

Automating Finance with Innovative Technology Q&A Responses

- How do you assess management performance when using a rolling forecast?
 - Whether the forecast is monthly or rolling, setting clear and measurable metrics is what is required.
- What are potential issues that one would encounter with offsite servers - or cloud use? If we can't get the data, what happens?
 - Offsite data is always a scary proposition to the new cloud user. However, we have seen many clients gain comfort of this by requesting a monthly backup of data (on media) that can be housed locally. In the event of a situation where that data was needed, the client has it onsite already. The bigger questions are around how to manage that data and how to 'restore' it once that becomes a reality. The IT department needs to have a contingency plan.
- At what volume does the cloud become less appropriate?
 - Cloud providers are scaling up market at this time. However, as a general rule of thumb, we look to any organization \$1B+ and over 500 transactional users (not approvers or expenses reporting users) as beginning to cross that line.

Automating Finance with Innovative Technology Q&A Responses

- How can you compare strength of security from cloud providers?
 - The best way to compare strength is to review their SAS70 report – this gives you an indication of what they have in place and how they manage security. You may want to look at an independent Risk & Controls consultant group to that quick evaluation of their SAS70.
- Is a virtual server (virtual system) the same thing as cloud computing?
 - No – virtual servers simply link together multiple servers to increase redundancy and performance. These can be located in both the cloud or on premise. However there is correlation between the cloud and virtualization.