



Whitepaper

Why you want ownCloud

Standalone or as second Strategic Filesharing Platform next to MS OneDrive

Goal

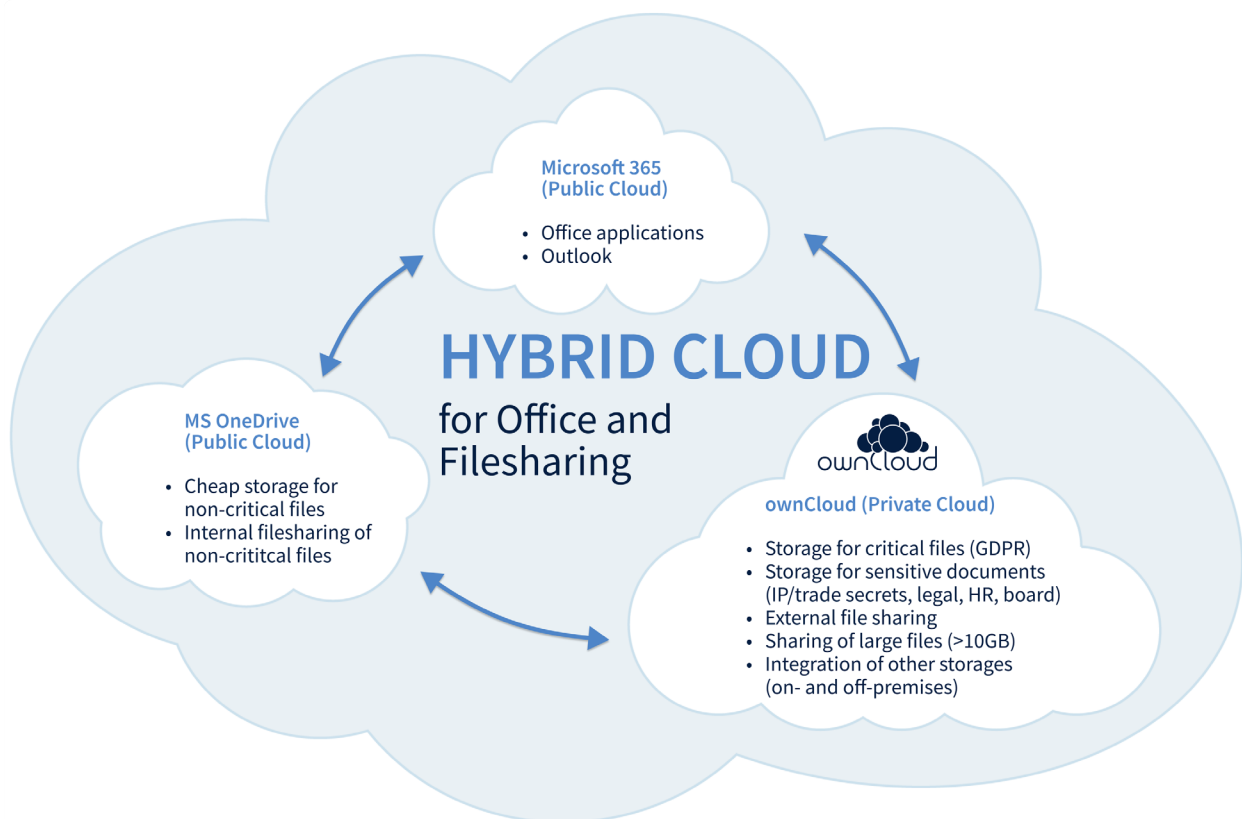
Corporates and Organizations alike strive to enable seamless digital collaboration and improve productivity while saving resources (reduce storage costs, reduce operational costs, ...) at the same time.

Partial solution

Transfer of legacy desktop applications into the cloud. The most popular offering is Microsoft 365 which comes with OneDrive to store and share files.

Fact

Based on the “Cloud Act” the US government can access all data stored in clouds of US vendors like Microsoft, Amazon Web Services, Google, Dropbox etc., no matter where the data center is located (in or outside of the USA) claiming that This is done under the classification of certain data as relevant to national security - whereby the definition of what is relevant to national security is so broad that corporate data, intellectual property, etc. can also fall under this definition and data sovereignty in US public clouds is thus massively compromised.



State of the art Hybrid Cloud for Office and Filesharing- sensitive Files stay in Private Cloud

Challenge

1. Microsoft still struggles with the EU GDPR since 2018. According to an assessment of the dutch ministry of justice MS Office 365/OneDrive is not GDPR-compliant! <https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/rapporten/2018/11/07/data-protection-impactassessment-op-microsoft-office>

Main reason: MS Office 365/OneDrive is nontransparent regarding the kind of data sent to Microsoft such that the admin/user cannot determine where and for how long sensitive data is stored.

