

6 Questions To Ask Before Moving Your IBM i To The Cloud

Your guide to avoiding unexpected risks, costs & issues

Introduction

You analysed your organisation's needs, considered all the cloud options available on the market, and **now you're finally ready to move your IBM i to the cloud?** Great! But just before you pass GO, make sure you asked your chosen managed services provider (MSP) these few crucial questions – some of them may seem obvious, but the answers you get could be anything but. And you know you don't want any major surprises – especially where considerable additional ongoing costs or reputational damage could be involved – already after you kick off your migration.

Here are the **6 critical questions** you need to ask your MSP before moving your IBM i to the cloud:

01

Are you paying for just what you need?

02

Who is going to maintain the environment?

03

Can you scale up and down on demand?

04

What is included in your subscription?

05

What's the uptime SLA?

06

Who looks after all the security patching?

Q1

Are you paying for just what you **need**?

In other words, are you paying only for the resources that are necessary today or also ones you might (or not) require tomorrow or well into the future? It's all about scalability and keeping your ongoing costs in check. By making sure your cloud server is appropriately sized, you can take advantage of maximum performance without having to pay for the resources you don't need at the moment.

Q2

Who is going to **maintain** the environment?

Do you know who will be responsible for maintaining the cloud environment once you migrate? This includes not just paying for the maintenance, hardware, and software but also keeping track of renewals and making sure maintenance is renewed in time. You never want to run into a problem only to find out you are not covered by software or hardware maintenance – the costs of getting the necessary support and fixes could be substantial.

Q3

Can you scale **up** and **down** on demand?

In today's world, being able to quickly scale your environment is critical not just for start-ups or rapidly growing organisations, but for every business. Your MSP should ensure that you can scale up and down on demand whenever your business needs change along the way. It could happen irregularly, e.g. when you pick up new clients, or like clockwork, at the end of the month or quarter. No matter the reason or frequency, it's important that you can adjust your environment accordingly and have your ongoing costs reflect that.

Q4

What is **included** in your subscription?

For obvious reasons, the answer to this question can significantly impact your organisation's bottom line in the long run. Are the migration costs at the start of the cloud move covered by your subscription? And what about subsequent hardware releases? Power 10 is already on the horizon – who will be paying for the migration at that point in time? And when talking replication, what are your recovery time (RTO) and recovery point (RPO) objectives? With different types of replication available, it's crucial to know ahead of time what technology will be used for your organisation, how it suits your RTO and RPO, and what will be the total cost of ownership. Plus, what are the overall license costs, who pays for the upgrades, migrations to the latest operation system versions, program temporary fixes (PTFs), technology refreshes...? How is your MSP keeping your protected from security risks and vulnerabilities? Make sure you have all the answers ahead of time.

Q5

What's the **uptime** SLA?

Critical, but too often overlooked question with severe implications for the organisation as a whole. The applications that run on IBM i are typically mission-critical – they run the business! Which means, if they are down, it could result in serious financial repercussions and also damage to your organisation's reputation. That's why knowing what's the uptime Service Level Agreement (SLA) you are going to get with your IBM i in the cloud – and if it's sufficient for your needs – is imperative.

Q6

Who looks after all the security patching?

Security is definitely a hot topic to discuss with your MSP – and we already mentioned some of the things you should ask earlier. Who does the patching? Who does the PTFs and will keep track of the new ones that have just been released? Will your MSP let you know there's a new vulnerability announced in your environment and you need to apply a new patch as soon as possible? Will patching take place in the middle of the day (when it's easier for your MSP's team) or outside of working hours (when it's more convenient for you to keep your business running without interruptions)?

If you have questions about moving your IBM i to the cloud, we can help.

Evolution Systems is Australia's leading provider of IBM i in the cloud and has been offering IBM Power virtual machines since 2010. With each generation of IBM Power cloud platform more powerful than the last, and allowing users to do more with less, we have now architected our 4th generation of private cloud infrastructure to bring our clients some of the best technology available today. We also offer a choice of managed service plans to make sure you're getting just the right amount of support to match your business requirements.

Let's talk about supporting your company's IBM i needs in the cloud.



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