

STUG TECH GUIDE

Cloud Storage*Compared*

Top 5 services · Free tiers · 2026 pricing · Auto-sync options

SERVICE	FREE TIER	PREMIUM PLANS	AUTO-SYNC OPTIONS
Google Drive Google One	15 GB shared with Gmail & Photos	100 GB — \$2.99/mo 200 GB — \$3.99/mo 2 TB — \$9.99/mo 5 TB + Gemini AI — \$19.99/mo	Yes — sync any folder on desktop; photos auto-backup via Google Photos; selective folder sync available
Microsoft OneDrive^① Bundled with M365	5 GB	100 GB standalone — \$1.99/mo M365 Personal (1 TB) — \$6.99/mo M365 Family (6×1 TB) — \$9.99/mo	Yes — sync any folder; "Files On-Demand" shows cloud files without downloading; selective folder sync; Desktop, Documents & Photos can auto-redirect to cloud
Dropbox^②	2 GB value is in paid tiers	Plus 2 TB — \$11.99/mo Essentials 3 TB — \$16.58/mo Business — \$15/user/mo	Limited — syncs its own dedicated folder only; cannot sync arbitrary folders elsewhere on your drive; Smart Sync shows cloud files without downloading
iCloud Drive Apple iCloud+	5 GB	50 GB — \$0.99/mo 200 GB — \$2.99/mo 2 TB — \$9.99/mo 6 TB — \$29.99/mo 12 TB — \$59.99/mo	Yes (best on Apple devices) — iCloud Photos syncs full library automatically; Desktop & Documents sync on Mac; iPhone/iPad backups auto-upload; Windows app available but limited
pCloud	10 GB	500 GB — \$4.99/mo 2 TB — \$9.99/mo LIFETIME 2 TB — ~\$199 one-time (often \$99–149 on sale)	Yes — sync any folder on desktop; auto-backup for photos & videos; selective sync; virtual drive streams files without storing locally
MEGA	20 GB most generous free tier	Pro Lite 400 GB — \$5.84/mo Pro I 2 TB — \$11.67/mo Pro II 8 TB — \$23.33/mo	Yes — sync any folder; camera auto-upload; selective sync; end-to-end encrypted (sync is slower than competitors as a result)

①

OneDrive warning:

OneDrive can silently redirect your Desktop, Documents, and Pictures folders into its cloud sync folder during setup — without obvious notice. This can cause real confusion about where your files actually live. Disable or carefully configure folder protection before use on a new machine.

②

Dropbox note:

Dropbox was designed from the ground up as a sync tool — keeping its dedicated folder identical across all your devices. Sharing features were added later and work well. The key limitation is that it cannot sync folders that exist outside the Dropbox folder on your drive; for that flexibility, Google Drive or OneDrive are better choices.

③

Linux users:

Dropbox, pCloud, and MEGA offer native Linux desktop apps. Google Drive, OneDrive, and iCloud have no official Linux client — web access only.