



Mitigating Cloud Risk and Complexity

4 Ways ITaaS Scales and Secures Your Business

Regulated companies seeking to scale are looking to the cloud, yet managing a cloud infrastructure introduces both complexity and risk. Read this White Paper to learn how IT as a Service (ITaaS) gives regulated companies the scale and simplicity of the cloud with the security they need for compliance.

New Opportunities Bring New Risks

As companies seek out efficient, affordable ways to grow, they're putting cloud at the top of their list and it's easy to understand why. Cloud provides capacity on demand to support fast-paced innovation and collaboration. It's no surprise, then, that one in four businesses plan to move IT infrastructure and workloads to the cloud in the next 12 to 24 months.¹

With cloud adoption come compliance challenges. The cloud can open the door to potential high-risk occurrences like unauthorized access to networks, data, and restricted information; cyberthreats; and the aftermath of targeted attacks. In fact, senior executives who manage risk, audits, finance, and compliance at large global organizations identified operating in the cloud as one of the greatest risks to enterprises.²

The Gartner Risk Management Leadership Council sees this as a recurring theme for many enterprises. "Risk, audit and compliance executives tell us every quarter about the threats they see looming on the horizon — from change initiatives and external factors to data privacy failures," reported the council.³

In the event of a breach, regulated companies must quickly disclose information to partners, clients, employees, and any users associated with the organization and its network. This can cause feelings of betrayal, mistrust, and concern for future dealings — leading to reputational damage and possibly a considerable financial impact.

Cloud Isn't Just a Security Challenge; It's a Complexity Issue

As many as 91% of analyzed cloud deployments revealed at least one security exposure, 50% of which were unprotected credentials.⁴ Many companies struggle to configure and deploy the right cloud approach for their needs. There's a mix of cloud approaches, including multicloud and hybrid cloud configurations. Knowing which approach aligns with business goals and compliance requirements takes expertise and a specialized skill set.

ITaaS for Growth and Compliance

ITaaS is quickly becoming a cornerstone of digital enterprise growth. Instead of configuring and managing a mix of public and private clouds to scale capacity, ITaaS delivers virtualized infrastructure with a fixed price per user for affordability and budget predictability.

Like the cloud, it provides scalable, affordable infrastructure. ITaaS offers the additional advantage of a managed service provider who configures and delivers resources based on desired business outcomes — and compliance requirements — from the start.

For companies struggling with the security and configuration requirements associated with moving workloads to the cloud, ITaaS provides secure access to workloads provisioned from a private cloud that the ITaaS provider configures and manages. This takes the burden of cloud oversight off the organization.

The ITaaS offering from Adar, for example, includes a cloud infrastructure layer with virtual servers, cloud-based productivity software, cloud-based security, and cloud-based backup and disaster recovery delivered virtually with the ability to scale as needs change.

The following are four ways ITaaS provides scalable, secure infrastructure for regulated companies.

1. Data Security

It's estimated that 85% of data breaches are caused unintentionally, many by human mistakes resulting in server configuration errors.⁵ For example, MedCall Advisors, a compensation healthcare solution provider, neglected to secure electronic patient records on an AWS S3 storage bucket, resulting in confidential patient data being publicly accessible.⁵ It's no surprise that it's now estimated that at least 95% of cloud security failures through 2022 will be the fault of the organization.²

An ITaaS provider can identify compliance requirements up front and configure the virtual infrastructure to mitigate data breaches and compromises. For example, ITaaS from Adar is built in a secure private cloud and includes active intrusion and virus protection installed and continuously updated on all desktops and servers — without disruption to the organization. Along with monitoring and detection,

In the past two years, misconfigured storage services in 93% of cloud deployments led to more than 200 breaches exposing 30 billion records.⁴

the Adar network operations center delivers live alerts on antivirus and antimalware activity in real time.

To safeguard against internal vulnerabilities like intentional employee or user breaches, Adar protects its ITaaS with Mimecast to scan for email threats. Adar also ensures server and workstation protection from vulnerabilities through automated security patching. If a breach occurs, multiple tier-3 data centers offer continuous replication with full SAN backup taken multiple times a day to support recovery measures. With snapshot technology, the ITaaS from Adar can restore affected data within a few hours by reverting files to the most recent secure state.

