

PHILIPS

Dictation

The verdict on
cloud for the
legal space?
A win-win



Modernizing work-life for legal professionals is a high priority as the needs of law firms, their clients, and their employees have changed in the post-pandemic era. For example, remote and hybrid work arrangements are here to stay, and virtual collaboration is now much more common. This enables teams in large firms to not only optimize working together internally but to serve clients across a wider base and grow their market reach. Similarly, flexible schedules that challenge the concept of the “workday” or “workweek” have naturally evolved from flexible work locations that challenge the traditional concept of the “office.”

One driver of this modernization is the growth of cloud computing. While it has been gaining momentum across every sector of business in recent years, the legal industry is one arena where adoption has met some resistance. In fact, a recent viral video (“[I'm here, Judge - I'm Not a Cat](#)”) illustrates how legal professionals have navigated the sometimes-awkward, sometimes-hilarious adjustment to digital, remote-first work environments.

Luckily, there's a change in the wind

This [recent article](#) in the ABA Journal, for example, highlights the momentum of cloud adoption in the legal field, based on a survey of 2,000 legal professionals. Firms using cloud computing software increased from 76% before the global COVID-19 pandemic to 88% at the time of the survey less than two years later. Not quite Cloud 9 yet, but we're getting there.

While there are a number of contributing factors, this trend is largely due to the increase in the use of remote working software, which of course, by its very nature is cloud-based. The survey underscores [similar findings](#) published in ILTA Peer-to-Peer, which reports “significant moves” toward cloud adoption in the last two years. As firms look to evolve their operations, modern cloud architecture not only enables efficiency and improved productivity but superior security and data loss prevention.

Some firms have been hesitant to take the leap into the cloud, with privacy and security concerns among the top reasons for this reticence. But cloud adoption doesn't have to be disruptive or risky. Stepping into the cloud can be done with a gradual, phased approach – and those firms that want to stay competitive will want to leverage the future-ready capabilities the cloud offers.

Every cloud has a silver lining

Larger firms, especially those with various practice groups and multidisciplinary

teams, can realize many benefits by leveraging the cloud including:



Big-time business agility

Cloud-based voice technology and speech-to-text solutions enable firms to pivot quickly for fluctuations with transcription needs, document creation, and more. They also support working seamlessly between laptops, smartphones, or tablets, so attorneys can shift easily when urgent deadlines arise, team members need to work offsite, or other unforeseen situations occur.

For legal assistants, accessing files easily using a web browser, as well as sharing audio recordings and documents, using a singular secure platform, mitigates the need for sending files via email. Further, these solutions increase team-wide visibility regarding priority dictations, so the most pressing files are handled first.



Mobile optimization

Using cloud-enabled voice technology solutions, attorneys can truly have an “anytime, anywhere” office, which is key in today’s increasingly competitive industry landscape.

Mobile applications with the same comprehensive feature set as desktop versions mean attorneys don’t lose capabilities while on the go. Sending audio files for transcription and further processing and review, and capturing notes fresh from a client meeting, are just a couple of examples of how attorneys can get more done right on their smartphones.



Operational efficiency

Nowadays, a successful firm must function like a well-oiled machine – the larger a firm gets, the more difficult this task becomes. But streamlined workflows supported by cloud-based voice software can allow teams to produce more work at a faster pace – an important aspect of working with complex, cross-disciplinary organizations.

Cloud-based voice solutions also help firms reduce the time and costs spent on IT maintenance and troubleshooting, which can be reallocated to higher-impact (read: revenue-driving) initiatives.

Hold the phone...what about security?

Again, while there are clear benefits to cloud enablement, security remains a top concern for many firms, and rightfully so. However, using software applications that feature advanced security capabilities can help alleviate those concerns and keep data and privacy safe and sound. It is also

important to assess the options available with public cloud, which is cloud computing delivered via shared internet and technical resources, and private cloud, which is conducted via a network and auxiliary resources that are managed and controlled by a single organization.

Won't you be my neighbor?

Cloud-enabled applications that utilize a secure public cloud, like our innovative Philips SpeechLive solution on Microsoft Azure, can help legal professionals get more out of the workday. A flexible web-based, voice technology and workflow solution, SpeechLive delivers all the business benefits firms need to drive productivity and billable hours. At the same time, this robust, feature-rich solution enhances the user experience and eases workflow frictions.

A secure public cloud, SpeechLive offers enterprise-grade protection through real-time double encryption, server mirroring, automated backup, and more. This offers peace of mind for attorneys and their teams knowing that their data remains confidential.

Putting a "Privacy, please" sign on the (IT) door

Looking for next-level security? Private clouds are often used by mid-to-large-size organizations with critical operations seeking security that they control to meet their standards.

For those firms looking for this extra level of control, there is SpeechExec Enterprise, a customizable voice technology solution that offers the option of a private cloud environment that's managed using either internal IT resources or via a third party. Supporting a wide range of use cases (dictation workflows between authors and assistants, mobile services like smartphone integration, speech recognition, and even direct access to an outsourced transcription service), SpeechExec Enterprise is a cloud-enabled solution that keeps data in-house.



As evidenced here, cloud computing is one of the most widely impactful and transformative of these recent trends in the commercial realm, and the time is ripe for law firms to take advantage of its potential to achieve next-level business goals.

Whether a public or private cloud option is best depends on the individual needs of every firm, but in either case, there are ways to make the transition to the cloud easy, simple, and smooth.

Take your first step today!

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