The Cloud: Keeping Things Safe and Easy

Mark Sminkey/Lake Gaston Computer Club 4/8/2025



What is "The Cloud"?

- Imagine a very big, safe storage room somewhere else.
- It's like having a digital place to keep your photos, letters, and important things.
- You can get to it from your computer, tablet, or phone.



Why Use "The Cloud"? (Benefits)

- It helps keep your things safe, like a backup copy.
- You can share photos and letters with family, even far away.
- It helps if your computer has a problem; your things are still safe.







Digital Photo Albums

- Imagine you have a big digital photo album.
- You can keep all your pictures there.
- Services like Google Photos and iCloud help you do this.
- You can look at them on your computer, tablet, or phone.
- This is an example of the cloud storing your photos.





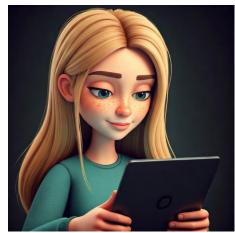
Digital Letters and Documents

- Imagine you can keep letters and important papers safe digitally.
- Services like Google Drive, OneDrive, and Dropbox help you do this.
- You can read them and send them from your computer.
- This is an example of the cloud storing documents.



Watching Videos

- When you watch a video online, it's often stored in the cloud.
- You don't need to keep the video on your computer.
- This is an example of the cloud storing videos.



Everyday Cloud Storage - Examples

Google Drive: (Google's cloud storage) - For photos, documents, and files.

iCloud: (Apple's cloud storage) - For iPhone photos, backups, and files.

Dropbox: - For sharing and storing files.

Microsoft OneDrive: (Microsoft's cloud storage) - For documents and files.



Easy to Use

- It might seem new, but it's easy to use.
- Think of it like learning a new way to organize your things.
- Many things you already use, use the cloud.





Your Stuff in the "Cloud": Is it Safe?

- Imagine a very large, well-guarded storage building instead of keeping everything just at your house.
- The cloud offers many benefits: accessibility, sharing, and backups.
- This "cloud" is where companies keep your photos, documents, and other information online.
- Think of it like a digital safety deposit box.



How They Keep Your Things Safe (Lots of Protection!)

Strong Locks & Guards: Big companies have lots of security measures, like strong computer "locks" and people watching over things.

Secret Codes: Your information is often scrambled up like a secret language when it travels and when it's stored.

Making Copies: They usually make extra copies of your things and keep them in different places, so if one place has a problem, your stuff is still safe.

Following the Rules: They have to follow strict rules to make sure they're keeping your information safe.







How Cloud Providers Protect Your Data

Encryption: Data is scrambled to be unreadable without a "key."

- In transit: Protected while moving to/from the cloud.
- At rest: Protected while stored in the cloud.

Access Control: Only authorized users can access your data.

- Passwords & Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA)
- Permissions

Infrastructure Security: Secure data centers, networks, and systems. **Reliability:** Redundant storage and backups prevent data loss.



Your Responsibility: Partnering for Security

Strong Credentials: Use strong, unique passwords and enable MFA. Think of your password as the key to your safety deposit box – keep it secret and strong!

Account Protection: Keep your login information secure and private.

Data Management: Be mindful of what data you store in the cloud.

Provider Selection: Choose reputable cloud providers (ones mentioned above)

with strong security practices.



Summary

- The cloud is a safe place to keep your things.
- It helps you share with family and friends.
- It's a helpful tool for keeping your digital life organized.



Questions and Answers

