

How Online Office Suites Save You Money

Take advantage of cloud-based office applications and make smarter software investments

Office suites are essential for all companies as they help businesses in many different ways. Traditional office suites are marketed for a broad spectrum of customers and would typically contain applications businesses normally require. Office suites are typically bundled with a word processor, a spreadsheet maker, presentation tools, database manager and along with other programs not all companies need, such as publishing and project management tools. For small to medium businesses, spending money on applications they do not even need and would not use will lose them money in the long run. Along with set-up and training costs, plus annual license fees, continuing to use the apps will be a waste of funds.

This is where cloud technology and online office suites can help your business. The rise of cloud technology has let software companies to develop cloud-based office applications and provide smarter options even SMBs can utilize without wasting investments.

Over the past few years, several companies have started to use online office apps such as Microsoft Office 365 and enjoy the full potential of their investment. Here's why:

1. Affordable rates and low upfront cost

For many SMBs, IT is usually at the bottom of the budget list as they focus spending on their core business. They often have to rely on aged office applications to create documents, presentations, and reports since new software have high upfront costs. These apps also require you to settle expensive annual license fees before you can even enjoy their updates.

Cloud-based applications eliminate this problem by giving inexpensive and flexible fees to its users. These online apps give affordable subscription rates that let you pay the fraction of the cost of new offline software.

Low upfront costs let companies enjoy funding flexibility and strategize for the future by spending efficiently. This also allows SMBs to trim down IT funding and spend more on their main business requirements.

2. Scalable fees

A company experiencing stable growth requires staff expansion, which means more employees that need to be armed with office applications. Buying multiple licenses for new employees might seem a good choice. But if you abruptly hit a hump and are forced to dismiss a quarter of your staff, you will end up with expensive software no one will be using. Wasting money on unused software is problematic as it prevents you from budgeting efficiently and freezes up your assets.

The scalable fees of online office apps allow businesses to shrink or increase their subscription upon demand. This lets businesses save money from avoiding lock-in costs brought by high upfront costs and license fees. Cloud computing lets companies enjoy all the benefits of office suites without having to lock themselves in a long-term contract with aging software.

3. Get rid of annual licenses

Many expensive office suites require you to pay annual license fees to continue using the full features and updates of their product. The amount of money you used to pay for the license of multiple machines is not cheap and prevents you from spending smarter.

Online office suites solve this problem with monthly subscription-type payment models that provides more value than annual licensing fees. With the pay-as-you-go transaction model, companies have the ability to make the software adapt to their financial situation. For SMBs, this would give them the opportunity to balance and lessen their IT spending and give more funds to their core businesses.

4. One account for multiple machines / devices

Staying competitive in the digital age requires you to be able to work with flexibility. Before the rise of cloud technology and online office suites, every company must install every machine with expensive offline office apps. From stationary PCs to company laptops, every computer needed to be equipped with office applications to ensure productivity in and out of the office.

With cloud-based office applications, you no longer have to install every machine with office software. You are paying for accounts your employees can access from any machine, instead of licenses that will stay with computers. When it comes to flexibility, choosing online applications will give you more value as you can continue working on your file from PCs, laptops, and mobile devices.

SMBs now have the option to provide accounts to employees, not to their computing machines, so they can work anywhere, any time. Instead of spending thousands of dollars each year on licenses for several computers, companies can cut software costs by creating accounts for the exact number of their employees.

5. Spend less on IT infrastructure and maintenance

Like any other professional software, offline office apps require time, effort and money before your team can learn its way around the program. With hardware prices skyrocketing, building your own data centres is costly. Employing IT professionals to maintain your infrastructure and support your entire staff will not be cheap. If your company is not related to technology, this will prevent you from focusing your budget on your core business.

Cloud-based office suites help you lessen your IT spending by packaging the full-features of offline apps with data hosting and technical support. These applications let you edit, store and share files and data over external servers, getting rid of the need to build and manage your own servers. These data servers are accessible anywhere and have minimal downtime, ensuring you can continue productivity on demand. With this, SMBs can cut costs by letting providers handle data hosting.

The biggest providers of cloud-based office apps such as Microsoft Office 365 offer technical support from the initial set-up, and a 24/7 customer service if you encounter problems. Improving your IT-staff for training and set-up is no longer a necessity as these applications are easy-to-use and you can rely on the customer service for additional support. This enables SMBs to enjoy all features and bonus productivity tools of offline office suites with less cost on hardware and employee.

The advances in cloud technology have led businesses into using the internet as a platform for office applications. One of the key benefits SMBs can get from investing in online office-suites is making smarter software investments. With low upfront costs and scalable subscription rates of cloud-based apps, companies can save money with lower IT spending. With more funds to spare for their core business, SMBs can strive for more growth.

Staying competitive in today's market requires businesses to be fast and efficient. Helpful online tools that ensure your team and clients are in sync is important as it drives better productivity.