

# CIFEX 10.01 User Manual

## Executive Summary

CIFEX (CISD File EXchanger) allows internet users to share large files using only a modern web browser (such as Firefox, Safari or Internet Explorer) on the client side.

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## Share files with others

### What you want to do

Let's consider the following situation: you met someone at a conference, got into an interesting discussion about an experiment that you did recently and your discussion partner suggests a new analysis for the experiment and asks you to provide him access to the raw files of the experiment so that he can check whether it works. You are inclined to give him access to the data, but you don't want to make the data public altogether.

### How you do it

After the login you will get the following screen:

CIFEX - CISD File EXchanger

https://sprint-openbis.ethz.ch:8445/

openBIS Apple Yahoo! Google Maps YouTube Wikipedia News (369) Popular

Hans Maier (hmaier) <Status: regular> Main View Edit Profile External Authentication Logout

### Upload Files

**Notes:**  
*Upload Files:* The maximum allowed size of an upload request (all files) is **4096 MB**.  
*Recipients:* Temporary accounts will automatically be created.  
*Security:* If you share confidential files, please have a look in the FAQ

### Upload Files via Web GUI (only < 2GB)

Upload Files	Recipients	Comment
File 1: <input type="button" value="Choose File"/> no file selected File 2: <input type="button" value="Choose File"/> no file selected File 3: <input type="button" value="Choose File"/> no file selected	Addresses: <input type="text"/>	Comment: <input type="text"/>

### Upload Files via Java GUI

To upload files via a Java Web Start™ application click [here](#). Works also with files > 2GB. Or use the [Command Line Client](#).

### Create Temporary Account

User Name:	<input type="text"/>	Email:	<input type="text"/>
Full Name:	<input type="text"/>	Password:	<input type="text"/>
Comment:	<input type="text"/>	Repeat Password:	<input type="text"/>

### Files available to me for download

No files to download.

### Files I have uploaded

No uploaded files.

Powered by CIFEX - CISD File EXchanger - (Version: SNAPSHOT (r10032)) - [Contact administrator](#) - [Disclaimer](#) - [FAQ](#)

You select the files you would like to share in the *Upload Files* box. Then you specify the email address of your discussion partner in the *Recipients* box. Since a user account with this email address does not yet exist in the system, a new temporary account will be created by the system and the owner of that email box will be informed that files are available to him for download. **It is important to carefully verify the email address that you enter because that's where the email about the uploaded files is sent to.** If you want, you can add some comment in the corresponding text box that will be contained in the email that CIFEX sends out to the recipient. Just before pushing the *Upload* button you will have the following screen:

CIFEX - CIRD File EXchanger

https://sprint-openbis.ethz.ch:8445/

openBIS Apple Yahoo! Google Maps YouTube Wikipedia News (369) Popular

Hans Maier (hmaier) <Status: regular> Main View Edit Profile External Authentication Logout

### Upload Files

**Notes:**  
**Upload Files:** The maximum allowed size of an upload request (all files) is **4096 MB**.  
**Recipients:** Temporary accounts will automatically be created.  
**Security:** If you share confidential files, please have a look in the FAQ

#### Upload Files via Web GUI (only < 2GB)

**Upload Files**

File 1:  experiment\_results.tgz

File 2:  experiment...rkflow.pdf

File 3:  no file selected

**Recipients**

Addresses: martin.doe@yahoo.com  
jane.bloggs@university.org

**Comment**

Comment: This is the experiment we talked about.

#### Upload Files via Java GUI

To upload files via a Java Web Start™ application click [here](#). Works also with files > 2GB. Or use the [Command Line Client](#).

#### Create Temporary Account

User Name:  Email:   
Full Name:  Password:   
Comment:  Repeat Password:

#### Files available to me for download

No files to download.

#### Files I have uploaded

No uploaded files.

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After the upload is finished you will get the following screen:

CIFEX - CIRD File EXchanger

https://sprint-openbis.ethz.ch:8445/

openBIS Apple Yahoo! Google Maps YouTube Wikipedia News (379) Popular

Hans Maier (hmaier) <Status: regular> Main View Edit Profile External Authentication Logout

File 1:  no file selected

File 2:  no file selected

File 3:  no file selected

Addresses:

Comment:

#### Upload Files via Java GUI

To upload files via a Java Web Start™ application click [here](#). Works also with files > 2GB. Or use the [Command Line Client](#).

