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## savvisdirectBlog

Escape the labyrinth and get to the cloud with savvisdirect

## Allaying Fears of Cloud Computing Security and Safety

Posted by **Misty Faucheux**

June 3, 2013 | [Security and Backup](#)

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**As cloud computing adoption has risen so has fears around safety and security. Recent data center breaches and failures have caused IT departments and business professionals to lose sleep over the prospect of data loss and business continuity issues.**

Despite these high profile events, cloud computing is just as safe – [or in some cases safer than](#) – your on-premise hardware. There are, however, steps that you must take to ensure that you protect your data.

Passwords are hacked all the time. We've all experienced spam being sent from our social or email accounts. You need to use the same protections that you use for your personal or business passwords as you would for your cloud computing passwords. They should be long possibly around 10 characters and have a mixture of upper- and lowercase letters, symbols and numbers. Never leave your passwords exposed to others, i.e. writing them down on a desk or sending them via email. Many mobile devices and computer programs like Password Safe will securely store all of your passwords.

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Check out the [online backup](#) policies for the cloud service provider. Outages happen for a variety of reasons: power failures, natural disasters and the like. A cloud service provider, however, should account for an outage in one data center via a redundancy plan. Basically, this means that if one data center has a failure, your data is automatically backed up to an additional data center.

You should also consider where the secondary data center is. For example, if a hurricane hits the East Coast, and both data centers are on the East Coast, this could mean that both fail. Data centers should be located in multiple regions around the country.

You should also ask some questions of your cloud service provider:

- What are your security procedures: A good cloud service provider won't be afraid to explain to you how they encrypt and protect your data.
- Who has access to your data: Someone within the organization will have access to your data. You need to find out what type of restrictions this person has on them to ensure that your data isn't stolen.
- What monitoring systems are in place: If an attack or breach does happen, what monitoring system does the provider have in place to deal with these events?

If you take the necessary steps to protect yourself, [cloud computing](#) is a safe and secure option for you business and important data.

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