



INFINITYQS | BUYER'S GUIDE

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# The Ultimate Guide to Selecting a Cloud-based Quality Management Solution

Use this guide to choose the best cloud-hosted quality software for your company.

**InfinityQS<sup>®</sup>**  
Quality Re-imagined





## When You Realize You Need the Cloud

Imagine you're a quality manager with plants in many regions. Improving product quality and operating efficiency are your top goals—but paper-based checklists, spreadsheets, and siloed software systems prevent visibility across plants.

Leadership notices that some plants operate more efficiently than others. When they ask you what is causing these disparities, you should have an easy answer. Right?

Wrong. You can't compare plants because crucial plant data is stranded in isolation—paralyzing corporate quality and process improvement efforts.

### **It's time to move to the cloud.**

If this sounds familiar, you already recognize that there is tremendous value in having real-time access to centralized quality data. A cloud-based software solution provides a practical solution for moving quality management off paper-and-spreadsheet systems—making quality and process data available in real time for key stakeholders across your organization.

**The problem is how to gain consensus among those stakeholders on how to get there.**

## How to Use this Guide

This guide provides an approach for engaging your team, promoting discussion, and ensuring all your requirements are accounted for—and prioritized accordingly. Use the information in this guide to:

- Define key considerations before you start
- Involve appropriate stakeholders—across your organization
- Guide your assessment of required solution features
- Set up a Proof of Concept (PoC) to test your selected quality management solution
- Sustain project momentum as you roll it out

## Benefits of the Cloud

Cloud technology is secure, scalable, and agile

To begin, all stakeholders must agree that the cloud is the right platform to support your quality management needs. It may be helpful to start your team conversations by reviewing the benefits that cloud solutions offer.



### **Simple deployment & scalability**

Cloud centralization makes it easy to add—and duplicate—configurations across lines and sites.



### **Enhanced visibility & collaboration**

Easily view and compare process capability and performance across all processes, lines, and plants.



### **Access from any device**

Browser-based software means easy access for users. All they need is an internet-connected device.



### **Reduced quality management costs**

Save money on hardware and free up valuable IT resources with simple system management in the cloud.



### **Simplified compliance**

Pull detailed audit reports in minutes—not hours—and ensure you're staying compliant while processes are running.

**Now let's explore key considerations for migrating to the cloud.**

## Two Ways to Move Quality to the Cloud with InfinityQS

InfinityQS offers proven cloud-based quality management solutions—powered by Statistical Process Control (SPC) and purpose-built for manufacturing enterprises with any number of locations.



Our award-winning Enact® Quality Intelligence platform provides a modern, intuitive, integrated solution that speeds real-time quality data collection, reporting, and analysis.



ProFicient™ on Demand offers a flexible way to centralize your SPC software—minimizing total cost of ownership while supporting operational agility and scalability.



# Consider This: Meeting Your Requirements

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Cloud technology reduces the daily burden on system administrators and users—and ensures that your team is always using the latest software and IT infrastructure.



## Configuration & Administration

Software configuration and administration is the base of the pyramid. A sturdy base supports your operations—improving efficiency and enabling rapid scalability. Ensure your success by partnering with a software vendor that offers professional services and support.

Here's what to expect:

- **Fast deployment:** With cloud systems, implementation is streamlined—and hardware costs are greatly reduced because you don't need to purchase, store, or maintain servers.
- **Purchase only what you need:** Software as a Service (SaaS) = flexible license management. Simply add or subtract licenses as your needs change—a huge money saver.
- **Eliminate upgrades & ongoing maintenance:** Cloud systems ensure that the latest version of software is always available to users. The SaaS vendor is responsible for maintaining your system—and updates happen seamlessly and automatically.
- **Immediate access:** Intuitive, cloud-based SPC quality solutions promote reusing system configurations. This saves administrator time and effort—and aids in standardization of naming, data collection, and monitoring strategies.
- **Security:** Cloud solutions include built-in security protections—including robust disaster recovery protocols and 24/7 monitoring for security threats. Cloud data centers offer advanced security configurations to ensure that your data is safe—and only accessible by you.



*If a software solution includes support services in licensing subscription costs, that's a valuable bonus. It also sends a clear signal that the organization is truly customer focused.*



## Data Collection, Monitoring & Analysis

Cloud technology presents exciting opportunities to make data collection and analysis quicker—and more efficient.

