Post Publication Review

Review

The above paper by Senarathna, Yeoh, Warren, and Salzman (2016), is interesting because it demonstrates that security and privacy are not major factors for SMEs, even though the literature states that they should be. Much research suggests that cloud computing would significantly contribute to SMEs; however, as Senarathna et al point out, according to the literature, security and privacy are major barriers to adoption. Studies have focused on barriers to cloud computing adoption by SMEs worldwide, yet little is known about cloud computing adoption by SMEs in Australia. This paper identifies and fills this gap in literature by focusing on the correlation of security, privacy, and physical locations with cloud computing adoption by SMEs, particularly in metropolitan and regional areas. Furthermore, this paper is a great exemplar of a clearly structured and well-organised manuscript from start to finish. The authors provide definitions of relevant terms, introduce common elements of cloud computing (NBN as a gateway, advantages, and challenges), and discuss cloud computing adoption by SMEs before reviewing literature along with proposing hypotheses. Structuring the paper this way strengthens and lends support to the proposed hypotheses.

Given that H1 and consequently much of the paper is focused on Cloud privacy, the privacy aspects of the paper are worth exploring in more depth. A great deal of literature has been published in this area, not just in relation to cloud and SME, but more generally in areas of online media, professionalism, health and more (Al-Saggaf & Chutikulrungsee, 2015; Bowern, Burmeister, Gotterbarn, & Weckert, 2006; Burmeister, 2000, 2015; Burmeister, Islam, Dayhew, & Crichton, 2015; Carlson, Farrelly, Frazer, & Borthwick, 2015; Chutikulrungsee, Burmeister, Al-Saggaf, & Bhattacharya, 2016; Cockcroft, 2006; Scott, Richards, & Adhikari, 2015; Simpson, Nevile, & Burmeister, 2003; Teipel et al., 2016). As the authors point out (p2), the literature shows that "Cloud computing poses an inherent challenge to privacy because Cloud computing services usually present data in an unencrypted form on a machine owned and operated by a different organisation than the data owner", that is, the cross-border data transfer and storage by a third party are of concern, which raises jurisdictional issues. This is particularly pertinent given the changes to the Commonwealth Privacy Act which were brought into effect mid-2014 and whereby there are now far greater requirements for transparency in the handling of personal information. The authors also point out the inherent challenges of ICT technologies, given the open nature of the Internet (p5). Yet their research appears to indicate that such well documented concerns overseas, are not evident in Australia, which is curious.

What remains unclear is why the findings are contrary to those of existing literature on cloud computing adoption. This paper provides explanation about these contradictions that are owing to SMEs' lack of awareness in security and privacy on cloud computing or SMEs' tight budget (p12). This is an opportunity for future research to extend this study in depth by conducting qualitative study using an in-depth interviews to examine the reasons behind these implications. This approach should consider other aspects such as size of organisations, data types (general, sensitive, personal, personal identifiable information), types of cloud deployment models, as well as environments of adoption, in conjunction with security and privacy. The reasons for these considerations are as following. First, whether SMEs should adopt cloud computing or not is a question of trade-offs; hence, weighting security and privacy against those factors will likely make a difference to the results. For instance, security and privacy may not be a significant influence on cloud adoption for SMEs of 15 employees, in contrast with SMEs of 100 employees. In addition, level of security and privacy may be

different, depending on cloud computing deployment models (public cloud, private cloud, hybrid cloud, and community cloud). In such contexts security and privacy may not significantly influence SME decision making on adopting private cloud, as opposed to SMEs considering adopting public cloud. Future research can also carry out multiple case studies to explore security and privacy regarding cloud computing adoption in-depth. Additionally, a comparison of security and privacy between 'before' and 'after' adoption would be useful in making decisions about whether SMEs should adopt cloud computing or not in the future. Thus this important contribution to the literature by Senarathna et al provides a good basis upon which to extend the exploration of SME cloud security and privacy.

Tharntip Tawnie Chutikulrungsee

Charles Sturt University
tchutikulrungsee@csu.edu.au

Author Response

We thank the author for their post-publication review of our newly published article in AJIS. The review mainly considered privacy aspect of cloud computing while just mentioning cloud security. It also highlighted opportunities for future researches to extend our study. We are happy to see these future research avenues as an extensions of our research study.

Ishan Senarathna

Department of Information Systems and Business Analytics
Deakin Business School

William Yeoh

Department of Information Systems and Business Analytics
Deakin Business School

Matthew Warren

Department of Information Systems and Business Analytics
Deakin Business School

Scott Salzman

Department of Information Systems and Business Analytics
Deakin Business School

References

Al-Saggaf, Y., & Chutikulrungsee, T. (2015). *Twitter usage in Australia and Saudi Arabia and influence of culture: an exploratory cross-country comparison.* Paper presented at the Rethinking communication, space and identity, Queenstown, NZ.

Bowern, M., Burmeister, O. K., Gotterbarn, D., & Weckert, J. (2006). ICT Integrity: Bringing the ACS Code of Ethics up to date. *Australasian Journal of Information Systems, 13*(2), 168-181.

Burmeister, O. K. (2000). Applying the ACS code of ethics. *Journal of Research and Practice in Information Technology, 32*(2), 107-120.

Burmeister, O. K. (2015). Improving professional IT doctorate completion rates. *Australasian Journal of Information Systems, 19*, 55-70. doi: 10.3127/ajis.v19i0.1073

Burmeister, O. K., Islam, M. Z., Dayhew, M., & Crichton, M. (2015). Enhancing client welfare through better communication of private mental health data between rural service providers. *Australasian Journal of Information Systems, 19*, 1-14. doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.3127/ajis.v19i0.1206

Carlson, B. L., Farrelly, T., Frazer, R., & Borthwick, F. (2015). Mediating Tragedy: Facebook, Aboriginal Peoples and Suicide. *Australasian Journal of Information Systems, 19.* doi: 10.3127/ajis.v19i0.1174

Chutikulrungsee, T., Burmeister, O. K., Al-Saggaf, Y., & Bhattacharya, M. (2016, September). *Denial of Choice: Group Level Disclosure of Private Information.* Paper presented at the 12th IFIP TC9 Human Choice and Computers Conference, Salford, UK.

Cockcroft, S. (2006). Information Privacy: Culture, Legislation and User Attitudes. *Australasian Journal of Information Systems, 14*(1). doi: 10.3127/ajis.v14i1.7

Scott, K., Richards, D., & Adhikari, R. (2015). A Review and Comparative Analysis of Security Risks and Safety Measures of Mobile Health Apps. *Australasian Journal of Information Systems, 19.* doi: 10.3127/ajis.v19i0.1210

Senarathna, I., Yeoh, W., Warren, M., & Salzman, S. (2016). Security and Privacy Concerns for Australian SMEs Cloud Adoption: Empirical Study of Metropolitan Vs Regional SMEs. *Australasian Journal of Information Systems, 20.* doi: 10.3127/ajis.v20i0.1193

Simpson, C., Nevile, L., & Burmeister, O. K. (2003). Doing Ethics: A Universal Technique in an Accessibility Context. *Australasian Journal of Information Systems, 10*(2).

Teipel, S., Babiloni, C., Hoey, J., Kaye, J., Kirste, T., & Burmeister, O. K. (2016). Information and communication technology solutions for outdoor navigation in dementia. *Alzheimer's & Dementia: The Journal of the Alzheimer's Association*, 1-13. doi: 10.1016/j.jalz.2015.11.003