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Secure Your Cloud Data with Managed File Transfer

Whether you are already moving select pieces of your business to the cloud, just starting the cloud conversation, or are considering establishing a hybrid environment, you're in good company.

Organizations move to the cloud in some fashion for its flexibility, scalability, and faster deployment. However, there is still hesitancy in adapting cloud technology due to security concerns as well as compliance requirements, and a lack of visibility and control.

The 2023 Cloud Security Report dives into the challenges and priorities of more than 750 cybersecurity professionals. The use of the cloud to manage workloads is increasing with 39% of respondents having more than half of their workloads in the cloud, and 58% planning to get to that level in the next 12–18 months. Some of the key report findings: Cloud security continues to be a significant issue, with 95% of surveyed organizations concerned about their security posture in public cloud environments. Misconfiguration remains the biggest cloud security risk, according to 59% of cybersecurity professionals. This is closely followed by exfiltration of sensitive data and insecure interfaces/APIs (tied at 51%), and unauthorized access (49%).

And 90% of respondents were looking for a single cloud security platform to provide consistent data protection across their cloud footprint.

How confident are you that your data is secure?

This white paper examines the pulse of the cloud, from why companies are leaving on-premise operations to the state of today's cloud security and file transfer solutions. Use this white paper to explore how a robust Managed File Transfer (MFT) solution can help protect your data transfers, in transit and at rest, without compromising the convenience or cost-effectiveness of moving your business to a cloud-based environment.

Today's Cloud Adoption Practices

In a technology outlook survey from accounting firm BDO, 69% of tech-industry chief financial offers cited cybersecurity as a key area of focus, with data protection called out by 54% of respondants.

These figures spell good news for IT teams looking to move to the cloud – as cloud security budgets are growing for 60% of surveyed organizations by an average of 33%, according to the Cybersecurity Insiders report.

Gartner says cloud will be the centerpiece of new digital experiences, predicting revenue to total $474 billion in 2022. Over the next few years, Gartner analysts estimate cloud revenue will surpass non-cloud revenue for relevant enterprise IT markets. "There is no business strategy without a cloud strategy," said Milind Govekar, vice president at Gartner. And the company goes on to predict, by 2025, over 95% of new digital workloads will be deployed on cloud-native platforms, up from 30% in 2021.

Cloud File Transfers

Most organizations oversee dozens (if not hundreds or thousands) of in-house file transfers a day. Whether it's sending files to employees, transferring reports to trading partners, receiving data from third-party vendors, or collecting sensitive information from customers, it's all part of the exchange of information that is regularly processed.

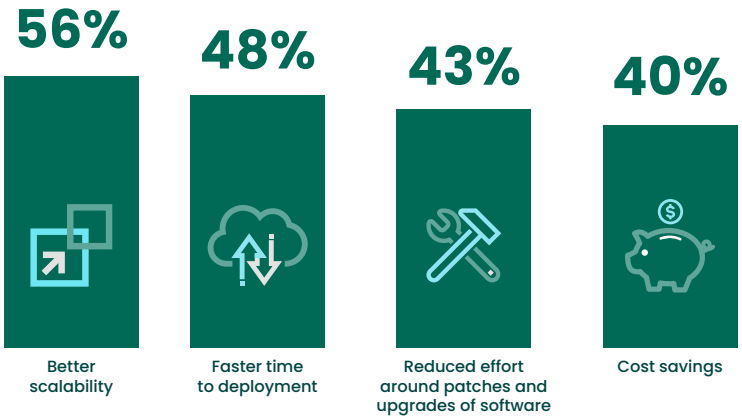
Where do cloud-based file transfers fit in?

Cloud infrastructure can give companies a lot of leeway. Some data can be managed in the cloud, or all of it can be—the choice is entirely up to you, your IT team, and your future strategists. Moving data to the cloud can be as simple as transferring files and folders to whatever storage platform you use with your provider. And with strong encryption and security policies in place, you can control who has access to that business-critical, sensitive data in the cloud.

Data that's been entrusted to the cloud is kept in physical servers and data centers managed by cloud computing services. Almost all file movement between a business, its employees, its trading partners, and its remote locations can happen through the cloud.

Sensitive information can move quickly and efficiently between the business and wherever it's stored (even on servers around the world), which gives organizations the ability to operate smoothly and access their data from anywhere. Because everything is stored off-site, local outages and user errors are minimized, bettering the chances that important, scheduled transfers will complete successfully.

What is Motivating YOU to Move to the Cloud?



