The Cloud in the technology world is a term refer to a network of servers where you can store, compute and use applications remotely without the need to bring the data into your hard disk first.

Dropbox, One drive, google drive and Office 365 are the most common and popular applications that are using the cloud technology.
Why Cloud?

1. Your files are everywhere.

You can access your files from anywhere if you have internet connection; from your phone, tablet, Desktop or Laptop. You will never worry about your files

2. It is safe and secured

You will never worry about your files to be lost, the files are in safe hands, backed up daily and virus free. Your computer will be a files viewer more than a storage system. If your computer being lost or affected by a virus you can use any other device to access your files without a problem.
Cloud Services

Cloud Technology have a variety of services like: applications over the cloud, computing over the cloud and storage over the cloud.
1. Applications over the Cloud

Instead of installing a software application several times on all your devices you just purchase an online access to the application and you just need to sign in to that application to start using it, Office 365 is the most popular application over the cloud. Using the Office 365 you can open, edit and update a document and save it back to the cloud. Next time when you need to view, you just login from anywhere and open it.

2. Computing over the Cloud

The idea is to share hardware resources, a service provider will own the servers and the customers will access the server and run their tasks on the servers which will work on the virtualization techniques to allow maximum usage of the system with the minimum cost for the users.

3. Storage over the Cloud

The main advantage of keeping your documents in the cloud is that you can access them virtually anywhere with an internet connection. Most cloud storage services have their own apps in addition to their website. Using cloud based storage also helps to conveniently share or access data between users.
How to Use the Cloud

Well, it’s pretty simple. Choose the application or the service provider you want, let’s say DropBox. Install it on your machine and setup your account, be smart and choose a strong password to protect your account. And that’s it you are all set up, start uploading your files. After uploading your files, you can access your files from any of your devices and the data will be synced at run time.
**Which Cloud Service is Right for Me?**

Major cloud providers often offer varying kinds of services. Therefore, the ‘best’ cloud service ultimately depends on the preferences and work of the user. The following table compares some of these providers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>OneDrive</th>
<th>Dropbox</th>
<th>Google Drive</th>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Amazon Cloud Drive</th>
<th>Copy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>File size restrictions?</strong></td>
<td>10GB</td>
<td>10GB with website, none with Dropbox apps</td>
<td>5TB</td>
<td>250MB for free plan, 5GB for paid personal plan</td>
<td>2GB*</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Free storage?</strong></td>
<td>5GB**</td>
<td>2GB</td>
<td>15GB</td>
<td>10GB</td>
<td>No***</td>
<td>15GB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Can I earn extra free storage?</strong></td>
<td>No**</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Paid plans</strong></td>
<td>$2/month for 50GB**</td>
<td>$10/month for 100GB, $10/month for 1TB</td>
<td>$2/month for 100GB, $10/month for 1TB</td>
<td>$10/month for 100GB</td>
<td>$12/year for unlimited photos, $60/year for unlimited files</td>
<td>$5/month for 250GB, $10 for 1TB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OSes supported</strong></td>
<td>Windows, Mac, Android, iOS, Windows Phone</td>
<td>Windows, Mac, Linux, Android, iOS, Windows Phone, BlackBerry, Kindle Fire</td>
<td>Windows, Mac, Android, iOS</td>
<td>Windows, Mac, Android, iOS, Windows Phone, BlackBerry</td>
<td>Windows, Mac, Android, iOS, Kindle Fire</td>
<td>Windows, Mac, Linux, Android, iOS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*There is no file size limit with desktop apps.

**In early 2016, Microsoft will change its free storage from 15GB to 5GB and offer a $2 per month for 50GB paid plan instead of its earlier offerings. It will also no longer let you earn free storage.

***Amazon Cloud Drive offers limited free storage with an Amazon Prime subscription.
How Big is the Cloud?

Should I be worried about how much data I can store?

**HOW BIG IS THE CLOUD?**

The amount of space available through cloud-based services provided by Google, Amazon, Facebook, Apple and Microsoft is confidential - no company wants to reveal how much cloud space it wields for fear of giving the competition an advantage.

But considering the wealth of space and data, we can reach a rough estimate of at least...

1 EXABYTE

which is...

- 1024 PETABYTES
- 1,048,576 TERABYTES
- 1,073,741,824 GIGABYTES
- 1,099,511,627,776 MEGABYTES

That’s a lot of space.
But how much could really fit up there?
MACBOOK PRO HARD DRIVE
256 GB
4.2 MILLION could fit in the cloud.

IPHONE 4S (MAXIMUM CAPACITY)
64 GB
16.8 MILLION could fit in the cloud.
HD MOVIE FILE
5 GB
213.4 MILLION could fit in the cloud.
MP3 (THREE MINUTE SONG)
3 MB
366.5 BILLION could fit in the cloud.

FLOPPY DISK
1.44 MB
763 BILLION could fit in the cloud.