

ownCloud Android App Manual

The ownCloud Team

Version: 2.20, June 09, 2022

Table of Contents

The Mobile App for Android	1
Installing the ownCloud Android App	2
Introduction	2
Installation	2
Upgrading	2
New Features Wizard	3
Connecting to Your ownCloud	4
Introduction	4
Physical Location of User Files	4
Connecting	4
Manage Users Accounts	7
Introduction	7
Open the Accounts Section	7
Adding Accounts	7
Viewing Accounts	7
Removing Accounts & Logging Out	8
Change User Passwords	8
Managing Files	9
Introduction	9
All Files View	9
Sharing Files	10
GIF Support	12
Creating New Content	13
Upload Pictures Directly From The Camera	14
Working With Multiple Files	15
Uploading Files Taken From the Camera	16
Current Uploads	17
Make Folders Available Offline	18
Application Settings	20
Introduction	20
Settings View	20
Camera Uploads	20
Allow Light Filtering Apps	22
Logs	22
Access Protection	25
Document Provider Integration	27
Introduction	27
Document Provider Integration	27

Android Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)	29
Introduction	29
Usage	29
Feature Requests	29
Appendices	31
Troubleshooting	31
Release Notes	33

The Mobile App for Android

ownCloud's Mobile App for Android offers several key advantages over the web interface. This guide steps you through how to install, configure, use, and troubleshoot it. Accessing your files on your ownCloud server via the Web interface is easy and convenient. You can use any web browser on any operating system without installing special client software. However, the ownCloud Android app offers several key advantages over the web interface; these include:

- A simplified interface that fits nicely on a tablet or smartphone
- Automatic synchronization of your files
- Share files with other ownCloud users and groups, and create multiple public share links
- Upload of photos and videos recorded on your Android device
- Easily add files from your device to ownCloud
- Two-factor authentication

Installing the ownCloud Android App

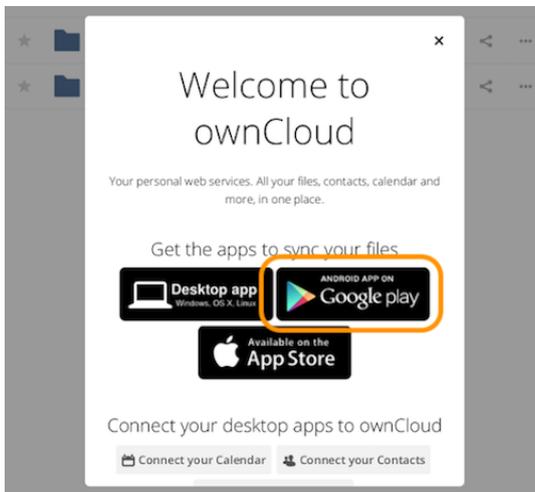
Introduction

This section describes how to install and upgrade the ownCloud Android App.

Installation

One way to get your ownCloud Android app is to log into your ownCloud server from your Android device using a Web browser such as Chrome, Firefox, or Dolphin.

The first time you log into a new ownCloud account, you'll see a screen with a download link to the ownCloud Android App in the [Google Play Store](#).



You will also find these links on your Personal page in the ownCloud Web interface. Find source code and more information from the [ownCloud download page](#). Users of customized ownCloud Android apps, for example from their employer, should follow their employer's instructions.

Upgrading

When you download your ownCloud Android App from the Google Play store, it will be upgraded just like any other Play Store application, according to your settings on your Android device.

It will either update automatically or give you a notification that an upgrade is available. If you are using an ownCloud Android app from a custom repository, e.g., your employer, then it will update in accordance with their policies.



When upgrading from a release lower than 2.19, the app is using Scoped Storage instead of Shared Storage. See [Physical Location of User Files](#) for more details.

The upgrade process takes care of transferring all files one by one from Shared Storage to Scoped Storage and deleting them from Shared Storage after a successful move of each file. The transition does not require user interaction, runs automatically and only needs to be performed once.



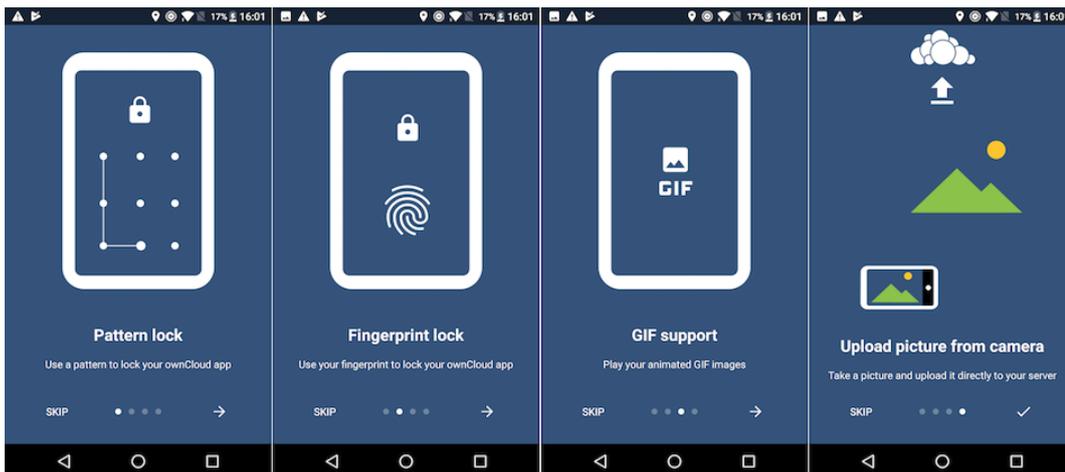
Do not power off your device while an upgrade runs the migration process from Shared Storage to Scoped Storage. If this happens even accidentally, ownCloud recommends to disconnect all connections and manually delete all Shared Storage data. When finished, set up all connections once more, which are then automatically using Scoped Storage.

New Features Wizard

The first time that you use the Android app, you will see the "New Features Wizard". The wizard, similar to wizards in other applications and operating systems, gives you a quick overview of the new features in the ownCloud Android App, so that you're familiar with them as quickly as possible.

The new features covered in the wizard are:

- [Passcode Locks & Pins](#)
- [Fingerprint Lock](#)
- [GIF Support](#)
- [Upload Pictures Directly From The Camera](#)



Connecting to Your ownCloud

Introduction

This section describes how to connect the ownCloud Android App to your ownCloud.

Physical Location of User Files

Compared to earlier versions of this app (< 2.19), the location for files created or managed by this app is called **Scoped Storage**. Scoped Storage is, in contrast to Shared Storage, protected and part of the app. It is saved in the device's storage (persistent memory) and limited by its capacity. Files are now safe and private and can only be accessed by other apps that use the [Documents Provider](#). Internal tests have successfully passed using more than 50GB of Scoped Storage without any issues.

"" Document provider — A content provider that allows a storage service to reveal the files it manages ""

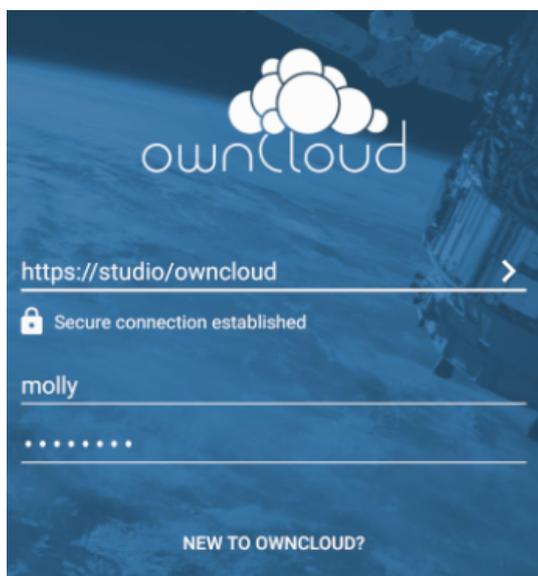
When a connection is removed or the app is uninstalled, all files are removed for that connection or the whole app by design - securing data privacy.



