

*Forecast: 100% chance of Cloudy. Are you ready for Software as a Service?*

*What Security Professionals Need to Know About the Cloud*

Cloud Computing and Software as a Service (SaaS) have already become a mainstream business option; physical and electronic security services are now making the move. In order to respond to customer requests and provide the options they're expecting, security professionals need to understand the relevance of these trends, how we got here, and where we're heading. Those who fail to understand what business users already know, are at risk of becoming irrelevant.

ASIS International formed a joint working group of the IT & Physical Security Councils to study Software as a Service and produce a white paper, with a focus on physical and electronic security. The white paper is now available free online. This new whitepaper provides a foundation to understand cloud computing and Software as a Service, particularly as it relates to physical and electronic security solutions, then progress to what it is that customers are looking for when they evaluate a SaaS option, and why they do so at all.

Whether you plan to use, offer, or compete with Cloud-based solutions, this topic is vital to maintain your expertise as a security professional.

Here is an excerpt from the introduction:

The traditional electronic security industry, whose origins are rooted in burglar alarm, is now moving very rapidly toward more complex networked systems and information management. Much discussion has occurred about the role of IT and physical security and the need to work closely together to manage and deliver efficient and risk-appropriate security systems for the benefit of organizations. Much of this discussion has occurred around the developing framework for enterprise security risk management and convergence.

The paper is available on the ASIS website at <http://www.asisonline.org/councils/documents/CloudComputingFinal.pdf>

This topic will also be presented in a webinar offered by ASIS on June 23, 2010 12pm Eastern Standard Time. 90 minutes. For more information or to sign up click on this link: [https://www.asisonline.org/store/program\\_detail.xml?id=111969894](https://www.asisonline.org/store/program_detail.xml?id=111969894)