#### Create Temporary Account

User Name:  Email:   
Full Name:  Password:   
Comment:  Repeat Password:

#### Users I have created

User Name	Email	Full Name	Status	Created by	Actions
martin.doe@yahoo.com	<a href="mailto:martin.doe@yahoo.com">martin.doe@yahoo.com</a>		Temporary User expires on 2009-03-04 17:00:25 GMT+01:00	Hans Maier	<a href="#">Edit</a>   <a href="#">Renew</a>   <a href="#">Delete</a>
jane.bloggs@university.org	<a href="mailto:jane.bloggs@university.org">jane.bloggs@university.org</a>		Temporary User expires on 2009-03-04 17:00:25 GMT+01:00	Hans Maier	<a href="#">Edit</a>   <a href="#">Renew</a>   <a href="#">Delete</a>

#### Files available to me for download

No files to download.

#### Files I have uploaded

File Name	Comment	Content Type	Size	Uploaded at	Will be deleted at	Actions
<a href="#">experiment_results.tgz</a>	This is the exper...	application/x-gzip	1.58 MB	2009-02-28 17:00:25 GMT+01:00	2009-03-04 17:00:25 GMT+01:00	<a href="#">Renew</a>   <a href="#">Delete</a>   <a href="#">Edit sharing</a>
<a href="#">experiment_workflow.pdf</a>	This is the exper...	application/pdf	39.85 MB	2009-02-28 17:00:25 GMT+01:00	2009-03-04 17:00:25 GMT+01:00	<a href="#">Renew</a>   <a href="#">Delete</a>   <a href="#">Edit sharing</a>

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## File Size

The maximum size of all files together chosen for one upload process is 2GB, regardless of the maximum file size that the server administrator has configured. If you need to upload larger files, use the [Java GUI](#) instead.

### **How to download your file**

Each recipient that you have specified on the upload page will automatically get an email similar to the following one:

Hello,

Hans Maier <hans.maier@gmail.com> has stored files on our server for you to download. File information appears below.

-----  
From: Hans Maier  
Email: hans.maier@gmail.com  
Comment: This is the experiment I talked about.

Files (click to download):

experiment\_workflow.pdf <https://cifex.ethz.ch/cifex/index.html?fileId=1&user=martin.doe%40yahoo.com>  
experiment\_results.tgz <https://cifex.ethz.ch/cifex/index.html?fileId=2&user=martin.doe%40yahoo.com>

Expiration: Files will be removed on 14-Feb-2008 at 10:34:35

For downloading you have to enter the following password: OzY7EKiLyp

To login to the system: <http://cifex.ethz.ch/cifex/index.html?user=martin.doe%40yahoo.com>

-----  
We recommend that you install the latest version of your antivirus software prior to downloading any files over the Internet.

-----  
CIFEX - CISD File EXchanger  
Center for Information Sciences and Databases  
ETH Zurich

By clicking on the link(s) in the email, providing the password given in the email and pressing the *Login* button, the person will immediately get a file chooser from his browser asking where to save the file.

### **How to be sure which user belongs to this email address**

Since the email address is not unique in our system, it can be, that 2 persons with the same address exist in Cifex. But perhaps only one of them is allowed to download the file. If you only specify the mail address all users with this email address can access the file from their 'Main View'!

If you want to share a confidential file with a user and want to go sure if the email really belongs to the user which you want to share the file with, you can enter the email address into to the 'Recipients' field and 'Validate Users'. A Dialog Box opens and show you all users which exist for this email address:

a a (a) <Status: administrator> Main View Admin View Edit Profile External Authentication Logout

### Upload Files

**Notes:**  
**Upload Files:** The maximum allowed size of an upload request (all files) is **50 MB**.  
**Recipients:** Temporary accounts will automatically be created.

