**Google Drive:**

**Google Drive** is a [file storage](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File_hosting_service) and [synchronization service](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File_synchronization) developed by [Google](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Google). Launched on April 24, 2012, Google Drive allows users to store files in the [cloud](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cloud_storage) (on Google's servers), synchronize files across devices, and [share files](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File_sharing). In addition to a [web interface](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Web_application), Google Drive offers apps with offline capabilities for [Windows](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Microsoft_Windows) and [macOS](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MacOS) computers, and [Android](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Android_(operating_system)) and [iOS](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/IOS) smartphones and tablets. Google Drive encompasses [Google Docs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Google_Docs), [Google Sheets](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Google_Sheets), and [Google Slides](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Google_Slides), which are a part of the [Google Docs Editors](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Google_Docs_Editors) [office suite](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Office_suite) that permits collaborative editing of documents, spreadsheets, presentations, drawings, forms, and more. Files created and edited through the Google Docs suite are saved in Google Drive.

Google Drive offers users 15 [GB](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gigabyte) of free [storage](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cloud_storage), sharing it with [Gmail](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gmail) and [Google Photos](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Google_Photos). Google Drive also offers 100 GB, 200 GB, and 2 [TB](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terabyte) through optional [Google One](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Google_One) paid plans. Files uploaded can be up to 750 [GB](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gigabyte) in size. Users can change privacy settings for individual files and folders, including enabling sharing with other users or making content public. On the website, users can search for an image by describing its visuals, and use [natural language](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_language_processing) to find specific files, such as "find my budget spreadsheet from last December".

**Storage:**

Google gives every user 15 GB (1 GB = 1 billion bytes) of free storage. This cloud storage is also shared with [Gmail](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gmail) and [Google Photos](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Google_Photos). Users can purchase additional space through either a monthly or yearly payment. The option of yearly payments was introduced in December 2016, and is limited to the 100 GB, 200 GB or 2 TB storage plans. Furthermore, the yearly payments offer a discount.[[37]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Google_Drive#cite_note-37) In May 2018, Google announced that storage plans (including the free 15 gigabyte plan) would be moved over to [Google One](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Google_One).

Before the introduction of Google Drive, [Google Docs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Google_Docs) initially provided 15 GB of storage free of charge. On April 24, 2012, Google Drive was introduced with free storage of 5 GB. Storage plans were revised, with 25 GB costing $2.49/month, 100 GB costing $4.99/month and 1 TB costing $49.99/month. Originally, [Gmail](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gmail), Google Docs, and [Picasa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Picasa) had separate allowances for free storage and a shared allowance for purchased storage. Between April 2012 and May 2013, Google Drive and Google+ Photos had a shared allowance for both free and purchased storage, whereas Gmail had a separate 10 GB storage limit, which increased to 25 GB on the purchase of any storage plan. In September 2012, Google announced that a paid plan would now cover total storage, rather than the paid allocation being added to the free; e.g., a 100 GB plan allowed a total of 100 GB rather than 115 GB as previously. In May 2013, Google announced the overall merge of storage across Gmail, Google Drive and Google+ Photos, giving users 15 GB of unified free storage between the services.

**Features:**

1. **Sharing**: Google Drive incorporates a system of file sharing in which the creator of a file or folder is, by default, its owner. The owner can regulate the public visibility of the file or folder. Ownership is transferable. Files or folders can be shared privately with particular users having a [Google account](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Google_account), using the email address (usually, but not necessarily, ending in *@gmail.com*) associated with that account. Sharing files with users not having a Google account requires making them accessible to "anybody with the link". This generates a secret URL for the file, which may be shared via email or private messages. Files and folders can also be made "public on the web", which means that they can be indexed by search engines and thus can be found and accessed by anyone. The owner may also set an access level for regulating permissions. The three access levels offered are "can edit", "can comment" and "can view". Users with editing access can invite others to edit.
2. **Third-Party apps**: A number of external [web applications](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Web_application) that work with Google Drive are available from the [Chrome Web Store](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chrome_Web_Store). To add an app, users are required to sign in to the Chrome Web Store, but the apps are compatible with all supported web browsers. Some of these apps are first-party, such as Google Docs, Sheets, and Slides. Drive apps operate on online files and can be used to view, edit, and create files in various formats, edit images and videos, fax and sign documents, manage projects, create flowcharts, etc. Drive apps can also be made the default for handling file formats supported by them. Some of these apps also work offline on [Google Chrome](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Google_Chrome) and [ChromeOS](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ChromeOS). All of the third-party apps are free to install. However, some have fees associated with continued usage or access to additional features. Saving data from a third-party app to Google Drive requires authorization the first time. The Google Drive software development kit (SDK) works together with the Google Drive user interface and the Chrome Web Store to create an ecosystem of apps that can be installed into Google Drive. In February 2013, the "Create" menu in Google Drive was revamped to include third-party apps, thus effectively granting them the same status as Google's own apps
3. **File Viewing**: The Google Drive viewer on the web allows the following file formats to be viewed:

