Know-How Protection Reinvented: Document Classification with ownCloud

—— **Information is considered to be the capital of the 21st century. The storage and intelligent use of data can therefore give organizations a real competitive advantage. In this context, both an efficient handling of data and the use of effective protective measures are essential.**

Sensitive information can be found everywhere and often in unstructured form: in Office documents, PDFs, e-mails, construction files, and much more. If such files get into the wrong hands, this can have fatal consequences for organizations.

In times of digital collaboration and increasingly flexible working methods, it is also necessary that information can be easily exchanged with other parties - inside and outside the organizational infrastructure, across all devices and regardless of geographical boundaries. This means that the usual security measures for information used within a company, such as access permissions or encryption of devices or drives, no longer provide adequate protection. This means that new strategies are needed to meet the strict security and compliance requirements demanded in times of borderless communication.

Holistic Solution

As collaboration platforms like ownCloud play a key role in file sharing, an automatic, error-free way to ensure the confidentiality of these files is essential to the success of such a platform. With applications such as Microsoft Azure Information Protection or the software NovaPath, files can be tagged with certain levels of confidentiality. Users have the ability to classify documents in MS Office in different levels before they leave the local workstation.

ownCloud reads these classification levels when uploading the documents and tags the corresponding files so that users can easily recognize them. In addition, policies can be defined in ownCloud that can be automatically applied based on the classification. This means, for example, that documents marked as „confidential" cannot be shared externally, no public links can be created, or they cannot be uploaded to ownCloud at all. Individual expiration dates for public links based on the classification are also possible. In this way, data can be automatically classified and handled according to various criteria, including confidentiality. Data with personal information can, for example, be marked and provided with special access rights, as required by the European General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). In this way, organizations can increase the productivity with a modern collaboration platform without having to make compromises on control and data security.

The extension is available in the ownCloud Marketplace as part of the Enterprise Edition. Further information can be found at https://marketplace.owncloud.com/apps/files_classifier
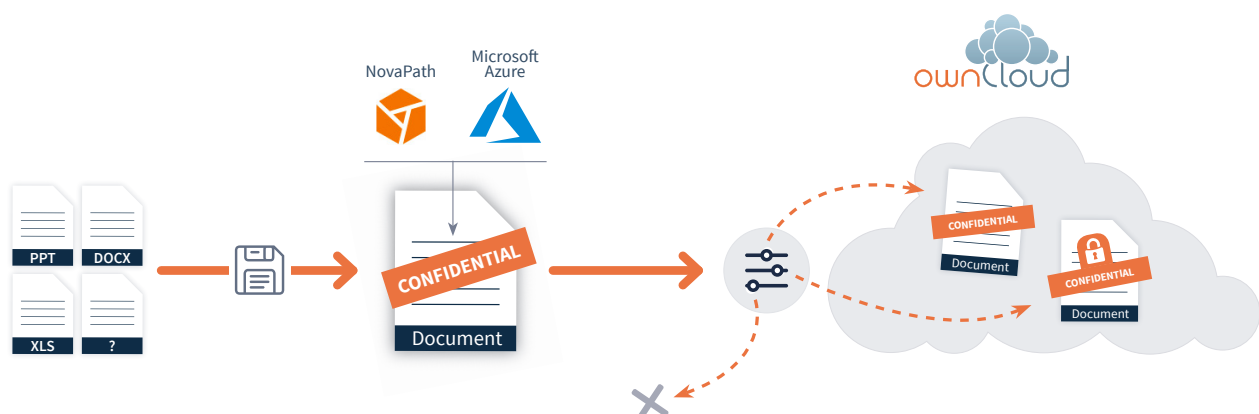
Use Case from the automotive industry

Automotive suppliers must ensure compliance with standards such as ISO 27001/2, as the handling of data in accordance with this standard is an industry-wide compliance requirement for cooperation with automobile manufacturers, as recommended by the German Association of the Automotive Industry (VDA). The classification of confidential documents and their processing in accordance with the guidelines is a central component for obtaining the corresponding certification.

With the Document Classification extension in ownCloud, automotive suppliers can effectively minimize the risk of data privacy violations. Security and control are guaranteed at all times: Both within their own value chain and in cooperation with customers and partners. This means that the requirements for digital collaboration can be fulfilled across company boundaries.

In conjunction with other established security features (e.g. File Firewall), far-reaching, automated measures can also be taken to provide the most comprehensive protection for corporate data to date. Thus, even organizations in which the use of the technology was previously not possible due to the high security requirements benefit from the productivity increase of the collaboration platform.

Advantages:

- ISO 27001/2 and EU-DSGVO-compliant data handling

- Automated compliance with internal and external data protection policies and compliance requirements

- Control over access and rights for sharing sensitive documents

- Secure collaboration inside and outside the company

- Traceability of the life cycle (storage & use) of sensitive information through central logging

ownCloud GmbH

ownCloud GmbH was founded in 2011 with the goal of giving organizations control over sensitive corporate data. The open, modular architecture offers a wide range of extension and integration options.
The management team has many years of experience with enterprise and open source software. ownCloud employs 55 people and is headquartered in Nuremberg, Germany.

About ownCloud

ownCloud is the market leading open source content collaboration solution worldwide. ownCloud enables users to securely access and share data from any device, anywhere in the world. With more than 200,000 installations and 25 million users, ownCloud provides organizations a modern collaborative experience, thereby boosting productivity without compromising on security. At the same time, it gives organizations the visibility and control required to manage sensitive data.

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