

# IT Firm Helps Organizations Comply with Government Mandates—and Drive Innovation—with Cloud Computing

"Cloud computing supports an ecosystem of innovation.... For example, we believe that our cloud-based public information solution will give technology students or startup companies easy access to the data they'll need to develop exciting new products and services."

— Mathias Ekman, Manager of Cloud Services, Softronic

## SIMPLIFYING COMPLIANCE

Swedish IT firm Softronic provides a range of services to government organizations and private sector businesses. The company, headquartered in Stockholm, specializes in software engineering, systems integration, and project management solutions.

Softronic is particularly interested in building solutions that help organizations comply with government mandates. These mandates include a recent European Union (EU) [directive](#) intended to prevent criminal and terrorist groups from using the financial system for money-laundering activities or moving money across national borders for terrorist financing (Directive 2005/60/EC).

The company also wanted to help the Swedish government comply with the [EU directive on the re-use of public sector information](#) (Directive 2003/98/EC). Public sector information (PSI) is produced and collected by public sector agencies and includes geographic, meteorological, legal, traffic, financial, and economic data. PSI is typically stored on databases that are difficult to access, and the raw data is nearly impossible to re-use or to use in new ways. Softronic wanted to help the Swedish government make PSI more easily accessible to commercial and noncommercial organizations in order to spur innovation and create new economic opportunities.

"Creating solutions to comply with these types of mandates would normally require complex and costly systems," says Mathias Ekman, Manager of Cloud Services at Softronic. "For money-laundering prevention, organizations would typically deploy large, on-premises systems that are expensive to install and maintain. As for the public data mandate, agencies might not even undertake such a project when faced with the expense and effort needed to deploy a solution using traditional IT components."

## MANDATE CHALLENGES SPUR INNOVATION

Realizing that cloud computing held great potential for addressing these challenges, Softronic developed two solutions using [Windows Azure](#). The first, called [CM1](#), helps organizations, such as banks and insurance companies, to comply with EU money-laundering regulations with a fast, easy way to check customer accounts against sanction lists that are maintained in the cloud.

The Softronic logo consists of the word "SOFT" in white uppercase letters on a red rectangular background, followed by "TRONIC" in white uppercase letters on a white rectangular background.

### What is cloud computing?

Simply put, cloud computing enables users to access services and data stored in offsite facilities through the Internet, rather than on their computers or in costly onsite data centers. Online e-mail, music, and photo storage services are some examples of cloud computing popular with consumers today.

As economic challenges persist worldwide, cloud computing has become increasingly important in the creation of jobs and new business opportunities, as well as in helping governments become more efficient and responsive to their citizens.

Cloud computing is also increasingly used by businesses of all sizes to provide security-enhanced online services and data storage. Benefits include optimized security; virtually anytime, anywhere, any-device access; increased flexibility and efficiencies; and reduced IT management costs.



## FOR MORE INFORMATION

*Softronic is an IT management and consulting company headquartered in Stockholm, Sweden. The company specializes in enterprise systems, outsourcing, mobile solutions, and business intelligence solutions for the insurance industry.*

*To learn more about how **Softronic** uses cloud computing to help organizations comply with European Union money-laundering and PSI regulations, [click here to read the technical case study](#) or [view the video](#).*

*For more information about **Softronic** products and services, call +46 8 51 90 90 00 or visit the website at: [www.softronic.se](http://www.softronic.se)*

The Swedish government uses the second solution, called Offentligadata, to make vast amounts of public data more accessible. Softronic designed the cloud-based solution to simplify the publication and consumption of public data, make the data easy to access and always available, and ensure that data released to the cloud is of high enough quality to be useful to consumers or businesses who will use the information to create new products and services based on the information.

## ADVANTAGES OF CLOUD COMPUTING

Softronic has tapped into the power of cloud computing to realize both societal and business benefits by promoting:

***Innovation and new economic activity.*** By using a cloud computing solution, the Swedish government can now make public sector information available to innovators who are inspired to re-use the raw data or integrate it into new products and services. These innovations could include everyday applications, such as car navigation systems, real-time traffic updates, weather forecasts, and financial and insurance services. Also, because the Offentligadata solution is cloud-based, innovators can access the data without incurring the costs of complicated IT infrastructures. "Cloud computing supports solutions like Offentligadata by eliminating the IT barriers that used to prevent people from even attempting projects of this magnitude," says Ekman.

***A more transparent and effective government.*** The EU PSI directive provides a common legislative framework for regulating how public sector information should be made available for re-use. The directive also aims to remove barriers—such as discriminatory practices and monopoly markets—to ensure equal access to the information. By using cloud computing, Softronic helps the Swedish government to comply with these regulations and ensure a more open and transparent government.