

# OwnCloud

OwnCloud is a system of setting up a cloud storage environment. The Sterrewacht used to provide its own OwnCloud server, but this has been superseded by [nextcloud](#). It is also possible to connect to other “clouds”. SurfDrive is an ownCloud implementation for the joint dutch universities, which you can use using your ULCN credentials.

## Local OwnCloud implementation at Sterrewacht

The institute implementation of OwnCloud is at <https://owncloud.strw.leidenuniv.nl>. Use your local username and password. You can access your files through the browser, or set up a client to connect and synchronize files with a local folder.

## SurfDrive

[SurfDrive](#) is a cloud storage service provided by SurfNet, on behalf of the joint dutch universities. It's underlying protocol is that of ownCloud, so you can connect the OwnCloud client to synchronize your files to SurfDrive. The connection url will be: <https://surfdrive.surf.nl/files> and to log in, select Leiden University and use your ULCN credentials. More details, including apps for Android and iOS, can be found at the [SurfDrive website](#)

## Installation of desktop sync tool

On our Linux desktops, the OwnCloud client is already installed. It can be started from the **Accessories** menu, or from the commandline by running the command `owncloud`. Once started and configured, it will add itself to your desktop session, so it will start automatically when you log in the next time.

It is possible to connect to multiple OwnCloud servers, eg the institute server and SurfDrive. make sure you specify different local directories, unless of course you want to sync the same content to multiple locations.

Also make sure you choose a local directory that is not on your home disk, to avoid quota issues when downloading files. This can be done from the OwnCloud interface by specifying a local data disk directory (like `/data2/mysyncdir`).

Using OwnCloud as a backup tool for your Linux home is not recommended, at least not directly; in order to be compatible with multiple operating systems and apps, OwnCloud doesn't handle file names starting with dots properly, and file names also don't always appear to be fully case-sensitive, and permissions are not preserved either. Of course you can create a file backup (e.g. `tar.gz` or `zip`) of your home, in a location you sync with ownCloud in order to have a remote backup which will preserve special filenames and permissions.

## Alternative method

There is now an alternative method for linking your OwnCloud on your Linux desktop: through the Gnome (and Cinnamon) Online Accounts settings panel, you can add an OwnCloud account and after that, you can mount the OwnCloud directory as an external disk in the file manager. This method doesn't do automatic synchronization, but you can copy files to and from the drive to do a selective synchronization.

But be careful if you use both methods at the same time and on the same computer!!

## other access methods

Owncloud clients for Windows, Mac OS X and Linux, as well as apps for Android, iOS and even some other systems, can be found at <https://owncloud.com/>

[SurfDrive](#) offers apps for Android and iOS, as well as specialized clients for Windows and Mac OS X (although there, like on Linux, you can use the OwnCloud client as well).

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