

White Paper

CPM On-Premise or Cloud – Have it Your Way

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Table of Contents

Introduction	pg. 3
Modern Software Delivered On-Premise or in the Cloud	pg. 3
Smart Cloud – Elasticity On-Demand	pg. 4
World-Class Reliability and Backups	pg. 4
Top Security for Your Most Sacred Data	pg. 5
OneStream Cloud Services	pg. 5
Advantages for Customers	pg. 6
Conclusion	pg. 7

Introduction

Cloud computing is clearly becoming the preferred deployment approach for most corporate applications. While Sales, Marketing and HR departments jumped in first, Finance departments have been a little slower to adopt cloud-based applications. Various market surveys estimate cloud adoption at roughly 15% – 20% for corporate performance management (CPM) applications. However, Gartner is predicting that, by 2020, 80% of large and 25% of mid-sized organizations will have adopted cloud-based financial corporate performance management (CPM) solutions to replace legacy on-premises systems and manual processes.

The market is rapidly shifting to cloud-based deployments for budgeting, planning, forecasting, consolidation, reporting and other applications. But some organizations are clearly not ready to put their valuable financial data and applications in the cloud.

So what's an organization to do if Finance executives want to adopt the most modern software applications, yet they aren't quite ready to embrace the cloud due to IT policies or concerns about privacy, compliance or control? The answer: partner with a software vendor who offers both on-premise or cloud deployment options – and a smooth migration path to the cloud.

Modern Software Delivered On-Premise or in the Cloud

One vendor who offers a modern CPM software solution that can be deployed on-premise or in the cloud is OneStream Software. OneStream provides a revolutionary SmartCPM[™] solution that unifies and simplifies financial consolidation, planning, reporting, analytics and financial data quality for mid-sized to large enterprises with sophisticated requirements. Delivered via the cloud or on-premise, OneStream XF is the first and only solution that delivers corporate standards and controls, with the flexibility for business units to report and plan at additional levels of detail without impacting corporate standards – all through a single application.



OneStream also offers the XF MarketPlace, which features downloadable solutions that allow customers to easily extend the value and familiarity of their CPM platform to meet the changing needs of Finance and Operations.

A key focus of OneStream is addressing the needs of mid-sized to large organizations with sophisticated requirements and large user populations. Delivering on this focus requires a software application that embraces modern design principles. It also requires the use of elastic hardware and database infrastructure to scale up and support surging user demand, when needed.

Smart Cloud – Elasticity On-Demand

For cloud deployments of the OneStream XF application, we have chosen one of the foremost platforms in the cloud space: the Microsoft Azure[®] Cloud Platform. It's a seamless technology stack that provides computing capacity on-demand. That means customers only pay for what they need, yet it retains almost 100% uptime. The addition of 64-bit, in-memory processing, multi-core processing and the ability to resize the environment within minutes also means the platform can respond to even the most demanding requirements.

Using Microsoft Azure allows us to leverage a global network of data centers and the most modern cloud software technologies, enabling both infinite and intelligent scale. The ability for servers to automatically recognize demand – and scale to meet that demand – changes everything. It also represents the future of cloud computing.



This approach enables OneStream to deliver a SmartCPM[™] platform on a smart cloud, one that's "built for the burst" and that can expand and contract hardware resources and scale up or down to meet the increased or decreased demand – simultaneously saving costs and increasing performance. That's exactly what the Microsoft Azure platform enables. This cloud is smarter and more responsive than any standard data center could dream of being. What does that mean in practice? It means applications today can leverage the infinite and expandable resources afforded through the fabric of the Azure Cloud.

World-Class Reliability and Backups

A truly global application environment needs to be available 24/7 so that critical financial processes – such as the month-end financial close and reporting cycle, annual budgeting, or periodic forecasting – can proceed without disruptions. With OneStream XF Cloud, we guarantee your CPM application will have 99.95% availability. Historically, our XF Cloud availability has been closer to 99.99%.

