Your Office Anywhere

Hosted SQL Server

An introduction to hosting SQL Server
database applications with
Your Office Anywhere

Cloud hosting applications that require SQL server not only gives you the flexibility to run your application from anywhere, but also provides genuine cost savings both against on-site server infrastructure as well as against purchased SQL server licences.

This paper sets out to explain what Hosted Applications are, how hosting SQL databases work, the features and benefits and the things to look out for when comparing hosting providers.

An introduction to Hosted SQL database applications

Application hosting uses Microsoft Terminal Services or Remote Desktop services to enable you to run almost any Windows application as if it was on your local computer, when in fact it is running on a server "In the Cloud", or in reality in our UK Data Centre.   For more detailed information on this please download our White Paper on Hosted Desktops.

The beauty of hosted applications is that they take advantage of the economies of scale enjoyed by large cloud hosting companies like Your Office Anywhere that provide an Enterprise quality IT infrastructure at a fraction of the price.

SQL Server is a particularly good example of this. Implementing and supporting a SQL server application on your own premises can be very expensive.   Often the software vendors recommend a "Beefy" server to house the database, and then a second server to run the application, plus client applications installed on individual PCs.   Then there are the SQL server licences plus Client Access Licences (CALs) for each user connecting to it.   You need to be able to back it up and finally there is the cost of support from an IT service provider for the server and software.

Cloud hosting your SQL application requires a simple and low monthly fee per user. You can add users or take users away as needed (something you can't do if you've bought software licences).

As an example a business with a SQL database application with 10 users, hosting it with Your Office Anywhere, including the SQL server and CALs would cost from as little as £36.50 per user per month
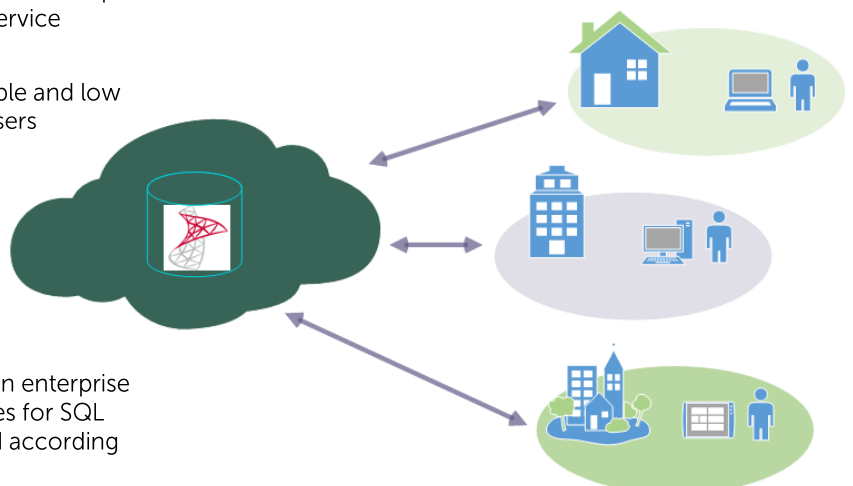
You will have a dedicated SQL server instance on an enterprise class SQL server.   Memory and processor resources for SQL server and your application server can be allocated according

to how much you actually need rather than paying for memory you won't necessarily use; and can be added as your business grows in just a few minutes.

You can run your application anywhere there is an Internet connection and on virtually any device, including MACs, PCs, iPads and Android tablets.   You can also run it from a secure web site if, for example you needed to run it from a hotel, airport or Internet café.   See the section later in this document on the different methods of running hosted applications

Your server and data are supported and maintained by Your Office Anywhere, including backups, antivirus and Windows Updates.

We also don't lock you into any long term contracts, after the first 2 months you can cancel at any time. You are also free to add or remove users as and when required, only paying for the users you need at any one time.

Microsoft SQL server licencing explained

SQL Server is licenced in 2 parts, firstly the SQL server licence itself, which can be licenced per server with Client Access Licences for each user who connects to it, or per processor core. We licence our shared SQL server per core which means we can offer individual users licences at a much lower monthly rental price.

