

Experiences with running Owncloud on virtualized infrastructure (Openstack/Ceph)

Christian Schnidrig, Cloud Engineer, SWITCH <christian.schnidrig@switch.ch>

Owncloud is quite popular among sync & share service providers. As the name implies, Owncloud was build with home users in mind. It can run on devices as small as a raspberry pi. At the same time this product is also sold to service providers who support with one single Owncloud instance more then 10k users. This already being an astounding achievement, it is not yet good enough. Service providers would need Owncloud to scale up to 100k users or even more.

We at SWITCH have a sync & share service (SWITCHdrive) based on Owncloud as well as an IAAS offering (SWITCHengines) based on Openstack/Ceph. Having this Openstack cluster, it seemed natural to us to put an ever-growing cloud service like SWITCHdrive on it.

In order to run well on Openstack, an application has to scale horizontally. The cloud deployment should also not introduce single points of failure.

Reality is of course different. Originally written with small deployments in mind, Owncloud is not really well suited for Openstack/Ceph.

We want to present our Owncloud deployment on SWITCHengines, discuss its advantages but also its limitations. The work-arounds we've implemented/planned and future Owncloud features that would help with running it on an Openstack cluster.