Let's look at three main areas:

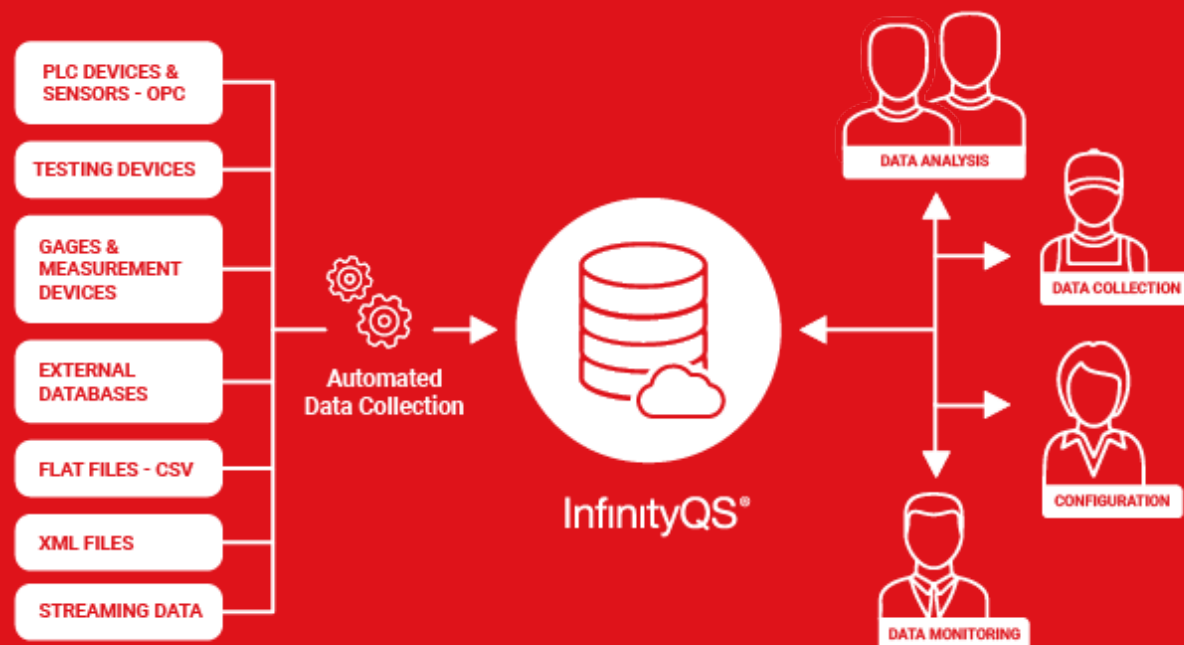
- **Data collection:** Cloud-hosted quality management solutions enable simplified, flexible data collection using automated, semi-automated, and manual means.
- **Real-time monitoring & alerts:** Automated notifications enable you to spot and correct issues as they happen—minimizing waste and scrap, improving product quality compliance, and lowering the chances of costly recalls or defects.
- **Automated workflows:** Cloud-based systems alert users when an action is required—and highlight what steps need to be taken to address a situation.

### PRO TIP: A cloud-based SPC system's real-time notifications should:

- *Be flexible and make it easy to schedule consistent quality checks*
- *Warn users if data collections didn't occur on time*
- *Capture responses to issues, including documentation of the cause and action taken*
- *Notify users based on role*

## Data Sources

Centralizing data in a single, unified database—regardless of its source—makes it useful across your organization. On a modern plant floor, data is collected from a variety of equipment, devices, and sources—including gauges, measurement devices, IIoT-connected sensors, and more. When data from different locations and sources is all in one place, your software enables you to compare process capability and performance across plants—and extract meaningful insights.





## Reporting

When you move quality management to the cloud, you gain the power to access and use vital information whenever you need it.

Let's take a deeper look at specific reporting capabilities:

- **Contextual, visual data:** Deliver the right data—in the right context—to every stakeholder.
- **Real-time reports:** Gain visibility into quality compliance—across production assets. Real-time data is actionable, so production personnel can quickly address issues, uncover areas for improvement, reduce waste, and help increase your profit margin.
- **Exception-based reporting:** This feature saves time in two ways:
  - **Process monitoring:** Exception-based reporting automatically monitors data streams. When significant variances occur, an operator or manager is alerted to act.
  - **Audits:** With all this data in one place, it's simple to supply auditors with whatever information they request.

## 5 Things Reporting Should Enable Your Team to Do:

- Monitor quality compliance across your production assets
- Easily create meaningful reports, charts, and graphs
- Increase visibility into quality performance based on role
- Discover areas for continuous improvement initiatives
- Make better, data-driven decisions

## Data Stream Grading: Find Improvement Opportunities

Can you easily determine which production areas need improvement? Data stream grading—available in Enact—makes it simple. This innovative, patent-pending capability automatically measures performance across all sites—exposing areas with the greatest potential for improvement.

