NextCloud SFE – https://cloud.sfe-laos.org

Applications are available for phones and tablets	
3 ways to use NextCloud on the computer	
1. Online only	Connect to the server with your username (or email) and pwd **How it works** Some files can be opened and edited online (with an online tool) Files can be downloaded (in this case, the date of the file is the date of the download, not the date of the original file. You can edit a downloaded file and re-upload it by dragging it into the web page. The uploaded file will have the same date of your local file. **Plus/minus** • The advantage is simplicity: nothing to install locally. • The disadvantage is that you have no access without an internet connexion.
2. Local selective synchronization You can identify the files or folder being synchronized or already synchronized with the overlay icons. If you don't see these icons in your local folder, it means that the synchronization is not active. ✅ =synchronized 🔄 =ongoing synchronization	The desktop application will synchronize the folders you have choosen to synchronize when you install it. You can edit your choices later. You can also choose to synchronize everything, but it might be too much... **How it works** When any local file or folder is modified, moved, renamed, deleted, the operation is mirrored on the server then on in other users who have access to the file/folder and have an active synchronization. Do not move any shared file outside of nextcloud, otherwise it will delete it for everyone. **Plus/minus** • The advantage is that you can just work locally, open and edit files as fast as any other local file – even without an internet connexion. Syncrhonization works seemlessly. It will resume as soon as you are reconnected if you have been out of connexion for a while. • The disadvantage is that it takes space on your computer. • It is recommended to check that the synchronization is actually working (a green v sign indicates that a file or folder is synchronized)
3. Virtual files The icon is the shape of a cloud. ☁	On Windows, you can chose virtual files on installation. **How it works** In this case, you see all the files and folders you have access to locally, but they are actually links to the real files on the server You can open, edit (using your local sowfware) a file as if it were a local file, but the file is first downloaded, then uploaded when you save it (without you noticing it). **Plus/minus** • The advantage is that you see everything locally, but it uses very little space • The disadvantage is that you cannot open the files without an internet connection, and big files might be slow to handle

Note: virtual files are either enabled or disabled on the whole folder of your account. But you can still combine 2. et 3. by setting two separate accounts to NextCloud (which will use separate folders)

What is NextCloud

NextCloud is an open source cloud software which can be installed at eh company and on any server (at home or at a webhosting company).

SFE NextCloud installation and data are hosted at [Infomaniak](#), Geneva, the webhosting company which hosts also our website. This is a 20 years old company with an ethical view of the respect of the private life and of an ecological way to handle they data centers, and they offer safe and efficient alternatives to the services of the big internet companies (the "GAFA") – including a zoom alternative.

NextCloud vs ownCloud

NextCloud and ownCloud both use the very common PHP language to link to a database, serve the pages to the user to view and manage the files and folders, and allow synchronization for users through a local application.

PHP is actually version 8, and previous versions are considered obsolete and insecure.

NextCloud is technically a fork of ownCloud (using the same code and modify it), which has evolved and improved quickly, when ownCloud stayed behind. In particular, ownCloud is not and compatible with PHP 8 and will not provide upgrades offering this compatibility. So ownCloud can only function with the previous version of PHP, which is one good reason to transition to NextCloud

Vientiane, 3 April 2024