**Upload Files**

File 1:  no file selected

File 2:  no file selected

File 3:  no file selected

**Recipients**

Addresses:

Comment:

**File Sharing > Upload New Files**

Share	User Name	Email	Full Name	Created by	Status
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	u	<a href="#">u@u.com</a>	u	<a href="#">a a</a>	Regular User
<input type="checkbox"/>	unknown	<a href="#">u@u.com</a>	Unknown User	<a href="#">a a</a>	Temporary User expires on 2008-06-04 12:55:36 GMT+02:00

**New Users**

Share	User Name	Email	Full Name	Created by
-------	-----------	-------	-----------	------------

**Users I have created**

**User Name**

- u
- basil
- mein@registrator.com
- bl.asd@gadf.com
- basil@gmx.ch
- asdf@asd.com
- asdf@rt.com
- ...

**Files I have uploaded**

You can select the users you want to share the files with in the first row with the checkbox, it automatically updates your 'Recipients' box in the background. You can also add a new Email Address to the file share in this Dialog box.

If you are not sure if the user presented in this dialog box is the user you want to share the file with, you can create a new temporary account with the email address and add the user name with the prefix 'id:' in the 'Recipients' Box.

## Java GUI

As an alternative to the Web upload, CIFEX offers a Java GUI for uploading.

CIFEX Uploader

Files to upload

File	Status
------	--------

Add File

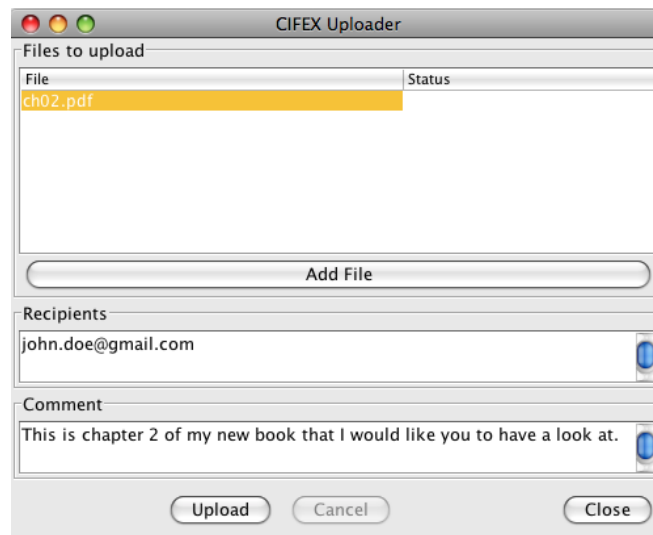
Recipients

Comment

Upload

Cancel

Close

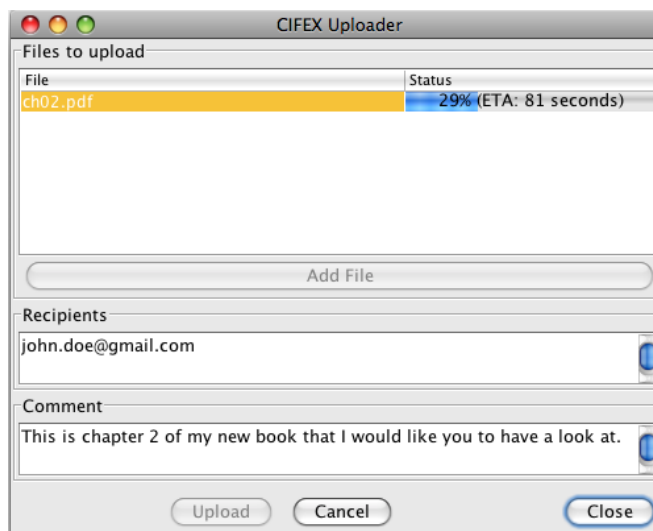


Note that there is no limit to the number and size of files you can upload this way (other than the limits that the administrator has configured). Files that you have chosen by mistake can be removed from the table in the table's context menu.

## ☐ User Validation

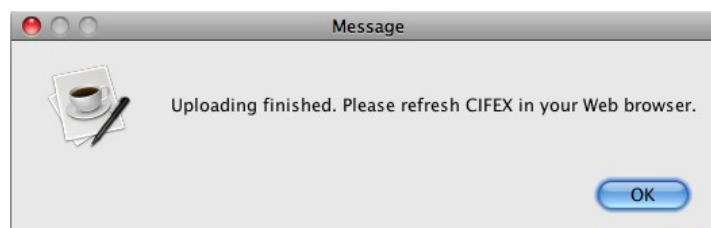
There is now way to validate users in the Java GUI. However, you can do the upload in the Java GUI, leaving the *Recipients* field empty and then later choose the recipients in the Web GUI under *Actions >> Edit sharing*.

