should be considered and you should consult your IT professional for a more complete and technical review of any cloud base product or service.

Issue	Description
Physical location	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Where is the physical location of you data?<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Many cloud providers hold the data overseas, outside the jurisdiction that the lawyer is in.- Client data should be kept in your own jurisdiction as many jurisdictions allow 3rd parties (governments) to review their records, which could compromise a client's confidentiality and ability to claim client legal privilege.
Physical security	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Does your cloud provider have high levels of physical security to prevent unauthorised access?• What are the actual measures that your cloud provider has undertaken?
Encryption	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Is your data encrypted to protect both the stored data and data in transit?
Connections and Authentication	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What are the authentication processes that your cloud provider uses to identify users and prevent unauthorised access to your data?• Are encrypted connections provided as standard?• Is there the ability to implement double factor authentication?
Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Is your data kept on dedicated hardware or is it part of a shared service?• Where are the back-up copies of your data kept? How frequently are the back-ups made and how easy is recovery of the data?• Does your cloud provider have adequate disaster recovery plans (physical and cyber)?
Service Level Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What type of service level does your cloud provider offer and does this meet your needs? Do you require a guaranteed 99% up-time?• What are the ramifications of failing the service level?
Audit and compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is the standard of compliance that your cloud provider subscribes to in terms of protecting the security and confidentiality of information and is this adequate for the type of data that you have? For example, data belonging to government clients requires a certain level of compliance.• Who undertakes audits of the compliance of your cloud provider and how often are they undertaken?