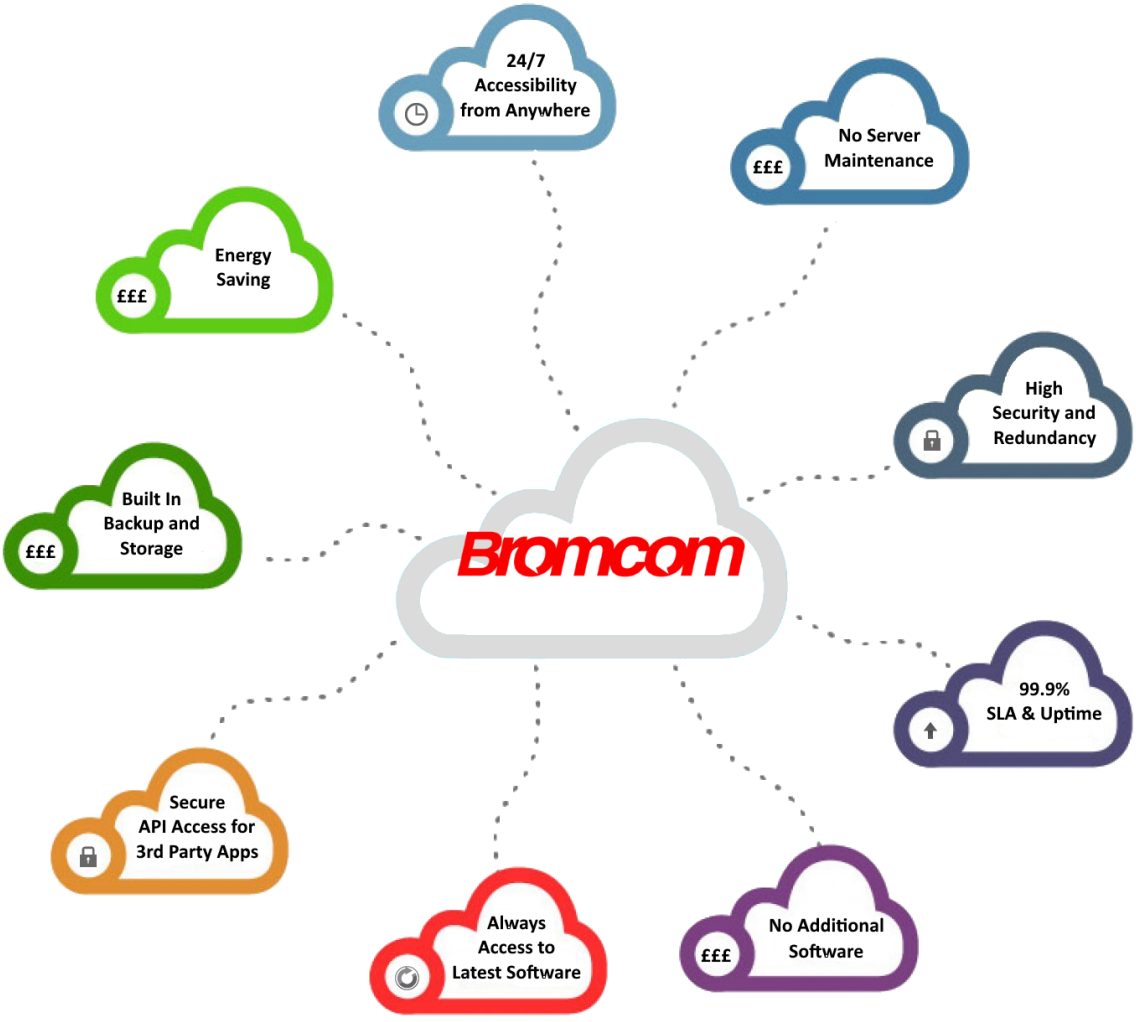
Benefits of Cloud vs Local MIS Installations



BENEFITS OF CLOUD VS LOCAL MIS INSTALLATIONS

The popularity and widespread use by consumers of hosted services such as Facebook, DropBox and GoogleDrive has brought a realisation that hugely powerful and accessible 'managed services' provide users with anywhere, anytime access from any device. Agile updating keeps services fresh and Cloud has introduced a sea change in behaviour and experience compared to the legacy desktop computing of the 1990s/early 2000s.

Businesses, large and small are now fully embracing Cloud solutions to improve their services to customers and competitiveness in their marketplace. The UK Government recognised the saving and capabilities offered by Cloud solutions and has a "Cloud First" policy for local government organisations. It is a case of "when", not "if" you change to Cloud and now is the right time.

Bromcom is unique in the school market by leading with Cloud based technology since 2000 when it launched the world's first parent portal MyChildAtSchool (BBC News, 25 June 2000, "Net Access to pupils' records") and is also the only supplier offering the same school MIS product for installation either locally in the school or as a "Software as a Service" using Bromcom's Cloud.

It may be the same MIS application, but there are differences between the local and cloud installation, which are set out in this report to help you understand and thereby consider which is more suited to your needs. You can even start on one deployment option and move painlessly to the other if your circumstances change. Many of Bromcom's customers are now transferring to our Cloud service to benefit from the even greater saving and ease of operation.

The following table highlights the differences between these solutions and also shows a couple of centrally hosted services that are available to both. Bromcom's service for local installations is partially a managed service, which narrows the gap between Cloud vs Local for the Bromcom solution, but nevertheless you will see that there are still key differences. Some of the items listed can also be achieved locally but at a higher cost and with additional configuration and maintenance by your IT department.

