Finding the right cloud backup solution, either for personal use or for your business, is not a choice to be made lightly. If and when the worst occurs - theft, loss, or irreparable damage of your device – the peace of mind that comes with a securely stored cloud backup can be invaluable. But with so many online backup options out there, how do you narrow down your search? Comparitech evaluates cloud backup services on the following criteria: Storage space Price Ease of use Types of backups (bare metal, social media, etc) Data security in transit and at rest Customer support Extra features Supported devices Best online backup and cloud storage services in 2025 Once you know what to look for in an online backup service and have an idea of what it can be used for, we would like to make a few recommendations. If you don't want to read the whole article, below is a shortlist of the best online backup services. Best online cloud backup services: Backblaze Our top choice for cloud backup. The simplest, quickest way to backup a single device at a rock-bottom price. iBackup A utilitarian cloud backup service aimed at small businesses with top-notch security and a suite of useful add-ons. Livedrive Solid backup service with lots of extra features. Acronis True Image Bundle of anti-malware and data backup services. NinjaOne Backup This cloud-based system is structured for MSPs and includes storage for repositories. Vembu Cloud BDR Suite Backup services for businesses with specialized options for different resources. Crashplan Back up to your destination, with rich features and strong security for both free and paid users. iDrive One of the best online backup options available for individuals with multiple devices. Choosing a cloud backup service First, identify your needs. Ask yourself these questions: Do you need to back up your computer? Are you willing to pay? If so, how much? How much storage space do you need? Is your internet connection good enough? Are you storing private or sensitive information that needs to be protected? Do you often rely on customer support for help? How important is a well-designed interface? What extra features do you want beyond basic backup? Once you have a good idea of how much space, security, and support you'll need, you can choose an online backup provider that best suits you. The following backup and storage services have outshone the competition and fulfill all of the criteria discussed above. Here's our detailed list of the best online backup services: 1. Backblaze If you want a simple option to back up a single device, it's hard to beat Backblaze. It offers unlimited storage for one gadget and anything you can attach to it via USB, including external hard drives. It has an easy-to-understand pricing scheme with flat rates. Set it on "continuous" mode and it will update files on your backup as you create, edit, move, and delete them. A business plan is available for enterprise users. Any file that's deleted from your backup can be recovered for up to 30 days. It also includes a lost device tracker. You can choose to encrypt your files with your own key or let Backblaze store the key for you. Pros: Easy to use Unlimited storage for one device Cheap Strong security 30-day recovery of deleted files Cons: Poor mobile app No synchronization BEST ONLINE BACKUP:Backblaze is a cheap and straightforward way to back up a single device. It comes with a 15-day free trial. Read our Backblaze review. 2. iBackup iBackup is a secure cloud backup service aimed at small businesses. It can back up users devices and servers. Compression and incremental backup features help save bandwidth on your network. You can set up multiple devices and staff members with sub-accounts that can be managed from a single dashboard. Hybrid backups allow you to store data both on the cloud and to a local drive. The last 10 versions of every file are archived. You can use or own key or have the company store one for you to encrypt files with 256-bit AES. iBackup comes with 24/7 live chat support. Pros: Ideal for small businesses Strong security Sub-accounts for easy management Fast uploads Server backups Cons: No synchronization Costly overage charges BUSINESS BACKUP:iBackup is a great solution for small teams. You can get 50% off on the first year if you purchase a 2-year plan. Read our full iBackup review. 3. Livedrive If you want an online backup solution loaded with extra features, Livedrive might be for you. You can stream music and play videos right from your backup in the cloud. Upper-tier plans let you edit and collaborate on documents and photos. The apps are novice-friendly and work on a variety of devices. The Briefcase plan lets you create a folder that synchronizes files across all devices. Storage is unlimited per device, and you can choose which types of files should be uploaded first. You can also throttle the bandwidth used by Livedrive so it doesn't hog your internet connection. You can also back up files locally via LAN. All files on the cloud are encrypted. Pros: Stream music and videos from the cloud Collaborate on stored documents and photos Unlimited storage per device Local backups via LAN Cons: Some features locked in upper-tier plans Can't set private encryption key No live support FEATURE RICH:Livedrive is a solid backup service that lets you stream music and videos from the cloud. It comes with a 14-day free trial. Read our full Livedrive review. 4. Acronis True Image Acronis True Image is a protection package for desktops and laptops. The on-device software interacts with cloud-based systems and includes options for cloud storage bundled in with its backups. The backup service in the Acronis True Image package offers a range of options over backup strategy and storage locations. It is best to combine these options to have both local backups for convenience onto removable media and cloud-based backups for security. Plans for this package range from a base package, which doesn't include any cloud storage space up to the top edition, which includes 1 TB of space on the Acronis servers. It is also possible to backup to a private cloud or one of the well-known platforms, such as AWS, Azure, or GCP. The Acronis bundle includes malware protection, which covers the entire device on which it is installed and also implements scans for infection on all files before they are copied to backup or copied back out for recovery. Pros: Backup and automated recovery Malware protection, including ransomware remediation Choice of backup strategies Backup to Acronis Cloud or the platform of your choice Cons: ANTIMALWARE AND BACKUP: The Acronis True Image software will run on Windows and macOS and you can get it on a 30-day free trial. 