



## ARE CLOUD PROVIDERS SAFE

Many companies moved to cloud providers to accommodate the Work from Home shift generated by the pandemic.

The move to the cloud was happening already but this accelerated it.

And cloud providers helped many companies through difficult times.

But external cloud providers are only one model of cloud. The others are Internal clouds run by the company and hybrid models using both internal and external clouds.

The question is the cloud safe is not a simple yes or no, much as we may want it to be.

The cloud does help with rapidly or frequently changing workloads. This is one of the benefits of external cloud providers.

But safety is another issue altogether. Public cloud providers offer a platform and access. What you do with it is up to you. And there is the challenge. If you don't configure your applications or storage space securely, then for you the cloud is not safe. Private or hybrid clouds will have the same challenges.

Kubernetes is a popular way to create containers, the separation of things such as users, applications, etc. that is common and required in cloud systems. Kubernetes continues to grow in popularity and use. The Cloud Native Computing Foundation says use of Kubernetes is at 91% of the market.

And this is good and bad. The good is Kubernetes is well used and well known. This makes it easier to find staff skilled in it. The challenge is that because it is so popular it is a big target for cybercriminals.

In 2020 there were six significant attacks against Kubernetes and more minor ones. Cybercriminals tend to focus on either the systems with the most users, or the ones with the least protections.

With the amount of use of Kubernetes, it certainly falls into the first category. Sadly, because many new users to cloud didn't understand that they were responsible for configurations and protections of their applications, they fell into the second category also.

Attacks will continue and the major cloud providers will do what they can to keep their environments as secure as possible. After all, this is part of their value.

With the clients responsible for the application architecture and configuration, it is essential that skilled, experienced people oversee it. The configurations and settings are complex. Without a good understanding of the environment and the complexity, and experience, keeping it secure is next to impossible.

To return to our original question of is the cloud safe, the answer is still yes and no. But knowing who is responsible for which aspects of configuration and settings helps make it safer.

Want to learn more about cyber security and education, contact AIM Cyber at [info@AIMglb.com](mailto:info@AIMglb.com) or call (888) 773-1920.