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With all the hype about the cloud, it is hard to know what is fact vs. fiction. Following up to my last article, this month's article is intended to remove some of that cloudiness and let the light shine through on the advantages and disadvantages of cloud offerings. We now understand that there are three different types of cloud solutions: **Software As A Service (SaaS)**, **Infrastructure As A Service (IaaS)** and **Platform As A Service (PaaS)**.

The benefits and risks of a cloud solution will be specific to a particular business. Many businesses will have a mix of the types of cloud solutions and will want to evaluate the type of cloud solution carefully.

Generally, businesses want to consider the following:

Purported Benefits:

- Quickly provisioned
- Minimal upfront capital
- Pay as you go/grow
- Increased flexibility/scalability
- Amplified collaboration and mobility

Purported Risks:

- Increased connectivity needs
- Data security or confidentiality
- Regulatory compliance
- Unforeseen transition/migration costs
- Rapidly evolving technology
- Possible disruptions due to latency

So the \$64 Million Dollar question is "How can you leverage the benefits and mitigate the risk?" Like anything else in life, proper planning prevents poor performance! The good news is there a host (no pun intended) of options for you to consider: public cloud, private cloud, and hybrid (public/private) solution offerings.

As I said last month - my advice for now is to keep your feet firmly on the ground and take a peek into the clouds. Call on SSE, a full service IT Management and Support firm with 30+ years experience providing both on premise (traditional) and off premise (Cloud) offerings, to help you plan! We can provide details on the benefits/risks mentioned above, or schedule a cloud solution assessment for your business. Email info@sseinc.com for details.