



AJS Cloud Hosting



Why host your servers?

There are a number of firms which are worried about allowing their data and software programs to be placed outside of their organisation. But while most large firms choose to host their own servers on-premise, many small to mid-sized firms are now moving their systems to the Cloud. This is partly due to the costs of maintaining local servers, but is also because small to mid-sized firms often lack or cannot afford the IT resources necessary to manage and secure their servers properly. To make matters worse, servers, operating system software, firewalls, etc. are becoming increasingly more complex. In fact, it is true to say that the IT services needed to support a server installation are far more expensive than the server itself.

Another problem facing small to medium-sized firms are virus and ransomware attacks which are wreaking havoc in the legal profession, with nearly half of all firms reporting at least one major malware incident in the past 24 months. The cost of recovering after such an incident can be substantial if one considers the IT services and the lost time. With hosted servers, anti-virus systems are kept up to date and servers that make use of a Linux operating system are ransomware resistant.

Because ransomware often lies dormant for a few months before it activates, firms need to have a strict backup policy where backups are taken daily, weekly, monthly, and yearly, and where each backup is tested for integrity to ensure that if required, a restore will be successful. Small to mid-sized firms often don't do backups regularly enough, or worse still don't do backups at all putting the firm at risk.

Apart from the costs of managing and maintaining the servers, the replacement or upgrade cost of new server hardware often comes as a shock – especially if the existing server fails prematurely and there is no budget or cash flow available for new hardware. With hosting, you can budget for your requirements, and it is easy to increase capacity as your needs change because there is no term contract – it is simply pay-as-you-go.

Another advantage with a Cloud-hosted server is that your information is stored virtually, and is replicated over a number of servers. This ensures that even if a server or disk fails, your information will still be completely safe. And there is also no risk of a local server being stolen, since Cloud servers are invariably hosted in very secure data centres.

However, it is not all about cost, and many firms are simply looking for a hassle-free server installation which gives them peace of mind. If you're still not convinced, bear in mind that it is estimated that by 2020 seventy percent of businesses will be hosting their application servers in the Cloud.



Benefits at a glance

No server required

One of the major benefits of hosting is that you will not need an expensive accounting file server.

Work from anywhere

All you need to access your information on a hosted server is a reliable Internet connection.

We do backups for you

The hosting service includes daily, weekly, monthly, and yearly backups which are tested for restore-integrity.

Reduce IT support costs

You won't need expensive IT resources to manage and maintain your accounting server.

No ransomware & viruses

AJS servers are ransomware resistant, and they include up to date anti-virus software.

Multiple servers

Your information is stored on multiple servers so data loss is extremely unlikely, even if one of the servers or hard disks fail.

Secure & safe

Servers are located in a state-of-the-art secure data centre so there is no chance of your server being stolen.

99% uptime 24/7

AJS servers typically have an uptime of 99%+ so you can access your information 24/7.

No upgrades or updates

With our hosted service you won't need to worry about expensive hardware upgrades or software updates.

No capex & no contract

There is no up-front fee for the AJS hosting service, and nor do we lock you into a term contract. Cancel at any time without notice.

No insurance

Since you don't own the servers, you won't need to pay any insurance on them.

You can budget

Since the monthly subscription includes all aspects, you can budget more accurately.



Frequently asked questions



Is my information safe?

Servers are located in a secure data centre with strictly controlled access, so there is no chance of servers being stolen. Your information is stored on a number of servers so that even if a physical computer or hard disk fails, your information will not be affected. We also take extensive backups which are stored in the data centre and off-site to ensure that there is no risk of loss of information.



Can my information be hacked?

AJS servers are ransomware resistant and they are protected by heavy duty and up-to-date anti virus and firewall software. In addition, all information on the servers is encrypted which means that even in the very unlikely scenario that information is stolen, it cannot be accessed.



How do I know that I can trust AJS to protect my information?

AJS has been in business for almost 40 years, and during this time has built up an enviable reputation for integrity and customer service. The company has over 600 law firm clients in South Africa and there has never been a claim for loss of information or breach of confidentiality.



Why is hosting so expensive?

If one compares the price of hosting to the cost of an in-house server, along with the IT costs of maintaining that server, hosting is cheap by comparison. Bear in mind that AJS takes responsibility for the protection of your information, which means that the company has invested heavily in security.



Where is my information stored?

Your information is spread over a number of servers in South Africa's most advanced data centre. In addition, an off-site backup is kept in a different location. For added peace of mind, we recommend that our clients take their own backup once a month.





What if I want to cancel?

You can cancel your hosting agreement at any time, without notice. There is no minimum contract period with AJS hosting. Note that we will still ask you to sign an Agreement of Understanding with us which details the services we are providing and what each party's responsibilities are.



What if I don't pay my account?

Should you miss a payment on your account, AJS will contact you to resolve the issue. If you don't pay for a period of 3 months, your information will be archived and removed from the system. Please note that if you require subsequent access to your data a fee will be levied for our time.



Is the system ever offline?

From time to time (usually late at night) Windows updates are performed automatically on the servers. When this happens the system will be unavailable for a short time.



Won't a hosted system be slow?

On the contrary, the AJS hosted servers are extremely powerful computers with solid state storage, which means that they are exceptionally quick. In fact, it is likely that the hosted server will perform far better than your own locally installed servers.



What about my other programs?

In order to specialise, AJS only hosts its own accounting applications. Should you wish to host your email, conveyancing software, or Microsoft Office software there are a number of service providers who offer this facility.



About AJS SOFTWARE

AJS is a division of the privately owned O2Smart Group of companies which has its head office in Johannesburg, South Africa. O2Smart includes various software technology businesses, including AJS Accounting, XpressDox Document Automation, Avid Workflow Software, Galaxy Software Distribution and AJS Smart Business Services. The Group's origins date back to 1979 when the AJS accounting system was first developed. Today, O2Smart has a presence in all of South Africa's major centres with a certified reseller network throughout the world.

The Group employs more than eighty staff members, a number of whom have been with the company for more than twenty years. AJS is renowned for the ability and commitment of its senior staff members, which is another reason why so many legal and commercial businesses trust AJS to manage their finances.

Although AJS initially earned its reputation for dependable legal accounting, today it provides a broad range of associated products for a diverse range of industries. For example, a document automation system, an online process management or workflow system and a financial advisory and consulting service to help clients to analyse and improve financial performance. This extensive product range ensures that AJS is able to offer a full solution to its clients.

In order to provide the highest level of support to its clients, AJS has a policy to only sell and support those products which it develops itself. A team of qualified and experienced software developers uses state-of-the-art development tools to ensure that AJS' products remain at the forefront of technology.

In summary, the quality and flexibility of AJS' products, coupled with the talked-about level of service and strong customer ethic of the staff make AJS the logical and safe choice for any firm looking for a robust and dependable solution.



For more information visit www.ajsglobal.com,
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