When things go wrong, wouldn't it be great to be able to restore your system to the minute, going back 35 days? Done! Microsoft SQL Azure automatically backs up your system every minute, of every day, for 35 days. That means you never have to worry about going back to square one should something go wrong. In addition, Microsoft SQL Azure automatically delivers 3X geographic redundant backups, every hour, to provide the extra insurance needed in the remote case of a catastrophic event.

Top Security for Your Most Sacred Data

What about security? With Microsoft Azure Cloud, SOC 1, SOC 2, FedRAMP, HIPPA and virtually any other US or International security, certification is just there. No one invests in security like Microsoft. Our single-tenant SaaS approach coupled with Microsoft's security means that your data is segregated naturally and protected from cross-contamination of another customer's data, or from being swept up in a targeted attack. With integrated Azure AD SSO multi-factor authentication and your own VPN security, this cloud offers the security you need to rest easy.



Cloud Services

What if your organization doesn't have the resources or time to administer a new system? No problem. OneStream offers full Cloud Services to take care of your Azure Cloud requirements and OneStream application to reduce the IT burden of maintaining infrastructure and application availability. As a supplement to IT staff, OneStream takes on the care and feeding of the environment, including upgrades, disaster recovery, security and performance tuning. We do the upgrades for you – at a time designated by you and not driven by someone else's weekend schedule.

Easy to Access

One of the things customers love about OneStream XF Cloud is the ability for users around the world to access the system anytime, anywhere. OneStream enables users to access the platform via a number of different interfaces. This includes web browser, HTML 5 mobile, Microsoft Excel and our new OneStream App for Windows. This "browserless" user interface, along with its Spreadsheet and Text Editor functionality, offers key benefits:

- Eases end-user deployment
- Provides deeper integration with Microsoft Windows and Office
- Enhances overall usability of the application



OneStream App for Windows User Interface

Advantages for Customers

As highlighted earlier, while the cloud is becoming the preferred deployment model for business applications, not all organizations are ready to make the leap. OneStream Software is one of the few vendors who enables customers to "have it your way," offering the same CPM solution via on-premise or cloud deployment. The software can be deployed in an on-premise data center and then migrated to the cloud – or it can stay on-premise forever, with customers continuing to receive enhancements and high-quality support.

Running OneStream XF Cloud provides several advantages to our customers.

- 1. A basic advantage of running in the cloud is the ability to leverage third-party infrastructure and IT resources to deploy and support CPM applications. This reduces IT costs and allows organizations to allocate their IT resources and staff to other projects.
- Selecting OneStream XF Cloud provides a unified, SmartCPM[™] solution that often replaces multiple legacy applications for key processes – budgeting, planning, forecasting, consolidation, reporting and data quality. This unified approach reduces costs related to licenses, implementation, maintenance and upgrades.
- 3. In addition, leveraging Microsoft Azure, OneStream XF Cloud provides a smarter cloud with "built for the burst" capabilities and 64-bit processes that provide high performance through surging user demand during month-end close, budgeting season or quarterly forecasting.

Here is what some of OneStream's customers are saying about the advantages of OneStream XF Cloud.



"OneStream in the cloud has been incredibly adaptable. We have people around the world accessing the system, and it's always available and always at peak performance," said Don Bleasdell, VP of Finance at TEAM Industrial Services. "In addition, OneStream XF Cloud has eliminated the need for IT to maintain infrastructure and databases, which saves time and money."



"AFL evaluated several solutions and selected OneStream XF for financial consolidation, budgeting, forecasting, account reconciliations, data collections and cash flow reporting," said Pam Brady, Global Financial Business Analyst at AFL Global. "After the initial implementation, AFL decided to move from on-premise deployment to the OneStream XF Cloud. No new implementation was needed – within a few hours, AFL completed an application upgrade and a shift to the OneStream XF Cloud leveraging Microsoft Azure."

To learn more about OneStream XF Cloud, visit our website at <u>www.onestreamsoftware.com</u>.

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