Furthermore one of the GDPR's core going-forward obligations is the duty to conduct Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIAs) over processing activities that create a "high risk" to individuals' privacy (article 35). DPIAs constitute an important aspect of GDPR compliance. DPIAs are obligatory for all data contained in blacklists (please refer to annex) compiled by European Data Protection authorities (DPAs).

As a result of the 'cloud act' (<https://owncloud.com/cloud-act-passed-by-us-congress/>) which allows the US government to access all data stored in clouds of US-vendors like Microsoft independently from their storage location the result of all DPIAs must be negative. This means that all data contained in the blacklists of the DPAs cannot be stored in MS OneDrive. Prominent examples are personnel data, patient records and surveillance videos.

2. Due to the 'Cloud Act', sensitive information like intellectual property, trade secrets, legal documents and all kind of documents from board members should not be stored in an US-cloud like MS OneDrive. The US government can justify all data accesses by claiming a suspected (!) National Security relevance.
3. Public cloud platforms like Microsoft Office 365/ OneDrive offer good integration between their own applications but naturally do have tight limitations when it comes to the integration of customer specific IT infrastructure. This results in a limitation of the use cases that can be covered with Microsoft 365 / OneDrive. Every larger organization or company has filesharing use cases which can not be covered with MS OneDrive.
4. If you follow a one vendor strategy regarding file sharing and storage, this results in a vendor lock-in. A vendor lock-in poses a significant risk for your organization's business continuity strategy.

Recommended solution

ownCloud as either

- (a) the secure on-premises file storage and sharing replacement for OneDrive or
- (b) the second strategic Filesharing Platform next to OneDrive to store all sensitive data, to cover all the use cases that can't be covered with a public cloud platform like OneDrive and to avoid a vendor lock-in.

ownCloud is your only or second strategic filesharing and content collaboration platform if you need to

1. store and share data contained in the blacklists of the DPAs
2. store and share sensitive data, which can't or shouldn't be accessible by the US government
3. comply with special data protection regulations
4. provide a solution for specific use cases that can't be covered with OneDrive or add filesharing functionality to other applications (i.e. filesharing within a supplier portal, customer communication, ...)
5. to securely share files (no public link) with external (partners) without provisioning them in your Active Directory/Domain
6. share large files (>10Gb) or large amounts of files
7. integrate infrastructure components (such as specific Authentication systems, Windows Network Drive, FTP-Server etc.)
8. provide easy-to-use end-to-end-encryption
9. operate the platform autonomously (independent of an internet connection)
10. be 100% sure that the software contains

no „backdoors“ and you need to be able to prove it

11. provide a branded filesharing platform (incl. clients/apps)
12. solve your „Dropbox problem“ and reduce shadow-IT (employees using private Dropboxes to conveniently store and share company's documents with externals)
13. regularly share files with guests (full functionality but no quota) and you don't want to pay fully for these guests
14. conveniently collect data from multiple external parties (file drop)
15. migrate data from cloud storage services like Dropbox, box or Google Drive
16. implement a hybrid cloud strategy with sensitive (confidential) data remaining on-premises
17. a cost efficient filesharing solution for many internal and external users
18. share documents without download possibility (secure view with watermarks containing an identifier of the viewer)
19. be able to determine the lifetime of a file (i.e. for GDPR-compliance)

What neither Microsoft nor Google can offer is:

1. Unlimited file size
2. Branding
3. Flexibility/Integration
4. File access control
5. Secure view (protected with watermarks)
6. Open Source software (auditable)

Integration in Microsoft 365/ OneDrive:

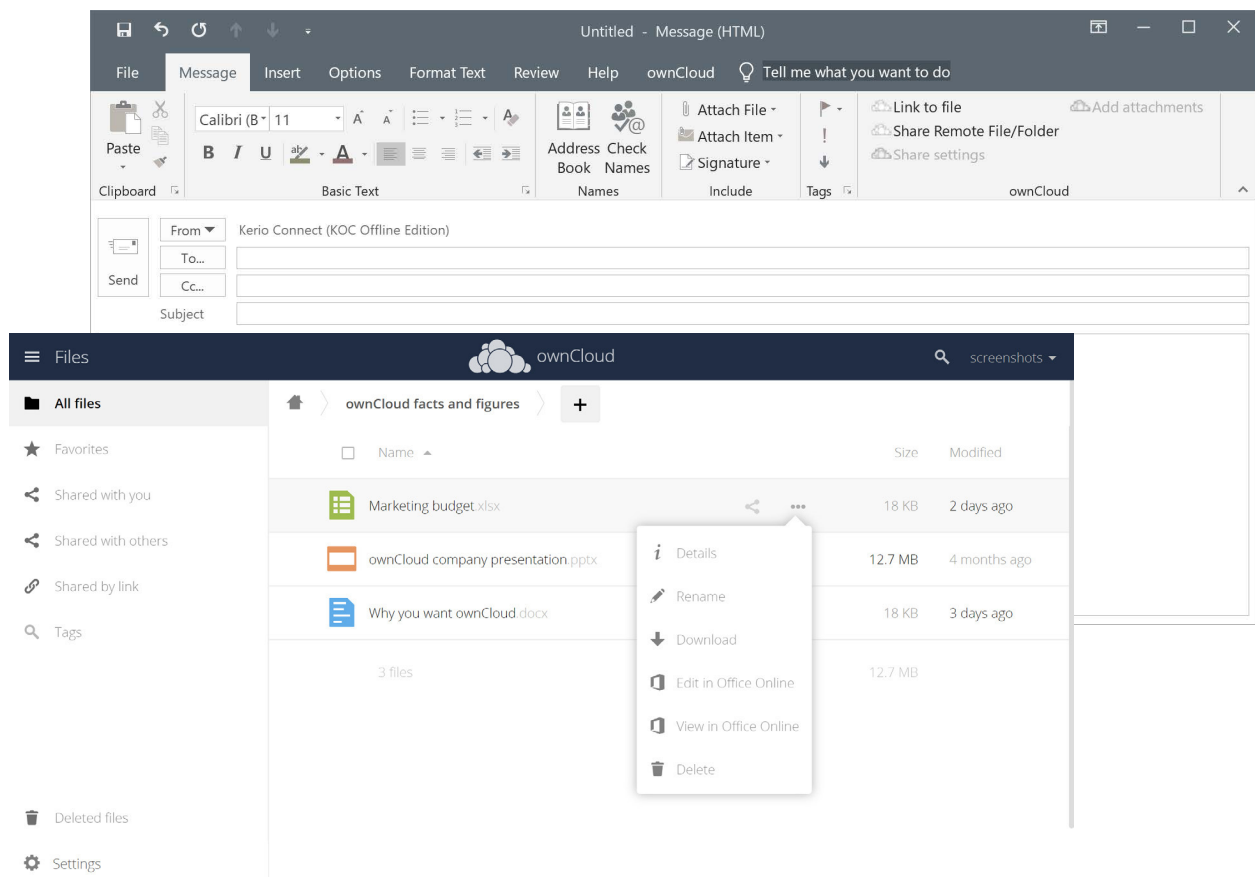
ownCloud is perfectly integrated in Microsoft 365 and OneDrive for a great user experience. For example users can:

- Access and share files stored in OneDrive via ownCloud
- Edit and collaborate on MS Office documents in ownCloud without having the file leaving your ownCloud
- Share folders and files directly from MS Outlook (via Outlook-Plugin)

Freedom of Choice / Future Proof:

ownCloud is the only vendor that gives customers the freedom of choice where and how to deploy:

- 100% on premise
- 100% at your personal hosting partner
- 100% in the Public Cloud (Amazon, Azure, ...)
- Hybrid: ownCloud Management in your protected environment and encrypted data in the public cloud: be in control of your meta-data, keys, encryption algorithms, etc. while at the same time profit from cheap storage in the public cloud.



Summary

- With ownCloud you can cover current and future requirements that cannot be covered with MS OneDrive.
- ownCloud is perfectly integrated with Microsoft 365 / OneDrive and therefore first choice as second strategic filesharing platform.
- With ownCloud you avoid a risky and expensive vendor-lock-in.
- ownCloud is open and flexible such that there's no need for expensive individual solutions for special use cases.
- ownCloud is the largest open source filesharing solution in the world with 200+ Million users. It's backed by ownCloud GmbH, which guarantees the sustainability of the solution.

Annex

Data that can not be stored in MS OneDrive due to the Cloud Act:

All data that is subject to the obligation of the GDPR (article 35) to do a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) can not be stored in MS OneDrive as the US government might have access to it under the Cloud Act.

The national Data Protection Authorities (DPA's) define the kind of data that fall under article 35.

The GDPR grants DPAs certain flexibility to determine when companies under their jurisdiction must – or need not – conduct a DPIA. Article 35(4) permits DPAs to issue “blacklists”, i.e. lists of processing activities that always require a DPIA.

A full list of European DPA's blacklists can be found here:

<https://iapp.org/resources/article/eu-member-statedpia-whitelists-and-blacklists/>




About ownCloud

ownCloud develops and provides open-source software for content collaboration, allowing teams to easily share and work on files seamlessly regardless of device or location. More than 200 million users worldwide already use ownCloud as an alternative to public clouds – and thereby opt for more digital sovereignty, security and data protection.

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