Site(s)	Weight	Length	Width
Buenos Aires, Argentina	A1	B1	A2
Fairfax VA, USA	B2	C3	B3
San Jose, Costa Rica	A2	B1	A2
Stillmore GA, USA	B2	C3	B3
Toluca, Mexico	A2	B1	A2

Stream Information			Stream Grading			
Category	Piece Count	Grade	Yield Potential (Centered Process)		Yield Performance	
			Grade	Percentage	Grade	Percentage
Weight	5400	B2	Moderate	99.91%	Moderate	94.10%
Line 01	1080	A1	High	100.00%	High	96.76%
Line 02	1080	A3	High	100.00%	Low	85.81%
Line 03	1080	B2	Moderate	99.76%	Moderate	94.02%
Line 04	1080	C3	Low	92.85%	Low	88.61%
Product A	216	A1	High	100.00%	High	96.58%
Product B	216	C3	Low	98.18%	Low	88.48%
Product C	216	B2	Moderate	99.78%	Moderate	92.28%
Product D	216	C3	Low	92.48%	Low	85.89%
Product E	216	B3	Moderate	99.76%	Low	89.01%
Line 05	1080	A3	High	100.00%	Low	88.92%

Data stream grading lets you:

- See an overview of performance across all sites
- Quickly assess which processes, lines, or plants offer immediate improvement opportunities
- Identify which area has potential for greatest ROI



# Gaining Momentum & Buy-in

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Many companies face their greatest hurdles during implementation. Demonstrating success with a limited project can serve as a blueprint for expansion—across your organization.

## Assemble Your Team

Including leadership, key experts, and end users can accelerate your cloud initiative.

Migrating to a cloud-based quality platform affects employees throughout an organization—so it's crucial to gather the right team for an effective evaluation. Following are three key stakeholder groups you'll want to consider.



**Who:** Corporate Decision Maker

**Their role:** This person moves the project forward, securing approval to adopt your cloud solution.

**Why they're important:** They ultimately make the decision to migrate to the cloud.

**Considerations:** Even if they won't actively use the quality solution every day, this leader needs to be confident it will provide everything the company needs.



**Who:** Key Experts

**Their role:** This team defines needs, evaluates options, and guides configuration and adoption.

**Why they're important:** Without this team's buy-in, cloud adoption is likely to fail.

**Considerations:** Involve at least one subject matter expert from every department that will use the software (i.e., plant management, IT, and quality).



**Who:** End Users

**Their role:** Collect data and test the software in early phases of configuration and launch.

**Why they're important:** Exposing end users to the software makes them more comfortable with the tool—and increases the likelihood of a successful adoption.

**Considerations:** Need to determine effective method for gathering feedback from this team.



## Proof of Concept

Use a PoC to preview the impact—and value—of a cloud solution.

A PoC is a limited, focused implementation that quickly demonstrates the value of the software. This agile approach creates a solid foundation for a larger deployment—without the risk of overwhelming your team.

### How It Works: Implementation & Deployment

1

#### Choose a process

Begin by choosing one process area for implementation—such as a simple, manual data collection on a single line or machine.

2

#### Set clear goals

Define clear, measurable goals that will easily demonstrate how the software is adding value.

3

#### Collect data & evaluate

Start collecting and analyzing your data—in real time. This is also a great opportunity to test the system's monitoring dashboards to determine whether you've reached or exceeded goals.

4

#### Report & share results

After summarizing outcomes, create a business case and meet with your decision makers to discuss next steps.





## Develop a Program Expansion Plan

Create a roadmap for extending success to additional processes, lines, and plants.

Congratulations: your PoC was a success! Your stakeholders now have a clear picture of the software's value—and are ready to expand.

Quality is moving to the cloud, and successful companies know it's not a matter of if—but when. Cloud-based software enables you to easily duplicate settings—or any created templates—and apply those to new processes, lines, and plants as you expand. That accelerates implementation and drives ROI.