The two scenarios below are a like for like SQL server licencing comparison of purchased perpetual licence for 10 users against licenced rented monthly under the SPLA agreement with Your Office Anywhere. Prices correct as of June 2015. You will notice it will take over 3 years to recover the licence costs if purchased compared with renting, by which time you may be looking to upgrade and have to buy again. This doesn't include Windows Server licences where similar comparisons between purchase and hosting also apply.

Purchased Perpetual licences

	Qty	Unit Price	Total Price
Microsoft SQL Server Std 2014 licence MOLP: Open Business	1	£950	£950
Microsoft SQL Server Std 2014 1 user CAL	10	£184	£1,840
		Total	£2,790

Hosted SQL licences

	Qty	Unit Price	Total for Year
SQL Cals Year 1	10	£7	£840
SQL Cals Year 2	10	£7	£840
SQL Cals Year 3	10	£7	£840
		Total	£2,520

Cost Breakdown for Hosted SQL server applications

The following scenario is for 10 users running Sage 200 Accounts. It assumes the customer already has the licence for Sage.

A Hosted application requires a number of components, both licences and hosting charges.

The licences include: Microsoft Windows Clients Access Licences (CALs), Microsoft Terminal Server/Remote Desktop CALs, and Microsoft SQL server CALS.

The hosting charge includes: Processor CAL per user which is a fee for our services and hardware to run the client application and a dedicated SQL server instance which is the charge to host the SQL database. (for info additional applications are only £5 per user for the Processor CAL)
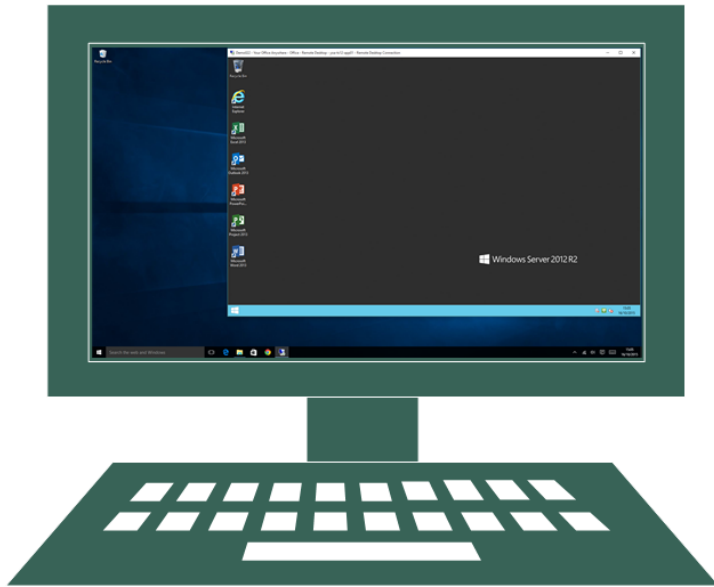
Per month the costs are:

Description	Unit Price	Qty.	Total
Microsoft Windows CAL	£6.00	10	£60.00
Microsoft Remote Desktop CAL	£6.00	10	£60.00
SQL CAL	£7.00	10	£70.00
Processor CAL	£13.50	10	£135.00
Dedicated SQL Instance	£40	1	£40.00
		Total	£365.00

This equates to £36.50 per user, based on 10 users, for 20 users this would drop to only £34.50 per user.

Every customer is different and some applications require more resources, some customers have more data. We can quote for additional CPU, memory or storage if required, but often prefer to see how much resources the application actually uses before committing the customer to additional spend.

