

Office 365 or Dropbox or ...?

Hi friends,

Following the advice of many of you, I'm the proud new owner of a Surface Pro. So far, so good.

I now have a laptop and the Surface Pro. So now it's time to get my files into the cloud, so I can easily work between the two devices. At the moment, everything is locally based on my laptop, except I use Dropbox for collaboration on some projects.

I'm skeptical of Office 365, even though it seems convenient in some ways.

I have found Dropbox to be very easy to use. I'm leaning towards using Dropbox as my cloud-based system.

For those of you who use Office 365, any concerns or problems?

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Any other cloud-based solutions to recommend?

For what it's worth, I'm a one-person show, with no immediate plans to bring on other staff.

Thanks!

I don't use Office 365 for storage. But I do use it to host my email, plus have access to all of the Office apps.

For storage it's a combination of Dropbox and Netdocuments.

David A. Shulman, Florida

OneDrive, MS's cloud-based filing system (which comes as part of the Office365) integrates with your non-cloud folders in much the same way that DropBox does. I wouldn't buy Office 365 just for OneDrive, but if you if you have Office 365 because that's how you license Word, Outlook, etc., then it's a free add-on, so why not use it?

Kevin W. Grierson, Virginia

I'm personally skeptical about storing *anything* in the cloud given privilege concerns.

How about GoToMyPC.com? I think it's about \$20/mo and I also think it uses a VPN.

Also, FYI, OpenOffice is an Office clone but it's free. It's distributed by Apache.

If you have an email, you have email access.

Good luck.

Russ Carmichael, Pennsylvania

I share the concern about cloud storage. We're moving from a file server to a network attached storage device that will be accessible through an internet connection.

David Masters, Colorado

I went with Office 365 I find the pricing reminiscent of the Xerox Star.

You don't buy it you just pay a monthly tribute. I do make limited use of one drive.

Like many I trust the cloud about as far as I can toss a grand piano.

I don't believe I have anything interesting enough to be breaking im.

Besides most of my clients and I suspect opposing parties use cell phones not pcs

John Davidson, Pennsylvania

Even with 365 I use Dropbox. Which I love!!!

Patricia L. Dennis, Illinois

I have a Surface Pro and love it! I use Office 365 for email, and Box.com in combo with PracticePanther. Box is a little more secure than Dropbox and integrates with PP. Everything is mirrored between my hard drive and Box.com, which my virtual assistant can also access. And we back up everything to a remote hard drive once a week.

18 months in, and this setup has been working very well for us.

Jeremy Vermilyea, Washington

I have been using Libre Office for many years. It is free and is more than enough for any office needs. It is a suite of programs including Word, Spreadsheet, Presentations, and more. Libre Office and Open Office started from the same roots but parted ways some years ago

Just google search it and download..

Jordan Rosenberg, paralegal, California

I think that's a dramatic overstatement to say that either OpenOffice or LibreOffice is "more than enough for any office needs." I have used both LibreOffice and OpenOffice, and I have OpenOffice on my computer for breaking security on Word documents, but it is a poor substitute for Word when dealing with complex documents and markups--which is the majority of my practice. Working back and forth between Word (which is what the client inevitably has) and an open source substitute invariably leads to formatting issues, missing markups, and other problems.

Office 365 costs less than \$10 a month. In addition to a word processor, spreadsheet, etc. it also provides me with Outlook and OneNote, both of which I use extensively. That's a small price to pay for software that is integral to my practice.

Kevin W. Grierson

And you get to install the Office apps on five computers, plus phone and tablet.
I use it on both Mac and PC.

That, plus it hosts my email.

I don't use it for storage though.

David A. Shulman

I was a big fan of OpenOffice then LibreOffice, and had very few problems, but ... the markup problem and the complex document problem are real. That was why I switched to MSOffice.

Tim Ackermann