Source: 2023 Cloud Security Report

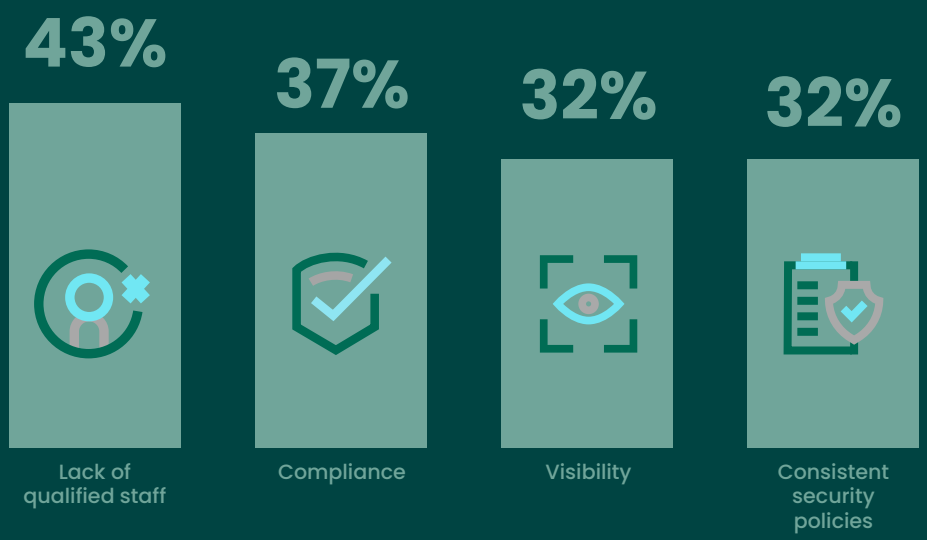
The Current State of Cloud Data Security

For cloud computing platforms like Amazon Web Services, Microsoft Azure, and Google Cloud, security of customer data is one of their highest priorities. They have a variety of resources in place to protect their clients' privacy, but despite their best attempts, these measures don't always stop data loss, compromised information, or unexpected cloud server outages.

Cloud security is a two-way street. Researching each cloud provider's cybersecurity methods and selecting the best one for your organization is imperative—a positive step toward ensuring your data's integrity. But it's not the only step.

IT teams are just as responsible for the security of their sensitive business data as the cloud platforms that hold it.

What are your biggest cloud security concerns?



Source: 2023 Cloud Security Report

Whether your organization is thinking of deploying to the cloud or already has, you'll need to perform due diligence regarding your processes and policies. Start by asking questions like these:

- What are our top security considerations?
- How will our IT team processes change?
- What vulnerabilities have been introduced or addressed from moving to the cloud?
- Do we have points of failure that should be planned for?
- Are cloud file transfers properly encrypted to minimize risk of data breaches?

Protecting Your File Transfers

Many of these questions are subjective, of course. Each IT team is likely to answer them in different ways, based on your company policies and processes. But to achieve the best possible cloud security, don't overlook the current state of your file transfers.

Encryption is often the last line of defense between a malicious user or human error and sensative information. If, however, data is properly secured with strong encryption protocols during transfers as well as when idle and sitting on a server, a cloud breach is far less likely to result in data exposure.

For those that must comply with regulations like like HIPAA, GDPR, GLBA, PCI DSS, and SOX, following encryption requirements in the cloud comes with extra benefits — as long as the keys for encrypted data are safe, breached information can't be read, preventing hackers from selling or otherwise exploiting your or your customers sensitive data.

File Transfers and the Cloud

When moving your data between your network and the cloud, it's considered best practice to always encrypt your files and protect your communication using secure network protocols like SFTP, FTPS, or SCP. Your files, databases, and even entire folders should be encrypted at rest, too, whether or not the cloud platform you've chosen already secures it.

A common dated (and not recommended) approach to file transfers uses custom scripts created by internal programmers. The scripts often include commands for encryption, which may or may not be simple to modify, depending on your team's given skillset.

While this file transfer process *can* work for awhile — as it addresses basic company needs initially — as the number of file transfers rise so does the the difficulty of maintaining a homegrown solution. And that's not including other possible roadblocks, like an inability to handle logging capabilities or alerts when a file transfer fails.

Managed file transfer solutions provide organizations with helpful, robust features that allow them to grow with their data exchange requirements, which is especially beneficial when moving to a cloud environment.

GoAnywhere Managed File Transfer

GoAnywhere MFT eliminates the need for homegrown scripts and multiple programs by streamlining the file transfer process. It can be installed in a cloud-based environment (single or multi) or on-premises via a variety of platforms, giving you full control of your deployment.

Transfers can be scheduled and automated with custom workflows (projects), and data can be sent securely between systems, employees, customers, and trading partners. Meanwhile, administrators are given a single point of control with extensive security settings, audit trails, and reports, greatly reducing the possibility of user errors and oversights.

GoAnywhere also provides high return on investment by reducing the time spent on manual labor, improving the quality of file transfers, making security more cost-effective, and helping organizations meet a variety of requirements including PCI DSS, HIPAA, GDPR, and FISMA.

MFT Security and Encryption

All file transfers are protected with popular encryption protocols, including SFTP, FTPS, FTP, SCP, AS2, HTTPS, Open PGP, and ZIP with AES. In the GoAnywhere MFT solution. A built-in key manager allows administrators to create, import, export, and manage Open PGP keys, SSH keys, and SSL certificates.

