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MIS Lesson 6: The Cloud

1. SWOT Analysis:

Strengths	Weaknesses
● Scalability/Flexibility ● Reduced Costs ● Accessibility	● Security ● Trust Issues with the Internet ● Loss of Control
Opportunities	Threats
● Innovation ● Improved Agility ● Collaboration	● Vendor Lock-In ● Downtime/Outages ● Data Loss (Hackers) ● Compliance Issues

2. Why my organization will move to the cloud:

My organization is moving to the cloud for three reasons. First, the cloud offers scalability and

flexibility. With the cloud's scalability, my organization can handle increases in traffic without

experiencing performance delays, as it will be able to meet the day-to-day demands without the

need for changes to its underlying structure. For example, if I post an ad on the TV during the Superbowl, my organization will likely get a surge in traffic, so my website would need to scale up its web servers to handle the increased internet traffic. Then when the traffics decreases, we can scale down; this is only possible with cloud computing. Secondly, the cloud is cost-effective. With the cloud, I will not have to purchase and maintain expensive hardware and infrastructure, and no physical hardware means I will not have to pay for maintenance on the machine or IT staff members who are responsible for updating and maintaining the machine. Additionally, some cloud services are on a pay-as-you-go basis, so I can start and stop whenever I need; some services only require organizations to pay for what they have used, so again, I would save money. Lastly, the cloud offers increased accessibility. When I use cloud services, I can access anything, anytime, from anywhere (with an internet connection) because of its centralized data storage; this enables my employees to increase their productivity as they can work in the office, remotely from home, or on the go. Furthermore, with everyone in my organization being able to work wherever, whenever, we can use cloud-based collaboration tools, which could include sharing files through services like Dropbox, Google Drive, and OneDrive or communication tools like Slack, Microsoft Teams, and Zoom for real-time messaging, video conferencing, and voice calls. Cloud services can also be accessed from a wide range of devices, meaning I can pull up data from my iPhone, iPad, and MacBook to gather what I need.

However, when moving to the cloud, my organization must be aware of its disadvantages. We must be cautious of data breaches as cloud services can be easy targets for cybercriminals who want to steal massive amounts of potentially sensitive data. There is the worry of insider threats from cloud providers as their employees may have access to my organization's data, and could

steal or inadvertently expose our data. We must also be mindful of service reliability as with any

cloud service they are bound to experience outages or other disruptions that can impact my

organization's operations. I must also research the cloud service to minimize the risk of being

locked in with a vendor because if I become too dependent on a single cloud provider it will be a

hassle to move my data to another provider. Additionally, moving to the cloud would give me

less control, as I am relying on a third-party service provider to manage my data. I may not know

where my data is being stored, who has access to it, or how it is being used. And if I am

operating in regulated industries or handling sensitive data, compliance issues arise; I would

have to understand the provider's security measures, service-level agreements, data privacy

policies, and compliance certifications. I would need the aid of a legal team to help me establish

the appropriate contracts and agreements with the cloud provider to ensure all requirements are

met.