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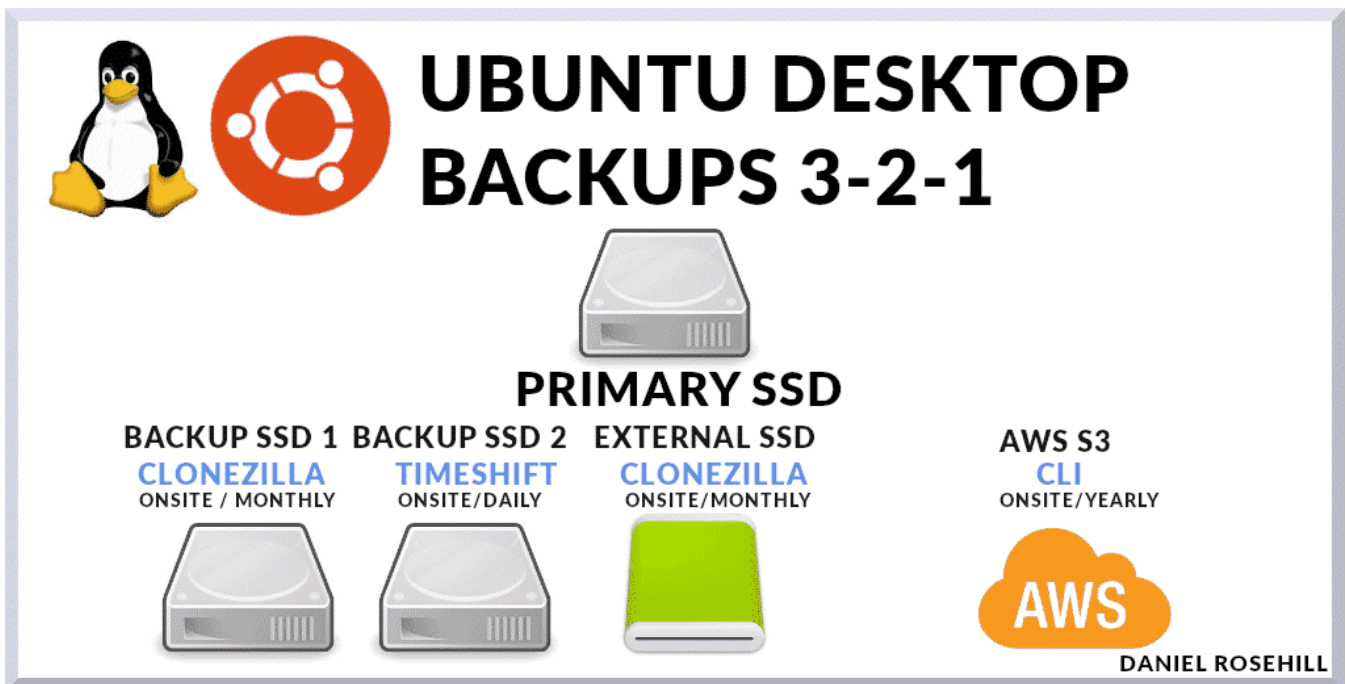
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Review: Ubuntu GUIs for Managing AWS S3 Buckets



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For those that need to interact with AWS S3 buckets on a regular basis, a graphical user interface (GUI) can take the pain out of having to memorize long lists of commands.

Command Line Interfaces (CLIs) can be fun and exacting — but sometimes, particularly during grueling backup-taking sessions, you just crave something with a window display that actually works.

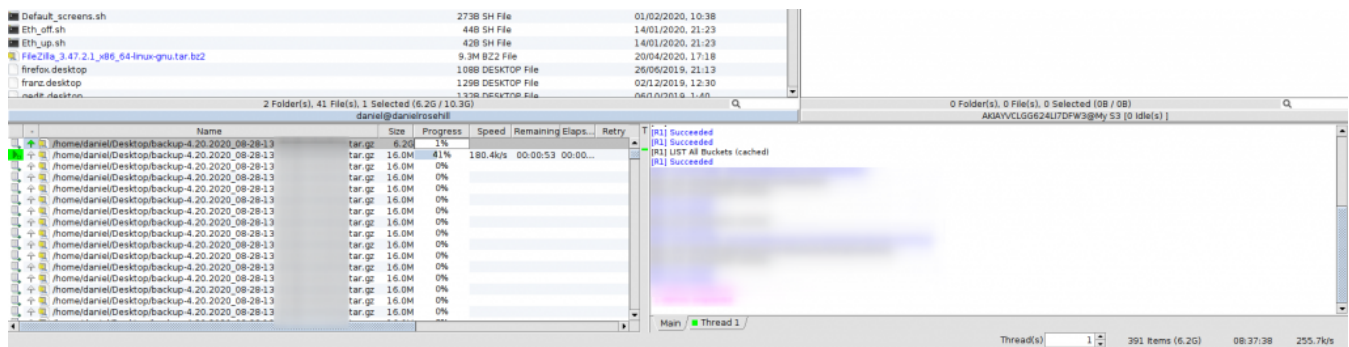
Unfortunately, the list of options in Ubuntu Linux in this respect isn't particularly wide — which is a bit surprising considering the popularity of both Linux distributions and AWS among developers.

