

## What exactly is The Cloud?

- In a nutshell, it means that instead of saving things on your own computer, you’re using a service that saves **your stuff** - documents, pictures, emails, etc. - on **their** computers
- Part of the deal is that they will keep your stuff safe and make your stuff easily accessible to you from any computer with an internet connection, *IF* you know the password

## Many of us use cloud services without even realizing it!

- Think of email -- you go to your email provider’s web site from any computer with an internet connection and type in your username and password, and you get to see your mail.
- Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, Flickr, Picasa, YouTube – all of these resources use The Cloud to store **your** stuff in a way that makes it easy to access and share without clogging up your own computer’s memory – they do this by saving it on **their** computers instead!

## What can I do in The Cloud?

- **Backup** – use a service to keep copies of your important files so that if something happens to your computer or tablet, you can buy a new one and reload your files back in again
- **Sync** – keep copies of your work in The Cloud so that they can be accessed on all of your computers or devices
- **Share** – make your files easy to send and share with whoever you choose – and NOT share with everyone else!

## How much is this going to cost me?

- Many cloud storage services offer a certain amount of storage for free, with an additional cost for additional storage. We commonly call this a **freemium** service – some free, the rest at a premium.
- If you are running a business, you can pay for cloud computing services instead of purchasing your own equipment, servers, and software.

## What’s the catch?

- **Bandwidth** – you need to have access to the internet to get to your stuff in The Cloud
- **Security** – online services run the risk of being hacked, just like your personal computer does

**If you have email, you're actually already using The Cloud. But did you know you have additional cloud storage available for saving and sharing your photos, documents, and more?**

If you have an **icloud** or **me** email address:

- **iCloud** is your cloud storage provider (<http://www.apple.com/ca/icloud/>)
- Find help at <https://www.apple.com/ca/support/icloud/>



If you have a **gmail** email address:

- **Google Drive** is your cloud storage provider (<https://www.google.com/drive/>)
- Find help at <https://support.google.com/drive/?hl=en#topic=6069797>



If you have a **hotmail**, **live**, or **outlook** email address:

- **OneDrive** is your cloud storage provider (<https://onedrive.live.com/about/en-us/>)
- Find help at <https://support.office.com/en-us/article/OneDrive-Help-5943c2b9-fafc-4cb4-95c0-9cc73fcabb30>



If you have a **rogers** or **yahoo** email address:

- **Dropbox** offers storage *for your emailed files only* (<https://www.dropbox.com/>)
- You don't **need** to belong to Rogers or Yahoo to use Dropbox however – you can get cloud storage from them with any existing email address
- Find help at <https://www.dropbox.com/help#article:4229>



Examples of other cloud services not affiliated with email providers include **Spideroak**, **Box**, **Tresorit**, and **Sync**. Anyone with an email address can use these products, and features may vary based on:

- Amount of storage
- Privacy and encryption methods
- Added extras like automatic backup
- Exposure to the US Patriot Act – Sync.com is a Canadian company

Fun video about Frank the dog: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TTNgV0O\\_oTg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TTNgV0O_oTg)