5. NinjaOne Backup NinjaOne is a platform of systems that are suitable for use by managed service providers (MSPs). The NinjaOne Backup service is an add-on package that MSPs can sell through to their clients. The system was designed with a multi-tenanted architecture. That means a master account can have many sub-account. Each division is compartmentalized so there can be no mixing of data or access. The NinjaOne system can implement a range of backup strategies and also includes tools to command recovery. This service also includes backup storage space on the cloud but account holders can also direct backups to other locations. Pros: Designed for managed service providers Include cloud storage Allows backups to multiple locations Cons: Not suitable for businesses to back up their own systems DESIGNED FOR MSPs:Multi-tenanted system allows MSPs to add extra services that protect client systems from ransomware or accidental data damage. Access a 14-day free trial. Related: NinjaOne Backup – Full Review 6. Vembu BDR Suite Vembu Cloud BDR Suite is a SaaS platform and is paralleled by an on-premises alternative, called Vembu BDR Suite. This service is offered in editions that cater to different resources. For example, there are versions for VMs, Linux, servers, Windows servers, and applications. The services available with each flavor differ according to the type of resource being protected. Backup files for all versions are compressed to save space and they are protected by AES-256 encryption. Pros: Provides a multi-tenanted option for MSPs Easy access to the cloud-based management console Store restore points Cloud-to-cloud backups Cons: Free edition only available with the on-premises version Cloud storage costs extra SPECIALIZED EDITIONS:With Seven Editions, Vembu Cloud BDR Suite lets you get the exact services that you need. Sign up for a 30-day free trial. 7. Crashplan If you own your own storage devices, Crashplan is free. You can pay to securely store files on the cloud and tack on a few bells and whistles. It works well and is easy to use right out of the box, but dig into the menus and you'll find tons of customization options. Deleted files are archived for as long as you use the service. You can choose between the default encryption key or set a custom one. A ticket submission system is available to free users, while paid users can take advantage of live support during US business hours. Pros: Back up to your own storage for free Strong security Lots of customization Unlimited storage on a single device Cons: No file sharing No synchronization FREE OR PAID: The free tier lets you back up to any destination, and the affordable paid version includes cloud backup and better encryption. You can try the paid version with a 30-day free trial. Read our full Crashplan review. 8. iDrive iDrive is great for individuals with multiple devices to back up. It boasts great versioning, archiving, and file sharing features. Incremental backups save bandwidth by only uploading files that have recently been changed or created. The last 10 versions of every file are archived. Any file in your backup can be shared via a link. Hybrid backup lets you store files on iDrive's cloud and your local storage. Plans include 5TB and 10TB and 20TB and 50TB and more. All files are protected by 256-bit AES encryption, for which you can use the default encryption key or set your own. Live chat and email support are available 24/7. Pros: Works with multiple devices Social media backup Strong security Hybrid backups Synchronization and sharing Cons: Costly overage charges Lackluster customer support MULTIPLE DEVICES: If you're an individual with more than one device to back up, you can't go wrong with iBackup. You can get up to 50% off the first year. Read our full iDrive review. Online backup and cloud storage FAQ Read our Reviews! No one-size-fits-all cloud backup solution will make everyone happy. It takes a lot of digging, testing, and research to figure out which company offer the best value. Luckily for you, we already did most of the hard work and compiled our findings in our thorough Reviews section. We take into account all of the above criteria and more to give you a comprehensive analysis of the best products on the market. We're adding more all the time, so be sure to check back soon if you can't find what you're looking for. No matter what you choose, remember that something is better than nothing. Owning a computer without some sort of backup in place is like driving a car without insurance. You may save yourself some money in the short term, but it will eventually come back to bite you. Key Takeaways: What Are the Best Cloud Backup Services? IDrive – The best overall cloud backup service, with an excellent combination of backup and cloud storage features. Backblaze — The best online backup for affordability with unlimited storage and great user management features. pCloud— The best free cloud backup with 10GB of storage space. pCloud is a cloud storage provider with a dedicated section for backups. Carbonite — The most simple cloud backup with an easy-to-use desktop app that backs up your data in a few steps. Internxt — The most affordable online storage provider with a simple backup process and post-quantum cryptography. CrashPlan — The best online storage for businesses, with excellent versioning and an option for unlimited storage. Dropbox Backup — The best cloud backup for freelancers that has a dedicated backup feature to go with its cloud storage and collaboration tools. The Best Online Backup