

# Tech Topic: Cloud Computing

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# What is Cloud Computing?

- In the simplest terms, cloud computing means storing and accessing programs, applications, and data from remote computers (over the Internet) instead of your computer's hard drive.
  - The cloud is a metaphor for the Internet.
- Cloud computing is *not* about your hard drive
  - When you store data on or run programs from your hard drive
  - Using your hard drive is called *local* storage and computing.

# Cloud Storage vs Online Backup

## Cloud Storage

Back-up and working access  
Cloud storage is intended to make a **subset** of your files available for syncing and sharing with other devices or people.

### Examples

- Box
- Dropbox
- Google Drive
- OneDrive

## Cloud Backup

Back-up and restore  
Cloud backup is designed to securely back up **all your personal files** and keep them safe so you can easily restore your files.

### Examples

- Carbonite
- CrashPlan
- IDrive
- Mozy

# Popular Cloud Storage

- OneDrive (Microsoft)
  - Called Sky Drive prior to 2015
  - Internet based web applications Office 365
- Google Drive (Google)
  - Internet based web applications Google apps
- iCloud (Apple: designed for iOS)
- Dropbox
- Amazon Cloud Drive (Amazon)
- Box

# Storage Considerations

- Operating System
- Space limitations
  - Maximum file size
  - Total storage space
- Interface
  - Web-based
  - Computer, tablet, phone applications
  - Synchronization
- Document sharing and editing capability
- Price

# Security and Privacy

- READ the TERMS and CONDITIONS

# Resources

- [Information Week: Online Backup vs Cloud Storage \(2012\)](#)
- [Code 42 \(2015\)](#)
- [C|NET as of February 2016](#)
- [PC Magazine as of February 2016](#)