Cloud Benefits at-a-Glance

TRADITIONAL ON-PREMISE SOFTWARE	CLOUD-BASED SOFTWARE
Large initial investment of capital for an asset that is depreciated over time	Predictable, monthly fee that can be written off as an operating expense
Unpredictable, variable costs (e.g., IT support, upgrades, add-ons) and ongoing licensing fees	Fixed, monthly, pay-as-you-go costs
Expensive and time-consuming upgrades that lead to versioning problems	All users are always on the same, most up-to-date version
High costs to switch to a different solution	Relatively easy to move to a more appropriate cloud alternative
Pay for functionality you may neither need nor want	Pay only for what you need
Adding users, storage capacity, or add-on features can be costly and time consuming	Simple to add more users or resources as needed
Need to invest in additional hardware infrastructure to expand capabilities	Add capabilities with no incremental hardware expenses. If you are adding users, you just need to give a Web browser-capable device to each new user; if you want to add capabilities to the application itself, you simply configure your cloud service to add the new functions. No need to install new software on each and every user's computer
Requires time and attention by IT professionals to support and maintain	Cloud vendor takes responsibility for support and maintenance of application, as well as for the hardware it runs on, the backup of all data, and its connectivity to the internet
User tied to desktop	Anytime access from any device with Internet access enables a globally productive team
Requires weeks or months of implementation time	Immediate availability
Requires regular backups to keep data safe	Data is always secure and available in an offsite location
Data always lags behind the business, impeding insight and collaboration	Data and analytics are always fresh and available in real time, enabling easy collaboration
Individual employees can hoard information and take it with them when they leave an organization	Company assets such as operational and customer data and other intellectual property (IP) stays within the firm even if employees leave
Training can be time consuming and costly	Easy to learn and use, so employees can focus on the business