



Getting Started with 'The Cloud'

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What Is 'The Cloud'

- A very generic term used to describe a service whereby you save or complete work on an online service, then you have access to that content on any computer that can connect to the internet

Practical Example: This Presentation!

- I created this presentation in Google Drive, a 'cloud based' service that I use on a daily basis for both professional and personal use
- Now that I have made this presentation using 'Google Slides', I can access it from anywhere I can get on a computer and the internet
- If I change anything at any time in this presentation, this change will be reflected on all devices, virtually in real-time (the real-time part depends on the service) - this is called 'syncing'

More examples

- Do you have an e-mail address on G-mail, Yahoo, Hotmail, or iCloud? You may not know it but you are already using the cloud with these services!
- Do you use Netflix or Amazon Instant Video? These are cloud services as well.
- My pictures on OneDrive... phone and PC (automatic backup)

Pros:

- Services are often free up to a certain size*
- Extremely convenient
- Very easy to use
- Reliable
- Additional storage option that is non-physical
- Virtually any type of file can be saved / backed up
- You can backup all the information on a physical device if you choose
- Makes it easy to share files with others

Cons:

- Requires an internet connection
- *Advertising / scanning of your content
- Trust a company with your data
- Perhaps less secure / open to hackers
- Less control over the software / interface (you don't get to decide whether to upgrade)
- Potential 'lock-in' (dependency on one service)
- Requires a faster internet connection for large transfer of data or certain types of files

Prominent Cloud Based Services

- Google Drive
- Microsoft OneDrive
- Apple's iCloud

Google Drive

Price: 15 GB = Free, 100 GB = \$1.99/month, 1 TB = \$9.99, 10 TB = \$99.99, 20 TB = \$199.99, 30 TB = \$299.99

Pros:

- Simple and easy to use
- Sharing and collaborating is very intuitive
- Works across all devices

Cons:

- Tools not as powerful as programs like Microsoft Office and Open Office

Microsoft OneDrive

Price: 15 GB = Free, 100 GB = \$1.99/month, 200 GB = \$3.99, 1 TB = \$6.99 (includes Office 365)

Pros:

- Best pricing model
- Built into Windows 8
- Works across all devices, including Apple

Cons:

- From personal experience, can be buggy and unstable at times

Apple's iCloud

Price: 5 GB = Free, 20 GB = \$0.99/month, 200 GB = \$3.99, 500 GB = \$9.99, 1 TB = \$19.99

Pros:

- Great for users with lots of Apple devices
- iCloud Drive now runs on Windows / PCs

Cons:

- Pricing is almost double Google Drive, OneDrive and less storage is available
- Must be running iOS 8 for mobile and OS X Yosemite on Mac