Consider if there is there's enough *internal storage capacity* for your files to be synced by the app. As a rule of thumb, check the capacity necessary via the ownCloud web access first before enabling a sync for a particular mount and or path using offline access for files.

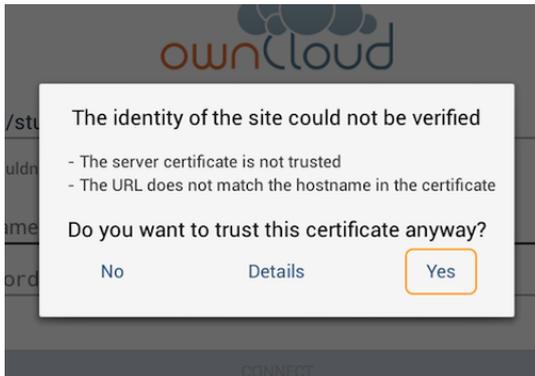
Connecting

The first time you run your ownCloud Android app, it opens to a configuration screen. Enter your server URL, login name, password, and click the [**Connect**] button. Click the [**eyeball**] to the right of your password to expose your password.

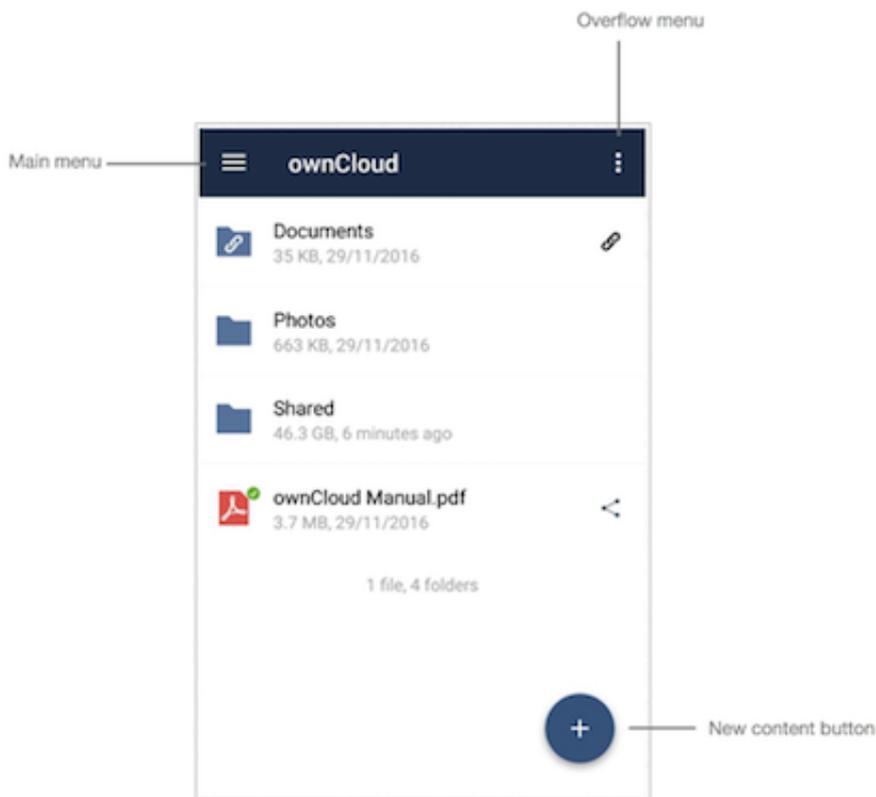


For best security, your ownCloud server should be [SSL-enabled](#) so that you can connect via HTTPS.

The ownCloud Android App will test your connection as soon as you provide it and tell you if you entered it correctly. If your server has a [self-signed SSL certificate](#), you'll get a warning that it is not to be trusted. If this happens, click the **[YES]** button to accept the certificate and complete your account setup.



With that completed, you're now ready to use the ownCloud Android App. At this point, you'll be on the "All Files" screen, which you see below.



By clicking the main menu at the top left, you will be able to manage the core functionality of the app. The options are:

- [Manage Users Accounts](#)
- [Current Uploads](#)
- [All Files View](#)
- [Application Settings](#)



To use Two-Factor Authentication, ownCloud server must have the [the OAuth2 app](#)

installed, configured, and enabled. Please contact your ownCloud administrator for more details.

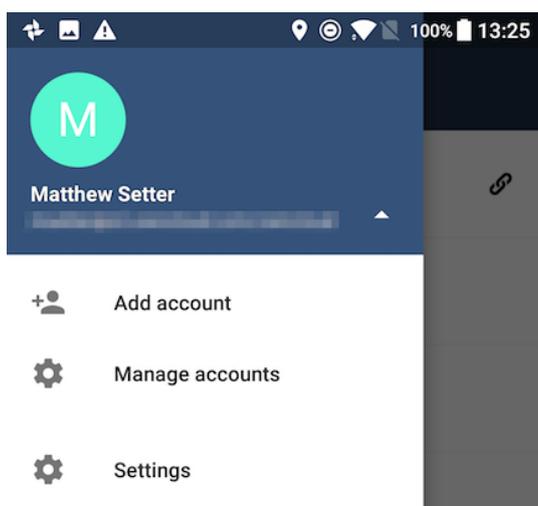
Manage Users Accounts

Introduction

This guide describes how to manage user accounts in your Android App. Initially the path to the accounts section isn't visible and you have to open it first.

Open the Accounts Section

To open the accounts section, first click the **[down arrow]**, in the user details section, which will replace the "All Files" and "Uploads" buttons with "Add account" and "Manage accounts".



Then, click **[Manage accounts]**. From there, you can see all of the currently active user accounts, along with a button to add a new account.

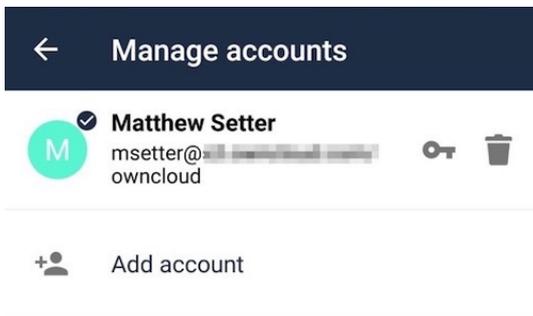
Adding Accounts

To add a new account is identical to creating the first account. Click **[Add account]**, and then follow the instructions in [Connecting to Your ownCloud Server](#).

Viewing Accounts

After clicking **[Manage accounts]**, you will see a list of the currently active accounts in the application, as in the screenshot below. Each entry in the list has shortcuts to:

- View the user's files
- Change the user's password
- Remove the account



Removing Accounts & Logging Out

To remove an account, click the **[rubbish bin]** icon, next to the key icon. This will display a confirmation dialog, asking if you want to remove the account. If you click **[Yes]**, the account will be removed.

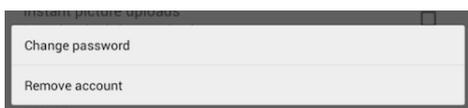
This action also logs you out of the server and deletes the database with the list of files. However, any files downloaded onto the device prior to removal will still be there afterwards. You can find them in the public partition.



When removing an account, the files related to that account are removed automatically. This is also true when uninstalling the app which removes all accounts with their data.

Change User Passwords

To change a user's password, click the **[key]** icon, next to the user's details. This will display the user details page, with the ownCloud server URI and user account, pre-filled. Enter a new password, and click **[Connect]**, and the password will be updated.



If you want extra security, please refer to the [Passcode Locks & Pins](#) section.

