Backup to Cloud with Backup & Recovery 16

User Guide
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Introduction

As you know a solid backup strategy involves redundancy, which means you store backup data not only at your direct disposal, e.g. on an external hard drive or USB flash stick, but also in an offsite location. Until appearance of cloud storages that typically offer 5-15GB of free disk space in addition to many paid services, keeping backups at a remote data center was quite expensive and only considered for critical data. Now anyone can afford this backup option at little expenses or even for free, so even if your house burns down to pieces with all storage devices, your family albums and other precious data can survive.

Despite the fact that a client application provided by the cloud service provider seems the right tool to transfer backup data to / from the cloud, it’s not the best choice. Primarily designed to synchronize files between various devices, it constantly sits in your RAM attempting to upload new or changed data to the remote server immediately that can temporarily clog your Internet link. Worse still is that it transfers files unencrypted, thus you’re running the risk of a third party gaining access to your personal data. Much better is to mount cloud storage as a network disk in the system and then configure your backup utility to use it.

All you need is WebDAV (Web-based Distributed Authoring and Versioning), a communication protocol based on HTTP 1.1 that provides a framework for users to create, modify, and move files on a remote server. Comparing with other file-sharing protocols, WebDAV supports processing multiple files at once and ensures data security by utilizing SSL (Secure Sockets Layer).

In this guide you will learn how to connect popular cloud storages through the WebDAV protocol to utilize them as backup destination in Paragon Backup & Recovery 16.
Connecting Cloud as Network Disk

As you probably know not all cloud services natively support WebDAV. Among those that do are Box, CloudMe, MagentaCLOUD, OpenDrive, OneDrive and Yandex.Disk. The popular Google Drive and DropBox don’t support it, but there are third-party services that can help you with that naughty oversight.

If Your Cloud Support WebDAV

This is the easiest scenario as all you need to have is a special address and cloud access credentials.

1. Open Windows Explorer. Right click the ThisPC (MyComputer) button, then select Map network drive...

2. Choose a vacant drive letter, then type in a WebDAV server’s address of your cloud storage in the corresponding field. Click Finish when ready.

- https://box.net/dav for Box,
- **https://webdav.cloudme.com** for CloudMe,
- **https://webdav.magentacloud.de** for MagentaCLOUD,
- **https://webdav.opendrive.com** for OpenDrive,
- **https://webdav.yandex.com** ([https://webdav.yandex.ru](https://webdav.yandex.ru)) for Yandex.Disk,

- If you’re going to use OneDrive, you should know your personal identifier (CID):
  - Go to [https://onedrive.live.com/about/en-us/](https://onedrive.live.com/about/en-us/) and sign in to your OneDrive account;
  - Copy a letter-digit code after the equals sign in the address bar – this is your CID;
  - Type in [https://d.docs.live.net/“yourCID”](https://d.docs.live.net/“yourCID”) to access OneDrive.

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**If you are going to use some other cloud service, first try to find its WebDAV server’s address in the user documentation. If it doesn’t support the WebDAV protocol, please consult the If Your Cloud Doesn’t Support WebDAV section.**

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3. Connection to the cloud storage requires some time. If a success, you will be prompted to provide access credentials to your cloud storage account. Select **Remember my credentials** to let Windows automatically re-establish the connection after restart.
4. That's it. As a result you should have a new network disk available in the system.

If Your Cloud Doesn’t Support WebDAV

As mentioned above, Google Drive doesn’t support the WebDAV protocol, but you can try a free bridge service called DAV-pocket. Unfortunately, we have failed to sign up for it getting a 500 Internal Server Error. For Dropbox there’s a commercial bridge DropDAV. A commercially distributed NetDrive from MacroData supports these two and several more cloud services like Amazon S3 and openstack. The program can be used completely for free during a 30-day trial period. Once it’s over you will endure limitations on some features.

1. Go to http://netdrive.net to download the latest distro.
2. Install the program and restart the computer to complete.
3. Open NetDrive, then click Connect opposite the required cloud service provider (Google Drive in our example).
4. Default options will do in most cases, just click **Save** to proceed.

5. You will be prompted to sign in to your Google account.
6. Allow NetDrive to access your cloud storage.

7. That’s it. As a result you should have a new network disk available in the system.
Configuring BR16 to Use Cloud Storage

Backup & Recovery R16 can utilize WebDAV folders as effectively as local ones. Please note however that backup to an offsite location is accomplished over the Internet, so we highly recommend you to schedule this type of jobs at nights to avoid clogging your link. The Create Backup Job Wizard will help in this process.

1. Mount cloud storage you’re going to work with.
2. Launch Backup & Recovery, then select Main View > Create backup job, then click Next on the Welcome page of the wizard.
3. If necessary, edit the default backup name and description containing the current date and time.

4. Initially the wizard prompts you to back up all available storage devices. If you don’t need that, select the most suitable option on the left, then required objects.

5. Click on the Local volumes tab, then select the previously mounted cloud storage.
6. Cloud backup is reasonable to accomplish on a weekly basis with full backup images followed by incremental updates of changed data since the last backup strengthened by data retention to keep your data precisely up to date with minimal effort and backup storage footprint. Click **New strategy** to specify:

- **Name / Description.** Give a catchy name and description to your backup strategy to easily identify it from the others.

- **When.** Backup runs can be scheduled from every hour till certain days of the month. Furthermore, you can choose a certain backup trigger event (system start or user logon). Select **Weekly**, then the required day of week.

- **Backup Type.** We recommend you to use a combination of full and incremental images to avoid backup data duplicates in the cloud storage while ensuring decent restore times.
Retention. To avoid the situation when backup data eats up the entire storage space, we also suggest enabling a retention policy to automatically get rid of obsolete restore points.

Finally, there are several auxiliary options you can use to tune up the backup job.

Click OK when ready with all parameters. As a result you should have a new backup strategy appeared on the list.
7. If necessary, modify advanced backup settings. To make sure you've got a trustworthy fallback position, each backup image is verified for viability immediately after creation. Though it's not recommended, unmark the corresponding option to skip this step and make the backup process a bit faster.

8. Review all parameters of the operation and modify them if necessary by going back to any of the previous steps. When ready, click Finish to complete the wizard.

- If you'd like to force creation of the first backup image after completing the wizard, mark the Create initial backup now option.
- To allow the scheduled backup tasks while a non-admin user is logged in, specify administrative credentials by marking the corresponding option.
9. Depending on the amount of data to process and your Internet connection, the operation will take some time.

That’s it. As a result a new backup catalog should appear in the cloud storage.