

# Cry for Help

## Computer Tips & Tricks

### **OneDrive by Microsoft**

I have previously written about the benefits of on-line file storage, and now there is another very serious player. Microsoft has launched their “OneDrive” service with a free 7 GB of storage space for all users, in competition to Google Drive, DropBox and many more. Just type “Free Cloud Storage” into Google and you will get plenty of options. Which one is right for you will depend on several factors like; how much storage you need and what software you intend to use it with etc. All services pretty much work on all devices, but if that is important to you make sure you check first.

If you are still unsure of what “in the cloud” means – you should think of it as a “computer somewhere else”. It might reside overseas, governments might have access to it, but it is a computer that you don’t have to buy, service, backup or pay electricity for, and can be reached from anywhere on the internet with a user name and password.

The cloud is ideal when you want to synchronise documents on different devices, at different locations, or when you want to share files with friends or work colleagues.

One gotcha to be aware of is the “up-time” of the cloud service you use, especially if your software is mission critical. Last year a fire destroyed the Telstra exchange in Warrnambool, with the result that thousands of people and businesses were without internet access for days, and many for weeks. So you need to think of how you will run your business in such an eventuality.

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