2. Operational Simplicity

With new technologies emerging every day, enterprises struggle to choose which innovations to onboard and how to deploy them: on premises or via the cloud. Each new technology also requires security and compliance measures. With the introduction of artificial intelligence, the knowledge gap widens, leaving organizations in need of help on multiple levels.

ITaaS eliminates the need to configure and manage infrastructure change as technology is adopted. Infrastructure resources are available on demand for new workloads, so IT resources can focus on business innovation. There's no need to hire and train IT experts on complex migrations and security configurations because the capacity is configured, secured, and maintained by the ITaaS provider.

In the case of Adar, ITaaS integrates data center infrastructure with cloud technologies and managed services. For regulated companies, this ITaaS approach provides all the hardware, software, virtualization, collaboration, security, backup/recovery needed to operate the business, along with proactive monitoring and support.



3. Infrastructure Scalability

Scaling for today's digital enterprises can be tricky, especially with the increased number of endpoints generating data and the need for compute capacity. ITaaS gives organizations the freedom to scale at any rate while maintaining security coverage and compliance measures across every endpoint and application. No matter how many devices or users are added to the network, a cohesive and connected infrastructure makes it simple to secure endpoints seamlessly.

With ITaaS from Adar, regulated companies can scale by migrating an entire IT stack to Adar, including line-of-business applications, messaging, file servers, backup, disaster recovery, and security. Adar deploys resources on virtualized desktops. As needs change, auto-scaling based on real-time demand right sizes resources based on user demand. Latency and cost are averted by eliminating the need to add and manage on-premises hardware or third-party clouds.

For companies shifting to remote operations, this infrastructure scalability replaces the need to hastily configure and deploy public cloud resources to keep remote users productive. Adar offers ITaaS that can deliver apps, data, and desktops to any authorized user at any location.

4. Data Governance and Audit Protection

With the rapid pace of digital transformation, data can be generated anywhere and accessed from any device — for example, IoT devices like the sensors used in hospitals to monitor patients and the beacons and point-of-sale systems used in retail to deliver customized interactions. Some financial institutions use customer-facing IoT devices to recognize customers coming through their doors to personalize service.⁶

Key to strong governance is the ability to manage security policies regardless of where data is generated or resides. An ITaaS provider supports strong data governance by ensuring data privacy and protection measures are updated as regulations change or as new technologies are added, with the correct safeguards in place for granting or restricting access to data.

Adar configures its ITaaS so all data is stored on virtual servers in a private cloud, with the added security of a physical data center for business continuity and compliance for backup and recovery. In the event of an audit, Adar IT experts can provide detailed information about where data resides, the security measures in place to protect it, and how security keeps it safe as it's accessed and shared. Adar can also provide SAN Level Encryption at rest to protect stored data from hardware breaches, as required by regulations such as HIPAA, PCI, and FedRAMP.

Conclusion

ITaaS solutions like that offered by Adar can provide a scalable, affordable alternative for regulated companies that don't have the bandwidth, resources, or expertise to manage public or private cloud implementations. The as-a-service configuration delivers capacity on demand for changing workloads, while safeguarding access to data and information based on compliance — and aligned with desired business outcomes. ITaaS from Adar is purpose-built for regulated companies with a fixed cost per user delivering the best of cloud scale and affordability with the privacy needed for compliance.

Adar: All Virtual, All Done

Adar takes the guesswork out of deployment, management, optimization, and pricing of all your IT needs. With solutions for local, national, and international organizations, Adar pairs cutting-edge virtualized environments with enterprise-level security, support, and award-winning customer service — all monitored and maintained for you 24/7/365.

Contact us today to learn more about our ITaaS solutions.

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¹ComputerWeekly, "Compliance in the Cloud: Avoiding the Cloud Compliance Trap," May 2018.

²Gartner, Inc., "Gartner Survey Says Cloud Computing Remains Top Emerging Business Risk," Aug. 2018.

³Gartner, Inc., "Gartner Risk Management Leadership Council: Top 10 Emerging Risks of Q2 2018," accessed June 2020.

⁴SC Magazine, "Misconfigured Servers Contributed to More Than 200 Cloud Breaches," Aug. 2020.

⁵Atlantic.Net, "Data Breaches Caused by Misconfiguration Servers Within a Healthcare Environment," Sept. 2019.

⁶Security Intelligence, "What are the Risks of the IoT in Financial Services?," Dec. 2019.