Service Anyone who's ever lost irreplaceable photos or accidentally deleted an important document knows how crucial it is to have a backup. By keeping a copy of your data in a secure online backup service, you can be sure you'll never deal with that scenario again. Choosing the right service for your needs can be tricky. To help you decide, we list the best cloud backup services below. We've identified online storage services that excel in different areas, including our pick for the best overall. No cloud backup is the same; our online backup features article covers the basics. Read on to decide which cloud backup service is best for you. Meet the expertsLearn more about our editorial team and our research process. IDrive is our top choice for the best online backup provider. It has many features and integrates attributes of cloud storage like file sharing. IDrive gives you the flexibility to choose what you back up, including individual files. You can also schedule backups for specific days or times and receive notifications. IDrive is an affordable option with some of the best per-terabyte prices available. We evaluated the following services based on the key aspects that most consumers look for in a cloud backup provider. Cost and features are important considerations, as are security and privacy. File versioning is another factor, and we've identified the best option. Keeping specific types of customers in mind, we evaluated cloud backup services for businesses and freelancers. For companies, we focused on administrator features, backup features and restoration. Freelancers need a reliable way to back up their data, along with tools to interact with clients. We identified the best backup services for ease of use and those on a budget. A key criterion was finding a cloud backup solution for ease of use and those on a budget. In addition, since most backup providers aren't free, we've included a budget-friendly option. Are you confused about the differences between cloud storage and cloud backup services? Both store your files in the cloud, but there are distinct features for cloud storage and cloud backup. Cloud backup saves files and entire systems for the long-term, and it also provides ways to restore data after disasters. On the other hand, cloud storage prioritizes easy storage and access to files, which makes it better for collaboration needs. If you need something with regular access and collaboration options, you should consider using a cloud storage solution. Overall, we consider Sync.com to be the best cloud storage option for excellent versioning and an option for unlimited storage. Dropbox Backup — The best cloud backup for freelancers that has a dedicated backup feature to go with its cloud storage and collaboration tools. The Best Online Backup Service IDrive Anyone who's ever lost irreplaceable photos or accidentally deleted an important document knows how crucial it is to have a backup. By keeping a copy of your data in a secure online backup service, you can be sure you'll never deal with that scenario again. Choosing the right service for your needs can be tricky. To help you decide, we list the best cloud backup services below. We've identified online storage services that excel in different areas, making it something of a hybrid solution. Business can take advantage of its file versioning, as it does not impose size limits. Backblaze will keep versions of your files for 30 days. If you are looking for more advanced features, Backblaze probably isn't the answer. It doesn't have image-based backups, nor can you back up servers. Additionally, Backblaze does not support network-attached storage devices. However, what Backblaze lacks in features it makes up for in other areas, such as speed. There isn't much to the desktop app that is required to conduct a backup. Backblaze will back up the entire contents of your computer with the only option to exclude folders or extensions. The scheduling options are limited to three choices: continuously, once per day, or manual. However, it is a very easy-to-use application. The Backblaze desktop app has a simplified interface with a few tools to manage what gets backed up and when. 1st Test2nd TestAverageUpload Speeds00:44:0000:51:5000:47:55 1st Test2nd TestAverageDownload Speeds00:08:1500:08:0000:08:07 Backblaze has fast speeds, but only for downloads, which averaged around eight minutes in our tests. Uploads on the other hand were very slow due to how Backblaze handles multithreading. Backblaze does a good job of keeping your data secure, especially if you enable the private encryption key. Backblaze uses a random 128-bit AES symmetric key for each backup session and incorporates SSL protocols to secure file transfers. Additionally, Backblaze offers the option of adding a private encryption key. You can access this from the desktop app. You can start with a 15-day free trial with Backblaze, as it doesn't require a credit card to create an account. Backblaze offers a monthly plan for $9, a yearly plan for $99 and a two-year plan for $189. For more information, check out our Backblaze Business review. pCloud is one of the better cloud storage services and includes cloud backups with your account. Pros: 10GB free plan Backs up multiple devices Encryption Cons: Paid private encryption Limited 3rd-party integration pCloud is one of the best cloud storage services available and is known for its cloud storage features. It has excellent file sharing via email addresses or links, with the option to add passwords or set expiration dates. Its file sync is also excellent, as is its versioning feature, called "rewind." Backups with pCloud are a relatively new feature that comes with your account. You can create backups of your computer or mobile device and import files from some third-party services, including Google Drive, OneDrive and Dropbox. You can share files from your backups using the same sharing options as other files in your account. pCloud is an easy-to-navigate service with a familiar layout. Its web client is neat and functional, and its desktop app, downloadable for Windows, Mac and Linux, includes