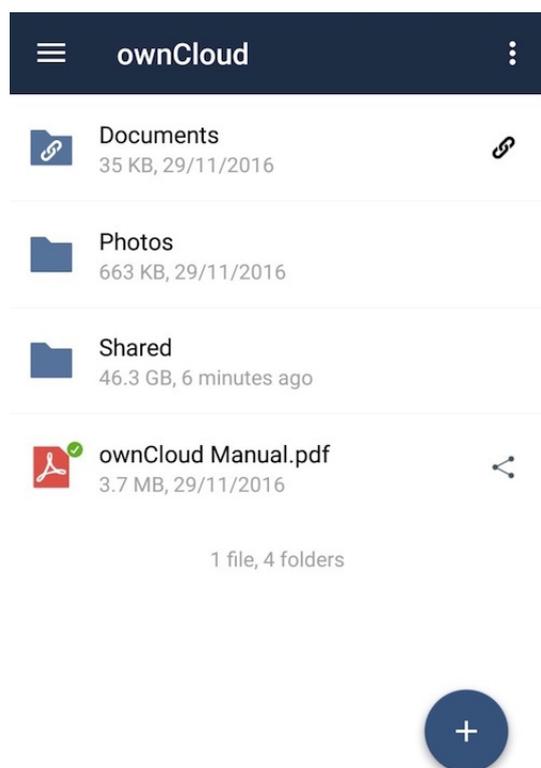
Managing Files

Introduction

This section describes how to manage files in the ownCloud Android App.

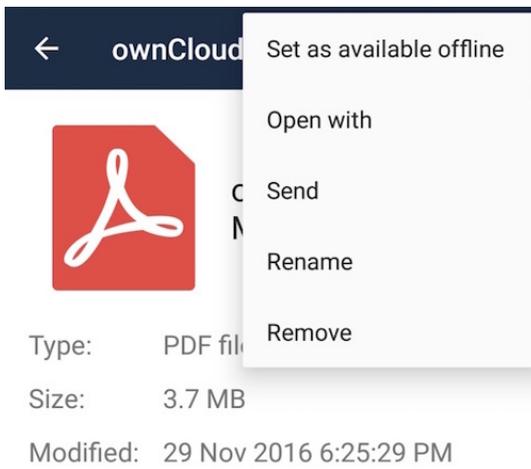
All Files View

When you are in the "All Files" view, all files that you have permission to access on your ownCloud server are displayed in your Android app. However, they are not downloaded until you click on them. Downloaded files are marked with a green tick, on the top-right of the file's icon.

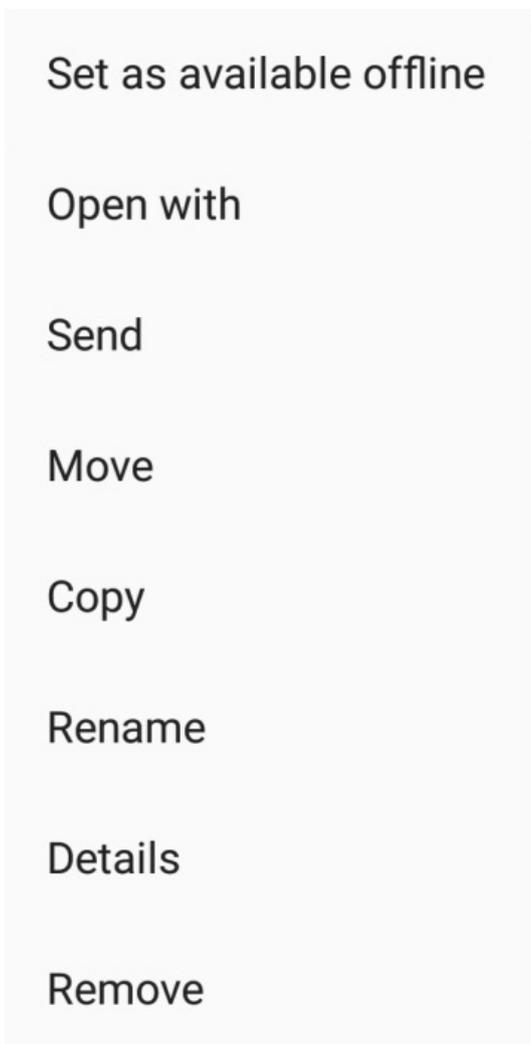


Videos don't need to be downloaded before they can be viewed, as they can be streamed to the device from your ownCloud server.

Download and view a file with a short press on the file's name or icon. Then, a short press on the overflow button opens a menu with options for managing your file.



When you are on your main Files page and you long press on any file or folder a list of options appears, which you can see in the image below. Some of them appear in the top bar. The ones that don't fit in the top bar, appear in the list of options when pressing the overflow button.



Sharing Files

You can share with other ownCloud users and groups, and create public or private share links.

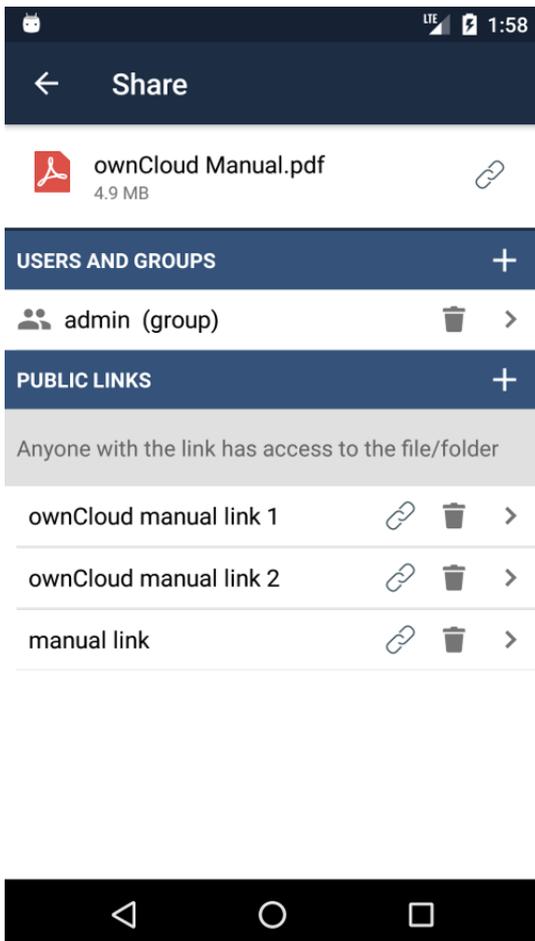


Multiple public links per/file is only available with ownCloud X.

To share a file, you first need to either:

1. Long-click its name, and click the [**share**] icon at the top of the screen
2. Click its name and then click the [**share**] icon at the top of the screen

The dialog which appears shows a list of users and groups with whom the file is already shared, as well as a list of one or more public links.



From here you can:

- Share one link to the file with users of the same ownCloud server
- Share the file with one or more users and groups
- Share one or more links to the file via a range of options
- Enable password protection
- Set a share expiration date

To create a private link, click the [**link**] icon on the right of the file name.



Private link is available from ownCloud X.

To share the file with a new user or group, click the [**plus sign**] next to "Users and Groups", where

you will be able to find and add them to the share list. After a user or group has been added, you can adjust the editing and on-sharing options available for them.



If your ownCloud server administrator has enabled username auto-completion, when you start typing user or group names they will auto-complete.

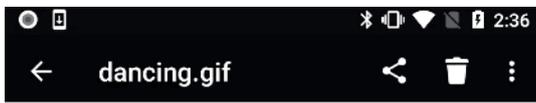
You can create a Federated Share Link by entering the username and remote URL of the person you want to share with in this format: `user@domain.com`. You don't have to guess; the Personal page in the ownCloud Web GUI tells the exact Federated Cloud ID. Just ask them to copy and paste and send it to you.



To create a public link, click the **[plus symbol]** next to *"Public Links"*. This will display the options available for that link, including *"Allow editing"*, *"Password"*, and *"Expiration"*. After the options have been suitably configured, click **[Save]** to create the link. If you do not want to create the public link, click **[Cancel]**.

