A side-by-side look at M3 on-premises vs. multi-tenant cloud

As applications and hardware ages, the gap between the functionality they provide and the functionality you need grows ever wider. In addition, the cost and effort required to maintain evolving capabilities on current systems becomes increasingly difficult to manage. When these deficiencies start to become inhibitors to new opportunities, the need for migration to the multi-tenant cloud has arrived.

Since Infor M3™ Cloud's initial release in 2018, Infor® has continuously added new functionality to this multi-tenant cloud service. M3 Cloud (also known as M3 Cloud Edition) currently has 1,600 more enhancements than M3 on-premises and single-tenant cloud. These enhancements include features, add-ons, integrations, tools, and technologies, as well as support for additional countries, languages, and currencies. If you're hesitant to move your organization to the multi-tenant cloud, take a look at this side-by-side comparison to see what your organization has today versus what it could have tomorrow.

Top five improvements in M3 Cloud

1. Configurable XML for documents, standard reports, and ad-hoc reports make ownership easier, and changes require less effort.

2. The XtendM3 framework has been further extended to include custom APIs and dynamic database tables.

3. Central purchase agreements and group credit limits increase efficiency across the business and improve financial control.

4. Global, intercompany sales orders enable the efficient movement, change of ownership, and payment of goods between company divisions.

5. Prepackaged industry analytics include pre-built data models, dashboards, and KPIs that enable you to measure performance and gain key insights into business processes as soon as you go live.

Modern architecture

ON-PREMISES	MULTI-TENANT M3 CLOUD
It can be a struggle to stay current with the latest security knowledge, skills, and updates.	Running on a world-class, AWS® cloud infrastructure provides market-leading security, reliability, and resilience.
It's typically your responsibility to specify, build, and purchase your backup and mirror infrastructure.	The platform includes built-in disaster recovery.
Keeping applications running requires a product-centric, in-house, IT cost center.	Business processes as part of your cloud service (SaaS) allows your IT teams to focus on delivering greater business value.
Custom P2P integrations can be costly and difficult to maintain.	You can integrate your system with other applications, regardless of their deployment via the Infor ION® integration platform as a service (iPaaS).
You must start from scratch with each integration.	Predefined, standard BODs and content that easily integrates with Infor and third-party applications save time and decrease testing efforts.
Analytics are often limited to only what's available in your ERP system.	A big data infrastructure, complete with Infor Data Lake and Infor Birst® analytics, enable robust insights into Infor and non-Infor data.
You need to configure your business processes from scratch or pay extra for access to implementation accelerator best-practice processes.	Access to implementation accelerator best-practice processes is included with the service.
Changes typically require extensive testing that involves multiple, manual steps and tasks.	The platform has a fully automated and tested application stack (approximately 20,000 tests every night).

Scalability and resilience

ON-PREMISES	MULTI-TENANT M3 CLOUD
Dynamic workloads must be manually configured for scalability, which frequently results in oversizing.	Application and infrastructure support automatic scaling for dynamic workloads.
Static sizing of hardware can result in underutilization of hardware during low volume and performance issues during peak volumes.	The modern product architecture supports highly elastic applications that automatically scale up/down based on workload.
Static sizing results in higher costs, as IT constantly tries to adapt to changing business needs.	The elastic architecture is a highly efficient and lower-cost solution compared to other deployment methods.
Managing failovers and maintaining a resilient infrastructure require manual processes.	AWS availability zones automatically manage failovers and maintain resilience.

Continuous innovation

ON-PREMISES	MULTI-TENANT M3 CLOUD
Updates require manual software updates, and thus often lag behind in versions.	Automated updates at regular cadence are executed with zero or near-zero downtime.
New features are only available when deployment is upgraded to the latest release.	New features can be previewed with feature toggle on/off switches; multi-tenant M3 Cloud has 1,600 more enhancements than M3 on-premises and single-tenant cloud.
Taking advantage of new functionality requires planning and budgeting for potentially expensive and disruptive upgrades.	Major upgrades are no longer an issue, as Infor frequently delivers innovation that you can adopt at your own pace.
Custom, source code modifications are often difficult and expensive to uplift between versions.	Powerful, cloud-based extensibility tools allow you to tailor and future-proof your applications, mobile apps, and extensions.

Lower cost of ownership

ON-PREMISES	MULTI-TENANT M3 CLOUD
On premises and hosted applications aren't elastic and they need to be sized for peak performance, resulting in high hardware costs.	The modern, cloud architecture supports highly elastic applications that significantly reduce hardware costs.
Security costs are high because you're responsible for managing your own security infrastructure and resources.	Security costs are lower because Infor and AWS have implemented industry-leading best practices that address multiple levels of security.
The majority of on-premises operational activities require manual processes, which increases TCO.	Operational costs are significantly reduced because AWS and Infor manage activities such as performance optimization, monitoring, patching, upgrades, integrations, testing, etc.

Faster time to value

ON-PREMISES	MULTI-TENANT M3 CLOUD
Application installation is typically lengthy due to hardware and software version dependencies.	Automated provisioning gets applications up and running quickly, without hardware and software concerns.
Hardware and software failures must be managed manually, as hosting doesn't provide automated data replications across availability zones and regions.	Failures are automatically addressed by AWS availability zones and replication.
Managing failovers and maintaining a resilient infrastructure manually can result in reduced uptime and lost productivity.	AWS's resilient infrastructure ensures maximum uptime, which directly translates into higher productivity.

The Infor Multi-tenant Cloud Customer Bill of Rights

In this era of uncertainty, it's more critical than ever that you can rely on your enterprise software solutions to remain agile and flexible. With this in mind, Infor has introduced its **Multi-tenant Cloud Customer Bill of Rights**. In this Bill of Rights, we spell out our commitment to our current and future customers to deliver modern, multi-tenant cloud solutions combined with a customer engagement infrastructure that's highly flexible, transparent, and reliable.

Now is the time to move to the multi-tenant cloud. If your organization is still operating with on-premises applications, you could be hampering your organization's ability to stay up-to-date with current market and industry trends, and limiting your organization's agility to evolve business models and pursue new opportunities. For more information about migrating to the Infor M3 Cloud, please contact your Infor Account Executive.

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