Dropbox, Google Drive, Amazon Drive – these cloud services are common to most people, and an individual decision about private usage is often easily made, especially since there is a lot of storage space available for little or no money, and the installation and use are very simple.

For companies, the situation looks different: Here, not only documents and photos are stored in the cloud, but often entire infrastructures and systems are to be outsourced to a cloud provider. To companies, which are often from the SME sector, this "migration to the cloud" presents a number of challenges:

- According to which criteria is a provider selected?
- What is the initial resp. running financial cost?
- What technical requirements must be met?
- What happens to the data once it is stored in the cloud (data protection)?
- What are the risks?

The project "DCloud" (carried out from 2013 to 2017) devoted itself to these and further questions regarding the decision-making and implementation of cloud migration. Under the full title "Decision Framework Model for Cloud-Based System Migration", i. a. the following milestones have been fulfilled:

- Method for decision-making
- Process and model for migration and autonomic management
- Development of a software prototype
- Analysis and evaluation of method and tool via case studies

In addition to the impact on computer science and related research areas, this project is of central importance to the general public, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises that are considering to migrate to the cloud for cost reasons. Based on the software prototype, methods and programs will be developed in follow-up projects to support decision-makers in the planning of a cloud migration. Furthermore, pioneering research topics, such as IPv6 (the next generation of Internet protocol), have been taken into account.

Thanks to the research done in DCloud, and the collaborations that emerged during the project, basic models were designed, new research questions formulated, and future partnerships initiated.