GIF Support

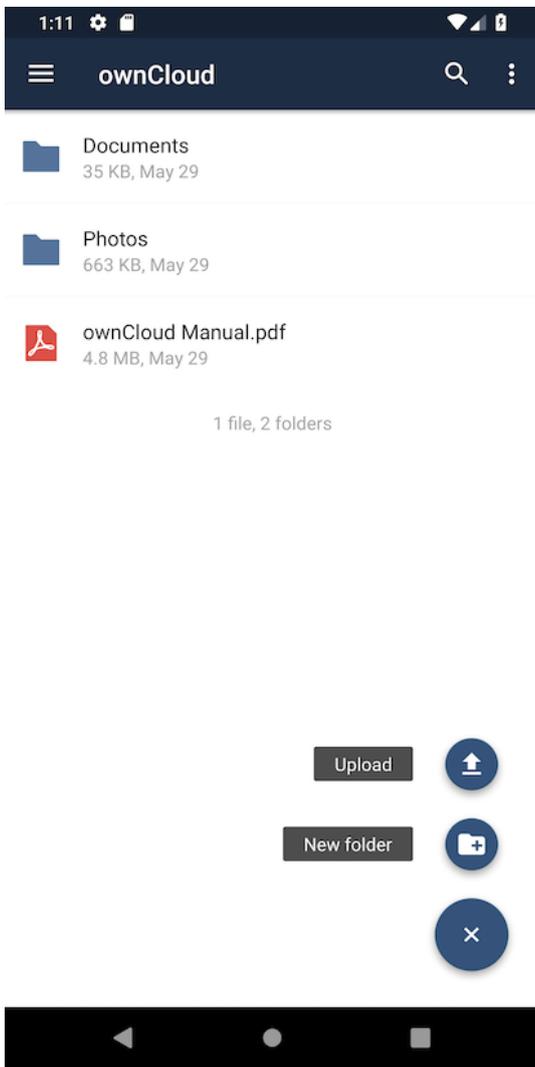
If you upload animated GIFs, when viewing them, they will be animated and not render as a still image, as in the example GIF below.



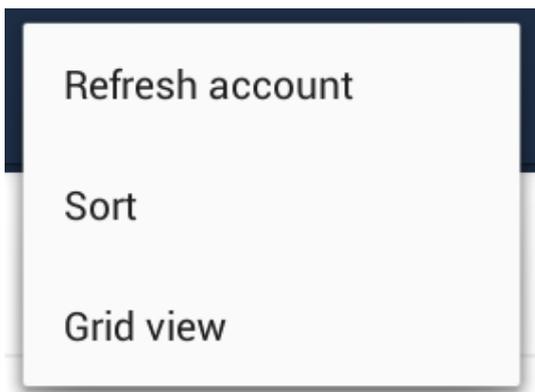
Creating New Content

To add new content to your ownCloud server, whether files, folders, or content from other apps, click the blue button at the bottom right to expose the [**Upload**] and [**New folder**] buttons.

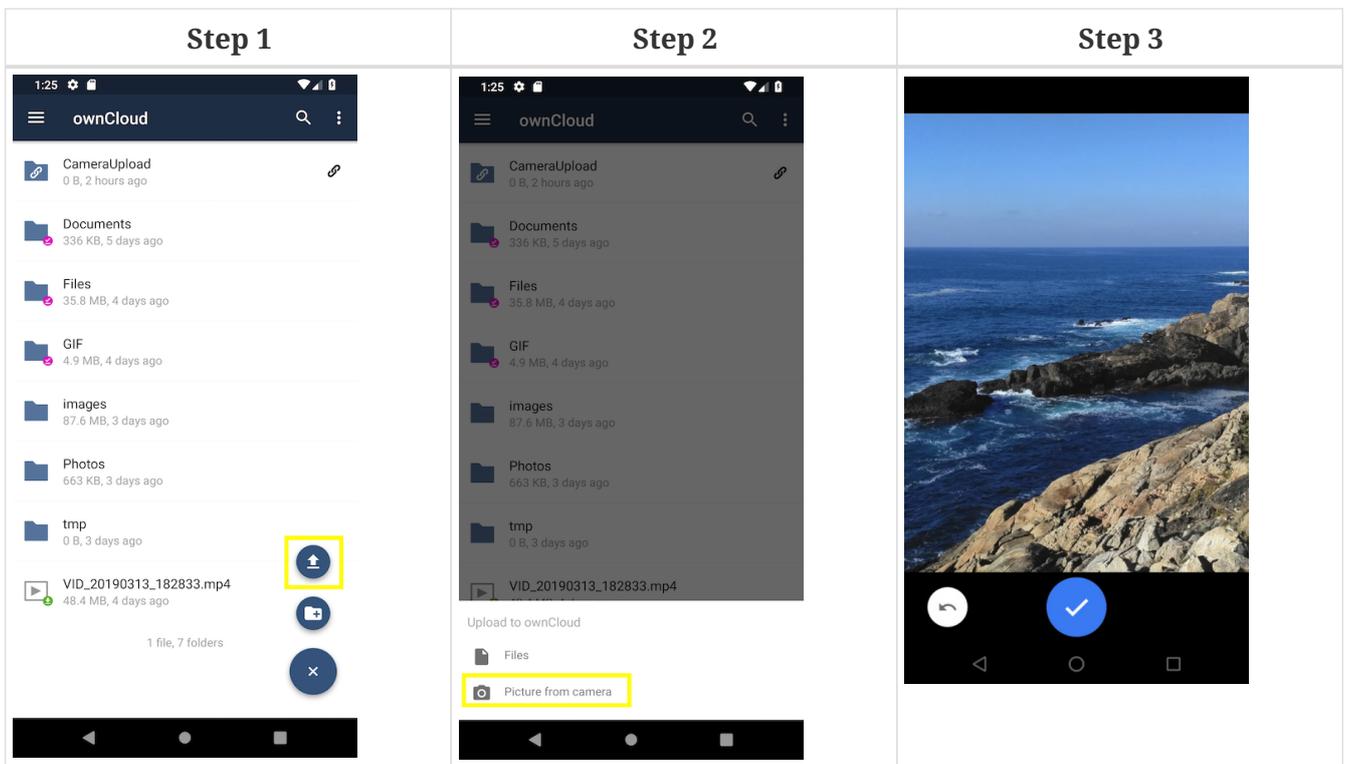
Then, use the [**Upload**] button to add files to your ownCloud account from your Android filesystem, from other apps, or from every storage attached to your device



Click the [**overflow button**] at the top right (that's the one with three vertical dots) to open a user menu. [**Grid view**] toggles between grid and list view. [**Refresh account**] syncs with the server, and [**Sort**] gives you the option to sort your files by date, or alphabetically.



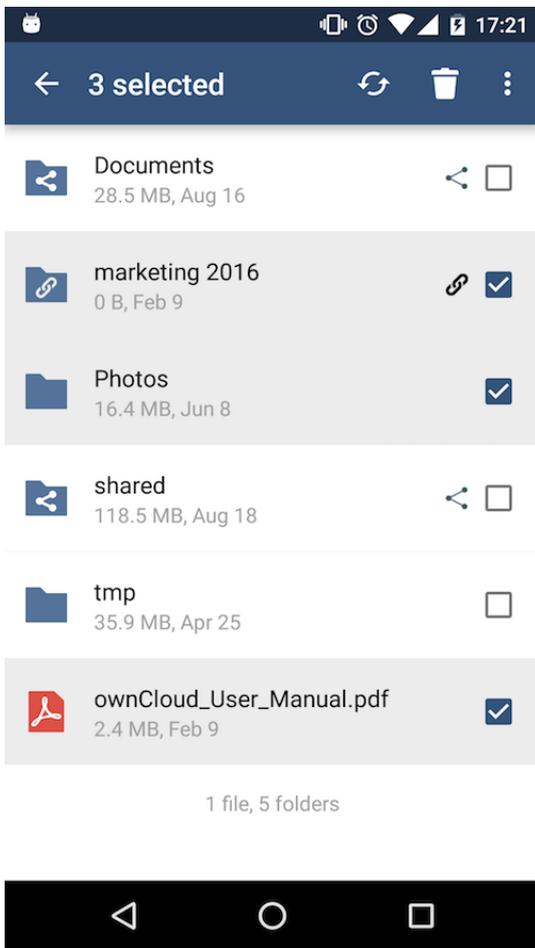
Upload Pictures Directly From The Camera



Images can be uploaded directly from the camera. To do so, similar to uploading a file or creating a new folder, when viewing all files, click the [**Plus**] icon, then the [**Upload**] button in the popup list (which is the first icon). From there, under [**Upload to ownCloud**], click [**Picture from camera**]. The camera app will then start, and the picture that you take can be directly uploaded to your ownCloud server.

