Sync & Share NRW

ownCloud Connects Hundreds of Thousands of Users with Rigid User and Security Requirements for Germany's Largest University System

In early 2012, Dr. Raimund Vogl set out on a mission. Researchers at the universities all over Germany were increasingly using Dropbox for file sharing in breach of data privacy legislation. But mandating they stop wasn't a sufficient solution. Dr. Vogl had to find a file sync & share alternative that would meet the needs of the research and student communities and still offer the security mandated by law and good IT practice.

The University of Münster is part of a 22-institution network of publically funded research and education facilities that required a solution that would meet the needs of the entire network. Focused on achieving both user satisfaction and a secure environment, Dr. Vogl spearheaded a task force to carefully examine all the options.

> *"Getting the consortium together across 22 independent entities for a project of this scale was both intense and challenging. We used an incredible amount of due diligence to consider all of our options. In the end, ownCloud was clearly the right choice."*
>
> Dr. Raimund Vogl, Director of IT

After two years of intense research, ownCloud was selected for on-premise file sync and share across research and applied science universities in North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW), Germany in a project called *"Sync & Share NRW."*

Infinite user scalability

With an anticipated 500,000 users, scalability was paramount. The task force didn't guess at user requirements. Instead they went through an extensive process to survey prospective users to uncover their needs. A survey of researchers and students showed that ownCloud must support a wide range of file formats and sizes from all types of access devices.

Compliance assurance

ownCloud's on-premises approach assures that all data governance policies can be monitored and enforced.

Low administrative burden

Despite the number of anticipated users, self-service was a top priority. With very limited human resources available for ongoing support, the ownCloud sync and share capabilities had to be reliable, easy to troubleshoot and intuitive to end users.

Low risk decision

ownCloud's open source approach provides confidence that support for the platform is widespread and lasting.

> *"ownCloud has all of the features that our system required, including the ability to distribute the systems platform across three geographically dispersed locations. But equally important, we've watched ownCloud closely over the past two years and they have demonstrated steady innovation and a commitment to reliability."*
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> Dr. Raimund Vogl, Director of IT

About Sync & Share NRW

Sync & Share NRW is an association of 22 research and applied science universities in North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW), Germany. With up to 500,000 users Sync & Share NRW will be one of the largest cloud projects in Germany. It received a grant of 3.1 million Euros from the Ministry of Innovation, Science and Research after a recommendation by the German Research Foundation, DFG. North Rhine-Westphalia is Germany's most populous Federal State and contributes 22% to the country's gross domestic product. The fourth largest state by area, it is the home of 17.5 million people, 670,000 of them students.

About ownCloud

ownCloud is the largest Open Source Filesharing solution in the world with 200.000 installations and more than 25 million users. ownCloud combines consumer-grade usability with enterprise-grade security (GDPR compliant). It enables users to access data no matter where it is stored or which device is used. By giving organizations the visibility and control required to manage sensitive data while offering users the modern collaboration experience they demand, productivity and security are increased at the same time. For more information, visit:
https://owncloud.com

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