And for those who must comply with FIPS 140-2, validated encryption ciphers can be enabled for SSL and SSH protocols. GoAnywhere offers connections to a variety of servers and guarantees file delivery by using connection retries and file auto-resume. Admins can monitor transfer success, review account activity, and authenticate user access from anywhere via GoAnywhere's browser-based interface.

Beyond basic encryption practices and features, GoAnywhere also addresses several business requirements for the cloud.

Cloud Requirement	Corresponding GoAnywhere Feature
Activity Alerts Your organization needs to know the exact moment a file is added, removed, or changed in the cloud.	**File Monitoring** GoAnywhere's file monitoring feature allows IT teams to watch folders on cloud-based systems and receive an email alert whenever an event is triggered.
Deployment to Cloud Computing Platforms Your organization wants to interface with an external application, like a trading partner's cloud-based portal, to send and retrieve important business files, schedule automated file transfers, and run advanced workflows.	**Commands, APIs, and Web Service Protocols** GoAnywhere provides commands and APIs for integration with external applications: system command lines, scripts, programming languages, third-party schedulers, and more. Web service protocols like SOAP and REST are also supported, allowing easy interface with cloud computing platforms such as AWS and Microsoft Azure.
Connecting to Trading Partners Your organization needs to connect to internal and external trading partners in the cloud, while protecting the integrity of subsequent file transfers.	**Cloud-based File Systems** Internal and external trading partners can connect to your organization through folders on cloud-based file systems like Amazon S3 buckets. GoAnywhere also secures inbound cloud transfers from key stakeholders with SFTP, FTPS, HTTPS, and AS2 protocols.
Automated File Processing Your organization wants files in the cloud to be moved and processed automatically, instead of manually, to save time and labor costs.	**Scheduled Workflows** File transfers and workflows are easily configured to move and process files in your cloud environments and private networks. You can schedule these to run anytime using GoAnywhere's built-in scheduler.
Itegration with Cloud Applications Your organization needs an easy, safe way to transfer data to and from web and cloud-based applications and services.	GoAnywhere Cloud Connectors give you out-of-the-box integration with popular web and cloud applications and services, including Salesforce, JIRA, SharePoint, Microsoft Dynamics CRM, Box, and Dropbox, as well as an easy-to-use Cloud Connector designer where you can build your own integrations.

GoAnywhere and Amazon EC2

For organizations that use AWS as their cloud provider, GoAnywhere MFT easily integrates with Amazon Elastic Cloud Computing (EC2). You can find, and quickly install, GoAnywhere MFT on Amazon's AWS Marketplace.

You can use GoAnywhere's secure FTP technology to protect sensitive file transfers with strong encryption technology and modern authentication methods. This creates encrypted tunnels between client and server systems and provides confidentiality and integrity to critical transmissions. Secure FTP also protects any user credentials that flow over the connection.

Do you need to address high volumes of file transfers in your organization? With GoAnywhere's clustering technology, file transfers and other processes can be distributed across multiple Amazon EC2 instances for load balancing. And when an instance is taken offline, file transfers and jobs will be auto-routed to other installations in the cluster.

GoAnywhere and Microsoft Azure

For organizations that use Microsoft as their cloud provider, GoAnywhere integrates with Azure to provide IT teams with secure file transfers between all active parties.

Installing and running GoAnywhere MFT on Azure is an effortless process, as everything you need is included, reducing the need for additional third-party solutions. You can install GoAnywhere on your choice of Azure-supported Windows or Linux operating systems, then set up your trading partner accounts and file transfer processes.

GoAnywhere's intuitive design and modular features allow you to be up and running on Azure quickly.

If you want to scale GoAnywhere on Azure, file transfers and other processes can be distributed across multiple Azure VM instances for load balancing. Connections to a variety of databases including Microsoft SQL Server through GoAnywhere, and user accounts can be authenticated against Microsoft Active Directory to simplify user management for your file collaboration needs.

Conclusion

Organizations worldwide have already, or soon will be turning their focus to the cloud. Yes, security will continue to be an issue in all configurations of technology on-premises, in the cloud, or in hybrid situations. And moving to the cloud isn't without risk. To help prevent data loss, IT teams must do due diligence and take steps to protect their data—starting with their cloud file transfer process and solutions.

Implementing a managed file transfer solution like GoAnywhere MFT lets businesses control how your data is protected, in transit and at rest. Through strong encryption protocols, file monitoring, and integration with Amazon EC2 and Microsoft Azure, IT teams can rest assured that organizational and customer data is safe in a variety of environments without running outdated, unsecure expensive, time-consuming scripts and programs.

Is it time to enhance the security of your cloud data?

Get a free 30-day trial of GoAnywhere MFT.

Start A Free Trial

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About Fortra

Fortra is a cybersecurity company like no other. We're creating a simpler, stronger future for our customers. Our trusted experts and portfolio of integrated, scalable solutions bring balance and control to organizations around the world. We're the positive changemakers and your relentless ally to provide peace of mind through every step of your cybersecurity journey. Learn more at fortra.com.

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