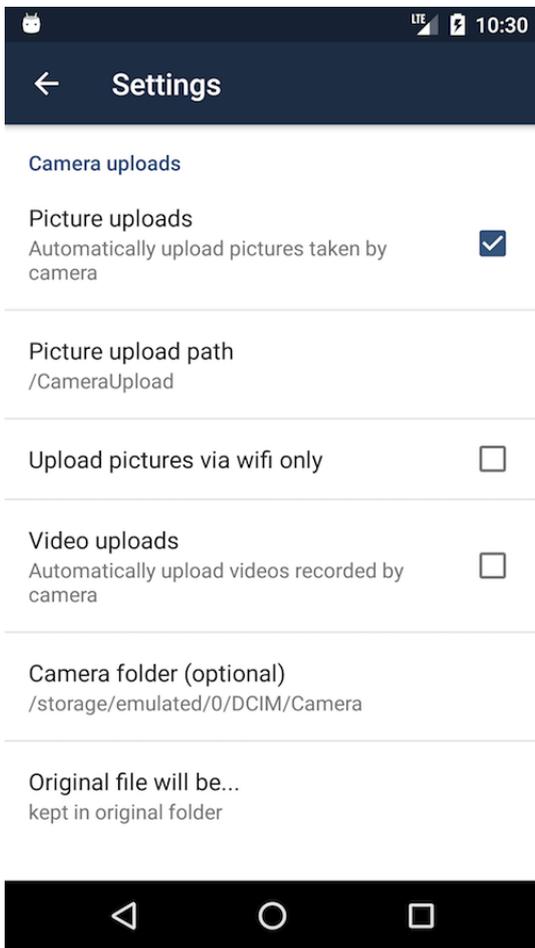
Working With Multiple Files

The Android application can perform some operations on multiple files simultaneously, such as refreshing and deleting. To select multiple files, long select the first file that you want to work with; you will see a checkbox appear on the far right-hand side. After that, check the checkbox next to all the other files that you want to perform the same operation on, and then perform the operation.



Uploading Files Taken From the Camera

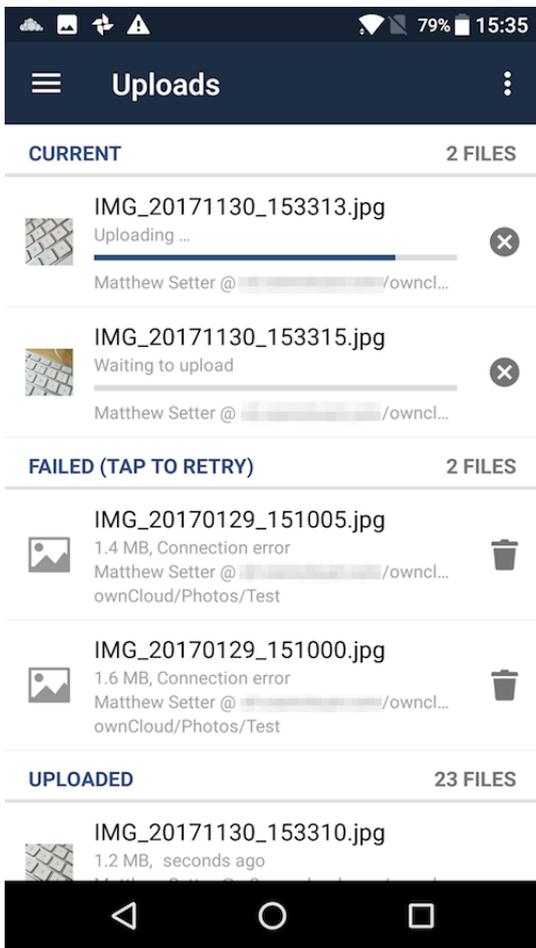
Pictures and videos can be uploaded from your smartphone after choosing the folder where they are stored. To specify where they are located, in the "Settings" options, under [Camera uploads](#), enable one of "Picture uploads" or "Video uploads". After that, a further option called "Camera folder" will become visible, as in the screenshot below.



Current Uploads

The Uploads page displays the status of files currently uploading, a list of your recently uploaded files, and a Retry option for any failed uploads. If credentials to access the file have changed, you'll see a credentials error. Tap the file to retry, and you'll get a login screen to enter the new credentials.

If the upload fails because you're trying to upload to a folder that you do not have permission to access, you will see a *"Permissions error"*. Change the permissions on the folder and retry the upload, or cancel and then upload the file to a different folder.

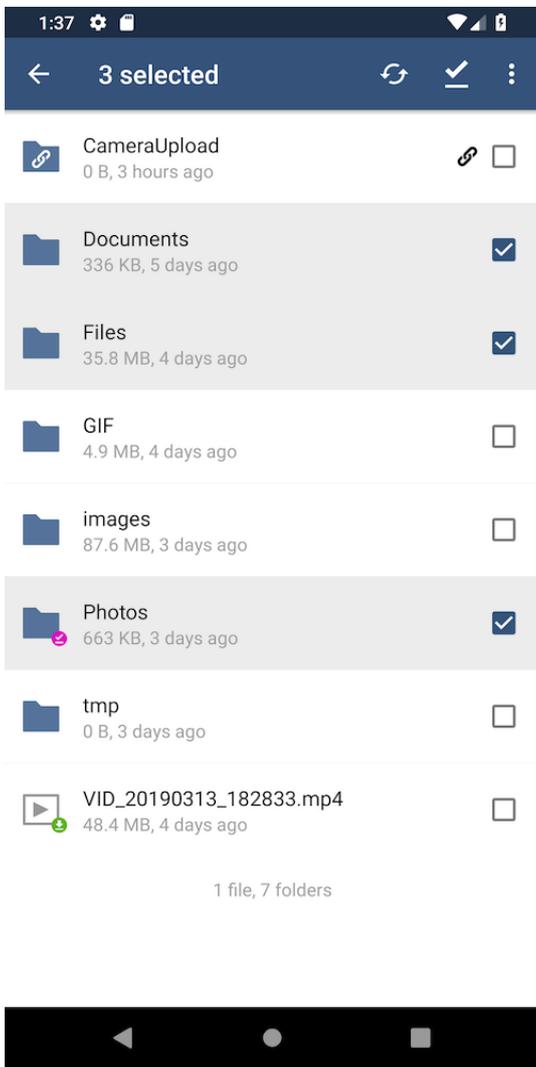


Make Folders Available Offline

Folders can be made available for when no internet or mobile connectivity is available. Doing so caches a copy of the folder and its contents locally to the device (assuming that sufficient disc space is available). Depending on the number of folders selected for offline availability, how folders are made available offline works slightly differently.

- **A single folder:** When a single folder is selected, click the **[More options]** menu, which opens a popup menu, and then select the first option, labeled: *"Set as available offline"*.
- **Multiple folders:** When multiple folders are selected, click the **[down arrow]** icon near the top of the screen.

When the folders have been cached locally, the icon will change to be a purple circle with a white tick icon in the bottom right-hand corner, as in the screenshot below.



