

Using the Cloud: A Breakdown of Services

Amazon Cloud Drive				
Pros	Cons	Space	Set Up	Storage
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Available on desktop and mobile devices. • Amazon Mp3 purchases don't count towards the storage cap • Simple Interface is easy to use and understand • Offers many storage plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No file sharing or syncing • Cannot edit documents in the cloud • Uploading and downloading a lot of files can be time consuming 	5 GB free	Sign up on amazon.com. If you already have an Amazon account then you have cloud drive.	Music Photos Video Documents
Bottom Line				
Amazon Cloud Drive is primarily used for storing music and photos and does a good job at it if your library is fairly small. Prices are cost efficient if you need more than the free 5gb provided. It has great content support and music capabilities but lacks some of the conveniences and streamlining of other cloud services. It's ideal for music lovers or if you want lots of affordable storage.				

Additional Storage

Storage Plan	Songs Holds up to:	Photos Holds up to:	Video Holds up to:
5 GB Free	1,000	2,000	20 minutes
20 GB \$20/yr	4,000	8,000	1.5 hours
50 GB \$50/yr	10,000	20,000	3.5 hours
100 GB \$100/yr	20,000	40,000	7 hours
200 GB \$200/yr	40,000	80,000	14 hours
500 GB \$500/yr	100,000	200,000	35 hours
1000 GB \$1000/yr	200,000	400,000	70 hours

Apple iCloud

Pros	Cons	Space	Set Up	Storage
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Syncs all content to all devices whenever you add, create, or change a file. • Easy photo and video sharing capabilities • Daily backup of data • Let's you pick up where you left off with books, music, movies, apps and more. • Create and edit documents • icloud keychain feature allows you to create, keep track of and encrypt account names, passwords and credit card numbers and enters them for you. • Simplicity and convenience of setup and use. • Music, apps, and books don't count against storage limit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All features are restricted to apple devices and applications unless you use a web browser. • To store documents in the cloud you have to use Apple's iWorks apps (Keynote, Pages, and, Numbers) which don't have as many features as other programs. • Collaboration and file sharing aren't the best. 	5gb free	When you first get an Apple device you sign up for an iTunes account by creating an Apple ID. This gives you automatic access to the iCloud.	Apps Books Calendars Contacts Documents Mail Music Photos Video

Bottom Line

Apple's cloud service is primarily used for online storage and synchronization of your mail, contacts, calendar, and more. It allows users to sync their data and have it always available and up to date across all Apple devices. If you already use Apple devices than you currently have access to the best, most convenient, and user friendly cloud storage option.

Additional Storage

Storage Plan	Price
10 GB	\$20/yr
20 GB	\$40/yr
50 GB	\$100/yr

Dropbox

Pros	Cons	Space	Set Up	Storage
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides automatic file syncing and file sharing • Intuitive ease of use • Includes web interface and a desktop folder for convenient dragging and dropping of files • Allows you to view, edit, and share content from any device or computer • Allows you to password protect your account and encrypt files • Has an app for Apple and Android devices. • Allows you to earn more free space by referring friends and other ways. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower starting storage space than other cloud services • Storage plans are pricier than most competitors 	2gb free, can earn up to 16gb free	Create an account at dropbox.com then download the desktop folder.	Documents Photos Videos Music

Bottom Line

Dropbox is an easy to use cloud service for non-technical and professional users. It is more hands on in terms of moving files than other services but if you're familiar with using a flash drive or emailing documents to yourself then Dropbox is more simple to use and highly convenient. The automatic synchronization is a high point but the lower storage space and pricier storage plans could be limiting.

Additional Storage

Storage Plan	Price
100 GB	\$9.99/month or \$99/year
200 GB	\$19.99/month or \$199/year
500 GB	\$49.99/month or \$499/year

Google Drive

Pros	Cons	Space	Set Up	Storage
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gives you access to the Office-like suite, Google Docs • Syncs files across all devices • Allows you to view files even without the program for it installed • Doesn't count files created with google docs against your storage space • Allows you to edit and search text in an image using OCR technology. • Allows you to import and export Office files and PDFs to all standard formats. • You can do local file syncing by downloading the desktop folder to your computer. • Available for all devices. • No ads 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Privacy and Ownership are concerns with Google's user agreement. • Hit and miss with uploading video files 	5GB free, 15 GB across Drive, Gmail, and Google+	If you already have an account with Google (such as Gmail) then you can start using Drive.	Documents Photos Videos Music

Bottom Line

This is a pure cloud computing service, with all the apps and storage found online. Drive gives you access to Google Docs, the free web based application for creating documents, spreadsheets, and presentations which can be viewed, edited and collaborated on with other people. It generally works better for people who work on documents versus media like music and video. It's ideal for people who work on the go and need access to not just their files but also the ability to edit and share their work.

Additional Storage

Storage Plan	Price
100 GB	\$1.99/month
1 TB	\$9.99/month
10 TB	\$99.99/month
20 TB	\$199.99/month
30 TB	\$299.99/month

Microsoft OneDrive (formerly SkyDrive)

Pros	Cons	Space	Set Up	Storage
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gives access, storage, sharing, and syncing for all computers, mobile devices, and web browsers. • Automatic upload of photos and videos. • Can share to Facebook • Superior video sharing functions • Provides local syncing by downloading the desktop folder. • You can view and edit documents online as well as collaborate with others who can edit the same document. • Let's you fetch files from another computer that you have the OneDrive folder installed on as long as it's on and running. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brand confusion can occur with it now being OneDrive but formerly called SkyDrive and before that Windows Live. • Interface is more complicated for users new to cloud storage 	7 GB	If you've ever signed up for a Hotmail, Live, or Outlook account then you have a Microsoft account and access to OneDrive. If not go to onedrive.live.com	Documents Photos Video Music

Bottom Line

OneDrive is the most flexible and all-encompassing of the cloud services with its cross-platform support for storage, access, sharing, online backup and syncing for PCs, Macs, Androids, iOS, and Windows devices. If you are familiar with Windows computers than this is a one stop shop for all capabilities of cloud storage. With one Microsoft account you have access across multiple platforms to view and share photos and video, store, edit, and collaborate on documents, and have online backup but the interface can be more difficult to get used to than other cloud services and file sharing is not as simple.

Additional Storage

Storage Plan	Price
50 GB	\$25/year
100 GB	\$50/year
200 GB	\$100/year