CLOUD COMPUTING FOR LAW FIRMS

9 REASONS TO TAKE THE LEAP

BENEFITS OF CLOUD TECHNOLOGY FOR LAW FIRMS

While cloud technology for law firms has made significant headway in the legal industry over the last decade, it has been slow going.

But some studies show that 78% of firms are already on the Cloud in some capacity. (Source)

If you're still on the fence, what's keeping your firm on the ground?

Technology diffusion curve

Adoption slows

We Are Here

Adoption

Take-off

Early Adopters

Time

Clio 2021 Trends Report

Consider this checklist of benefits of cloud computing for your law firm that can help you shape a more effective and profitable business:
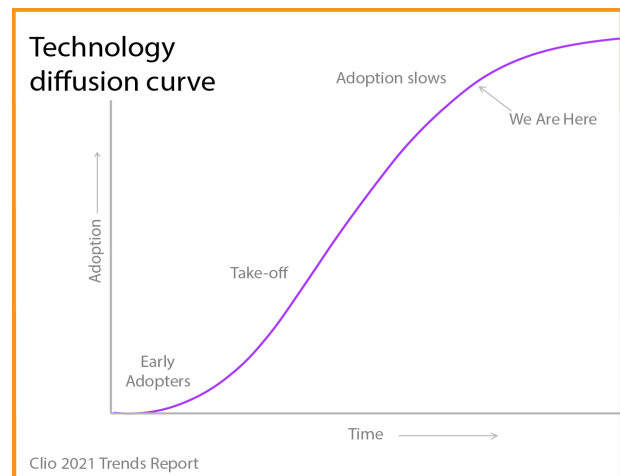
Increased Efficiency and Flexibility

Cloud-based systems, also known as Software-as-a-Service (SaaS), allow legal professionals be more productive. With an increasing array of intuitive interfaces, including the rise in mobile apps, the Cloud's middle name is "convenience."

A cloud system literally unchains lawyers from their desktop computers, brick-and-mortar offices, and relentless travel. They can access what they need virtually anytime from anywhere.

As remote work rises in popularity and firms downsize their offices, cloud-based systems will be essential for effectively shifting to hybrid work arrangements.

These changes in technology have given lawyers more than just the ability to be productive in transit or while waiting at the dentist's office. They allow business lawyers to quickly notify their clients of last-minute changes to contracts, so that deals get closed.

They allow family lawyers to easily calm a distraught client by pulling an update on their matter when they call after hours. They allow criminal lawyers to go to court with only a cell phone, because that's all they need to present their case."

Jack Newton
CEO and Co-founder of Clio

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Greater Security

As a growing number of states adopt the **duty of technology competence,** lawyers increasingly face responsibility for *keep(ing) abreast of changes in the law and its practice, including the benefits and risks associated with relevant technology.*

Focusing on risk, legal cloud computing has seemed risky to many legal professionals. But continued improvements in the Cloud mean that on-premise software has actually become the riskier option.

Why? Because cloud-based computer vendors have the means to invest much more aggressively in security infrastructure than law firms could afford to provide on their own.

Hopefully, this will ease your concerns about the Cloud: *"Associations like the LCCA have worked hard to clarify best practices around security for cloud-based companies and to give lawyers a good sense of how to do their due diligence when considering working with these providers.*

Following the LCCA's input, the first state bar ethics opinion on cloud-computing shifted from a negative one to a positive one, paving the way for positive opinions from other state bars and helping lawyers feel secure and compliant while leveraging the power of cloud technology for their practices." ([Source](#))

Cloud-based tech can lighten your law firms' security load and responsibility, giving you back your time to focus on your clients.

Improved Client Experiences

The efficiency that allows attorneys to be more accessible and agile naturally results in improving clients' experience through improved relationships.

But it goes far beyond that. 2020's pandemic-induced shutdowns catapulted consumers' dependence on convenience into a new realm. And it's likely here to stay.

They have become accustomed to—and expect!—the ease and convenience of digital experiences with the brands they work with...including their lawyers.

Meeting that expectation pays off. Clio's *2020 Legal Trends Report* found that:

- Firms using online client portals received **11% more casework** than other firms in 2019.
- Firms using online client portals received **17% more new casework** per lawyer in April, 2020.

Other client-facing services include teleconferencing and bill management.

But cloud-based software used for internal purposes such as legal management software (LMS) or legal analytics, also play a role in client retention and experience.

More flexible and efficient attorneys, along with more online options means greater client satisfaction.

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Fewer IT Resources

One of the greatest advantages of the Cloud is the reduction in time and money spent on IT. These include ([Source](#)):

- **Scalability:** As an office grows or expands, an IT professional managing on-premise solutions must budget for and secure additional servers. With cloud-based software, usage is based on a subscription model that allows an organization to easily scale up or down as needed.

- **Eliminating VPNs:** With an on-premise system, employees will need to securely access their files and documents through a virtual private network (VPN). You won't need this with a cloud-based system.

- **Third-party support:** You'll never do away with the need for an IT person, but when you used a top-tier cloud-based solution, support for that platform is handled by the vendor.

- **System Updates:** It can be a challenge to keep everyone's system updated, but cloud-based systems are automatically updated so everyone is working from the same version at all times.

- **Streamlined integrations:** Getting all your disparate systems to play nice together is a giant hassle. It results in clunky, time-consuming manual processes that should be automatic.

  Best-in-class cloud-systems afford greater integration between your various platforms. That means greater efficiency, more automation, and more time focusing on clients (i.e. billable hours) than on admin work.

- **Cost Savings:** Cloud-based technology enables *economies of scale:* greater efficiency and productivity spread costs across greater outcomes.

  The costs of storing, maintaining and running your own servers are kept steady. You don't have to periodically invest in budget-busting upgrades, which then carry additional storage, maintenance and operational expenses. And of course, we must always include the inevitable cost of inefficiencies, which can be difficult to calculate.

Simply put, cloud-based systems are increasingly necessary to maintain a competitive edge. Those who wait too long to adopt new technologies risk being left behind.

(Source)

Why LawKPIs?

There's a gap between legal analytics reporting from various systems (including quality legal practice management software like Clio), and the easily accessible and actionable insights law firm owners need.

LawKPIs exists to fill that gap.

Your firm's KPIs keep your practice running smoothly and profitably. No one KPI will identify all of your firm's issues or highlight all possible opportunities for new growth. That's why LawKPIs gives you an assortment of important law firm-specific KPIs on Day One.

EASY TO USE
The software is so intuitive, you can customize and share reports throughout your entire practice. Plus, we provide free custom reports.

FULLY HOSTED, CLOUD-BASED SAAS SOLUTION
No additional infrastructure or IT commitments required, simply a single affordable subscription.

TIGHT INTEGRATIONS
LawKPIs integrates with leading law firm management systems like Clio, RocketMatter, PracticePanther, Lawmatics, QuickBooks, Google Analytics, and more.

TAKE BACK YOUR TIME

See why so many firms trust LawKPIs to keep their business on track.

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Before using LawKPIs, getting the data we needed was possible, but only with manual extractions and manipulations which are time-consuming, expensive, and inconsistent.

LawKPIs automated that process and ensured that we were comparing apples with apples on a timely basis.

Where we had a need for customized reports, the people at LawKPIs worked with us to understand what we were looking for and then they built it for us.

As a result, we have a much better yardstick with which to measure our firm's vital signs."

John C. Drapp,
Founder and Partner
Drapp & Jaumann, LLC