SERVERS: ON-PREM vs. CLOUD

ACE Technology Group

Servers act as the foundational blocks of a business's IT infrastructure. Although the functions of a server can vary, generally, servers provide a central location for storing and sharing data as well as enabling security management. They can also be used for email hosting, running applications and for providing specific functionalities, such as running a database. Whether a business has an on-premise server or a cloud server hosted at a data center, servers need to constantly be maintained, secured, and patched to prevent vulnerability to unauthorized access.

Average Server Life Span

3-5 YEARS

Due to the growing demands in new technology, life cycles of servers are getting shorter.

Upgrading to a newer server operating system increases:

- Performance
- Availability
- Scalability
- Manageability

Moving to a cloud based server solution improves:

- Speed
- Resiliency
- Cost-Efficiency
- Security

ON-PREM

On-premise servers are physical machines that are bought for a company to store, run and backup data that are located on-site. Between the square footage space they use and the electricity to run and cool the equipment, costs of on-prem servers can add up. In addition, on-prem servers are subject to breakdowns and need to be replaced every 3-5 years which can become costly because of both the downtime and hardware expenses. Although on-prem servers can be fully customizable, they also rely on the company's internal IT staff to continuously back up data and verify the logs were processed successfully to prevent loss of information. In general, having an on-prem server carries a lot of responsibility, but keeping a valid warranty can ensure faster and less costly maintenance from the manufacturer.

CLOUD

Before cloud servers, most companies had a physical server that only used a fraction of their processing capability and storage space. With a cloud server, adding storage, performing upgrades, and making any changes is much easier and safer. The virtualization process typically occurs either in the cloud or on servers that are maintained, owned, and located offsite. The offsite location is typically hosted by the company's IT provider who will handle all upgrades, backups and regular maintenance for the company. Cloud servers also allow the company to only pay for the data they have used, reducing their environmental footprint. By replacing a physical server with a cloud server, it greatly reduces the need for in-house IT talent; and with no hardware purchases necessary, it reduces the upfront costs as well.