

Why More Businesses Are Leaving Old Servers Behind and *Moving to the Cloud*

By Richard Preston, Preston Office Solutions

For many small to mid-sized businesses (SMBs), technology decisions have centered around buying and maintaining on-premise servers. It was the standard approach for decades: purchase the hardware, set it up, and store your company's data internally. But in today's fast-moving business world, that model has become outdated, costly, and risky.

That's why Preston Office Solutions, a leading managed technology services provider (MTSP), has been helping organizations transition away from aging hardware and into the flexibility and security of Microsoft Azure. As products like Windows 7 and older Microsoft server versions reach end of life, many business owners face a crossroads: purchase another expensive server or move to a scalable cloud platform.

Why On-Premise Servers No Longer Make Sense

The biggest challenge with on-premise servers is their rapid path to obsolescence. Technology cycles continue to accelerate, and many systems were built for a different era. As these systems fall behind, companies face:

- Major security vulnerabilities
- Decreased performance
- Steep capital expenditures
- Limited mobility and remote access

Maintaining outdated servers puts businesses at a competitive disadvantage. While competitors move to cloud platforms with automatic updates and scalability, companies tied to aging hardware struggle to keep pace.

A Cloud-First World

Today's workforce is more mobile than ever. Employees expect secure access to data, whether they're in the office, at home, or traveling. Cloud platforms, especially those backed by global providers like Microsoft, were built for this environment.

"On-premise servers simply don't make financial or operational sense anymore," says Richard Preston, president and CEO of

Preston Office Solutions. "Businesses need technology that scales with their growth, supports remote teams, and stays secure without the constant burden of updates. The cloud delivers all of that and more."

The Benefit of Moving to Microsoft Azure

Microsoft Azure is a leading choice for SMBs because it delivers enterprise-grade tools in a cost-efficient, pay-as-you-go model. Instead of large capital expenses, companies pay only for what they use, and the system scales as their needs grow.

Azure also:

- Provides regular updates without downtime
- Ensures reliability and data integrity
- Supports remote access and multi-location workflows
- Supplies strong cybersecurity protections

With Millennials and Gen Z making up more of the workforce, demand for flexible, cloud-ready operations will continue to rise.

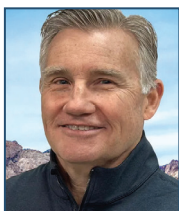
A Clear Example of How Far We've Come

As Preston explains, "Pretty soon, owning your own server will feel like having a coin-operated phone in the lobby. It's not that it doesn't work; it just no longer fits how modern businesses operate." Like fax machines before them, on-premise servers are becoming relics. Businesses that cling to older equipment risk higher costs, slower processes, and increased cybersecurity threats.

Future-Ready Businesses Choose the Cloud

By transitioning clients into Azure, Preston Office Solutions helps businesses stay efficient, productive, and secure, no matter how technology evolves. The cloud is no longer a luxury; it's a foundational tool for organizations that want to thrive.

If you are ready to explore whether the cloud is right for your business or unsure where your infrastructure stands, Preston Office Solutions can guide you through the next steps. Call (435) 628-2997 or visit www.prestonoffice.com.



Prosperity & Purpose ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Richard Preston, owner and CEO of Preston Office Solutions in St. George, Utah, has been a trusted name in business technology for over forty years. Under his leadership, Preston Office Solutions has earned a solid reputation for exceptional sales, service, and support of office multifunction printers and large-format printing products across Southern Utah and southern Nevada. Preston Office Solutions is more than just a print solutions provider. As a dependable IT partner, the company delivers a comprehensive suite of technology products and services—all designed to support the success and growth of every client. To learn more, contact Preston Office Solutions at 435-628-2997 or visit www.prestonoffice.com.