

Cloud Computing for European Public Administration: Right place, right time

In the current tough economic times, public administration bodies in Europe may be hesitant to implement new IT solutions as, given the shrinking budgets of EU member states, it appears this may be a period in which they can least afford such a project.

But the implementation of "cloud computing" solutions, which can involve some sharing of infrastructure among organisations/branches of an organisation, do not require the huge outlays for purchasing an IT infrastructure, and allow for expansion of services as needed, looks like an approach that is in the right place at the right time.

With those sentiments top of mind, KPMG has released its latest survey entitled *Cloud Strategies for Public Sector in Central & Eastern Europe (CEE)*, a comprehensive study, which defines cloud computing, outlines the benefits of the technology and provides a number of case studies as to how public administration bodies are embracing the technology around the world.

"Cloud computing is an incredibly cost-efficient solution for the public administrative function in Europe," remarks KPMG partner Jerzy Kalinowski, who heads the firm's Technology, Media and Telecommunications Industry practice within Central & Eastern Europe.

"It is understandable that the organisations are a bit 'gun-shy' about implementing the cloud given that we're still shaking off the dust from the crisis, but our study, which reviews numerous successful case studies and gives a rundown of the potential risks, shows that there are clear gains for public administration in their embrace of cloud computing. Such organisations become clearly more dynamic and innovative, which means they do a better job for the public sphere," he explains.

He adds that the costs are not prohibitive.

"With cloud computing, they don't have to purchase or own the IT infrastructure. So implementation doesn't mean such huge investments are required and, later, the organisation can easily access new resources through their provider to expand their IT capacity exactly when they need to."

Still, Mr. Kalinowski recognises the inertia that can exist within administrative bodies toward change and says application of cloud solutions may require a complete re think in their IT strategies.

Of course, cloud solutions are finding their way into public administration in CEE and KPMG's publication surveys the progress of various countries' implementations throughout the region. Given the benchmark case studies from other countries, like the US, Australia, or the UK, which are further along in their pursuit of cloud computing, *Cloud Strategies for Public Sector in CEE* offers general recommendations for the region in how to move forward via the development of comprehensive cloud computing

strategies.

For more information, or to receive a free copy of KPMG's *Cloud Strategies for Public Sector in Central & Eastern Europe (CEE)*, contact XXXX.