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# AWS S3

AWS S3 stands for Amazon Web Services Simple Storage Service. S3 is a service provided by Amazon that allows you to store files in the cloud, but not on your web application's server. A service like this is usually used when there is not enough storage in your server, or you want a fast file sharing service.

Heroku has a limit on how much you can store on your server. If you expect your users in your application to regularly upload files like photos or videos, then AWS S3 is a good service to use for hosting the application and your user's files.

AWS S3 is free for the first year under a certain storage capacity, but you must sign up with a credit card to use it. You will not be charged as long as you don't upload more than a certain limit (5GB when this reading was written), see here for [AWS Free Tier Features](#) for the most up to date information.

**To make sure you don't get charged over a certain limit, restrict upload size and make sure to keep your AWS API keys safe!**

If you don't want to use S3 there are other alternatives you can explore like [BackBlaze B2](#) which currently doesn't require a credit card but requires a cell phone to text.

Did you find this lesson helpful?