Three ways to run your hosted desktop/applications

Hosted desktops from Your Office Anywhere use solely Microsoft technology to deliver the desktop or individual applications running on them.   There are 3 different methods of running the desktop or applications and it is down to the customer's preference or specific circumstances which method is used.
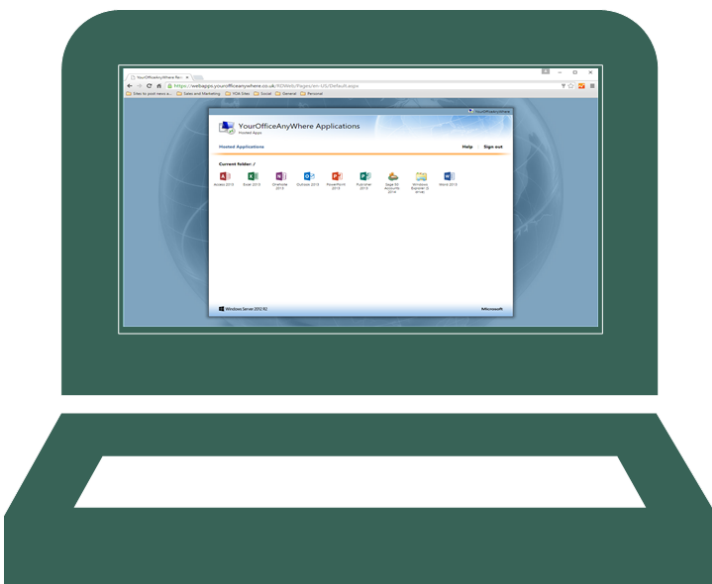

Full Remote Desktop

A desktop within a desktop. In the picture opposite you can see a hosted desktop (black screen) running on a Windows 2012 server.   The hosted desktop is running on a Windows 10 PC, but could equally be a MAC, iPad or Android tablet

The Remote Desktop can be run full screen or reduced down as required by the individual user.

RemoteApps and Desktop Connections

Instead of a full desktop , individual applications can be published to a Windows 7, 8 or 10 Start Menu/Start Screen.   The application, once launched, will look and behave exactly like a locally installed application, they also have access to a hosted Home Drive (H:) and a shared data (S:) drive, to enable multiple users to work on the same data.

Web Portal

With an easy to remember URL and secure authentication users can access their business applications from a web browser anywhere there is an Internet connection.

Great if you want to check in from home or while on holiday and don't have a laptop.

Technical Pages

The Hosted Servers

Every Your Office Anywhere hosted desktop customer gets their own dedicated Windows 2016 server.   This is a virtual server with a starting specification of 2GB RAM and 1 processor core.

The virtual server runs on one of dozens of physical server "Hosts", the hosts each have a minimum 96GB RAM and 8 processor cores.   As the customer's server is virtual if there was ever a hardware problem with a host, or it was just overloaded we can move the customer's server to another host instantly and seamlessly with no interruption to the users, they won't know it's happened.

Each physical host runs many virtual servers enabling maximum utilisation of resources which in turn reduces costs.

The host servers are housed in a state of the art data centre, accredited to ISO 27001 for Information Security Management.   The data centre has a host of security and availability measures including multiple internet connections through different providers, uninterruptible power supplies and diesel generators.

Data is stored on a high spec Storage Area Network (SAN) with fast disks running at 15,000rpm

Backups

One of the advantages to hosted desktops is running your systems on "Enterprise" class infrastructure.   This is particularly true of backups which have often been a headache for small businesses, remembering to take tapes off site or worrying about whether something has been backed up correctly or having the skills to restore it.   Data, Operating Systems, and Databases are backed up to disk and then transmitted offsite to a second data centre in case of disaster.

The backup policies for Your Office Anywhere are as follows:

- Documents such as Word or Excel stored on the Shared drive are backed up three times a day. Backups are retained for 20 days.

- Server operating systems, which may include applications and their databases are backed up once a week with 1 copy being retained.   Where it is necessary to store volatile data on a server instead of a shared drive, this can be backed up more frequently.

- SQL Databases are backed up daily and copies kept for 1 week.