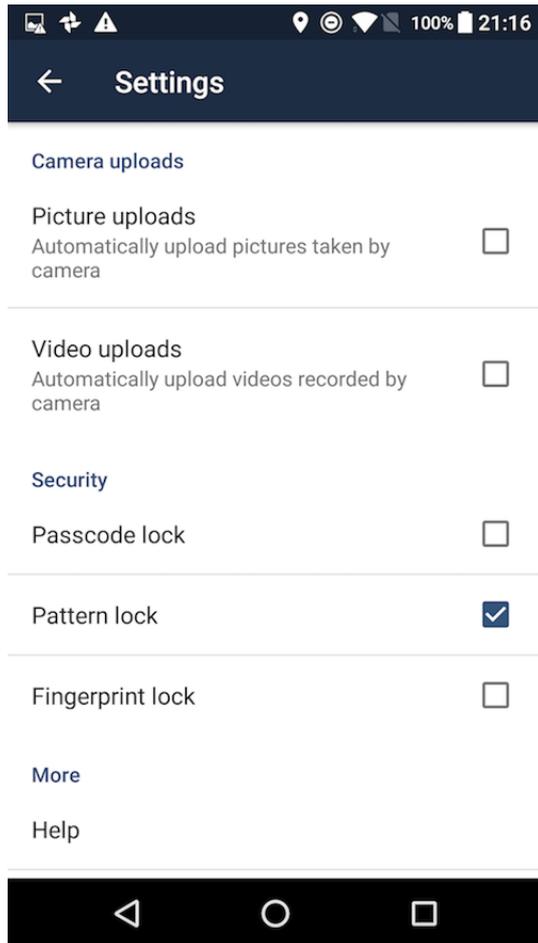
Application Settings

Introduction

This section describes how to view and control settings in the ownCloud Android App.

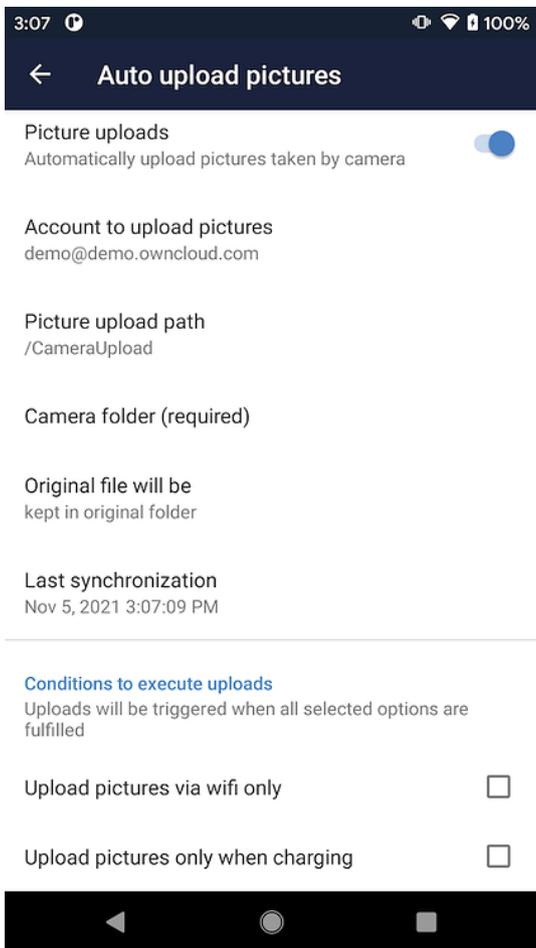
Settings View

Use the "Settings" screen to control your ownCloud applications settings and functionality.



Camera Uploads

If you take photos or create videos with your Android device, they can be automatically uploaded to your ownCloud server. To enable this, under "Camera uploads" tap *Picture uploads* or *Video uploads* or both. The following image shows the settings for the picture upload. The same settings are available on a separate screen for video uploads.



By enabling these features, any new photos or videos which you create will be automatically uploaded every 15 minutes. Photos and videos are not uploaded when they're created, to focus on reliability, instead of immediacy, and to avoid battery draining caused by excessive checking of the camera folder.



Be aware that if you used the earlier *Instant Uploads* feature, you will lose the configuration and have to enable the "Camera uploads" feature if you want to use it, since it needs to be initialized and configured properly.

If you're concerned about mobile data usage or have an account with limited data available, you can limit uploading to only when a WiFi is in use.

- For photos tap **Upload pictures via wifi only**
- For videos tap **Upload videos via wifi only**

In addition, you can select to upload only when charging the device to avoid battery drain.



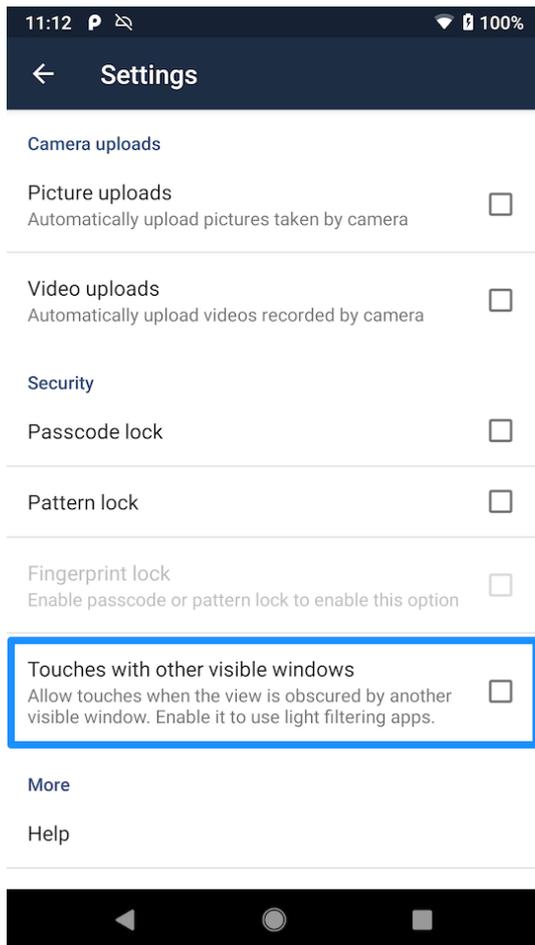
All selected uploading conditions must be met for uploads to happen.

By default, photos and videos are uploaded to a directory called `/CameraUpload`. However, you also have the option to use an existing directory or to create a new one. To change the upload location, tap on *Picture upload path* under photos or *Video upload path* under videos and choose one of the folders displayed.

To create a new folder, click the [**More options**] menu, in the top right-hand corner. This will display the menu option: *New folder*. Tap it and enter the name of the new folder in the *Folder name* dialog. Then, tap the newly created folder and tap [**Choose**] in the bottom right-hand corner. You'll see that the path has been updated.

Allow Light Filtering Apps

By enabling the option (which you can see in the screenshot below), the ownCloud Android App will not be obscured by any light filtering apps, which gives the choice of using them together. When it is enabled, security warning is enabled.



Logs

If you detect a problem or a bug in the ownCloud Android App, you can send us logs about the problem. You will find the list of logs in the Settings view, after enabling it. To enable the logs, you have to *tap five times on the version and build information*, available under **Settings > ownCloud for Android**.

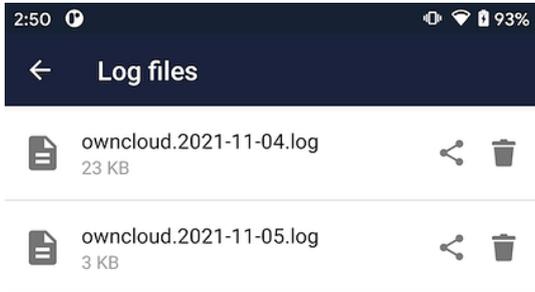
When enabled, inside the log section of the Android ownCloud app, options to share and delete logs are available.

You can open a log for viewing content by tapping on it. As a prerequisite, an app must be installed that is capable of reading and searching in log files must be installed. ownCloud does not provide a built-in log reader anymore as there are many professional apps available.

The following options are available to manage logs:

1. Opening a log file with your favorite log viewer by tapping on the log file row
2. Sharing a log file with other apps by clicking on the share icon
3. Deleting a log file by clicking the bin icon.

