

Cloud Sync/Backup for Photos/Videos

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- Many Options exist, but I will focus on the 3 main ones:

- iCloud (Apple)

- icloud.com/photos



- Google Photos

- google.com/photos



- OneDrive (Microsoft)

- photos.onedrive.com



But I Don't Want My Photos in the Cloud!

- If you use email, then very likely all of your messages, sent and received, are on a server somewhere in the cloud – Apple's cloud if you use iCloud email, Google's cloud if you use Gmail or Telus, Shaw's cloud, etc.
- You probably appreciate the convenience of being able to access your email from your smartphone, tablet, desktop, or even a hotel computer
- Your email is password protected
- If your smartphone or PC fails, you haven't lost your email. And the email servers are backed up so there is very little risk of losing everything
- Would you like your photos to be as safe and as easily available?

Backup: Cloud Storage vs. External Drive

- You should use at least one of these backup methods, you can do both
- External drive
 - Inexpensive (\$100)
 - Backs up everything on your Mac/PC
 - Greatly facilitates transfer to a new computer
 - With Mac TimeMachine or Windows File History, the backup includes not only the current version but also previous versions of files
- Cloud storage
 - Acts not just as a backup, but also as an easy way to share photos/files with your other devices
 - Off-site, so not lost if your home is burgled or burns down

Cloud Photo Organization

- Whether iCloud, Google Photos, or OneDrive, photos are automatically organized by date/time. All smartphones and most digital cameras insert a timestamp into the “metadata” of a photo. (you can edit the timestamp)
- Photos are also categorized by location if that is included in the metadata – All smartphones insert GPS location, some digital cameras also do (you can edit the location)
- iCloud and Google Photos, and soon OneDrive, also categorize by “people”, using face recognition to group together photos of individuals (you add the name)
- These services also use AI to recognize features, so you can search for, e.g., “beach” photos
- In addition to all the above automatic features, cloud storage also provides for manually collecting some or all photos into “albums” and, with iCloud specifically, albums can be incorporated into folders
- You can also tag photos and mark favourites to facilitate searching

Sharing Photos and Videos

- A big reason for using cloud storage is to facilitate sharing of photos and videos
- All cloud services make it easy to share multiple photos, even entire albums, and videos using links
- When you share a link by email or text message, the size of your message is only several bytes, rather than hundreds or even thousands of kilobytes
 - You are not filling up your Sent Box and the recipient's Inbox
 - The recipient can choose whether to download the images
 - The recipient cannot edit or comment on the photos
 - The recipient does not need to have a cloud account to view your photos



iCloud Photos

- iCloud Photos works best on Apple devices (Mac, iPhone, iPad)
- If you have an Apple device, then you have an Apple ID, and with it you have 5 GB of iCloud storage, which is also used to store iPhone and iPad backups and iCloud email
- Apple devices do not upload photos to iCloud by default, you need to enable it (easy)
- If you want to store photos in iCloud, you need to purchase additional iCloud storage
 - 50 GB (~15,000 photos) C\$1.29/mo
 - 200 GB (~60,000 photos) C\$3.99/mo
 - 2 TB (~600,000 photos) C\$12.99/mo



iCloud Photos

- If enabled on all your devices, all your photos are available on all your devices – “synced”. E.g., if you take a photo on your iPhone, it will be automatically uploaded to iCloud, and usually moments later it will be downloaded to your iPad and Mac
- What is stored on iCloud is always the original, high-resolution version of the photo
- On your devices, if you choose Optimize Storage then (only if you are low on space on the device) a space-saving version of the photo will be kept on that device – the original photo is still downloaded when you need it





Apple Photos Apps

- The Apple Photos apps that come with your iPhone, iPad, and Mac all have similar editing capabilities
- The Photos apps work with the photos stored on your device, you do not need to be online – when you are back online your new or edited photo will be uploaded to iCloud and hence will become available on your other devices
- With iCloud Photos your edited photo does not replace the original – both are retained, and you can always revert to the original
- There is no iCloud app for Android phones



iCloud Photos For PCs

- If you install iCloud for Windows then you can view all your iCloud photos in the Windows 11 Photos app, displayed by date. Also, your iCloud photos are accessible from Windows apps including as Mail attachments (one-way sync). Not taking up space on PC, photos are available only when online.
- Windows Photos app doesn't have access to iCloud Photos categories – you need to use the web app icloud.com/photos to see albums, people, location, and favourites
- Optionally you can also sync (two-way) specific photos or folders stored locally on your PC to iCloud Photos

