# Activity sheet 3.7: Should we use a cloud-based provider?

*Learning outcome A: Modern technologies*

*A1: Modern technologies*

Allan’s Travel Services is a travel agency based in the north of England. The owner, Stewart Allan, is thinking of using a cloud provider to supply computing and data services for the six travel agency shops that make up the business. The agencies are open six days a week between 8 a.m. and   
6 p.m., only closing on Sundays.

Stewart knows that you have knowledge of cloud computing services and has asked you for   
your help.

## Tasks

Stewart is considering using a cloud computing business based in New York City (United States of America). The business has said that the only time it carries out routine maintenance on its systems is between midnight and 5 a.m. on Sunday night/Monday morning. Cloud services will be unavailable during this time.

1. Explain why the cloud computing provider might need to carry out maintenance on its services.

1. Will this be a problem for Allan’s Travel Services?

1. ‘Cloud computing organisations should aim to avoid downtime altogether.’ Do you agree?   
   Give reasons for your answer.

Stewart has found another cloud computing provider. They will charge £250 per month for both cloud storage and cloud computing services. The price will be fixed for the first 12 months.

1. State one benefit to Allan’s Travel Services of having the price of the service fixed for   
   12 months.

1. Explain the drawbacks to Allan’s Travel Services of the fixed price agreement ending in   
   12 months’ time.