Before running onedrive --sync on archlinux to ensure that it does not delete my preexisting files in cloud, what should I do? dryrun will reveal what files will be deleted?

Edit

Before running onedrive --sync on Arch Linux, you should definitely take precautions to protect your existing cloud files. Here's what you should do:

**Use --dry-run to preview changes**

Yes, the --dry-run flag will show you exactly what the sync would do without actually performing any operations:

bash

onedrive --sync --dry-run

This will display:

* Files that would be uploaded
* Files that would be downloaded
* **Files that would be deleted** (both locally and in the cloud)
* Directories that would be created or removed

**Additional safety steps**

1. **Check your configuration first:**

bash

onedrive --display-config

Make sure the sync directory and other settings are correct.

1. **Review sync conflicts:**

bash

onedrive --check-for-changes --dry-run

1. **Consider using --download-only initially:**

bash

onedrive --synchronize --download-only

This will only download files from the cloud without uploading or deleting anything.

1. **Backup critical cloud data** before the first sync, just in case.
2. **Start with a limited scope** if possible by configuring specific directories to sync rather than your entire OneDrive.

The dry-run output will clearly indicate any deletions with messages like "Deleting item" or similar, so you can review exactly what would happen before committing to the actual sync. Pay special attention to any deletion operations in the dry-run output.

Retry

D

This one is better: onedrive --synchronize --download-only

followed by onedrive --sync.

Is that okay?

Edit

Yes, that's a much better and safer approach! Here's why this two-step process works well:

**Step 1: onedrive --synchronize --download-only**

* Downloads all files from OneDrive to your local directory
* **No uploads or deletions occur**
* Ensures your local copy matches the cloud state
* Safe way to get everything in sync initially

**Step 2: onedrive --sync**

* Performs bidirectional synchronization
* Since you've already downloaded everything, there should be minimal risk of unexpected deletions
* Any new local files will be uploaded
* Future changes will sync both ways

**Why this approach is safer:**

* You start with a complete local copy of your cloud files
* Reduces the chance of OneDrive treating missing local files as "deleted" and removing them from the cloud
* Gives you a chance to review what's been downloaded before enabling full sync

**Optional extra safety:**

You could still run a dry-run before step 2:

bash

onedrive --sync --dry-run

This will show you what the full sync would do after the download-only step, giving you one final chance to review before enabling bidirectional sync.

Your approach is definitely the recommended way to safely initialize OneDrive sync on a new system!