

# 5 KEYS TO ENABLING FLEXIBLE GROWTH AND AGILITY IN SMB INFRASTRUCTURES

Growth and innovation are vital to the success of any small to mid-sized business. To achieve this growth, SMBs need an IT infrastructure with the flexibility to grow while controlling costs and ensuring security. To effectively modernize, SMBs must leave behind legacy systems and adopt core on-premise capabilities designed for cloud environments. To achieve this flexible growth and innovation, follow these five key steps.

- Move Past Legacy IT Infrastructures** – Older, on-premise systems weren't designed for today's cloud-native applications and services. SMBs that depend on them see increased costs in resources, downtime, and IT staff time. By leveraging modern server and IT infrastructures that are built-specifically to work in hybrid cloud environments, SMBs can quickly grow and modernize.
- Take Advantage of “as-a-service” On-Premise Systems Designed for the Cloud** – A top benefit of implementing cloud-based solutions is the flexibility and scalability that it enables for optimizing compute, data, and resources. By leveraging “as-a-service” on-premises systems in their IT infrastructure, leading SMBs enable cloud-based innovation across their IT ecosystem.
- Overcome Expertise Gaps by Working with Experienced Partners** – Implementing modern cloud technologies can be complex even for experienced large enterprises. Therefore, leading SMBs turn to experienced partners with deep networks and understanding of emerging technologies to modernize their infrastructure and deploy solutions like “as-a-service”.
- Improve Security and Infrastructure Uptime** – Older on-premise systems can introduce increased security risks due to poor integration, known system holes, and the difficulty of making them work with modern environments. But by modernizing their infrastructure with “as-a-service” systems, SMBs can cut security risk and improve uptime, with Aberdeen researching showing that SMBs with these upgrades are 20% more likely to improve security.
- Grow to Flexibly Meet Emerging Requirements** – Brand new technologies can increase complexity for SMBs but choosing not to innovate can stifle growth for these businesses. By implementing “as-a-service” solutions, SMBs can surmount these hurdles and boost innovation, agility, and growth.

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