

Learn in 30: Online Backup Services

Leti Labell

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- ▶ OLLI member and PATACS member with a lifelong love of computers.
- ▶ MS in computer science, and a Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP).
- ▶ Retired in 2014 from a long career in software development and general project management in the telecommunications industry and as a contractor to the federal government.
- ▶ Totally incapable of performing manual backups of her computer.
- ▶ (Okay, not INCAPABLE, but totally unreliable.)

Definition of Online Backup

- ▶ Offsite data storage where files, folders, or the entire contents of a hard drive are regularly backed up to a remote computer.
- ▶ Also called “remote backup,” or “cloud backup.”
- ▶ Online backup uses “the cloud” but is not the same thing as “cloud storage.”
 - ▶ Cloud storage stores files online so they can be accessible anytime and anywhere.
 - ▶ Cloud backup makes sure files are safely copied and stored in case they needed to be restored due to an emergency.
- ▶ Examples of “cloud storage” that are not “online backup”:
 - ▶ Dropbox
 - ▶ Apple iCloud
 - ▶ Microsoft OneDrive
 - ▶ Evernote

Definition of Online Backup Service

- ▶ Backup server hosted by a third-party service provider who charges a fee based on capacity, bandwidth, or number of users.
- ▶ Provides users with a system for the backup, storage, and recovery of computer files.
- ▶ Online backup services may vary largely by software, upload speed, storage capacity and other service features.

Advantages of Online Backup Service

- ▶ Easy - makes backups automatically
- ▶ Additional security - stores data in remote location, so your backup copy is safe from physical destruction, accidental deletion, and hard drive failure.
 - ▶ When files are backed up locally, whether to a file server, external hard drive or other device, there is always the risk of both copies being lost.
- ▶ Easy recovery - service provider will help with recovery
- ▶ May also backup external hard drives
- ▶ May offer data encryption
- ▶ May offer multiple versions of your data
- ▶ May offer access to your data on different devices
- ▶ May offer creation of a mirror drive
- ▶ Online backup services give you Peace of Mind

PC Magazine Comparison Chart

	IDrive	Crash Plan	SOS Online Backup	Sugar Sync	Carbonite	Spider Oak ONE	Acronis True Image Cloud	Backblaze	EMC Mozy Home	Open Drive
										
Lowest Price	\$60	\$60	\$80	\$75	\$60	\$130	\$100	\$50	\$66	\$50
PC Mag Rating	4.5	4.5	4	3	3.5	3.5	3	3	3	3
Storage	1TB	∞	∞	100GB	∞	1TB	∞	∞	50GB	500GB
Mac Client	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Continuous Backups	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Full Disk Backups	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Version Saving	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Smartphone Apps	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		

How to select a provider

- ▶ **Pricing Plans**
Different features may have different pricing options; make sure you know how much the features you want will cost.
- ▶ **Choosing What to Back Up**
Some services let you decide to not backup certain files or folders. Other services don't protect system and program files.
- ▶ **Security**
Most services will encrypt your files with strong systems before sending them up to the servers.
- ▶ **Choosing When Backup Happens**
Some systems use a fixed schedule, such as once a day, week, or month. Other systems perform continuous backups, uploading file changes as they're saved on your computer. (Carbonite and CrashPlan do this.)
- ▶ **Performance**
Check out the speed test results in PC Magazine to determine the impacts on your system.
- ▶ **Restoring Folders and Files**
Look for a service that offers a search tool to find a particular backed-up file. It's also desirable for a service to be able to replicate an entire folder tree structure, so that it can deal with bigger data losses. Some services also save multiple versions of files, so you can revert back to an earlier version.
- ▶ **Web Clients**
Most online backup providers let you get at your files from a Web browser, but capabilities vary. Many simply let you download the files, but some let you view documents and photos and play music and videos.
- ▶ **Mobile Clients**
Most online backup services offer Android and iOS apps to access your files. These apps may just offer simple document and media file download, but many can also display the documents and photos and play the video and music.

Why I Use Carbonite

- ▶ I use Carbonite Personal Plus Service. In addition to backing up the hard drive in my PC, it also:
 - ▶ Backs up my external hard drives where I archive files
 - ▶ Lets me encrypt my data
 - ▶ Lets me create a mirror drive
 - ▶ Lets me access my files from the web
 - ▶ Lets me access my files from my iPhone
 - ▶ Saves multiple versions of my data

References

- ▶ **PC Magazine: Best Online Backup Services of 2016**
▶ <http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2288745,00.asp>
- ▶ **Top Ten Reviews: 2016 Best Online Backup Services Reviews**
▶ <http://www.toptenreviews.com/services/internet/best-online-backup-services/>