During upload, you will get a progress report on the percentage of the file already transferred and the Estimated Time of Arrival (ETA):



If your internet connection is slow, it may take some time before the progress bar is updated for the first time, so please be patient.

When finished, a message box will pop up:



In order to see the files you have uploaded in the Java GUI also in the Web GUI, you have to press the *Refresh* button of your browser.

The main advantage of the Java GUI over the Web GUI is that it doesn't impose any size limitations for the files you can upload while the Web GUI has a size limit of 2GB. Note that the size limitations configured by the CIFEX server administrator is enforced, though. Another advantage is that the upload process used by the Java GUI is more robust with respect to temporary failures of the network connection, as it will do the upload block-wise and retry the upload for blocks that have failed.

## **Create a temporary user to allow him sharing files with you**

### **What you want to do**

Let's consider the following situation: you have a collaboration with a scientist from another institution and need him to give you access to some large files, but you do not have any common IT infrastructure that you could use for exchanging the file and that the files are too big for email exchange).

## How you do it

After you have logged in you will see a screen like the following:

The screenshot shows a web browser window titled "CIFEX - Cisd File EXchanger" with the URL "https://sprint-openbis.ethz.ch:8445/". The browser's address bar and search bar are visible. The page has a navigation bar with links: "Hans Maier (hmaier) <Status: regular> | Main View | Edit Profile | External Authentication | Logout".

The main content area is divided into several sections:

- Upload Files**
  - Notes:**
    - Upload Files:* The maximum allowed size of an upload request (all files) is **4096 MB**.
    - Recipients:* Temporary accounts will automatically be created.
    - Security:* If you share confidential files, please have a look in the FAQ
  - Upload Files via Web GUI (only < 2GB)**
    - Upload Files:** Three file selection fields (File 1, File 2, File 3) each with a "Choose File" button and "no file selected" text.
    - Recipients:** A text area labeled "Addresses:".
    - Comment:** A text area labeled "Comment:".
    - Buttons: "Validate Users" and "Upload".
  - Upload Files via Java GUI**
    - Text: "To upload files via a Java Web Start™ application click [here](#). Works also with files > 2GB. Or use the [Command Line Client](#)."
  - Create Temporary Account**
    - Form fields: "User Name:", "Full Name:", "Comment:", "Email:", "Password:", "Repeat Password:".
    - Button: "Create Temporary Account".
  - Files available to me for download**
    - Text: "No files to download."
  - Files I have uploaded**
    - Text: "No uploaded files."

The footer contains the text: "Powered by CIFEX - [Cisd File EXchanger](#) - (Version: SNAPSHOT (r10032)) - [Contact administrator](#) - [Disclaimer](#) - [FAQ](#)".



As a regular user you are able to create a new temporary user account: Just fill out the corresponding fields in the *Create Temporary Account* form. Before pushing the *Create Temporary Account* button you will see a screen similar to the following one:

The screenshot shows a web browser window titled "CIFEX - CISC File EXchanger" with the URL "https://sprint-openbis.ethz.ch:8445/". The browser's address bar and search bar are visible. The page has a navigation bar with links: "Hans Maier (hmaier) <Status: regular> Main View Edit Profile External Authentication Logout". The main content area is divided into several sections:

- Upload Files**: A section with notes about upload limits (4096 MB) and a form for uploading files via a web GUI (only < 2GB). It includes fields for File 1, File 2, and File 3, each with a "Choose File" button and "no file selected" text. There is also a "Recipients" section with an "Addresses" text area and a "Comment" section with a "Comment:" text area. Buttons for "Validate Users" and "Upload" are present.
- Upload Files via Java GUI**: A section with a note about using a Java Web Start application for files > 2GB, with links to "here" and "Command Line Client".
- Create Temporary Account**: A form with fields for "User Name:" (jpinache), "Email:" (joseph.pinache@micro.com), "Full Name:" (Joseph Pinache), "Password:" (masked with asterisks), and "Repeat Password:" (masked with asterisks). There is a "Comment:" text area and a "Create Temporary Account" button.
- Users I have created**: A table with columns: "User Name", "Email", "Full Name", "Status", "Created by", and "Actions". The table is currently empty.
- Files I have uploaded**: A section at the bottom of the main content area, currently empty.

