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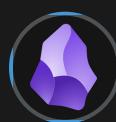


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## Posts

↑ Posted by u/strongandregal 4 months ago

13 How private is Github as backup for my Obsidian?



I know if I set a repository as private, then it won't be publicly available. But how safe/private is Github from Github themselves?

I know Github is owned by Microsoft. I don't want my data to be used to feed their OpenAI. Nor do I want them selling/sharing my data in any way. Otherwise, it's no better than using Google Drive.

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What are your thoughts?

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EpiphanicSyncronica · 4 mo. ago

It's not E2EE, so Microsoft, not you, holds the encryption keys, and they can access your data any time they choose to do so. Github is designed for sharing code, not for protecting your private information.

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FukumuraMachine · 4 mo. ago

I use syncthing and make sure my data is still only my data. Syncthing to a main local computer that backs up the data to backup storage locally.

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oh\_jaimito · 3 mo. ago



Same.



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I primarily use Linux on my laptop for coding. Windows for graphic work. Obsidian installed on both, as well as my Pixel 7, along with Synching.

I use my Pixel as the "hub" between both computers.

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justanotherv\_ · 4 mo. ago

Not private. Something else.

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strongandregal OP · 4 mo. ago

Thanks!

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WaterChi · 4 mo. ago

I'm pretty sure your data will feed their OpenAI. That said, mine's backed up to bitbucket, owned by Atlassian.

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ASatyros · 4 mo. ago

Uuu, I can get backup of my brain saved as part of future AIs?! Count me in! Immortality here I come!

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strongandregal OP · 4 mo. ago

Lol! I have seen plugins that does this using data from your notes. This might interest you:

[https://www.reddit.com/r/ObsidianMD/comments/1522umt/a\\_gpt\\_assistant\\_within\\_obsidian\\_trained\\_on\\_your/](https://www.reddit.com/r/ObsidianMD/comments/1522umt/a_gpt_assistant_within_obsidian_trained_on_your/)

There is also a well-known artist I know, James Gurney, who has made an AI chatbot of himself. He is highly respected in the art world as an educator, his books is widely recommended almost like a bible for realist painters. So to have an AI version of him is like having a fully-accessible art teacher who happens to be a legend in art.

<https://chat.jamesgurney.com/>

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ASatyros · 3 mo. ago

I've seen the first one I have seen, but I'm waiting for the local version.

Generally for now I'm collecting data by being alive :D



And when you're at it, [Post](#) [Comment](#) [Share](#) [Advertise](#)  
locally hosted independently I will train one on all of my data and interests.

What could go wrong!? XD (we are so fucked anyways)

**strongandregal** OP 4 mo. ago ...

Is it free to sync? Can you share what plugin you use?

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**WaterChi** · 4 mo. ago

No plugin. Just git add .; git commit -m '<date>'; git push

private repos on bitbucket are free

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**strongandregal** OP · 4 mo. ago

Thanks!

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**oh\_jaimito** · 3 mo. ago

Why not spend a few dollars on a DigitalOcean droplet - the smallest is around \$5/month. Ubuntu comes with git pre-installed.

You can manually git push or setup a cronjob.

Maybe add some encryption 😊

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**hang-clean** · 3 mo. ago

Unless your vault is massive, just use the Dropbox free tier.

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**Null\_Purpose** · 3 mo. ago

Proton drive

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**strongandregal** OP · 3 mo. ago

Have you tried this? Automatic sync and not manual?

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**m4dfry** · 4 mo. ago

I resolved with github private repo + git-crypt



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**strongandregal OP** · 4 mo. ago

Does git-crypt only work on macbook? Can it work on iPad too?

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**m4dfry** · 4 mo. ago

Git-crypt works fine on linux/win/mac, on android with termux.

Sorry, never tested on iPad, try to search a termux like for iOS

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**strongandregal OP** · 4 mo. ago

Will do. This looks like the most promising.

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**Electronic\_Wind\_3254** · 1 mo. ago

Is there a guide somewhere that I can use to achieve the same?

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**jonthesp00n** · 4 mo. ago

There are 2 options:

- There are tools to automatically encrypt your data before you push it so even if GitHub shares your data it is won't mean anything
- Use a different git hosting service. At this point there are hundreds of cloud git repository services and some may have different policies about sharing data.

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**strongandregal OP** · 4 mo. ago

Thanks for summarizing and simplifying the solutions here for me. I'm thinking of trying out both, and relying more on one than the other based on my experience with it.

I wanted to use Github Pages as a temporary free host for my future website and blog. So the part of my notes that I plan to possibly publish online, like writings for my blog, will be repo'd at Github.

Then for my more private notes/vault, use E2EE and a different cloud git repository.

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**strongandregal OP** · 4 mo. ago

Thank you for everyone's help.

Just in case someone else in the future encounters the same problem,



/hi\_id\_like\_to\_use\_obsidian\_as\_a\_notetaking\_app/

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BiguilitoZambunha · 3 mo. ago

Why not just use something like Google drive, onedrive, Dropbox, etc?

You probably already use one or more of them (I'm confident you at least have an email provider, right?), you already trust them with your data, and they're really easy to set up.

I sync my phone and my computer using syncthing, and then sync my phone's vault with Google drive using DriveSync.

