

Intro to Cloud Technology

What is “the Cloud”?

How a network or remote servers can be accessed via an internet connection to store and manage information. **A place other than your computer that you can use to store documents, information, photos, videos and more.** The cloud allows us to access the same file from multiple devices.

What is Cloud Storage?

Saving data “off-site” (not on your device). Cloud storage requires an **internet connection** and is usually access by the user with **login credentials** and a **password**.

Why Use Cloud Storage?

- Convenient
- Flexible
- Easy to Share & Collaborate
- Cost Effective
- Easy to Upgrade
- Disaster Assistance

How to Use Cloud Storage

1. Choose a storage service
2. Create an account (Email, password and if needed, payment information)
3. Log in to your account or download app onto all devices
4. Save files through your cloud storage service

Things to Consider When Choosing a Cloud Storage Provider

- Security
- Price
- Ease of Use
- Available Storage
- Device Compatibility

Important Terms

Cloud Sync: Used to update files in real time across your devices. Syncing updates a file or folder across all your devices. This allows you to view or edit a file on any of your devices.

Cloud Storage: Used to save files remotely. Cloud storage is often used if you don't have enough space on your physical device, but is not necessarily a back-up for your files.

Cloud Back-Up: Used to recover lost files. This automatically backs up all the files on your device, to a remote server. If your device is compromised, you can retrieve your files. You can also back up your device using a hard-drive or USB.

Two-Factor Authentication: An authentication mechanism to double check that your identity is legitimate. There are 3 different types of authentication factors that can be used:

1. Something you know: A password, PIN or answer to a security questions.
2. Something you have: A physical device like a smartphone, USB stick or ID card.
3. Something that you are: A biological factor, like face or voice recognition, fingerprint scan or retina scan.

Gigabyte (GB): A unit of measure for digital data. 1 GB can store about 238 photos, 100 minutes of video or 5,000 documents.

Terabyte (TB): A unit of measure for digital data. There are 1,000 GB in 1 TB.

Security on Cloud Storage Services

- The user (you!) is the weak link
- Strong and unique password
- Fully log out when your session is finished
- Use two-factor authentication

Examples of Cloud Storage Providers

- iCloud
- Google Drive
- Dropbox
- OneDrive

Other Options

- iDrive
- Box
- SpiderOak
- CertainSafe

More Information

“The Best Cloud Storage and File-Sharing Services of 2018” -

<https://www.pcmag.com/roundup/306323/the-best-cloud-storage-providers-and-file-syncing-services>

“Set Up iCloud On All Your Devices” -

<https://www.apple.com/ca/icloud/setup/pc.html>

“Using Google Drive” - <https://www.google.ca/drive/using-drive/>





“Dropbox” - <https://www.dropbox.com/?landing=dbv2>

“OneDrive” - <https://onedrive.live.com/about/en-ca/>

“How Secure Are DropBox, Microsoft OneDrive, Google Drive and Apple iCloud Cloud Storage?” - <http://www.alphr.com/apple/1000326/how-secure-are-dropbox-microsoft-onedrive-google-drive-and-apple-icloud-cloud-storage>

“The Start-To-Finish Guide to Securing Your Cloud Storage” -

<https://lifehacker.com/the-start-to-finish-guide-to-securing-your-cloud-storage-1632901910>

	iCloud 	Google Drive 	DropBox 	OneDrive 
Emphasis	Apple Device Users	Collaboration	Compatibility	Office Apps
Free Storage	5 GB	15 GB	2 GB Up to 16 GB through referrals	5 GB
Paid Storage	50 GB for \$1.29/m 200 GB for \$3.99/m 2 TB for 12.99/m	100 GB for \$2.79/m 1 TB for \$13.99/m 10 TB for \$139.99/m	1 TB for \$12.99/m	50 GB for \$2.99/m 1 TB for \$79.00/y 5 TB for \$109/y
Apps	Windows App, iOS App	Windows App, iOS App, Android App	Windows App, iOS App, Android App	Windows App, iOS App, Android App
Security	3/5	2.5/5	4.5/5	3/5
Ease of Use	2.5/5	3/5	3/5	3/5