The footer of the page states: "Powered by CIFEX - CISC File EXchanger - (Version: SNAPSHOT (r10032)) - Contact administrator - Disclaimer - FAQ".

Once the temporary user account is created, the person who owns the email address you have entered will get an email similar to this one:

Hello Joseph Pinache,

Hans Meier <hans.maier@gmail.com> has requested a temporary account on our server for you.

-----  
Information about the person who requested the account:  
-----

From: Hans Meier  
Email: hans.maier@gmail.com

-----  
Here's how to login:  
-----

Visit: https://cifex.ethz.ch/cifex?user=jpinache  
User: jpinache  
Password: pinache

This login account expires on 14-Feb-2008 at 12:24:03. Please access your account now!

-----  
CIFEX - CISC File EXchanger

and your screen will change to:

CIFEX - Cisd File EXchanger

https://sprint-openbis.ethz.ch:8445/

openBIS Apple Yahoo! Google Maps YouTube Wikipedia News (379) Popular

Hans Maier (hmaier) <Status: regular> Main View Edit Profile External Authentication Logout

Security: If you share confidential files, please have a look in the FAQ

### Upload Files via Web GUI (only < 2GB)

**Upload Files**  
File 1:  no file selected  
File 2:  no file selected  
File 3:  no file selected

**Recipients**  
Addresses:

**Comment**  
Comment:

### Upload Files via Java GUI

To upload files via a Java Web Start™ application click [here](#). Works also with files > 2GB. Or use the [Command Line Client](#).

### Create Temporary Account

User Name:

Email:

Full Name:

Password:

Comment:

Repeat Password:

### Users I have created

User Name	Email	Full Name	Status	Created by	Actions
jpinache	<a href="mailto:joseph.pinache@micro.com">joseph.pinache@micro.com</a>	Joseph Pinache	Temporary User expires on 2009-03-04 17:11:20 GMT+01:00	<a href="#">Hans Maier</a>	<a href="#">Edit</a>   <a href="#">Renew</a>   <a href="#">Delete</a>

### Files I have uploaded

No uploaded files.

### Files available to me for download

No files to download.

Powered by CIFEX - [CISD File EXchanger](#) - (Version: SNAPSHOT (r10032)) - [Contact administrator](#) - [Disclaimer](#) - [FAQ](#)

After he logged in a screen similar to the following will be displayed:

CIFEX - CISD File EXchanger

https://sprint-openbis.ethz.ch:8445/

openBIS Apple Yahoo! Google Maps YouTube Wikipedia News (379) Popular

Joseph Pinache (jpinache) <Status: temporary account: expiration date: 2009-03-04 17:11:20 GMT+01:00> External Authentication Logout

### Upload Files

**Notes:**  
*Upload Files:* The maximum allowed size of an upload request (all files) is **4096 MB**.  
*Recipients:* Only email addresses of existing accounts may be specified.  
*Security:* If you share confidential files, please have a look in the FAQ

#### Upload Files via Web GUI (only < 2GB)

**Upload Files**  
File 1:  no file selected  
File 2:  no file selected  
File 3:  no file selected

**Recipients**  
Addresses:

**Comment**  
Comment:

#### Upload Files via Java GUI

To upload files via a Java Web Start™ application click [here](#). Works also with files > 2GB. Or use the [Command Line Client](#).

#### Files I have uploaded

No uploaded files.

#### Files available to me for download

No files to download.

Powered by CIFEX - CISD File EXchanger - (Version: SNAPSHOT (r10032)) - [Contact administrator](#) - [Disclaimer](#) - [FAQ](#)

This user is now able to share files with users that are known to the system until his account expires. However, he will not be able to create new users.

## FAQ

### I forgot my password, how can I receive a new one?

If you are a temporary user, you should contact the person who created the account for you, to set a new password.

If you are a permanent user or don't know who created the account for you, you can contact the administrator of the system, which is listed on the footer of the website.