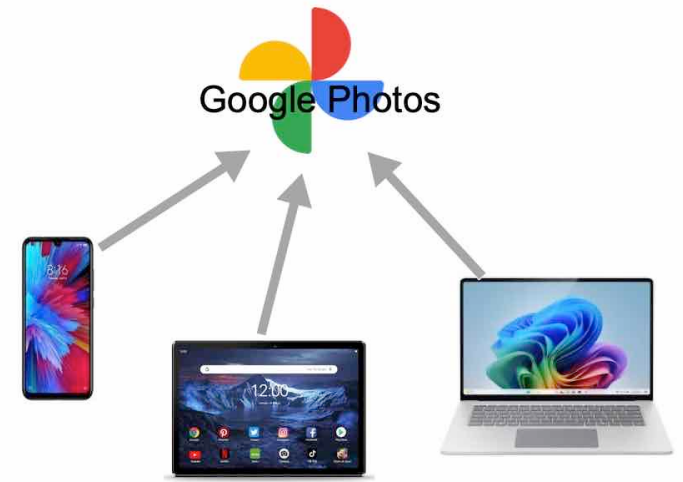




- Most people will already have a Google account, either because they use Gmail, or because they use Google Chrome, but if not, you can open an account for free
- A Google account comes with 15 GB of storage for free, which is shared between your Gmail, Google Photos, and Google Drive
- The Google account associated with your Telus email has limited functionality – you will need a separate Google account
- If you have more than about 4,000 photos, you will need to purchase extra storage
 - 100 GB (~30,000 photos) C\$2.79/mo
 - 2 TB (~600,000 photos) C\$13.99/mo

Google Photos Apps

- Your Google Photos library is cloud-based, the library is not duplicated on your Mac or PC
- With the Google photos app, iPhones, Android phones and tablets can be configured to upload all new photos to Google Photos – one-way sync
- There are Google Photos apps for Mac and PC, but an Internet connection is required to use these apps
- With Google Photos your edited photo does not replace the original – both are retained, and you can always revert to the original
- Google Photos does not integrate with Windows 11 Photos or with Outlook mail





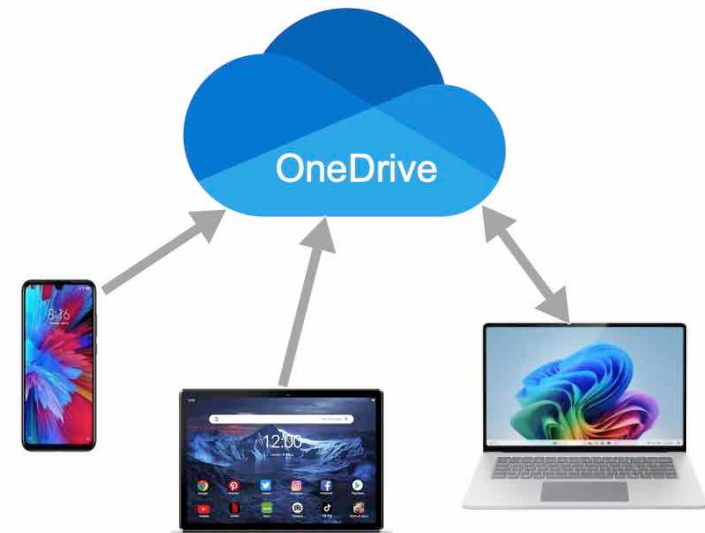
Microsoft OneDrive

- This option will be of particular interest if your photos are already organized on your PC/Mac in your Pictures folder with multiple subfolders, because unlike the other options this folder structure is retained in OneDrive
- Microsoft 365 Personal (which includes Word, Excel, PowerPoint...) subscribers get 1TB of cloud (OneDrive) storage with their plan, which is enough for about 300,000 photos, C\$11.50/mo
- If you don't need Word, Excel, then Microsoft 365 Basic offers 100GB of storage (~30,000 photos) for C\$2.00/mo
- There is also a Free Microsoft 365 plan which gives you 5GB of OneDrive storage, but for most users that is not enough for a photo library



OneDrive Apps

- The smartphone OneDrive app with camera backup turned on automatically uploads new photos to OneDrive (one-way sync)
- If you link your Pictures folder to OneDrive on a Windows PC or Mac, then all photos are available both on your computer and in the cloud. The photos are full resolution in both places. (Two-way sync)
- Because the photos are resident on your PC/Mac, you can use the standard MacOS Photos or Windows 11 Photos app to view/edit



Summary

1. Cloud storage makes your photo library easily available on all your devices, for a relatively small cost
2. Cloud storage makes it easy to share videos, photos and albums by email and text using links to minimize message size
3. Cloud storage helps you to find your photos with automatic categorization features
4. iCloud vs Google Photos vs OneDrive – no clear winner, it depends on your needs and preferences