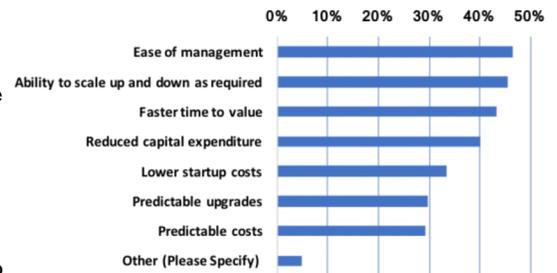# PLM on the Cloud - What's the Real Value

One of the prevalent IT Strategies in industry today, is the strategy to move the organization's applications to the cloud. IDG's Cloud survey states that 93% of companies are using some sort of cloud. 73% of those companies believe they will complete their cloud transformation in the next 24 months. With this transformation occurring in industry, where do companies see the migration to the cloud for Product Lifecycle Management (PLM)? Is there value to going to the cloud for PLM? We believe there is momentum to move PLM to the cloud. We see the momentum occurring because there is true value to the migration to the cloud.

The main benefits that steer companies towards going to the cloud are:

♦ Reduced capital investments for hardware

♦ Faster time to value

♦ PLM Application expertise versus developing your own expertise

♦ Application monitoring, security, storage and redundancy/backup are included

♦ Typically, updates and upgrades are included for hardware and software

♦ You pay as you go for what you use

♦ Reduced existing spend in terms of personnel cost—System Admin., etc.

CIMdata's data shows the reasoning companies are using to justify the move to the cloud for PLM.

Source: CIMdata

Moving PLM to the Cloud—What your organization needs to think about

Moving to the cloud for PLM brings with it some great value. However, there are a few items that you need to consider and decide upon to ensure a smooth transition. These items are:

♦ Data migration

♦ Network bandwidth and latency

♦ Integration with your internal IT support team and process

Data Migration

One of the most difficult items that needs to be understood and decided upon, is what data do you bring into the cloud? All products, all versions, all history? This conversation can be simplified if your organization has a data retention policy. If not, its something that needs to be discussed as a whole organization and deciding upon what the business needs and government regulations dictate. This is also an opportunity to ensure the appropriate data architecture and classification is utilized and/or integrated into the data migration.

Network Bandwidth and Latency

Now that you've decided to move your PLM environment to the cloud, there is a prerequisite to understand the network topology and the impact it will have to the organizations' speed. Performance and global access. Key items to understand and potentially invest in are network bandwidth, as well as, the potential impact to what network latency can have to the system performance.

Integration with your Internal IT Support and Process

When you move such a key enterprise application like PLM to the cloud, you need to understand and architect the support process, that before was communicated and executed internally to your organization and now needs to be integrated with an external process. This step is something that needs to be thought through. Incident levels, incident response teams and process need to be clearly defined before the PLM cloud goes to production. The last thing you want to worry about after "Go Live" is who and how is an issue going to be resolved?

PLM on the cloud can bring value to your organization. It needs to be well thought out, planned and executed. Give us a call as we have the experience and expertise to help your company to achieve your goal. Give us a call!

Next Month: PLM - ERP Integration—What's the right strategy?