To save you a little bit of searching, here are a few options that work at the time of writing. And what each tool has to offer.

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Top Choice: CrossFTP (GUI)

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Price: Pro license \$24.99, Enterprise license \$39.99 (per computer)

CrossFTP is a cross-platform FTP and cloud management platform. Unlike Filezilla, the Pro version has supported Linux for years (hence the name).

The “catch” with the free version is that you’ll need Pro in order to initiate multipart (and multithread) uploads. And the maximum file size limit for a single PUT command on S3 is 5GB.

It’s worth the small investment, in my opinion, if you’re a frequent S3 user. It splits multipart uploads so that you can monitor progress piece by piece. You can also schedule transfers.

Besides S3, CrossFTP supports a decent variety of protocols beyond FTP and SFTP. These include FXP, WebDAV, Amazon Glacier, Microsoft Azure, and Google Cloud Storage (GCS).

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Alternative 1: DragonDisk (GUI)



DragonDisk is a totally free S3 client. It's also cross-platform supporting Windows and MacOS in addition to Linux.

Unfortunately the product is no longer in active development and the software doesn't support AWS V4 authentication.

I'm also unable to launch the utility since upgrading to Ubuntu 19.10.

1: Mounting via S3FS

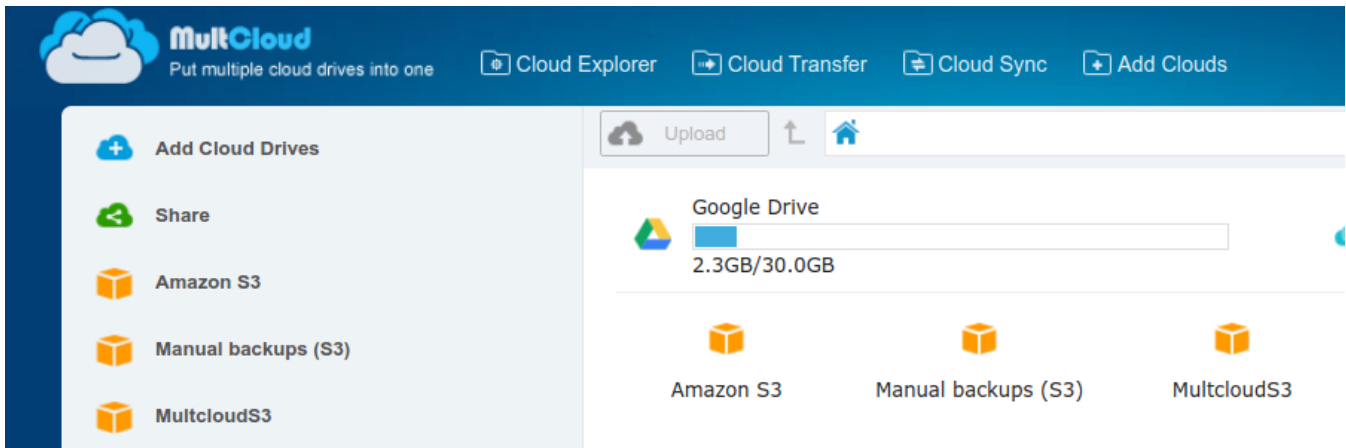
An alternative approach to using a GUI is to mount your S3 buckets as a volume using S3FS (S3 filesystem).

I've personally never been a major fan of mounting cloud storage volumes in Ubuntu — the last time I tried out Google Drive this way I found it horribly laggy (although whatever magic **pCloud** are using, the performance on Ubuntu has always been exceptional!).

For instructions on how to mount your S3 buckets using S3FS check out this guide.

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2: Using an FTP Server (Or Another Cloud Volume) as a Gateway



Another approach to moving files (in) to an S3 bucket easily is to use an FTP server as a gateway.

Using this approach, Ubuntu users can simply use Filezilla and upload files via simple (S)FTP. Alternatively, they can use another cloud storage volume and keep it in sync with an S3 bucket via Multcloud.

Services that can help you patch this together include:

- DocEvent.io
- Multcloud

(This setup can also be set up and managed independently — see: AWS Transfer for SFTP).

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3: s3cmd (CLI)

Of course when all else fails Ubuntu users can always fall back on a CLI!

s3cmd is a very capable tool that supports multipart uploads and the syntax is very easy to come to grips with.

In fact typing:

```
s3cmd put yourarchive.tar.gz s3://yourbucket
```

Into a terminal is really all you need to know how to do in order to begin whizzing gigabytes worth of data up to the cloud.

Conclusion

The S3 GUI market for Ubuntu is definitely under-served and a couple more well-maintained tools would be useful.

Thankfully there are at least a couple of options and an easy CLI to use.

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Originally published at <https://www.danielrosehill.co.il>

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