

Cloud storage in the Trump era

May 1, 2025

Update to ***File transfer to off-site storage*** of
December 7, 2023

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for

Virtual Meeting of Linux-Ottawa

Motivations

- Current VPS from Telfer School likely to disappear with austerity cuts. Have been using for almost 2 decades
- Telfer maintains macnash
- Nash Info server now closed – I want to **avoid** maintenance obligations, particularly as partner / successors won't be able to do so.
- Do **NOT** want storage in USA. Prefer in Canada.
- Usage summary:
 - Novels: 28 GB
 - Publications&Works: 7.1GB
 - Personal special files: 250MB (Want to encrypt and possibly mask file names)
 - *Potentially:* additional 400 GB of “archives”, with about 100 GB “important”

Special issues

- Books and my publications: Much of “size” is captures/downloads of background information of historical nature that can disappear, else versions
- BUT some of this may be portions of copyright material --> “fair dealing” disputes, or just plain not noticing I am the copyright holder
- Subversion used to maintain versioning which is important for books and publications
- Recent anti-cryptography moves in UK, elsewhere may be an issue.

Technical approaches

- FTP --> mountable FTPFS
- SSH --> SFTP and SSHFS
- NFS – I don't have much knowledge, no experience
- WebDAV – again no experience
- Custom software – usual regime for commercial vendors like pCloud and IceDrive

May need encryption

ccrypt – Peter Selinger. File encryption

- For GUI use, qccrypt

gpg

SSL

7z – useful for archives (e.g., on mobile phone)

aescrypt -- proprietary

National Capital Freenet

- LOCAL!
- Unclear what volume of storage available, but probably negotiable.
- FTP only, no SSH. (This seems to be to avoid local command launch.)
 - old standby (mostly FTPS using TLS authentication).
 - NCF's only access except their Web File Manager
 - curlftpfs – works nicely, but permissions make SVN impossible
 - No SSH so no SSHFS.
- FTP has own commands; curl also.
 - .netrc file for username and password
 - Same for wget, but wget2 did not work

pCloud

- Switzerland
- Software allows
 - svnadmin create testrepo
 - and add, commit, remove seem to work OK via “[file://](#)” to local mountpoint of the remote storage.
 - CLI options so far giving trouble; may be “unofficial”
- Complaints that they cancel accounts (and keep money) if “scanner” finds copyright material.
- IOS and Android apps might have some use
- Web access option

IceDrive

- Gibraltar – was Wales, but UK efforts to have breakable crypto triggered move
- Connections easy with proprietary software,
 - *but* svnadmin fails (permissions)
- Has CLI option for Linux, but ...
- Web access option
- Responded quickly to queries, and have added Linux support since 2023

Others

StormWeb (Vancouver): Have Linux support. Free option only for 30 days (but 1TB, smallest offer)

MEGA (Hungary, Spain, NZ): Have Linux support. 2TB smallest offer?

Sync.com (Toronto): but for at least 2 years Linux is “soon”. I got same msg just few days ago.

Pricing

NCF: in my DSL, but large storage is unknown

IceDrive: \$299 US lifetime 512 GB;

- \$4 / month 100 GB

pCloud: \$199 US lifetime 512 GB;

- \$5 / month 500 GB

--- untried below ---

StormWeb: \$13 CDN / month / 1TB

MEGA: \$13 US / month / 2TB

Ideas?

- Books (novels): Without background material, drops to 1.3 GB
- Trimmed publications and works drops to 3.2 GB
- Keep additional material locally.

Possibly could use “free” accounts (Github/Gitlab) during writing and switch from Subversion to Git.

- Use NCF for personal stuff.
- OR ... pCloud but be careful with content that might trip detector. That seems to be 1-time, no recovery.
- OR ... StormWeb and put everything up (1TB)