a sync folder and provides greater control over your account. It's also a virtual drive, which provides access to your files without taking up disk space. pCloud Drive is an excellent desktop app, as you can access your files without them taking up space on your hard disk. 1st Test2nd TestAverageUpload Speeds00:08:1800:08:4400:08:31 1st Test2nd TestAverageDownload Speeds00:06:5200:07:0200:06:57 pCloud is a fast service with excellent upload and download speeds. It's one of the fastest cloud storage services, as it uses block-level sync, which only updates the parts of a file that you edit rather than the entire file. pCloud Crypto uses your personal encryption key to keep your content safe from unauthorized access. pCloud uses AES 256-bit encryption to protect data on its servers and TLS/SSL encryption protocols to secure data transfers. Every account includes an encryption folder. However, you can only access it if you pay for pCloud Crypto. Only pCloud Business plans include pCloud Crypto. pCloud has a free account that starts at 2GB, which you can easily upgrade to 10GB by completing a few micro tasks. If you need a paid plan, pCloud has personal, business and family plans. A 2TB plan costs $99.99 annually, and pCloud also offers lifetime plans. We have more details in our pCloud review. Carbonite is an easy-to-use service with basic cloud backup options. Pros: Clean desktop interface Unlimited storage Affordable pricing Cons: Slow speeds Limited features Carbonite does a nice job of quickly getting you up and running with an easy-to-use interface and minimal steps to begin a backup. Once you establish the initial backup, you can see the progress clearly, especially on the desktop app. A dashboard on the web interface provides a snapshot of your backups. Once you back up your data, you can easily manage it from the web or desktop. Carbonite doesn't have many features, which helps contribute to its ease of use. One notable exception is the lack of robust scheduling features available for Mac. However, you can create a schedule on a Windows computer with the Carbonite Safe Backup Pro plan. The desktop apps, available on Windows or Mac, and the mobile apps for iOS and Android are the best ways to engage with your account. You need the desktop app to create a backup, set the status of your backup and the most recent files it included. 1st Test2nd TestAverageUpload Speeds01:20:401:25:201:23:00 Carbonite's speeds were noticeably slow in our tests, particularly for downloads. Carbonite has a few security settings, including the option to enable two-factor authentication. Carbonite uses AES 128-bit encryption to protect your data, which is less secure than AES 256-bit. Windows users can manage a private encryption key, which increases the security to AES 256-bit encryption. Doing so removes the ability to access your data on the web interface or mobile app. Carbonite doesn't offer a free plan, but its business plans come with a free trial. The Basic personal plan costs $6 per month when billed annually, with options for a two- or three-year plan. Professional plans start at $24 per month with annual billing, and they support up to 25 computers. Read our Carbonite review for more on pricing and features. Internxt's backup feature lets you protect your documents and folders. Pros: Affordable plans Fast upload speeds Backs up from desktop app Cons: Limited backup features Poor file versioning Like pCloud, Internxt is predominantly a cloud storage solution with excellent features, including file share and sync. However, it also uses a backup option from the desktop app There's an option in the "preferences" menu, under the heading "backups." The backup option lets you add folders, but not individual files or entire disks. You can then access your backups from the system tray without opening the full web UI. The Internxt app lets you manage your sync folder, backups and account details. 1st Test2nd TestAverageUpload Speeds0:07:43 0:07:400:07:42 1st Test2nd TestAverageDownload Speeds0:08:59 0:10:350:09:47 Although Internxt has slow and inconsistent download speeds, the upload speed is quite impressive. Internxt is one of the few online backup providers that uses post-quantum encryption. Internxt protects your data with Kyber-512 encryption and lets you download a backup key for account recovery. You can enable two-step authentication from your account settings, giving the login process an added layer of protection. Although the Internxt free plan only gives you 1GB of storage space, the paid plans are a great value. You can get 1TB of storage for $1.30 per month on the annual plan, or get a lifetime subscription of $117. This also includes a basic VPN and antivirus. Check out our Internxt review to learn more. More plans Whether you run continuous or scheduled backups, you can see the status on your CrashPlan account page. Pros: Unlimited versioning Continuous backup Supports external drives Cons: Slow speeds No zero-knowledge encryption CrashPlan's service focuses primarily on businesses or teams, as it doesn't offer a personal plan. However, you get unlimited file versioning, which allows you to choose how many file versions to keep and for how long. You can also specify how often it captures changes. Its backup frequency options are similar to those for version retention. You can determine how often CrashPlan monitors and updates your data, with a minimum of every 15 minutes. Scheduling is limited — your only options are to keep things constantly up to date or to pick specific days and times. CrashPlan is a challenging service to get up and running. Some tutorials and guides are available to help you take your first steps. However, there's a lot to do before you can start backing up your data. The web interface is mostly informational, as you need the desktop app to establish and manage your backups. CrashPlan supports Windows, Mac and Linux desktop apps. However, the app continually logs out on Mac when idle, which is frustrating. After logging back in, we easily upgrade to 10GB by completing a few micro tasks. CrashPlan's desktop app doesn't have many