

# Cybersecurity: Through the Lens of Cloud ERP

CLOUD ERP SECURITY GUIDE



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## **Introduction**

No matter what your business does on a day-to-day basis, chances are, there are important processes it couldn't function without in case of disaster—from internet outages to accounting system failures. Cyber disasters can occur at any time, and the unfortunate reality is that they likely will. What your business does today to prepare can make for much smoother sailing tomorrow.

This guide will walk you through the cybersecurity benefits of a cloud-deployed ERP system and where that system fits into your business continuity plan. It will walk you through cybersecurity specifics including physical security, network security, and other benefits such as the ability to monitor and audit any issues or threats to protect your organization for the long haul.

## **Why Cloud ERP Should be Part of Your Business**

### **Continuity Plan**

Companies looking to revamp their business continuity plan should consider implementing a cloud-based enterprise resource planning (ERP) system. A cloud ERP system gathers and organizes all of your business data in one place through an integrated software suite. This means that those important processes we mentioned earlier, such as sales quoting, accounting, or more, can be set up and managed in one system built on the cloud. The cloud ensures all of your sensitive data is backed up and accessible, making it an essential part of your business continuity plan.

Organizations that choose to implement cloud ERP should extend training efforts to all employees. The beauty of cloud ERP is that it's easy to learn and access, allowing your employees to maximize the full suite of benefits available and to gain an understanding of all the moving parts. Training eliminates information silos and ensures all departments have access to the data they need. Training is a key part of business continuity, providing your staff with the tools they need to adapt in times of disruption.

### **The Benefits of Cloud ERP**

There are many benefits of cloud-based ERP. For starters, when your business implements a cloud-based ERP system, the ERP vendor will take care of many of the details that happen behind-the-scenes, including ongoing software maintenance and updates so that you never have to worry about your system being outdated or unprotected.

From a cybersecurity standpoint, cloud ERP includes multiple layers of overlapping security, which helps your business safeguard all its data and private information. Cloud ERP comes with both network and physical security, regular monitoring and auditing, and more.





### **Security Benefit 1: Physical Security**

Cloud ERP systems are physically protected by the ERP vendor through the following security measures:

- Bio-metric protected data centers
- Guard-controlled access with mantrap technology
- Registered guest restrictions
- Locked cage spaces
- Closed-circuit television monitoring
- Additional systems for physical intrusion monitoring, detection, and alerting

Because ERP subscription plans are built on a highly-secured infrastructure, sensitive and confidential customer information is kept protected at all times.

### **Security Benefit 2: Network Security**

In terms of protecting your network, your ERP vendor can implement the following security controls:

- Restricted access and multi-factor authentication
- Administration of limited user account permissions
- Adherence to Center for Internet Security hardening standards
- Proactive patching of operating systems
- Host-based anti-virus and intrusion detection and prevention systems (IDS/IPS)
- Separation of server duties and the principle of least privilege access
- Monitoring and automated logging of system activity and events
- Backup management
- Encryption

Keeping your network up to date with security patches and software updates is extremely important in protecting your business' data. With cloud ERP, you don't have to worry or wonder if you've updated your software lately.



### **Security Benefit 3: Monitoring & Auditing**

Another benefit of a cloud ERP system is the ability to automatically detect and recover from many hardware failures or system lockups. Cloud ERP systems include an extensive monitoring process which begins at the infrastructure level and extends all the way through the operating system, so that there's a multi-tiered approach to resolving issues that arise. Your ERP vendor then audits and records these issues so that new fixes and features can be implemented to prevent further problems. As an ERP customer, you'll also have the ability to download and save all reports from an outage or other issue to help with your own historical documents and auditing requirements.

There are many other benefits to a cloud ERP system. We'll get into more later, but the cybersecurity benefits alone make cloud ERP a worthy investment for organizations that want the best protection for their data.

### **Cloud ERP and Disaster Recovery**

Just as your business has (or will have) a disaster recovery plan in place, so should your cloud vendor. Typically, a vendor's infrastructure is spread across several locations and data centers. So if a portion or whole data center experiences an outage, other data centers and servers are available to continue handling the workload.

Typically, a cloud ERP system's recovery time objective (RTO) is set to twelve hours and a recovery point objective (RPO) of one hour. At the end of the day, the point of having a cloud ERP system in place and a reliable vendor is to help your business carry on with regular operations with a minimal impact when disaster strikes. This will ultimately help your business reduce or even eliminate the downtime it would otherwise take to get back up and running.

### **The Infor Cloud built on Amazon Web Services**

Throughout this guide we've covered how cloud ERP can be a great asset to your business continuity plan and many of the cybersecurity benefits it can bring to your organization. Now, we're going to discuss a vendor that is currently shining in the cloud ERP space and offering all of the benefits we've discussed, plus more.







Cloud ERP, specifically the Infor CloudSuite™, is now available on Amazon Web Services (AWS), combining agile business software with the world-class capabilities of AWS for the ultimate reliability, security, and scalability your business needs to put your trust into the cloud.

As these two forces combine, the result includes superior auditing and compliance to help your business to meet industry standards such as FedRAMP and ITAR. Customers can experience the reliability of Infor's business continuity efforts with global failover capabilities from AWS. This allows for rapid deployment of both applications and data in response to almost any type of service disruption that can occur anywhere across the globe.

AWS provides customers with even more benefits than those we discussed earlier. Some of the superior features include:

- **Rapid scalability**—For businesses that need to respond to high demands, like seasonal or annual events, Infor CloudSuite™ solutions can adjust to these changes as your business demands fluctuate.
- **High availability**—All Infor products can be spread across multiple AWS Availability Zones (AZs) to optimize fault tolerance and reduce any risk of downtime, even for large scale operations.
- **Great elasticity**— Thanks to the flexibility of Amazon's Elastic Compute Cloud (Amazon EC2), Infor now has the ability to deploy mission-critical enterprise applications with a wide variety of server configurations and varying utilization. EC2 replaces the vast majority of physical server hardware that would typically need to be purchased, leaving the customer with unmatched reliability and availability at no additional cost.



## Conclusion

If your business is eager to improve its disaster recovery plan and increase cybersecurity measures, a cloud-based ERP system may be the right solution, particularly if your business relies on various applications to carry out its most critical tasks. With cloud-based ERP, security is built-in, constantly updated, and consistently improved upon, providing your organization with protection as well as peace of mind.

Decision Resources, Inc. is proud to be a top Infor partner having more customers deployed in the cloud than any other partner. When you're ready to make improvements to your business continuity plan, we're here to help guide and inform you about the cloud ERP solution that makes the most sense for your unique organization. Reach out to our team to get started.



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**FOR MORE INFORMATION** get in touch with us today. You can also give our team a call at **412.562.9660** or email us at **[info@decision.com](mailto:info@decision.com)**.



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