

Planning for Scale – Key Questions

General

Have you achieved Product/Market Fit? Are you in beta?

What will be the eventual cause of your needing to add capacity – Users? Data? Something else?

Limits

Without adding additional capacity, approximately how many users (or how much data) can you support today?

If you exceeded that threshold, how would you add capacity – Replace existing hardware with more robust hardware (scale up)? Or add new hardware (scale out)?

Does your current architecture support a scale-out approach?

Are there any software optimizations that can help you delay the need for new hardware at all?

Which of these options makes the best use of your resources (time, money, people, etc.)?

Data

What is the “shape” of your data (relational, graph, document, etc.), from the perspective of your problem domain?

Is your data mostly reads, mostly writes or balanced?

Do you require transactions or no?

Do you require full-text search, and does this complicate your data storage?

Can you “buy” data scalability with specialized hardware?

Cloud

Can The Cloud help in your situation?

Would it help your business to move CapEx to OpEx?

Are there technical or regulatory barriers to using the cloud?

Can you take advantage of inherently scalable cloud data storage?

Can you take advantage of PaaS features?