TopTenREVIEWS™
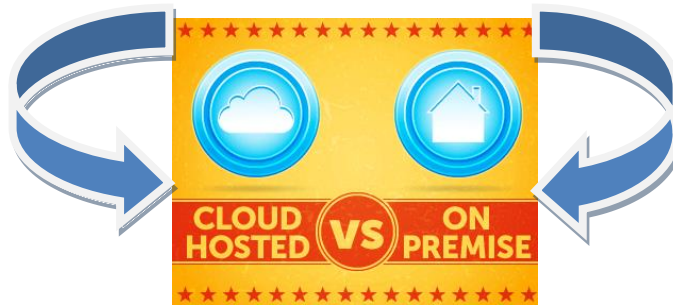We Do the Research So You Don't Have To.™

Should You Consider a Hosted (Cloud) Solution or an On Premise Solution?

Major advantages and disadvantage of both types of solutions:

━ **Hosting of Time Clock Software (Your Purchased Software) In the Cloud**

Advantages

- The provider will back–up all of your important information on their server so you won't lose anything due to a computer crash or theft.
- You will be freed from all the time-consuming and expense tasks associated with maintaining your server such as hardware upgrades, configuration, bug fixes and enhancements.
- No On-site IT required. You only need a computer with a connection to the Internet to access the hosted software.
- You can access/use the Time Clock software just like it was on your desktop from any computer with an internet connection.
- Your programs are easy to install. You can add features or work stations to fit your business as it grows or during busy seasons.

Disadvantages

- Cloud hosting providers charge an on-going monthly fee to host your software.
- One-time fee for Microsoft Remote Desktop Cal Licenses.
- You have to have a broadband Internet connection to your computer.
- Some providers require you to use their hardware, which can be expensive.
- If you lose your Internet connection, you won't be able to access the program.
- If your provider has server issues (outages) you will not be able to access the program
- Performance issues plague cloud or web-based applications
- Some providers charge a startup fee.

Software–based Time Clock Software Installed On-Premise

Advantages

- There are no monthly fees associated with the software.
- You own the software
- Lower long-term cost. Over the long term, one time license fees and annual maintenance fees for on premise, perpetual license models are generally lower than cumulative recurring costs of hosted software, with the break-even point typically occurring between two to three years after purchase.
- In house knowledge of system and data reside solely in house. May be preferable for school districts 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.
- The software–based Time Clock doesn't require an internet connection.
- The software-based Time Clock can operate over a wide-area network
- You can use any hardware that is compatible with the software.
- Software–based programs are generally easy to set up and use.
- The provider can address technical problems instantly over the web by accessing your account and fixing problems remotely.

Disadvantages

- Some manufactures require you to purchase updates to keep your software current.
- You can't upgrade the software—as your business grows you'll have to purchase new software or more licenses.
- You can't access reports and other information from any computer with an internet connection.
- IT involvement. On premise typically require more IT involvement and more in-house technical skills for deployment, updates and changes.