

Problems with Dropbox

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1. Bad at dealing with simultaneous changes: “I never make changes, edit or work with files in dropbox. Thats a very bad idea. Dropbox is very poor at dealing with simultaneous changes to a document.” (<http://www.whooshtranscription.com/dropbox-review/>)
 - Conflicted copies. These happen any time two people update a file at the same time. Or one person updates a file on a second device when the first has not synced. i.e. “at the same time” only means that a sync has not occurred. (<http://nerdenterprises.com/blog/2011/05/how-to-avoid-conflicting-copies-in-drop-box/>)
 - Procedure for creating conflicted copy with oneself
 - (a) Create file and wait for it to sync to Dropbox and then down to second device
 - (b) Disconnect second device from internet
 - (c) Make a change to each file (even the exact same change)
 - (d) Reconnect second device to the internet. Wait for sync to occur
 - (e) Voilà
 - Much easier to create conflicted copy with a collaborator...
2. Automatic sync does not always work. Not clear how to replicate this. (<http://www.whooshtranscription.com/dropbox-review/>). Some possibilities:
 - Dropbox mea culpa about OS incompatibilities (<https://www.dropbox.com/en/help/145>)
 - Confusion about two different types of “sharing;” one only sends the files once; the other sends all future updates as well (<http://simonhackett.com/2013/04/05/dropbox-sharing-doesnt-work-and-the-fi/>)
3. 30-day retrieval: “For a free account any file deleted in the in the last 30 days can be undeleted.” (<http://www.whooshtranscription.com/dropbox-review/>)

- If you have Dropbox Pro, you can purchase Extended Version History for \$39/yr to get 365-day retrieval
 - Packrat was the same price with unlimited version history, but has been phased out
4. Files are deleted if anyone sharing them deletes them or moves them out of dropbox and disconnects the new location
(<http://www.businessinsider.com/weird-feature-in-dropbox-deletes-files-2014-4>)
 5. Out of control directories with multiple date-stamped versions, futile attempts to use text files to keep records of what you've done.