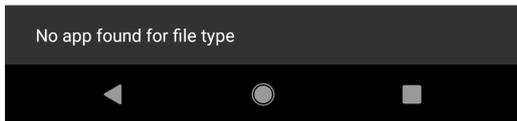
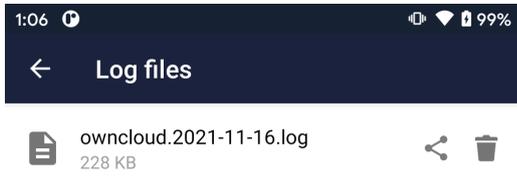
Note, an automatically running task will remove logs older than a week to keep space requirements small.



To view details or search inside a log file, tap on the respective entry in the log list. Three things can happen:

1. No log reading app found

If this occurs, install a log reading app of your choice.



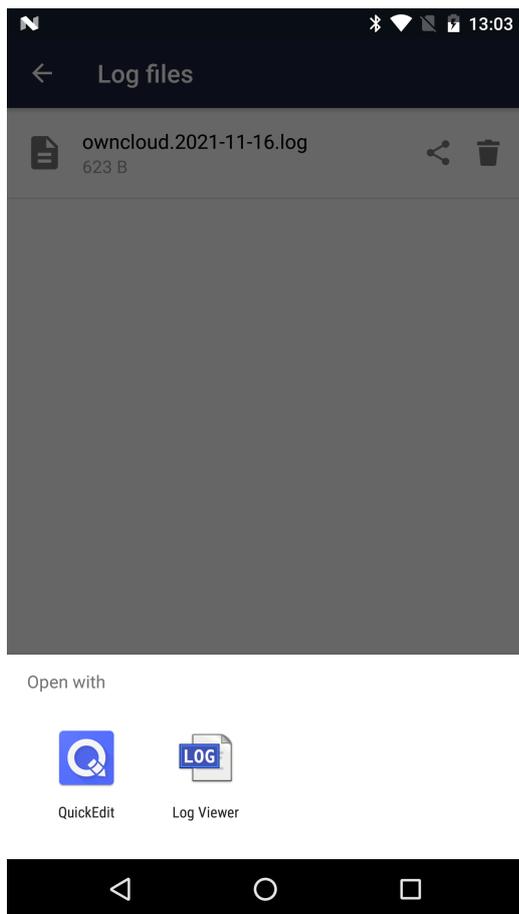
2. Exactly one log reading app is installed

The log reading app opens and the log is shown. The example image shows the **Log Viewer** app.



3. Select a log reading app from the list of available ones

After selecting the app, the log is opened by the app selected.



Access Protection

Passcode Locks & Pins

You can also set a passcode lock to further protect your files and folders. And, if you want extra security, you can set a login PIN on your Android device, and also on your ownCloud account. If you are using a shared Android device, other users can access your files in the file manager if you are sharing a single user account. To avoid this, you could set up multiple user accounts to protect your files.

The bottom section of the "Settings" screen has links to:

- Help
- Recommend to a friend
- Feedback
- The version number

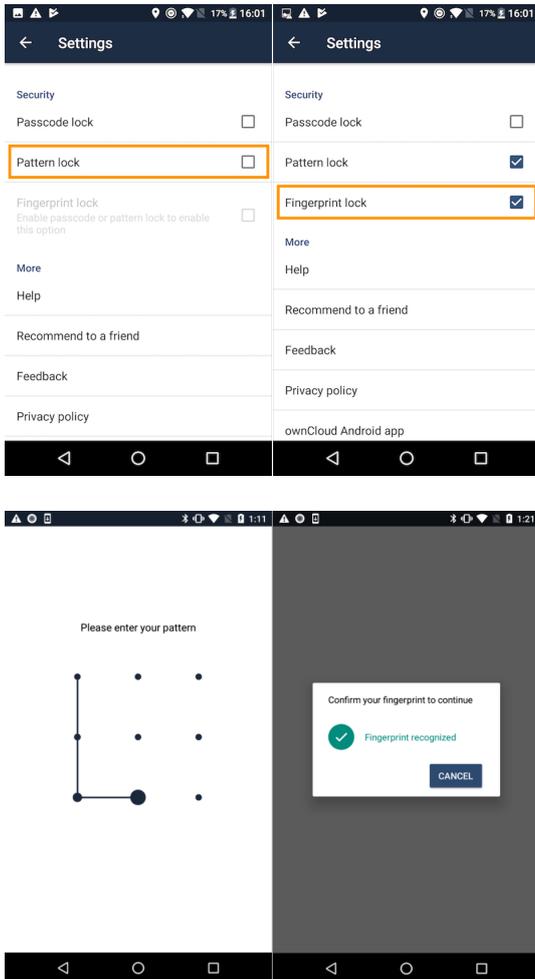
Pattern Lock and Fingerprint Lock

In addition to the Passcode Lock and Pins, you also have the ability to use both a pattern and a

fingerprint lock to protect access to your ownCloud app and its data. To enable one or both, under **Settings** > **Security**, choose which one(s) you want to enable.



To use the Fingerprint Lock, the Pattern Lock has to be enabled.



After you enable the pattern lock, you will need to create a pattern and then confirm it to access the ownCloud app, just as you would if you've enabled that for access to the phone itself. If you later disable pattern lock, you will need to enter your pattern again.

If you enable the fingerprint lock, you will need to provide one of your already stored fingerprint patterns to access the ownCloud app.



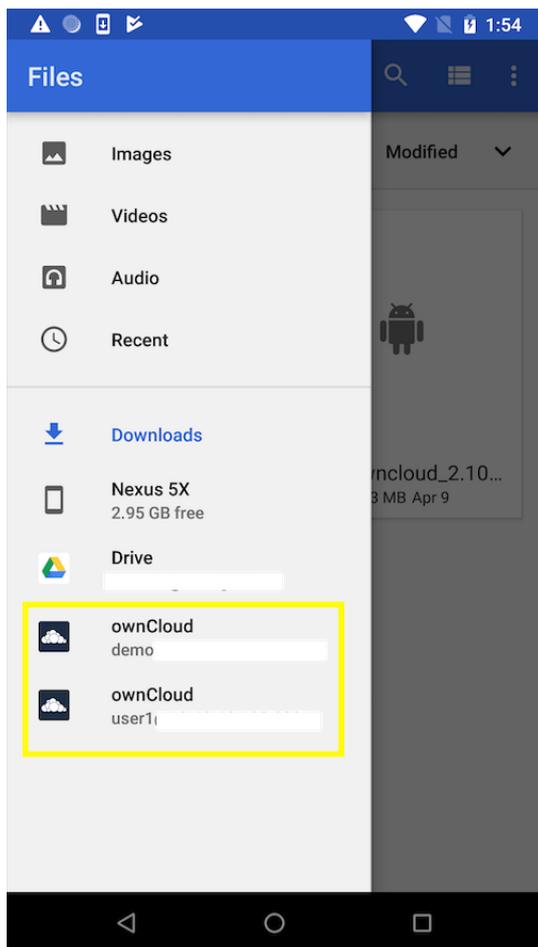
If fingerprint lock is enabled, but you don't want to use it, you can cancel the fingerprint lock prompt and fallback to using the pattern lock instead.

Document Provider Integration

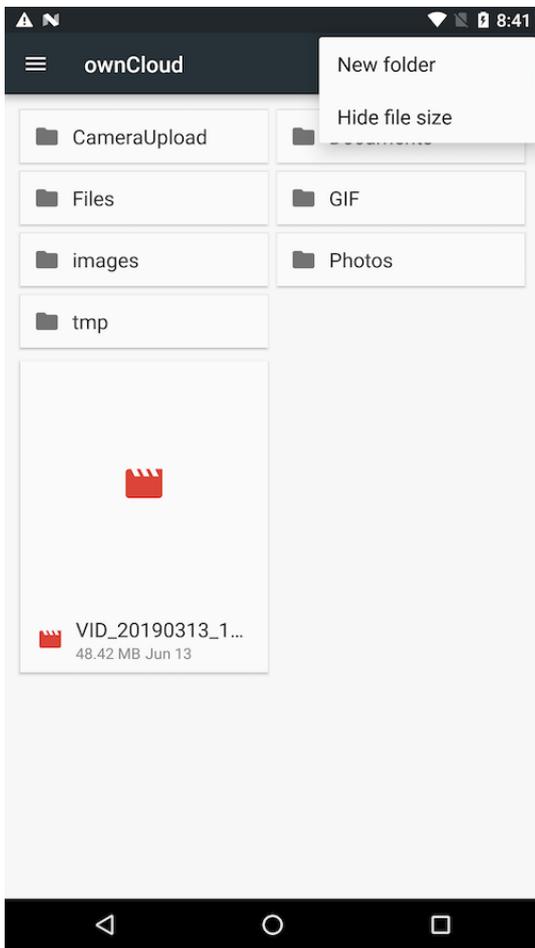
Introduction

The Document provider is a feature that comes from the Storage Access Framework provided by Android. It allows a storage service such as ownCloud to reveal the files it manages.

