

Software as a Service



The Choice is Yours

We offer you choices in how to deploy our *School Child Nutrition Software or referred to in this document as MTSS (MiChoice Technology Systems Software)*.

You are given choices of whether the software resides offsite (Cloud) or onsite (On-premise) or a combination of both (Hybrid), and who is responsible for its maintenance.

MTSS (MiChoice One) Online: Software-as-a-Service-

MTSS Online Software-as-a-Service offering houses the software offsite (Cloud) and frees your staff of the overhead of maintenance. As the owner of your data, you may move to a different deployment method should your needs change.



MTSS (MiChoice One) Online, our cloud-based Software-as-a-Service edition offers lower up-front costs and freedom from all technical issues. The low, per-user fee allows you to pay as you grow, and access to any or all of the MTSS software, including our full support services, software updates, and enhancements.

- Affordable per-user price
- We handle the technology issues
- Anywhere, anytime access to our school child nutrition software

MTSS Hosted

If you want web access, offsite (Cloud) hosting, and ownership of the software, this option is for you. Avoid most of the overhead associated with equipment, maintenance, power consumption, and IT staff. We provide the hosting services.

- You own the software
- We handle the technology issues
- Anywhere, anytime access to your school child nutrition software

MTSS Self-Hosting- On-Premise

Our school child nutrition software solution may be deployed right at your school or district data center. You will own a perpetual MTSS license, and the software runs on your equipment that is managed and maintained by your IT staff.

- You own the software
- You use your own IT people and hardware
- Anywhere, anytime access to your school child nutrition software



MSST Hybrid Software Deployment

The hybrid SaaS, Hosted, On Premise model include interoperating solutions situated both on the customer's premises, as well as located within the cloud. Typically, the appropriate MiChoice software cloud component is located within a managed datacenter operated by Amazon Web Services, interoperating over the Internet with the appropriate on premise MiChoice software.

Pros and Cons

The fact is, each option has its positives and negatives, and understanding that and determining how both cloud and on premise software fit into your organization are vital. So it's best to be prepared and create a point-by-point comparison of both choices.

The pros and cons of cloud and on premise solutions fall into the categories of cost, security, deployment and scalability, and user access. *Use the table below to gain a clearer understanding of both sides of the argument, and to grasp the benefits and drawbacks of each type of technology.*

Cloud vs. On-Premise

		Cloud	On-Premise
Pros	Cost	<i>Lower up-front cost.</i> Cloud/SaaS costs are classified as OPEX, reducing the need for approval of large CAPEX during a given year.	<i>Lower long-term cost.</i> Over the long term, one-time license fees and annual maintenance fees for on-premise, perpetual license models are generally lower than the cumulative recurring costs of SaaS software, with the break-even point typically occurring between two and three years after purchase.
		<i>Storage costs.</i> Cloud storage costs continue to decrease. Extra storage can be added with no hardware to purchase.	<i>No monthly costs.</i> On-premise deployments are typically structured in annual or multi-year plans, eliminating the need for monthly costs.
		<i>Support/maintenance.</i> These costs may be included in monthly costs and not as an additional fee, making budgeting easier.	<i>Virtualization.</i> Owned hardware (servers) can be virtualized and shared for other internal needs at the owner's discretion.
	Security	<i>Secure environments.</i> Many cloud service vendors have a very high level of security and sophistication. SaaS vendors may be leveraging such platforms to deliver their own services.	<i>Customizable.</i> Security can be highly customized to an individual organization's processes, requirements and regulatory requirements.
			<i>In-house.</i> Knowledge of system and data reside solely in house. May be preferable for companies with security needs where they do not want data 'shuffled' over the internet or want to restrict internet access to their systems, databases or applications entirely.
	Deployment & Scalability	<i>Faster setup.</i> Cloud services can typically be deployed in a matter of days (weeks/months for more customization) because hardware and software do not have to be installed onsite.	<i>Control.</i> On-premise deployments impart a higher degree of control for the customer in terms of timeline and rollout. The longer deployment timeframe adds more time for knowledge transfer to in-house personnel.
		<i>On-demand.</i> Cloud services are highly scalable. Organizations can simply request more seats, storage, etc. and attain it rapidly.	
	User Access	<i>IT involvement.</i> Cloud services typically require less IT involvement and less in-house technical skill for deployment, updates and changes. Software updates and backups are done by the vendor and updates are done more frequently than with on-premise offerings.	<i>Mobile workers.</i> Cloud services require internet connectivity. With wired and wireless broadband become cheaper and available virtually anywhere, it provides easy access for remote workers via multiple devices.
		<i>Internet connectivity.</i> On-premise systems can run without internet access. This is useful to keep mission critical apps running, particularly in areas where internet connectivity is not reliable.	

Cons	Cost	<i>Price increases.</i> Due to a monthly pricing structure and a lack of control over the timing of updates and feature enhancements, customers can find themselves subject to more frequent price increases.	<i>Extra costs.</i> Because the in-house IT team supports and trains users for on-premise software, training costs are significantly higher for this model. On-premise software vendors typically charge a maintenance fee totaling 20 percent of the annual license fee.
		<i>Premium support.</i> While basic support is typically included in the monthly costs, premium support is usually an added cost.	<i>Hardware.</i> On-premise deployments place more upfront costs on the customer. As the hardware and data center is owned by the customer, the costs and associated risks (equipment failure) are mainly customer's responsibility and should be insured.
	Security	<i>Policy.</i> An organization's security is only as good as its in-house security policy. Even relatively secure cloud services are not a substitute for a robust in-house security policy.	<i>Policy.</i> An organization's security is only as good as its in-house security policy. For organizations with high security requirements, a solid security policy and in-house expertise will be needed.
		<i>Industry.</i> Many cloud solutions do not have heavy vertical industry experience with public sector, healthcare or finance organizations. Industries with high security needs may need to work with vendors for data storage security and location needs.	<i>Disaster recovery and backup.</i> Disaster recovery and regularly scheduled and secure backup plans are a necessity. With on-premise deployments this must be architected and implemented by the customer.
		<i>Control.</i> With cloud services, both the software and data can reside in the hands of the vendor, not the customer. Some customers may not be able to ascertain exactly where (location) data is stored or who truly has access to it.	
	Deployment & Scalability	<i>Customization.</i> Cloud services and software are typically configurable but are not as customizable as some organizations may require.	<i>Customization.</i> Vendors will typically work with customers to create highly customized solutions. However, this can become expensive and may inhibit or slow down the move to upgrades of other software/ systems in the future.
		<i>Integrations.</i> Due to rapid release and update schedules of cloud services, existing, customized integrations with on-premise systems or other cloud solutions can become unstable during upgrades and feature rollouts.	<i>Updates.</i> On-premise solutions typically have a slower cycle to release updates. The updates may require hardware and software changes and will involve heavy IT involvement to execute.
			<i>Longer implementation.</i> On-premise deployments involve a larger time commitment on the part of the customer. On-premise deployments aren't simply turned on because of the requirements need for planning, personnel, facilities, hardware etc.
	User Access	<i>Internet connectivity.</i> While internet access makes cloud solutions convenient, it's also a weakness. Cloud solutions require high-quality, reliable internet access for workers to be productive - whether remote or onsite.	<i>Speed.</i> For organizations with extremely high bandwidth needs or large numbers of users accessing the same applications or data sets simultaneously, on-premise solutions can be faster than their cloud counterparts.