* Native formats (Docs, Sheets, Slides, Forms, Drawings, My Maps, Jamboard, Sites)
* [Image files](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image_file_format) (.[JPEG](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/JPEG), .[PNG](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PNG), .[GIF](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GIF), .[TIFF](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/TIFF), .[BMP](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BMP_file_format), .[WEBP](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WebP) [.HEIF](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/High_Efficiency_Image_File_Format) [.SVG](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SVG))
* [Video files](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Video_file_format) (.[WEBM](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WebM), .[MPEG4](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MPEG-4), .[3GPP](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/3GPP), .[MOV](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/QuickTime_File_Format), .[AVI](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audio_Video_Interleave), .[MPEG](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MPEG), .[MPEGPS](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MPEG_program_stream), .[WMV](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Windows_Media_Video), .[FLV](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flash_Video), .[OGG](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ogg) .[VOB](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/VOB))
* [Audio formats](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audio_file_format) (.[MP3](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MP3), .[M4A](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/.MP4_versus_.M4A), .[WAV](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WAV), .[OGG](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ogg) .[Opus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Opus_(audio_format)))
* [Text files](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Text_file) (.[TXT](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Text_file))
* Markup/Code (.[CSS](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CSS), .[HTML](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HTML), .[PHP](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PHP), .[C](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/C_(programming_language)), .[CPP](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/C%2B%2B), .[H](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Header_file), .[HPP](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Header_file), .[JS](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/JavaScript) [.Java](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Java_(programming_language)) [.PY](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Python_(programming_language)))
* [Microsoft Word](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Microsoft_Word) ([.DOC](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doc_(computing)) and [.DOCX](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Office_Open_XML))
* [Microsoft Excel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Microsoft_Excel) ([.XLS and .XLSX](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Microsoft_Excel_file_format#File_formats))
* [Microsoft PowerPoint](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Microsoft_PowerPoint) ([.PPT and .PPTX](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PPT_format))
* Adobe Portable Document Format ([.PDF](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PDF))
* Apple Pages ([.PAGES](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pages_(word_processor)))
* Adobe Illustrator ([.AI](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adobe_Illustrator_Artwork))
* Adobe Photoshop ([.PSD](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adobe_Photoshop#File_format))
* Autodesk AutoCad ([.DXF](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/AutoCAD_DXF))
* Scalable Vector Graphics ([.SVG](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SVG))
* PostScript ([.EPS, .PS](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PostScript))
* Python (.[PY](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Python_(programming_language)))
* Fonts ([.TTF](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/TrueType))
* XML Paper Specification ([.XPS](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Open_XML_Paper_Specification))
* Archive file types ([.ZIP](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ZIP_(file_format)), [.RAR](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/.RAR), [tar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tar_(computing)), [gzip](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gzip))
* .[MTS](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/.m2ts) files
* Raw Image formats ([.DNG](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Digital_Negative))
* Apple Keynote ([.KEY](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Keynote_(presentation_software)))
* Apple Numbers ([.Numbers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Numbers_(spreadsheet)))

Files in other formats can also be handled through third-party apps that work with Google Drive, available from the [Chrome Web Store](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chrome_Web_Store).

1. **Backups**: In December 2016, Google updated the Android app and website with a "Backups" section, listing the Android device and app backups saved to Drive. The section lets users see what backups are stored, the backups' sizes and details, and delete backups. In June 2017, Google announced that a new app, "Backup and Sync", would be able to synchronize any folder on the user's computer to Google. The app was released on July 12, 2017.