

Cloud Portability Brief

Situation

Governments use cloud computing methods to improve reliability, elasticity, maintainability, performance, and cybersecurity of enterprise-class software applications. Cloud computing can also reduce capital expenditures, provide better ICT cost predictability, and enable scaling.

Effective Financial Management Information Systems (FMIS) provides enterprise-class software functionality for governments. Among the enterprise software cloud computing options available to governments are:

- **Private Cloud:** virtualization of one or more government data centers as a shared service
- **Community Cloud:** virtualization of government and partner data centres
- **Public Cloud:** use of commercial cloud computing infrastructures to run government applications, typically as Infrastructure-as-a-Service (IaaS) or Platform-as-a-Service (PaaS)
- **Public Cloud Software-as-a-Service (SaaS):** use of COTS software deployed on the public cloud

Complication

Governments often experience:

- deployment constraints, despite advantages, because of privacy and security concerns and laws
- differing privacy and security considerations and certifications that could allow a subset of enterprise software to be deployed on the public cloud
- legal reform over time, with certification processes, that enables deployment on sovereign in-country public clouds, or authorized international cloud providers
- differences in functionality, and technology platforms provided by COTS vendors, where on-premises versions are far more functional than SaaS
- cloud competition that can reduce costs in providers not yet selected by governments
- vendor cloud lock-in that makes it difficult and expensive to switch providers

Question

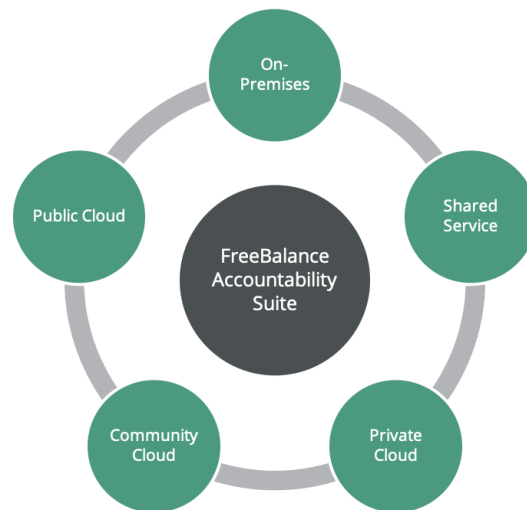
- How can government FMIS software support portability across cloud options to optimize deployment benefits over time?

Solution

The FreeBalance Accountability Suite is a fully portable FMIS, originally designed for government shared services:

- **Web-native** design supporting multi-tenant cloud deployment
- **Identical platform**, the FreeBalance Accountability Platform, with no change of functionality based on deployment option
- **Open system** that is middleware and cloud infrastructure agnostic
- **Hybrid support**, such as using private clouds for confidential and personal identity, with public cloud for testing and fiscal transparency

FreeBalance Accountability Suite Cloud Portability



Governments can leverage the current FreeBalance Accountability Suite investment to migrate among cloud deployment options. Unlike traditional SaaS solutions, all configured and customized modules are cloud-deployable, including the use of the SaaS model. This includes deployment on providers of choice by governments.

Appendix: Supporting Material

Adapted FreeBalance blog entries

1. Government Resource Planning and The Cloud
2. Open Technology: Breaking the COTS Myth