- All Exchange servers are backed up daily. Items in Recover Deleted Items are retained for 30 days

- We can provide specific backup requirements for customers please provide your requirements and ask for a quote

Server Management

Hosting with Your Office Anywhere means you can forget about the day to day maintenance and management of your server, we look after all of that.

All servers have Anti-Virus installed and centrally managed.   Critical Windows updates are deployed centrally and any Operating System issues are dealt with by our dedicated UK help desk.

When your operating system comes to end of life and is no longer supported we will upgrade your server to the latest version at no extra cost.

Why Choose Your Office Anywhere?

At Your Office Anywhere we have been delivering Cloud hosting solutions longer than almost anyone is in the market long before anyone coined the term "Cloud" and certainly longer than names like Microsoft Azure or Amazon Web Services. In that time we have learned what customers want from a hosted desktop service and have developed a platform which delivers flexibility, scalability, security and convenience at a really competitive price. As an organisation we are proud to be certified for ISO 27001 Information Security Management System, so you know your data is safe with us.

Listed below are some of the features and benefits you should look for in a hosted desktop provider, that come as standard with Your Office Anywhere:

- UK Helpdesk manned by Microsoft Certified Professionals available on call 24/7 for critical issues.

- Helpdesk available by phone or email, plus access to knowledgebase.

- Ability to Monitor CPU and Memory usage for performance of the server.

- Ability to remote control customer's PCs to assist with supporting issues.

- Installation of any software that is supported on a Terminal Server solution.

- Managed (Locked Down) desktop to simplify user experience and reduce downtime/support calls.

- Anti-Virus on the Server.

- Windows Updates on the Server

- Rental of Microsoft licences, and licence reporting for compliance.

- Upgrades to latest versions of Microsoft applications.

- UK Data Centres - Important for customers who must keep their data in the UK.

- All Infrastructure: servers, switches, storage etc. owned by Your Office Anywhere.

- Ability to "Snapshot" servers prior to software upgrades.

- Failover to alternate host server in the event of a hardware failover.

- No long term contracts, just rolling 1 month contract.

Free Trial

Moving to the cloud can be a big decision, especially for established businesses for existing on premises infrastructure. To make the decision easier we can provide a free trial/demo account for you and your colleagues to try the solution for a couple of weeks. The trial server includes a copy of Sage 50 Accounts and Microsoft Office 2016, including Outlook and a working email account.

Test Server

To test how a particular application runs we can provide you with access to a Windows 2016 server, help install your software and provide you with demo accounts to make sure that your application works as you expect it to on our platform. This is all free of charge.

Your course to the Cloud

Hosted SQL Server is just one of the many Cloud computing solutions available on the Your Office Anywhere platform.   Choosing the right solution depends upon individual circumstances, there is no one size fits all, and for some businesses Cloud may not be the answer.

Our technical sales team is staffed solely by experienced, time served IT consultants who specialise in working with businesses to understand the challenges the business is trying to overcome, the constraints (financial, technical, geographic), and identify the solution that is right for that business. Whether that is public cloud, private cloud, or a hybrid (which is probably the most common), and if a cloud solution isn't appropriate for your business or circumstance we will tell you.

If you are considering moving to the Cloud, or you are a new business starting up and looking at what options you have to provide your business with the flexible IT solution it needs, please get in touch. We can provide no obligation advice, indicative costs or formal quotations. We don't employ high pressure sales techniques beyond perhaps calling or emailing you to follow up on a proposal.

To get in touch either call our Technical Sales team on **01282 500318**

or email **sales@yourofficeanywhere.co.uk**

Other white papers available:

- Hosted Desktops
- Hosted Exchange
- Hosted Servers
- Private Managed Cloud
- Applications Anywhere - RemoteApps and how to get them

- Telephones Anywhere - Hosted Telephony, Voice over IP
- Documents Anywhere - Hosted SharePoint 2013 – OneDrive for Business
- Access Database Hosting
- Hosted Sage 50 Accounts, Sage 200.
- Hosted Desktop for Charities

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