features, but nor does it get in the way of backing up your data. 1st Test2nd TestAverageDownload Speeds00:00:100:07:230:07:46 Download speeds with CrashPlan were good, averaging around eight minutes. Uploads were much slower. CrashPlan requires you to use an authenticator to log in to your account. CrashPlan uses AES 256-bit encryption and TLS/SSL encryption protocols for data at rest and in transit. Additionally, it requires two-factor authentication via an authenticator app. The service doesn't give you the option to enable zero-knowledge encryption. CrashPlan has free trials for its three plans, ranging from seven to 30 days. There's no free plan and no options for personal use. The most affordable plan is the CrashPlan Essential plan. It costs $2.99 per month with 200GB of two devices. The CrashPlan Professional plan costs $88 per year and has unlimited backup capacity for two devices. We cover pricing and more in our CrashPlan review. Dropbox lets you back up a single file. Pros: Excellent file sync Flexible backup scheduling Easy file restoration Cons: No mobile backup Poor privacy Dropbox is best known as a cloud storage service, which is part of what makes it a good choice for freelancers. However, it recently added Dropbox Backup, which lets you make copies of your work and access them with your Dropbox account. Dropbox Backup doesn't limit the number of computers or external hard drives you can back up. The only limit is your storage allotment. Though you can't share files you add to your backup like you can with IDrive, Dropbox makes it easy to download or rewind individual files or the entire backup. You can enable automatic backups and determine their frequency. Other options include choosing the folders to back up or adjusting bandwidth settings. It's easy to use the backup features once you download the desktop app, which is available for Mac, Windows and Linux. On the web page, there's a dedicated page for Dropbox Backup, but it isn't apparent unless you click around your account. The cloud storage page doesn't show you your backup information, whereas the desktop app does. The Dropbox Desktop app gives you access to several settings, including the ones for your backups. 1st Test2nd TestAverageUpload Speeds00:06:4400:07:230:07:04 1st Test2nd TestAverageDownload Speeds00:07:1300:07:250:07:19 Dropbox has upload and download speeds, which we tested using 5GB of mixed data. Both upload and download speeds averaged a little over seven minutes. Dropbox uses encryption protocols and two-factor authentication to help keep your account secure. Dropbox uses AES 256-bit encryption to protect files in its servers and TLS/SSL encryption protocols to secure data transfers. It also supports two-factor authentication, which you can enable through your account settings. Currently, Dropbox doesn't offer private encryption. However, it recently acquired Boxcryptor, a third-party private encryption software. Dropbox intends to incorporate zero-knowledge encryption into its business plans. Dropbox has a 2GB free plan, which people quickly expend. Paid plans start at $9.99 per month (billed annually) for 2TB of storage space. The Business plan costs $19.99 per user per month (billed annually) with 9TB of shared space. We cover more in our Dropbox pricing article and our Dropbox review. We thoroughly test each service to find the best options for our readers. Our evaluation includes objective hands-on testing, where we explore each service's features, apps, speeds and security. We also analyze privacy policies and research past cyber issues like data breaches or leaks. Using our results and expertise, we thoroughly evaluate a product, conduct head-to-head comparisons and confidently present you with recommendations. We write authoritative articles without the use of AI-generated content. Having a way to back up and protect your data is essential in our digitally connected lives. Here are a few reasons why you should consider an online backup provider. Losing a file, whether it's part of an important project or an irreplaceable picture, is a terrible feeling. In most cases, a file is corrupted or deleted, it's gone forever. With an online backup provider, you can recover and restore lost data. If you spend enough time online, you may eventually become a victim of ransomware. Ransomware can wreak havoc on your devices. However, with cloud backup solutions, you can get your lost or corrupted data back, mitigating the damage that ransomware causes. Knowing that your data is backed up and protected means you don't have to worry about what you'd do in the event of irreplaceable data loss. Having online cloud backup provides that peace of mind. Choosing the best online backup provider is the difference between recovering your data and losing it when something unexpected happens. Different consumers have different needs, so picking a provider from our list will help you get what you need from a cloud backup provider. Do you use any of the online backup services we listed? If so, what's your experience been like? Did we miss a great cloud backup solution? Let us know in the comments section below. Thanks for reading our article. What Is the Best Backup Service?IDrive tops our list as the best online storage backup service. It combines cloud backup and cloud storage features with a robust scheduling tool. How Do I Back Up Files Online?There are a few services with free plans, like pCloud or Dropbox. The best online backup software will let you back up your files online. How Safe Is Online Backup? Cloud storage backup is safe, as most providers uses AES 256-bit encryption and TLS/SSL encryption protocols to protect your data at rest and in transit. Related: Madmaxer/iStock Online backup is your protection against any disaster that might befall your computer or local storage devices. Mechanical failure, acts of malice, or natural disasters are serious threats to the data you have stored on your PC. While I always recommend keeping a local backup for quick restores (see our roundup of the best Windows backup software for desktop solutions), uploading your data to an online backup