

Cloud Photo Storage Options

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Cloud Storage to Backup Your Photos

- You should always have at least two copies of any file you don't want to lose
- The cost of restoring files can be in the tens of thousands of dollars, if even possible. Possible causes of loss
 - Hardware failure
 - Software failure
 - Malicious software
 - Catastrophic event such as fire, flood
 - Theft

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What Constitutes Backup

- **Backup** is the process of creating a copy of the **data** on your system that you can use for recovery in case your original **data** is lost or corrupted.
 - Backup is always an additional copy of the original data
 - Once you have created a backup copy, you cannot destroy the original copy and consider the second copy a backup
 - The additional copy can be used to restore the original data should the original copy be destroyed
- **TWO IS ONE & ONE IS NONE!!!**

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Backup Strategy

- 3-2-1 backup strategy
 - Popularized by Peter Krogue and his book “The DAM Book” (Digital Asset Management)
 - Any file that you wouldn’t ever want to lose you should have three copies
 - On two different formats
 - Media formats become obsolete or can decay or become corroded
 - One copy offsite
 - Either at another location or on the cloud

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Additional Reasons to Use Cloud Storage

- Create albums, or to search by subject, place or person
- Share photos or albums with friends and family
- Access the photos from multiple devices, all synced to one file
 - Computers, tablets, phones and even to your television

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Apple iCloud

- First video – iCloud features
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tWt5gcmxPMY&t=99s>
 - Section Apple iCloud
 - From 1:35 to 4:10

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Apple iCloud Cost, Sync and Sharing

- Second video highlights plans, sync and sharing
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j5W2VDREKbQ&t=872s>
 - Section iCloud Storage
 - From 14:32 to 16:16

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Google Photos

- Third video – Google features and ease of use
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tWt5gcmxPMY&t=250s>
 - Section Google Photos
 - From 4:10 to 8:34

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Changes to Google Photos – June 1,2021

- Fourth video – Changes to Google Photos
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j5W2VDREKbQ&t=31s>
 - Sections
 - Google Photos Changes
 - How I Use Google Photos
 - Google's Storage Demand
 - New Storage Policies for Google Docs, Sheets, Slides Etc.
 - Idle Account Deletions
 - Storage Subscription Tiers – Should I Pay Now?
 - From 0:31 to 9:00

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Amazon Photos

- Fifth video – Amazon photos features
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tWt5gcmxPMY&t=515s>
 - Section Amazon Photos
 - From 8:38 to 12:11

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Additional Cloud Storage Services

- **Flickr** – No longer has 1 TB of free storage
 - Limited to 1,000 photos for free
 - Good for sharing photos
 - Can purchase additional storage with FlickrPro – doesn't backup RAW
- **Smug Mug** – this originally was originally Flickr
 - Backs up RAW photos
 - Good for professional photographers as there is a level that allows you to display and sell your photos
- **Photo Developing Sites** like Snapfish, Shutterfly, Walmart, etc.
 - No guarantee they will retain your pictures forever
 - May not store photos in high resolution
 - Good for sharing pictures with friends and family

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Online storage sites that should primarily be considered as a backup

- Dropbox
 - Only 2 GB of free storage
 - Free account can be used on only three devices
 - Good for sharing and collaboration
- One Drive – is Microsoft's online storage service.
 - You get 5 GB for free, but you get 1 TB with Microsoft 365.
 - You can have 6 users on a family account, each with 1 TB of storage

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- **Carbonite** – backup service designed to backup just one device
 - No way to sync with a second device
 - Can access files from another device
 - Must be careful because it does not backup all types of files
 - Videos and large files are not backed up by default

- **Facebook** – **DO NOT consider as an option for backup**
 - Pictures are stored in very low resolution
 - Resolution may not be good enough to print pictures
 - Facebook policies change very quickly and they could delete your pictures or account

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Reasons not to use Cloud Storage

- Could lose your photos if you can't log into account
 - May have used an email address that has been closed
 - Photos may be deleted if account is considered dormant
- Service can close or change policy
- Picasa – photo organization, editing options, online storage & printing services
 - July 2004 purchased by Google
 - Feb 12, 2016 Google announced it was discontinuing support for Picasa and focusing on Google Photos
 - May 1, 2016 closed Picasa Web Albums
 - Option to transfer photos to Google Photos

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- Yahoo! Photos launched Mar 28, 2000
 - Mar 29, 2005 Yahoo bought Flickr
 - May 3, 2007 announced that Yahoo! Photos was going to shut down by the fall. Users were directed to transfer their images to Flickr or other photo sites as Multiply, Shutterfly, Kodak Gallery, Snapfish or Photobucket
 - Users had to create a Flickr account and transfer images to Flickr
 - Sep 20, 2007 Yahoo! Photos was shut down
- Flickr – announced it would upgrade to 1 TB of photo storage for free
 - Apr 20, 2018 purchased by SmugMug which announced new restrictions
 - Beginning Jan 9, 2019 users only able to upload 1,000 images for free
 - Beginning Mar 12, 2019 Flickr began deletion of oldest files until 1,000 met if account not upgraded to Pro

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Changes to Google Photos

- Google Photos – originally had unlimited free photo and video storage in “High Quality.”
 - Needed to pay for storage of photos and videos in “Original Quality”
 - November 2020 – Google announced starting June 1, 2021 “High Quality” free photo backups will no longer be offered and users will have to pay after their 15 GB free storage have been used
 - Photos submitted prior to June 1, 2021 will not be counted towards the 15 GB of free storage
 - NOTE: Email and other items stored on Google Drive will be counted towards the 15 GB free allowance
 - Additional storage can be purchased

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Video on Abandoned Photos

- Sixth video on Abandoned Photos
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j5W2VDREKbQ&t=980s>
 - Section on Abandoned Photos
 - From 16:20 to 19:20

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Summary

- Never depend on cloud storage to be the only place your photos are stored
- The platform you are on, Windows, Apple or Android will determine which services are available to you
- What do you want to do with your photos?
 - Backup, access from different devices, or share with family & Friends
- Determine what type of photos and video you want to store on the cloud
 - Check what each service offers and its cost

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Video Links

- Below are the two YouTube videos that I took excerpts from for today's presentation. The entire videos include more detailed information on other options. They are divided into sections so you can quickly move to a specific topic.
 - NOTE: You will probably get a YouTube Ad before the video plays
- YouTube – What is the BEST cloud photo storage 2021 – Google Photos vs Apple Photos vs Amazon – YouTube
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tWt5gcmxPMY&t=1s>
- YouTube – Google's New Storage Policy: More than Photos! Docs, Sheets etc. Impacted too. Alternatives?
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j5W2VDREKbQ&t=1s>