

Application Software, in almost all instances, can be delivered to businesses by an Internet browser. This has come to be known as On Demand Software or, more commonly, Software as a Service. Application providers deliver Software directly to the end user by creating a virtual server (utilising a single configuration of hardware, network and operating system), on an internet service providers bandwidth, such as [Amazon EC2](#) or [Onyx Serve](#).

Now that most businesses are aware that “Cloud Solutions” have been around for a while, how is the adoption of the technology progressing in the supply chain environment?

According to the Gartner Report entitled “Impact of the Cloud on Supply Chain Management” the interest in SaaS is growing, despite most companies still preferring a hosted solution.

Key Findings

- Large organisations still prefer on-premise or hosted applications due to process complexity, data integration requirements, advanced analytics and the need for industry functionality.
- SaaS offerings span major Supply Chain Management processes: plan, source, make and deliver. The adoption varies, depending on the complexity of the Supply Chain process, and the size of the enterprise.
- Larger Enterprises are least likely to use SaaS as it is utilised far more in the delivery process than in the planning processes.

Gartner also states that “In few cases SaaS offerings are as functionally robust as leading on-premises processes.”

In the main Proteus Software agrees with the findings of the Gartner report on their points they make about the adoption of the Cloud technology.

However there is one major point of disagreement with the Gartner Statement. If a true SaaS System is created in the first instance there is no conceivable difference between the functionality a hosted system and a “Cloud” version of the same application.

Proteus Cloud WMS is as functionally rich as the hosted application. It has the depth and breadth of functions that warehouses involved in today’s supply chain require. Proteus Cloud WMS can be used in any warehouse environment, on any type of mobile device i.e. hand held scanner, mobile phone, voice picking equipment or PDA.

The system controls and manages the put-away, storing, picking and shipping of stock from the time that the stock is delivered to the warehouse, its movements throughout the warehouse, through to the point of despatch and beyond. The functions include:

- RF Warehouse Management
- Warehouse Planning

- Warehouse Mapping
- Order Management
- Inventory Management
- Pick by Voice
- Warehouse Reports
- ERP & Supply Chain Integration

Coupled with the system are the value add services available from the Proteus Software team, including operational process consultancy, cost benefit quantification, technical installation, project and implementation support, training and helpline support. The services are available whether the application is browser based or on- premise.

How do we deliver the Proteus Cloud WMS?

According to our clients' preference, we utilise either Amazon Elastic Compute Cloud or OnyxCloud Enterprise Cloud Computing platform to host a virtual server that is built to their requirements. It gives clients a server with immediately available capacity, multi-processor, expandable memory, additional disk storage, wide network connectivity, and broad access.

The server can be easily replicated for the disaster recovery scenario, or capacity expanded or contracted on demand as supply chain fluctuations affect and change the warehouse processes. The Proteus Cloud WMS solution provides all of, or a combination of the following elements:

- Linux or MS Server 2008 platform
- Server resilience
- Progress Database
- Thin Web Client Desk Top Interface
- Real Time Database Replication
- RF Network Controller
- Vocollect Voice Console
- Zebra Barcode Printers
- Dedicated Broadband Internet
- Firewall Control
- PC Desktop Workstation
- Networked Laser Printers
- Proteus Cloud WMS Application

Proteus can also recommend a business focused ISP if necessary, and will arrange everything on your behalf. We provide ADSL 2 Broadband connections, permanent lease line connections, static IP addresses and Router/Firewall protection to complete our Cloud WMS offering.

In other words we provide everything needed to give you a highly adaptable, flexible and affordable Cloud Warehouse Management System. The system requires no hardware maintenance or insurance, does not require an in house IT team to babysit the as it is hosted off site and the onus is on us to ensure the smooth running of the system.

Our experience delivers

The SaaS method of delivery helps you to get a single source system, designed and built to your specification, developed to utilise your business processes, and is fit for purpose, with very little initial up front costs.