service is a reliable way to cover your bases. The "backup rule of three" exists for a reason. The good news for consumers is that there are many affordable and convenient cloud storage options, each offering unique selling points. My primary concern here is backup, but I do note other roles that a service can fulfill, such as file sharing, multiple-device support, and emergency-restore options. EaseUS Todo Backup covers all your bases, too. With all of these different storage options the wires can get crossed and it can become increasingly difficult to ensure all of your data is backed up to the correct place. That's where Arq 7 comes in. Its support for myriad third-party online backup services is second to none. Arq 7 also supports multiple jobs that you can tailor to each service such as backing up vital documents to free cloud storage, or larger files to a premium service you use as well. The interface is clean and easy-to-use, which is a huge boon considering how intimidating backing up can be for new users. Our only minor quibble with the service is that it's a bit of a one-trick pony—it only does backup. There are no additional features, such as partition or drive-image backups, cloning, sync, or recovery via boot media. Still, in regards to backup, Arq 7 does an excellent job, and with its support for third-party services it's one of the most versatile backup services we've ever tested. Read our full Arq 7 Backup review Sync.com offers both a paid and a free tier service. The free tier comes with 5GB of backup cloud storage and most of the features offered in their premium services as well. The Sync.com service is easy to use and as secure as any other online backup service we've come across. It has both an attractive and well-designed web interface as well as a desktop app for Windows, macOS, Android, and iOS. Sync.com also makes syncing files across your devices easy to do and even has a Vault option to back up files without transferring them to the local Sync folder in case you wish to keep files unchanged or separated for any reason. While 5GB of storage may not be enough for power users or businesses, if you're just looking to keep files stored online and the ability to sync them across multiple devices without having to pay anything, Sync.com is a reliable service with great functionality. Plus, you can always upgrade to a paid tier for more storage as needed. Read our full Sync.com review Typically, we separate our reviews of cloud backup services from local backup software (as seen in our best Windows backup software roundup). But those lines have been blurred with backup software that includes support for cloud backup and local backup. The following are reviews of such hybrid offerings: MSP360 Managed Backup: Control backup for multiple computers at a decently low fee. Local and online, file-based and imaging, along with disaster recovery are all provided via managed clients. R-Drive Image 7.3: This great backup program gets even better with expanded support for cloud storage services — including the Amazon S3 and S3-compatible repositories Iperius Backup Basic: This backup program offers power aplenty, but the learning curve and interface might occasionally flummox less-experienced users. EaseUS ToDo Backup 2025: An all-featured program that ranks among the top; it's free version is particular robust. Handy Backup 8.5 Professional: Top-notch features might've garnered an Editors' Choice award had it been entirely glitch-free and a bit easier to learn. Ashampoo Backup Pro 26: Overarching support for myriad backup chores with easy-to-understand wizards. Zinstall FullBack: Unique among backup programs, it offers full migration of backed up data and apps to a new OS installation — for a relatively steep price. Aomei Backupper Pro: A complete backup solution capable of preserving your important data both locally and remotely. Acronis True Image: Besides being feature-packed, including support for cloud backup storage, Acronis throws in protection against viruses and malware. R-Drive Image: Our top pick for best Windows backup software just keeps getting better with each new iteration. Even local backup software that doesn't offer a formal cloud component can be made to incorporate the most popular online storage services, using a cloud storage manager. The good news is that you have lots of options for putting together a comprehensive backup strategy including local and remote cloud backups of all your data! As noted above, the performance of online backup services will vary wildly according to their location and the equipment in between you and the data depository. We installed the software and backed up the same 2GB data set to check for any major issues or glitches in the reviews. See our article on how PCWorld tests cloud backup services for all the details. Why you should trust us: It's in our name, PCWorld. Our reviewers have been testing PC hardware, software, and services for decades. Our backup evaluations are thorough and rigorous, testing the promises and limitations of every product — from performance to the practicalities of regular use. As PC users ourselves, we know what makes a product stand out. Only the best online backup services make this list. Cloud backup has unique considerations. Familiarizing yourself with the following key areas can help you find the cloud backup service that best meets your needs. Obviously, you'll need as much storage as you have data, plus a little, or possibly a lot, more if you want to track changes and save previous versions of files. Some services keep multiple versions of files, some don't. In many cases there's a time limit. Nearly all online services charge for a maximum allowable amount of data, and generally uploads are free. However, almost all generally uploads are free. Whether you have terabytes of files available from a service like Dropbox, pricing is fairly consistent across services, though you definitely get more capacity for your money from some vendors, notably Backblaze. As we mentioned previously, in addition to backup, you may want to share your files with others, work with them from mobile devices, or even edit them with office applications such as those available with Dropbox, Google, and OneDrive. If you do intend to work with and imaging, along with disaster recovery are all provided via managed clients. Most services provide client backup software for the major operating systems (Linux, OS X, and Windows) and both Android and iOS. Make sure the service you sign up for supports your entire panoply of computers and devices. If you're concerned about the privacy of your data, make sure you use a service that allows the use of a personal encryption key that you define. Do NOT lose it, as it is absolutely required to restore your data. Sadly, using your own key often limits the types of services (e.g., no mobile backup) available, read the privacy policy, especially with the free services—there are significant differences. 