

Vero Beach Computer Group: September 12, 2011 General Meeting

Topic: Cloud-based Storage for Home

Speaker: Eric Price, club president



Reviewing and comparing Dropbox, Pogoplug, Box.net, etc.

I will be demonstrating several cloud-based storage options.

The Cloud – in this case, we are referring to the servers at a remote location, operated by these vendors. Although Pogoplug uses your storage to share, Dropbox syncs to their servers. You could say that Pogoplug uses a private cloud (shared, but on your PC), and Dropbox uses a public cloud (shared, but on their servers).

	Good	Bad
Dropbox www.dropbox.com Runs on Mac, Windows, iPad, iPhone, Blackberry, Android, Linux	Very fast install & setup first time. Same interface for Mac, Linux and Windows. Free for 2Gb of storage in the cloud. If your local storage is deleted or fails, you still have a copy in the cloud. Transfer speeds may be fastest because of their infrastructure – much better than most home users.	A copy of your data resides on their servers. Although secure, some may consider Pogoplug a better option. Above 2Gb, it's \$10/month for 50Gb, etc. but limit is 100Gb for \$20/month. Sharing files requires other users to subscribe.
Pogoplug www.pogoplug.com Runs on Mac, Windows, Linux, iPad, iPhone, Android	They now offer a hardware-free version that's free (\$29 if you want to stream movies). No limit to file sharing since it's on your PC (free) or Pogoplug (\$99). No monthly fee. You can share for no extra fee and mark files as read only so other users can't delete them.	Option to buy a hardware device for \$99 and usb hard drive if you want to keep your data at home, but connect from anywhere.
Box.net www.box.net Runs on Android, Blackberry, iPad, iPhone, Blackberry Playbook, HP Touchpad	Free up to 5Gb. A business can use this to share among staff easier than the rest. Control whom can use what files and for how long.	Sharing to other users requires a paid business account. More for business users, non-profit organizations or other teams.
Oxygen www.oxygencloud.com Runs on iPad, iPhone, Mac, Windows	Can share with up to 5 users on free account with 7Gb max. Ability to connect a drobo (drobo.com) and use almost unlimited storage and keep it at your home or office.	More for business users, non-profit organizations or other teams.
Apple iCloud www.apple.com/icloud iPad, iPhone	Sync everything on your iPhone or iPad to the cloud and to each of your iPhones and iPads. Easy to use – works seamlessly.	Only works with iPhones and iPads running IOS5 – which isn't released yet.

Microsoft offers cloud-based storage and sharing through Windows Live!, but only for photos. Microsoft offers cloud-based storage with their Office 365 applications. Google offers cloud-based storage as part of Google Apps. So, there are many alternatives. However, it's important the cloud-based storage is secure and you can keep a copy on your computer in case they go down or out of business.