	CLOUD	LOCAL
24/7 ACCESSIBILITY FROM ANYWHERE & ANY DEVICE	✔	✔✘
NO SERVER MAINTENANCE	✔	✘
HIGH SECURITY AND REDUNDANCY	✔	✔✘
99.9% SLA & UPTIME	✔	✔✘
NO ADDITIONAL SOFTWARE REQUIRED	✔	✘
DIRECT ACCESS TO BROMCOM'S ONLINE ASSESSMENT RESOURCE KITS	✔	✔
ALWAYS ACCESS TO LATEST SOFTWARE	✔	✘
DIRECT ACCESS TO BROMCOM'S REPORT LIBRARY	✔	✔
BUILT IN SECURE API ACCESS FOR 3RD PARTY APPLICATIONS	✔	✔✘
BUILT IN 30 DAYS BACKUP AND STORAGE	✔	✔✘
ENERGY SAVING	✔	✘

24/7 ACCESSIBILITY FROM ANYWHERE

Service availability 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year from anywhere in the world.

24/7 ACCESSIBILITY FROM ANY DEVICE

All you need is a suitable web browser. Enter the URL and log in from a multitude of web accessible devices from PCs/iMacs to tablets and smartphones from anywhere in the world.

NO SERVER MAINTENANCE & ENERGY SAVING

No need to worry about server maintenance, security or upgrades. Instead of having your own server in the school that you have to run, pay for, and keep maintained, you purchase a flat-rate annual cloud service that you access online from anywhere at anytime. This also means no additional expenditure on electricity and cooling.

HIGH SECURITY AND REDUNDANCY

All data in and out of the cloud service is encrypted. There is no direct access to the database. All connections to the server are secured using 128-bit SSL encryption. The service includes high availability services with no single points of failure, with high redundancy to maintain the service in the event of a fault. This also includes long term uninterruptable power supply and multiple data centre broadband connections.

99.9% SLA & UPTIME

Our solution is hosted in a UK based Tier 3 data centre, giving us the opportunity to provide 99.9% SLA & uptime throughout the year.

NO ADDITIONAL SOFTWARE REQUIRED

Our cloud solution will save you money on the purchase and cost of maintaining additional supporting software for the MIS server. This includes the provision of the Microsoft SQL Server, Operating System and Office Suite, Remote Access Service, Anti-Virus, etc. All of these are handled by the cloud service that we provide.

DIRECT ACCESS TO BROMCOM'S ONLINE ASSESSMENT RESOURCE KITS

Both solutions give you access to Bromcom's library of assessment designs, which include assessment without level and pupil tracking models suitable for use "out-of-the-box" in primary and secondary schools. Developed with and used by schools, these are then shared for the benefit of others to save them time and to disseminate best practice examples. These are directly accessible from within the MIS application for Cloud and Local configurations.

ALWAYS ACCESS TO LATEST SOFTWARE

No need to worry about software updates. With our service you will always be up-to-date and the first to receive updates before local installation customers. All these are done outside of working hours and you will not be affected in anyway.

DIRECT ACCESS TO BROMCOM'S REPORT LIBRARY

Both solutions give you access to Bromcom's report design library. These reports are developed with and used by schools and extend the comprehensive range of built-in reports with additional designs that have been developed using the Ad-hoc report designer. Available to all, the ad-hoc designer gives schools the ability to create additional report designs and our library shares the best examples from which others can benefit. They can also be used as a starting template to develop your own.

BUILT IN SECURE API ACCESS FOR 3RD PARTY APPLICATIONS

You don't need to worry about other integrated third party products with the Bromcom MIS. Our cloud solution provides the Third Party API (Web Services). Other integrated products, that you grant access to, can fetch required data at anytime from the MIS in a secure and encrypted way. There is no additional cost for this service. There are more than 35 companies signed up to our partnership programme and it continues to grow.

Please see http://www.bromcom.com/partners.asp for our list of partners.

BUILT IN 30 DAYS BACKUP AND STORAGE

Our cloud solution provides 30 days' backup and storage as a default. This number can be increased based on your needs. Our professionally managed backup solution and secure offsite provision gives us opportunity to restore any data you lose for any reason in a short amount of time.

HOW MUCH WILL THE CLOUD SERVICE COST / SAVE YOU?

Please see your Cloud and Local quotes showing the extra cost of the Cloud service. However, once you factor in the benefits and cost savings of using the Cloud, large cost of ownership savings can be made. Remarkably, whilst gaining the extra benefits highlighted above, the actual running cost of the MIS is reduced by getting rid of a wide range of operational and often hidden costs. Our existing cloud users verify that they save money and time compared to maintaining and keeping the Bromcom MIS server and integrated products up-to-date in school, and they also testify to experiencing better performance from the Cloud.

The following is a list of areas where costs, often hidden or perhaps forgotten, are saved and this is based on feedback from our cloud users. We suggest that you check and quantify the present cost your school incurs for each and fill in the column provided for ease of comparison.

	CLOUD In addition to the benefits listed above	LOCAL Your school's present 'hidden' annual cost
Server Hardware, inc Technology Refresh	Included	£_____pa
Server Maintenance Cost + Time	Included	£_____pa
Energy (Power and Cooling)	Included	£_____pa
Hardware Redundancy	Included	£_____pa
Security Maintenance	Included	£_____pa
Remote Access Services	Included	£_____pa
Additional Software Licences	Included	£_____pa
Backup Management and Storage	Included	£_____pa
	Total cost per annum: **£_____ pa**	**Total for the above** **£_____pa**

If you have any questions or want to discuss the cloud option further, please contact sales@bromcom.com or call 020 8290 7171.