1. Generally speaking, data centers are backed up to the hilt, and some of the larger ones even back up to different geographical locations. Availability (hopefully 24/7) can also be important. Check for news of outages and the vendor's own service history. In truth, all the services we're aware of are near-100% reliable. 2. Speed in many cases is far more dependent upon your broadband connection than that of the online service, though the geographical location of the storage and the equipment in between can make a significant difference. Check the location of the data servers if speed is important to you. Or, just give the trial a whirl and see if you can live with it. 3. Ideally, you should back up your data as often as possible. This is especially true if you are working on an important project or have data that you absolutely cannot afford to lose. It's a good idea to automate the backup process and have the cloud service back up your data every hour or so. 4. Services such as Google Drive, Dropbox, and OneDrive are considered to be cloud storage services. This means that a user must place their files or data onto the service's cloud manually. These storage services usually offer a free version with limited storage or a paid version with increased capacity. They can also come with basic services such as automatic backup and the synching of file versions. A cloud backup service provides continuous versioning and backup of all the file history on your device. They will continuously and automatically back up every specified file on a device. Cloud backup service providers also offer additional data security measures such as end-to-end encryption. 5. Yes! All cloud backup services offer encryption of your data both during the transfer to and from your computer as well as while your data is stored on the provider's servers. While this is generally standard, it. But rest assured that the level of security associated with these services most likely rivals that of your own device. So generally speaking, while not infallible, cloud backup services are one of the most secure options for storing your data. 6. You should at least back up all data that you can't stand to lose. All devices will likely experience technical issues over time and oftentimes this leads to your data being lost from that device. So you should do regular backups of everything that is important to you. However, backup services typically offer more storage than most people can use, so it's never a bad idea to safely store all of your data in case of emergency. The best cloud backup services take the headache out of dealing with data loss. With one of these services installed on your computer, you don't have to worry as you always have an extra copy of your most important files stored safely and securely in the cloud just in case something happens.Unlike with the cloud storage where you need to manually upload your files, cloud backup services do this automatically for you. By constantly copying your data back and forth from your computer to a service's cloud storage, you can retrieve your most important files, photos and more from anywhere in the world as long as you have an internet connection. Many people use a combination of cloud backup and cloud storage with one of the best external hard drives for local storage in order to adhere to the 3-2-1 backup rule.Whether you have multiple computers or just a single machine you want to back up, we've thoroughly tested and reviewed the best cloud backup services available today to help you find the right one for your needs, workflow and budget. You may like Top 3 best cloud backup servicesView dealListBest cloud backup service overall(Image credit: iDrive)IDrive offers the most bang for the buck, backing up an unlimited number of machines to either a 5TB or a 10TB ($4.98 for the first year for Tom's Guide readers) limit, which should be enough for most people. It's our Editor's Choice for best cloud backup service.IDrive's upload speeds are fast, its mobile apps actually back up the devices they run on (and recognize faces in photos for tagging), it provides a generous file-syncing option and it even lets you mail in a full drive instead of spending days uploading data. IDrive also keeps old copies of files forever, which is handy, but you'll have to mind those storage caps. It also has two-factor authentication, which is an essential feature every online service provider should offer.Read our full IDrive Personal review.Best cloud backup serviceImage credit: Backblaze)Backblaze is one of the cheapest cloud-backup solutions, gigabyte for gigabyte, and that's despite a recent price hike. It's definitely the easiest to use — you literally can just set Backblaze and forget it. We also like the generous restore-by-mail feature and its rapid upload speeds. Backblaze even lets you locate a lost or stolen computer by geolocating the Wi-Fi network it connects to.However, Backblaze is starting to be left behind as competitors add features such as cloud syncing, file sharing and backups of networked drives. It's also not ideal for anyone who has multiple machines to back up, unless you happen to have nearly unlimited amounts of money to spend. In that case, the reasonable yearly cost to back up each machine may