### I have not received the mail with my login and password, were can I get it from?

First have a look in your spam filter, perhaps the mail is there.

If you can't access these mails or the mail is not there, you should contact the person, who wants to share the files with you or the one who created your temporary account. This person can reset your password. When you login to CIFEX next time, please change this password!

If you are a permanent user or don't know who created the account for you, you should contact the administrator of the system, which is listed on the footer of the website.

### I don't have the link to the file to download anymore. Where can I get it from?

You don't need the link to the file, you simply can login to CIFEX and there you have a complete list with all files which are available for you.

If you don't have a password to access the system, please have a look on the FAQ entry "I have not received the mail with my login and password. Were can I get it from?"

## How can I set the password of temporary users I created?

In the main view you have a list of users you have created. In the last column is a link with the value edit, which opens a new Window with a form to edit the user. If you leave the password field empty, the password is not changed and the last password will be kept. So be aware that you have to fill out the password field, to set a new password and don't forget to notify the user about the changes (Checkbox in the form).

## How can I change a list of users with whom my file has been shared?

Use 'Edit sharing' link in the 'Files I have uploaded' section.

## I want to share confidential files, what do I need to consider?

- ☐ For strictly confidential files, it is recommended that you apply strong encryption to the files before uploading them to the CIFEX server! Make sure only the valid recipient of the file knows the encryption key.

Hint: You may want to have a look at software like [GNU Privacy Guard](#) or [TrueCrypt](#) for this purpose.

Email addresses are not guaranteed to be unique in CIFEX, which means that in principle two or more CIFEX user accounts could share the same email address. This doesn't make sense but a malicious user of the system could change the email address of his CIFEX account to the email address of someone you want to share a file with. If you use such a non-unique email address on file upload, all of the users sharing the email address would get access to the file.

If you want to share your file only with one of the users that has assigned the given email address, you can specify the user name in the file upload form with the prefix 'id:'. So if you want to upload a file for user 'x' with the mail a@abc.com, you can specify 'id:x' in the Recipients field and thus you can be sure that only user 'x' will get access to the file.

If you know just the email address but not the user name, you can add the email address to the Recipients field and click on 'Validate users' button. A window will appear and all the information about the users connected to the email addresses you entered will be displayed. You can add more users or select only those you want to share the file with.

Note that the person who registered an account is able to change its password and this way may get access to the files shared with it. Check if the registrator is a person you trust. Should this not be the case, you'd better create a new temporary CIFEX account for your colleague and use that new account to share your files with.

## A user with this email address already exists, but it is not the one I want to share the file with!

If you want to upload a file for an email address which already exists in CIFEX but does not belong to the user you want to share the file with, you should create a new temporary user account with this email address. Thanks to the fact, that the mail addresses are not unique, this is possible. Now you can specify the user name in the upload field with the prefix 'id:' or just enter the email address and do "Validate Users" and only select the temporary user you created.

## I'm trying to log in using my LDAP/University/other external account, but the system does not let me in.

In certain configurations CIFEX allows logging in using an "external authentication" system (like LDAP) as well as using the "internal (build-in) authentication" system (which in this setup is mostly used for

temporary accounts). Not being able to log in using external username and password indicates that your account has been used to create a temporary CIFEX user account. In this case, please contact the administrator of your CIFEX installation.

### **I already have a CIFEX account, but would like to use the same password that I use for LDAP/University/other external account.**

Just log in with your temporary password, click "*External authentication*" option and type your password as stored in the external authentication system.

### **How to upload files larger than 2 Gigabytes?**

With a Web browser only files smaller than 2 GB can be uploaded. In order to upload larger files CIFEX provides a little Java Web Start™ application. To invoke this application just click on the link in the section "*Upload Files via Java GUI*". As a prerequisite, a Java™ Runtime Environment 5 (or higher) has to be installed on your computer.

Remark: You do not need to specify the recipients when you upload files with this application. They can be specified after uploading by clicking on the corresponding link *Edit sharing* in the table of uploaded files.

### **How to upload and download files from the command line?**

Download the CIFEX command line client distribution cifex\_cli.zip from the CIFEX Web GUI, section "*Upload Files via Java GUI*". This client supports uploading and downloading of files.