# SIGNIFICANCE OF CLOUD COMPUTING IN THE HEALTHCARE INDUSTRY.

By Shawn Kingsberry

More and more enterprises see their future in the cloud but those that have already made the leap still face some challenges. In 2020, the cloud is expected to occupy 30% of IT budgets and while the benefits of Software-as-a-service (SaaS) and Platform-as-a-service (PaaS) are numerous, choosing the right partner becomes central to a successful transition.

Almost one-third (30%) of companies that moved to the cloud reported in 2019 that the move failed to meet their expectations. For some industries, the risk of a substandard transformation can extend beyond the malaise of general dissatisfaction.

At Unisys, we understand that some industries have unique needs, and the life sciences and healthcare segments fall squarely into that category. Along with standard IT operational and management concerns, hospitals and medical device manufacturers, for example, have a heightened sensitivity to data security.

Healthcare enterprises must ensure the safety of protected health information (PHI) on the patient side and for those that double as insurance carriers, the secure storage and transmission of claims information must also be considered. Also, medical equipment and pharmaceutical manufacturers have a vested interest in safeguarding intellectual property in order to maintain competitive advantages.

Data security is a major worry for healthcare and life sciences market participants, but for these and all other industries, the buck doesn't stop there.

For those companies that have already transitioned to the cloud, The Unisys Cloud Barometer™ assesses satisfaction levels across three critical areas. The tool assigns point values to organizational expectations and gauges whether a cloud transformation has had a positive net impact on the company or has been mostly underwhelming.

From a business standpoint, the platform asks stakeholders if their goals of increased revenue or reduced costs have been realized, and to what degree. From the competitive angle, the barometer measures whether the cloud has given an organization the needed agility to match demand and maintain a competitive advantage. And finally, technology execs can offer opinions on objectives of enhanced security and productivity. In essence, have results exceeded, mostly met, somewhat met or fallen well below expectations set by the enterprise?

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## THE GREATEST ORGANIZATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS IS ACHIEVED BY ENTERPRISES THAT COMMIT TO CLOUD AS A CORE PART OF THE BUSINESS.

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In a global study conducted by Reputation Leaders in August and September of 2019, among 1,075 CIOs and IT leaders surveyed, 83% responded that their organization had either greatly or moderately changed for the better when deploying cloud as a core part of their strategies. On the other end of the spectrum, 70% of participants that made cloud only a minor part of their focus revealed that the effort yielded a minimal positive effect, no change at all or a change that negatively impacted the business.

Two notable trends emerged from the study. The greatest organizational effectiveness is achieved by enterprises that commit to cloud as a core part of the business. Also, due to transformational hurdles, a vast majority of those respondents either had used or plan to use a third party to usher their operations into the cloud.

The top three concerns for IT leaders moving to the cloud involved security, migration to the cloud, and cloud assessment and planning, among several other areas. And where decision-makers have questions, the Unisys CloudForte® solution has compelling answers.

Healthcare enterprises with an eye on Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) standards, for instance, can rely on our CloudForte Compliance™ to give on-demand, real-time analyses on exposure and adherence to compliance measures set forth by regulatory agencies.

Unisys understands that practice — or in effect, simulation — makes perfect with migration to the cloud. Before cutting over to live production, our system architects and engineers perform shadow cloud deployments to ensure the greatest measures of security, reliability and performance.

With regard to assessment and planning, we recognize that no two cloud solutions will ever be alike. Thus, our CloudForte Navigator™ looks at the current statuses of architecture and applications to make certain that transitional plans align with the unique business objectives of health insurers or biotech companies.

So, while it's indisputable that a firm commitment to cloud is the way forward, the next step becomes choosing a partner that is best suited to accompany an organization on its journey. Our CloudForte solution offers a complete array of cloud services that have been successfully tried, tested and deployed among global healthcare and life sciences enterprises of all shapes and sizes. With the unparalleled expertise and proven results fostered by Unisys, your choice is clear.

**To learn more about Unisys Life Sciences and Healthcare visit www.unisys.com/industries/commercial/life-sciences-and-healthcare.**

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