be worth Backblaze subscriptions.Read our full Backblaze review.Best cloud backup service for power users(Image credit: Acronis)Acronis True Image, recently rebranded as Acronis Cyber Protect Home Office, may be the most powerful and versatile online-backup solution available, with a terrific desktop application and an insane number of backup and security options. It offers mobile-device, external-drive and social-media backups, as well as you add devices and storage, and weak web and mobile interfaces. But may be the best option if you're a power user or someone who's shopping for antivirus software as well.Read our full Acronis True Image review.Best cloud backup service for consumers until it quit the market in 2017. Its plan for small businesses retains that service's very fast upload and download speeds, and adds business-friendly features such as support for Red Hat and Ubuntu Linux and unlimited (if you want) retention of old versions of files.Almost everything is customizable, including frequency of backups, retention of deleted files, account security and where to download restored files. CrashPlan supports full-drive-image backups to local drives and backs up Linux/macOS-formatted networked drives. It even supports backing up as long as you're willing to pay $10 per month per computer.What you won't get are the consumer-friendly features that made CrashPlan for Home so appealing, such as drive shipping and mobile-device backups. The mobile apps have great security but are pretty bare. CrashPlan for Small Business also consumes a fair amount of system resources during backups, but you can adjust the application settings to reduce that.Read our full CrashPlan for Small Business review.Best cloud backup service for security(Image credit: SpiderOak)SpiderOak was the first online storage (or online-syncing) service to make sure the customer held a private, exclusive encryption key. Most other cloud storage services now offer the same thing, but SpiderOak also has strong file-sharing and -syncing features as well as support for unlimited machines and, if you insist, backups of system files and applications. Yet SpiderOak's storage-space pricing is so high that it's more competitive with Dropbox than it is with IDrive. While its file-restoration speed was amazingly fast, its initial upload speed was glacial.Read our full SpiderOak One review.Best cloud backup service for one PC(Image credit: Carbonite)Carbonite offers unlimited storage, which is always nice to have in one of the best cloud backup services. It also has an intuitive user interface that shows you which files have been fully, partly or not backed up.But you'd better read the fine print, as Carbonite doesn't automatically back up large files, external drives, or any kind of video file on its Basic pricing tier. To get those functions, you'll have to trade up to the Plus or Premium plans, which have features similar to IDrive or Backblaze's basic plans but cost much more. (Carbonite has temporarily slashed prices by 30%, bringing costs a bit closer to those of its rivals.)Multiple machines are supported on a single account, but their "universal resume" function — each additional machine costs as much as the first. Upload speeds are slow. And Carbonite Safe review.Online backup vs. online archivingCloud backup services aren't the same as online-syncing services like Dropbox, Google Drive, iCloud or OneDrive. An online-syncing service's software creates a cloud-based mirror of a specific set of files or folders on your device, and pushes out identical copies of those files to all of your linked devices so that you can have immediate access to them. Think of the syncing service as the hub on a spoked wheel, with all your linked devices at the ends of the spokes.(Image credit: Shutterstock)Cloud-backup services are simpler. They continuously or periodically copy all or most of the files and folders on your computer to their own servers. Instead of the spoked-wheel diagram of a file-syncing service, an online-backup service would look like a straight line between your machine(s) and the cloud server. Your data stays on those remote backup servers until you need it, and with luck, you never will. Most backup services let you access your data at any time, and with it, back up your hard drive. Cloud-archiving services can be dirt-cheap, sometimes as little as a few pennies per month per gigabyte, but there's often a fee to download files again. (The assumption is that you will need to download all of the archived files.) Backblaze has its own very affordable cloud-storage service called B2.How we test the best cloud backup services:We took several factors into consideration when testing the best cloud backup services: storage costs, ease of file restoration, account-recovery usage, unique features, ease of use and installation. Upload speed also matters even though you only do your initial backup once, it can take days or even weeks if it's several hundred gigabytes.We also gave bonus points to the online backup services that let you mail in a hard drive full of data to start the process as well as those that send you a hard drive to restore your data.Our testing and evaluation was done on a 15-inch Apple MacBook Pro running Windows 10. Meanwhile, mobile apps were run on a Google Pixel XL 2 running Android 8.1 Oreo. We monitored data-transfer rates on the MacBook using GlassWire and CPU usage using Windows' built-in Resource Monitor.Each cloud backup service was tested individually and then uninstalled on both devices before the next test. The files used in our tests consisted of 16.8GB of documents, photos, videos and music. We uploaded this data to each service's cloud servers and then restored a 1.12GB subset of these files to the laptop.The testing environment itself was a home in Wisconsin, provisioned by TDS Telecom Extreme 300 Fiber internet service. Internet speeds during testing were typically 280 megabits per second (Mbps) down and 120 Mbps up, according to Speedtest.net.For more information check out our how we test page for Tom's Guide.

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