

6. Cloud

a method of data storage where data is stored on offsite servers - the physical storage covers hundreds of servers in many locations.

Public cloud: a storage environment where the customer/client and cloud storage provider are different companies

Private cloud: a storage provided by a dedicated environment behind a company firewall. Customer/client and cloud storage provider are integrated and operate as a single entity.

Pros:

1. No need to carry an external storage device
2. Recovers data when hard disk failure happens
3. Almost unlimited storage capacity
4. Access data any time and place with internet connection

Cons:

1. Accessing problem under slow or unstable internet connection
2. Costs can be high
3. Limits with internet service provider (ISP)
4. Potential failure of the cloud storage company