

AI-02051 NextCloud Setup

Owner	© Rigel Arcayan
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What is nextcloud? Explain and deep dive. What are the system requirements for next cloud. I have an Ubuntu Server on Hyper-V and an extra hard drive. List the step by step instructions for Ubuntu Server setup.

Nextcloud is an open-source, self-hosted file sync and share server. Essentially, it's a private cloud solution that gives you complete control over your data. Think of it as a self-hosted alternative to services like Dropbox or Google Drive.

Unlike proprietary cloud services, Nextcloud allows you to store your files on your own server, so you are in control of who can access your data and what they can do with it. Nextcloud provides a web interface for file management and also offers desktop and mobile clients for seamless synchronization across devices.

In addition to basic file storage and sharing, Nextcloud can be extended with a wide range of apps to add functionality like:

- Nextcloud Files: The core file management and sharing component.
- Nextcloud Talk: For video and audio calls, screen sharing, and chats.
- Nextcloud Groupware: Includes a calendar, contacts, and mail client.
- Nextcloud Office: An integrated online office suite for collaborative document editing.

Nextcloud's architecture is a client-server model. A server running Nextcloud software acts as the central repository for files and data. Clients on desktop and mobile devices then connect to this server to synchronize files. The files are stored in a conventional directory structure on the server's file system, while additional data like permissions, shares, and comments are stored in a database (MariaDB/MySQL, PostgreSQL, or SQLite).

System Requirements

Nextcloud's system requirements are variable and depend on the number of users, the volume of data, and the apps you plan to use. Here are the general recommendations for a Nextcloud server:

- Operating System: A 64-bit Linux distribution is recommended, such as Ubuntu Server (22.04 LTS or 24.04 LTS). Other options include Red Hat Enterprise Linux, Debian, and openSUSE.
- CPU: A 64-bit CPU is required. For a small number of users, a 2-core CPU is generally sufficient.
- Memory (RAM): A minimum of 512 MB of RAM is recommended per process. For a small-scale setup, 2 GB or more is a good starting point, but a larger number of users and more active apps will require significantly more RAM (e.g., 8 GB or more).
- Database: You'll need a database server. MariaDB/MySQL is the recommended choice. PostgreSQL is also supported, and SQLite is an option for minimal or testing instances.
- Web Server: Apache 2.4 with mod_php or php-fpm is recommended. Nginx with php-fpm is another popular choice.
- PHP: Nextcloud requires a supported version of PHP. It's best to use a version that is currently actively supported by the PHP community.

Step-by-Step Installation on Ubuntu Server with Hyper-V

Given you have a Hyper-V virtual machine with Ubuntu Server and an extra hard drive, here's a detailed walkthrough for a common setup. This guide uses the recommended LAMP (Linux, Apache, MariaDB, PHP) stack and configures the external hard drive for data storage.

Step 1: Prepare the Ubuntu Server VM

- Create the VM: In Hyper-V, create a new virtual machine.
 - Allocate at least 2 CPU cores and 4 GB of RAM to start. You can adjust this later.
 - Attach your virtual hard drive for the operating system.

- Attach the "extra hard drive" as a separate virtual disk. This will be your data storage.
- Install Ubuntu Server: Boot the VM from the Ubuntu Server ISO and follow the on-screen prompts to install the operating system.

Step 2: Prepare the Storage Disk

Once Ubuntu is installed and you've logged in via SSH or the Hyper-V console, you need to format and mount the extra hard drive.

- Identify the disk: Run `lsblk` to list all block devices. Your extra hard drive will likely show up as something like `sdb` or `sdc`.
- Format the disk: Use the `mkfs.ext4` command to format the disk with the `ext4` file system. Replace `/dev/sdb` with your disk identifier.
`sudo mkfs.ext4 /dev/sdb`
- Create a mount point: Create a directory where the disk will be mounted.
`sudo mkdir /mnt/nextcloud-data`
- Mount the disk: Mount the formatted disk to the new directory.
`sudo mount /dev/sdb /mnt/nextcloud-data`
- Automate mounting on reboot: To ensure the disk is mounted automatically, add an entry to the `/etc/fstab` file. First, get the disk's UUID using `sudo blkid /dev/sdb`. Then, open `/etc/fstab` with a text editor like `nano`.
`sudo nano /etc/fstab`

Add a new line at the end, replacing the UUID with your disk's UUID.

```
UUID=<your-disk-uuid> /mnt/nextcloud-data ext4 defaults 0 2
```

Save and exit the file.

Step 3: Install Nextcloud and LAMP Stack

The easiest way to install Nextcloud is to use the Snap package, as it bundles all necessary components (Apache, PHP, MariaDB) and handles updates automatically.

- Install Nextcloud Snap: Run the following command. It will download and install Nextcloud with all its dependencies.

```
sudo snap install nextcloud
```

- Configure a trusted domain: The Nextcloud snap needs to know your server's IP address or domain name. Replace `<your-server-ip>` with the IP address of your Ubuntu VM.

```
sudo nextcloud.occ config:system:set trusted_domains 1 --value=<your-server-ip>
```

- Create an admin account: Set up the admin username and password from the command line.

```
sudo nextcloud.manual-install <admin_username> <admin_password>
```

Step 4: Configure Data Directory

Now, you need to point the Nextcloud installation to your new hard drive.

- Move existing data: The snap creates a data directory by default. You should move the contents to your new drive.

```
sudo rsync -av /var/snap/nextcloud/common/nextcloud/data/ /mnt/nextcloud-data/
```

- Change Nextcloud's data directory: Use the Nextcloud occ command to update the data directory path.

```
sudo nextcloud.occ config:system:set datadirectory --value=/mnt/nextcloud-data
```

- Create symbolic link: The snap expects the data to be in its default location, so create a symbolic link to your new location.

```
sudo rm -r /var/snap/nextcloud/common/nextcloud/data
```

```
sudo ln -s /mnt/nextcloud-data /var/snap/nextcloud/common/nextcloud/data
```

After these steps, your Nextcloud instance will be configured to use the extra hard drive for all user data. You can now access your Nextcloud server by navigating to your server's IP address in a web browser.