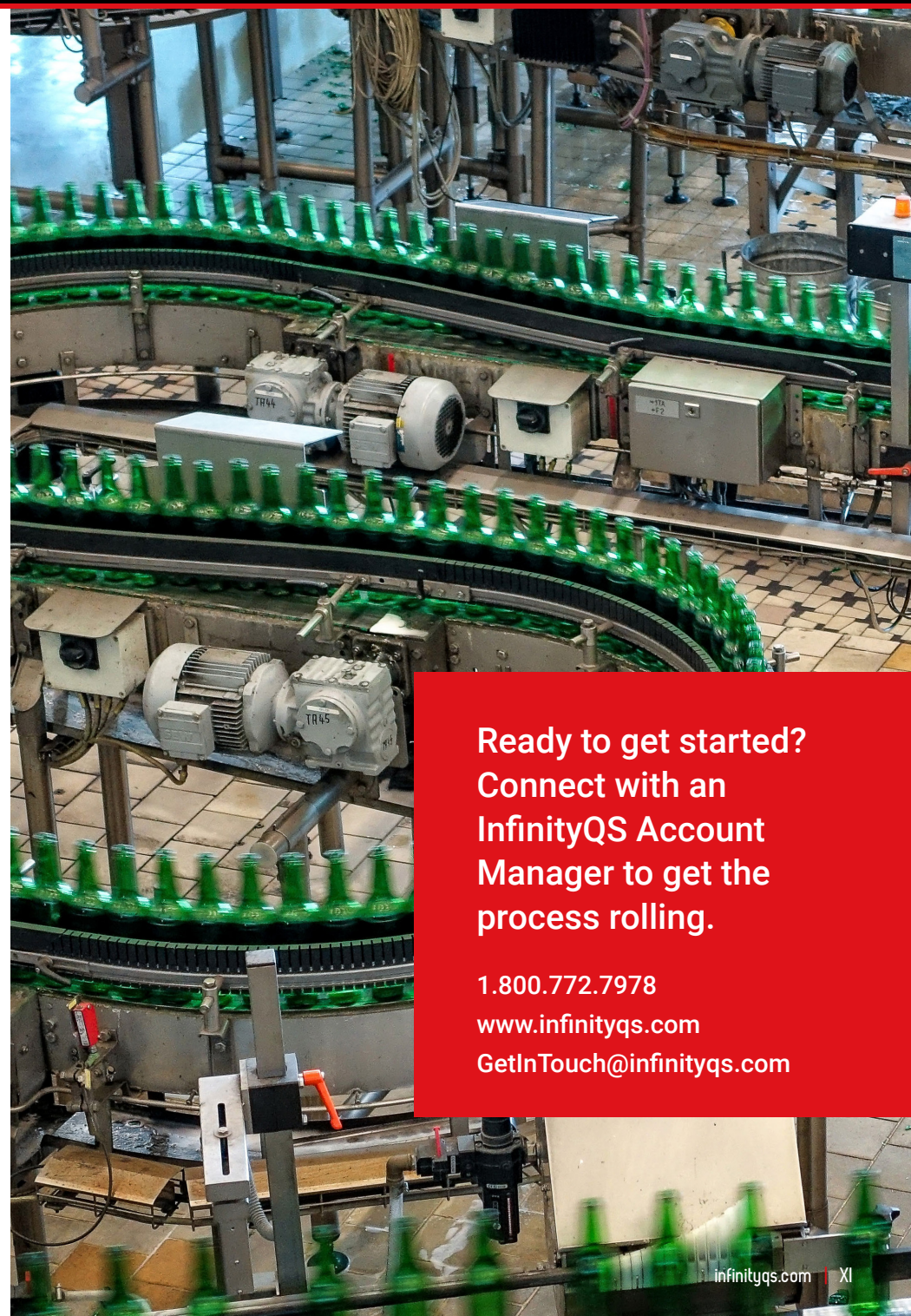
It's crucial to carefully evaluate and consider what your company needs from a cloud quality management solution. Doing so establishes a solid foundation that will power your tactical approach toward fully digital operations—and an improved bottom line.

### Next Steps: Download & Share the Feature Checklist

It's time to get your team involved. We have created an interactive checklist that your team can use to evaluate the features they believe will provide the most value.

To download a PDF of the checklist to share, click the button below—then organize your stakeholders to discuss their rankings.

[Download Checklist](#)



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**process rolling.**

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## About InfinityQS

InfinityQS® is the leading global provider of Manufacturing Quality Intelligence software and services. Powered by a robust Statistical Process Control (SPC) analytics engine, the company's Enact® solution delivers unparalleled visibility and strategic insight across the enterprise, from the shop floor to the boardroom. This extensive deep-dive capability enables manufacturers to improve product quality; decrease cost and risk; improve compliance; and make strategic, data-driven business decisions. Headquartered near Washington, D.C. and with offices in Seattle, London, and Beijing, InfinityQS has thousands of customers around the world in addition to our Coca-Cola bottling clients, including Ball Corporation, Boston Scientific, Graham Packaging, and Medtronic.

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