

Go Virtual or Go Cloud

A weighted scorecard (shown in Table 1 and also provided on the web page as download) can help companies decide between cloud computing and virtualization for particular projects. Here are five factors that can tip the scales.

- 1. CAPACITY:** Can your provider accommodate fluctuations in storage and capacity requirements and provide an outlet for spikes in demand?
- 2. SECURITY:** Ask yourself, "Is this a capability that I can trust to place in the hands of an external service provider?"
- 3. DISASTER RECOVERY:** Find out what types of backup alternatives a vendor offers for your particular application or data.
- 4. VENDOR HEALTH:** Research whether a vendor is likely to remain stable in today's highly volatile economic climate and how you'll be compensated for performance shortfalls.
- 5. PERFORMANCE:** What are the details of a vendor's service level agreement, and what is the provider's track record in meeting that commitment?

Table 1 (Example – Weighted Score Card)

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Weighted Scorecard (illustrative)							
		GOALS					Final Rating
		Capacity	Security	Disaster Recovery	Vendor Health	Performance	
Relative Importance (Weight)==>		4	5	3	3	4	
		0.2353	0.2941	0.1765	0.1765	0.2353	
ALTERNATIVES	Primary Alternatives						
	1) Virtualization	3	4	4	5	4	4.41
	2) Cloud	4	3	3	3	5	4.06

SCALE==>	5 = High
	4 = Middle to High
	3 = Middle
	2 = Low to Middle
	1 = Low