As long as I have enough battery and WiFi I barely need to interact with them for it to work.

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strongandregal OP · 3 mo. ago

Privacy.

No, I don't trust them with my data. And I certainly don't want to entrust them with my second brain.

For email, I use Proton. I rely more on the Apple ecosystem, which is not perfect but at least better than Google and Microsoft on privacy. They have E2EE on most things.

But yeah they still have some of my data, it's unavoidable. For example, it's hard to use youtube without a google account. I still try to limit them as much as I can, and I plan to limit them even more in the future.

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BiguilitoZambunha · 3 mo. ago

Oh, ok. Sorry for the assumptions then. I stand corrected.

But my point kinda remains, proton is a company already known for their privacy and stuff (ig you know this since you use them lol), so why not use proton drive?

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strongandregal OP · 3 mo. ago

Proton Drive doesn't have direct integration yet with Obsidian, afaik. They've only just recently launch their desktop app. I think it was only last month? There's still more that needs to be fleshed out with its features.

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WokeBriton ·



4 mo. ago · 1 new comment · 1 Advertise

Do you know my friend from ObsidianMD? Are they connected to your permanent device on their permanently connected computer? Someone you trust, of course.

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**strongandregal OP** · 4 mo. ago

I don't know who to trust, that's part of the problem.

I know it can be remedied by doing lots of research, reading the fine print of privacy policies, etc. It seems like going fully offline is the easiest and cheapest option. Lol!

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**WokeBriton** · 3 mo. ago

If you have all your vaults under a single folder, you could just copy everything to a USB stick every time you're finished and move the stick offsite. I know that's inefficient, and far from automated, but running a manual backup that way can be part of your daily routine; you just have to make sure you **do** make it part of your daily routine.

I'm certain someone will have come up with something under windows or linux that does the same job as "time machine" on apple. Perhaps you could run that?

Another possibility, if you're happy with using linux, and have somewhere like a garage that you have control of and can spend the £€\$15 on a raspberry pie to place in there, you could ssh into that machine and sync to it or run a git server on that device and use standard git commands.

All my suggestions are just general ideas, and may not fit your actual desires, but they should be ok for starting research from.

Good luck.

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**strongandregal OP** · 3 mo. ago

That raspberry pie idea is actually pretty cool, and I know a friend who can help set up that for me. But... Linux... uhm.... 😅

Your usb/external hard drive idea though, is the easiest to implement among all the suggestions here. 📈 I think I can start with that.

It's also good to have your own backup on important files and notes, just in case I lose internet access.

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**WokeBriton** · 3 mo. ago

My wife, who is definitely not generally-computer-technical, runs linux on her non-work laptop. Her work laptop has windows because screw sage and other vendors of financial software, and she is an absolute wizard with spreadsheets, both excel and libreoffice (and probably others if she sat in front of them.)



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is nothing to be scared of, either. It takes a moment to find a guide on doing it, or you can fly by the seat of your pants and just follow the prompts in the installer for whatever distribution you downloaded. That latter is very easy, by the way; the only time I've had a challenging installation of linux was back in suse 6.something more than 2 decades ago. Even then, the manual made things much easier.

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chuckfr · 4 mo. ago

Unless the service, Github or any other, is end to end encrypted I assume the host is doing something with my data. Read over the terms of service to figure out what they are admitting to and restricting.

I run my own git server for a variety of other reasons using Gitlab.

Git-O-Lite is a fairly easy to set up git server that's very light weight and pretty straight forward to configure and use. If you're familiar with a \*nix shell and have a Linux server in your life you might want to check out their getting started guide.

And of course there's the option to just backup your Obsidian directory to another device.

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strongandregal OP · 4 mo. ago

Unless the service, Github or any other, is end to end encrypted I assume the host is doing something with my data.

You're right. Last night I read a tweet from kepano, the CEO of Obsidian. He says:

"if your data is stored in a database that a company can freely read and access (i.e. not end-to-end encrypted), the company will eventually update their ToS so they can use your data for AI training — the incentives are too strong to resist

the worst part is that they can do this retroactively, after you have spent years putting data into those systems

the only way to be sure it won't happen is to use services that never have access to your data in the first place"

This, and starting this reddit thread has made me realize that in this age of AI, there is no other way to ensure privacy other than E2EE. It *has* to be E2EE, no compromise.

I wish I'm code savvy enough or resource-rich enough to also run my own git server. But I'm not a programmer, and I don't have the budget for Obsidian Sync. The goal of privacy seems hard for the average person, but it's also not impossible.

I'm glad Obsidian is endlessly customizable, and their reddit community is super helpful. I got a lot of zero-cost solutions from this thread. It'll take some time for my non-techy self to learn them through trial and error. Lol! But I'm glad there's a lot of options.



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dakoosha · 3 mo. ago

Hi, GitHub is not a backup solution, it's a hosting provider. Yup, you can keep your code there, and it provides security measures, but still, it's possible to lose the source code due to different reasons - outages, hacker attacks, etc.

If you want to know how to protect your data, here is a useful article on GitHub Security Best Practices: <https://gitprotect.io/blog/github-security-best-practices-15-tips-to-keep-in-mind/>

1 ...