Document Provider Integration



To use it we only need to open Downloads app in Android 7 and 8 or Files app in Android 9 and select the ownCloud account appearing in the side menu.



Once you select the account you will have access to your file list. In there, you can perform the following actions:

- Create a new folder
- Rename an item
- Delete an item; and
- Edit a file

Android Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Introduction

Here you can find some of the most frequently asked questions about the ownCloud Android app.

Usage

Minimum ownCloud Server Version

ownCloud Android app 2.15 has minimum requirement of ownCloud server 10.0 or later.

ownCloud Android app 2.9 has minimum requirement ownCloud server 9.0 or later.

Check [this post in the community forum](#) how to install older versions.

Minimum Android Version

ownCloud Android app 2.15 and higher has a minimum requirement of Android 5.0 or later. Check [this post in the community forum](#) how to install older versions.

Login With TOTP and Other 2FA

ownCloud server must have [the OAuth2 app](#) installed, configured, and enabled to use Two-Factor Authentication. Please contact your ownCloud administrator for more details.

Feature Requests

Detect and Upload Changes From Local File System

Local changes get recognized and uploaded when you add files inside the app, or a 3rd party app sends a file to the ownCloud app, or a 3rd party app adds/edits files via the document provider.

Prevent Direct Access to Local Sync Directory

Starting with app version 2.19, ownCloud has made the transition to switch to Scoped Storage. 3rd party apps can access files only via the document provider mechanism. See [Physical Location of User Files](#) for more details.

Store Local Sync Directory on SD Card

This feature is not on the roadmap of the ownCloud Android app.

Missing Translations or Translation Bugs

You can help translate in your language or fix a bug.

We use Transifex for translations. Please [register here](#) for an account and join the global community.

Testing New Features

Use [this link](#) to join the beta program on Android.

Appendices

In this section, you find supporting information.

Troubleshooting

Introduction

This is a brief troubleshooting guide which will help you get the data necessary for identifying the root cause.

Log Files

Effectively debugging software requires as much relevant information as can be obtained. To assist the ownCloud support personnel, please try to provide as many relevant logs as possible. Log output can help with tracking down problems and, if you report a bug, log output can help to resolve an issue more quickly.

Here you have a description about how to get relevant information to be handled in case of any issue. You can ship this information via mail (android-app@owncloud.com), creating a new issue in the [open GitHub ownCloud Android repository](#), or in [public ownCloud forum](#).

Capturing App Debug Logs

You will find the Logs in the Settings view of the Android app. If the Logs option is not visible, tap five times on the build number (bottom of the Settings view), and Logs section will be visible.

Additionally, you can enable Log HTTP requests and responses. This will include information about every http request performed. It will help us to locate the issue. Logs may contain sensitive information. Sharing logs with others is sole user responsibility.

When you have reproduced the issue you want to address, the "Send History" button will automatically add the logs to a new mail message. Please follow the next steps to send us your logs:

1. Delete History
2. Perform the steps to reproduce the error
3. Go back to the settings and select Logs
4. Send History

If your issue is an app crash, also the Logcat log can be helpful. To get it:

1. Delete History
2. Perform the steps to reproduce the error
3. Go back to the settings and select Logs
4. In the three-dot-button (top right corner), select Logcat
5. Send History

Deleting the history before getting logs is a good practice that will help the team to debug the problem, avoiding unnecessary noise.

ownCloud Server Log File

The ownCloud server also maintains an ownCloud specific log file. This log file must be enabled through the ownCloud Administration page. On that page, you can adjust the log level. We recommend that when setting the log file level that you set it to a verbose level like **Debug** or **Info**.

You can view the server log file using the web interface or you can open it directly from the file system in the ownCloud server data directory.

Please see the [ownCloud server logging](#) pages to read more.

Webserver Log Files

It can be helpful to view your webserver's error log file to isolate any ownCloud-related problems. For Apache on Linux, the error logs are typically located in the `/var/log/apache2` directory. Some helpful files include the following:

- **error_log** — Maintains errors associated with PHP code.
- **access_log** — Typically records all requests handled by the server; very useful as a debugging tool because the log line contains information specific to each request and its result.

The ownCloud Android app sends the **X-REQUEST-ID** header with every request. You'll find the **X-REQUEST-ID** in the `owncloud.log`, and you can configure your webserver to add the **X-REQUEST-ID** to the logs. [Here](#) you can find more information.

Please see the [Apache logging](#) pages to get more information.

Tools

mitmproxy

[mitmproxy](#) is an interactive man-in-the-middle proxy for HTTP and HTTPS with a console interface. At ownCloud we use it a lot to investigate every detail of HTTP requests and responses.

```
~/mitmproxy/mitmproxy
Flows
GET https://www.google.com/
  ← 200 text/html 64.52k 487ms
GET https://www.google.com/logos/doodles/2018/doodle-snow-games-day-12-6070619765473280-s.png
  ← 200 image/png 2.63k 184ms
GET https://www.google.com/logos/2018/snowgames_skijump/cta.png
  ← 200 image/png 13.4k 229ms
>> GET https://www.gstatic.com/external_hosted/createjs/createjs-2015.11.26.min.js
  ← 200 text/javascript 48.51k 475ms
GET https://ssl.gstatic.com/gb/images/i2_2ec824b0.png
  ← 200 image/png 23.64k 253ms
GET https://ssl.gstatic.com/safebrowsing/csd/client_model_v5_variation_0.pb
  ← 200 application/octet-stream 67.92k 356ms
GET https://ssl.gstatic.com/safebrowsing/csd/client_model_v5_ext_variation_0.pb
  ← 200 application/octet-stream 67.92k 412ms
GET https://www.google.com/logos/2018/snowgames_skijump/snowgames_skijump18.js
  ← 200 text/javascript 258.16k 900ms
POST https://www.google.com/gen_204?s=webaft&atyp=csi&ei=vCGLWr6uMsKk0gTYs6yIAw&rt=wsrt.2615,aft.1379,prt.1379
  ← 204 text/html [no content] 379ms
GET https://www.gstatic.com/og/_/js/k=og.og2.en_US.ulHn0gNl16I.0/rt=j/m=def/exm=in,fot/d=1/ed=1/rs=AA2YrT
uVOKajN...
  ← 200 text/javascript 46.4k 265ms
GET https://www.google.com/xjs/_/js/k=xjs.s.en.zjivxe8fVgY.0/m=sx,sb,cdos,cr,elog,hsm,jsa,r,d,csi/am=wCL0
eMEByP8...
  ← 200 text/javascript 144.26k 368ms
GET https://www.google.com/xjs/_/js/k=xjs.s.en.zjivxe8fVgY.0/m=aa,abd,async,dvl,foot,fpe,ipv6,lu,m,mu,sf,
sonic,s...
  ← 200 text/javascript 30.54k 195ms
GET https://www.google.com/logos/2018/snowgames_skijump/main-sprite.png
  ← 200 image/png 13.4k 229ms
↓ [14/36]
: replay.client [flow] [*:9999]
```

Release Notes

Changelog for the Android App

ownCloud provides a full changelog with a summary and details for each release of the Android App. Click the following link to access it at [GitHub](#).