

AI-02092 NextCloud Setup Ubuntu

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What is NextCloud and what's the story of the application and founder? Is it really free or there's a catch? How NextCloud get their revenue? Provide a Step by Step on the setup and installation for Ubuntu. (Use mysql db)

Nextcloud is an open-source, self-hosted file sync and share server. It's a suite of client-server software that allows you to create and manage your own cloud storage service, similar to Dropbox or Google Drive, but with the key difference that you have full control over your data. It can be hosted on a local server or a virtual private server (VPS).

The Story and Founder

Nextcloud was founded by **Frank Karlitschek** in 2016. He was also one of the original founders of ownCloud, a similar open-source project. Karlitschek and a number of core contributors left ownCloud Inc. due to disagreements over the direction of the company, specifically the decision to split the ownCloud project into a free, open-source community edition and a proprietary enterprise edition. Karlitschek believed in keeping the entire platform open source, and this led him to fork the project and create Nextcloud. The project's mission is to promote digital independence and provide a fully open-source, privacy-focused alternative to big tech cloud services.

Free vs. Paid and Revenue Model

Nextcloud's core server software is **100% free and open-source**. There is no "catch" for home users or individuals who want to self-host their own instance. All features are available in the free version.

Nextcloud, the company, generates revenue primarily through its **enterprise support subscriptions**. These subscriptions are for businesses and large organizations that require professional support, maintenance, and advanced features like specialized authentication, advanced monitoring, and compliance tools. This "open-core" model, where the entire product is open source but the company offers paid services around it, is common among successful open-source businesses.

Step-by-Step Installation on Ubuntu (MySQL/MariaDB)

Here are the general steps to install Nextcloud on an Ubuntu server using MySQL/MariaDB. This is a manual installation and requires a good understanding of the command line.

Step 1: System Update and Required Packages

Start by updating your server's package list and installing the necessary components: Apache web server, PHP, and MySQL/MariaDB.

Bash

```
sudo apt update
sudo apt upgrade
sudo apt install apache2 mariadb-server libapache2-mod-php
```

Install the required PHP modules for Nextcloud:

Bash

```
sudo apt install php-gd php-json php-mysql php-curl php-mbstring php-imagick php-xml php-zip php-intl php-ldap
php-apcu php-bcmath php-gmp
```

Step 2: Database Configuration

Secure your MariaDB installation and then create a database and a dedicated user for Nextcloud.

Bash

```
sudo mysql_secure_installation
```

Follow the prompts to set a root password and secure the installation.

Now, log in to the MySQL/MariaDB shell as the root user.

Bash

```
sudo mysql -u root -p
```

Inside the shell, run the following commands to create the database and user.

Replace `'your_password'` with a strong password.

SQL

```
CREATE DATABASE nextcloud;  
CREATE USER 'nextclouduser'@'localhost' IDENTIFIED BY 'your_password';  
GRANT ALL PRIVILEGES ON nextcloud.* TO 'nextclouduser'@'localhost';  
FLUSH PRIVILEGES;  
EXIT;
```

Step 3: Download and Extract Nextcloud

Navigate to your web directory and download the latest Nextcloud archive.

Bash

```
cd /var/www/  
sudo wget https://download.nextcloud.com/server/releases/latest.zip  
sudo unzip latest.zip  
sudo rm latest.zip
```

This will extract the Nextcloud files into a `nextcloud` directory.

Step 4: Configure File Permissions

The web server user (`www-data` on Ubuntu) needs to have proper ownership of the Nextcloud directory to function correctly.

Bash

```
sudo chown -R www-data:www-data /var/www/nextcloud
```

Step 5: Apache Configuration

Create a new Apache configuration file for Nextcloud.

Bash

```
sudo nano /etc/apache2/sites-available/nextcloud.conf
```

Add the following configuration to the file. This is a basic example; you may want to add SSL and other security headers for a production environment.

Apache

```
Alias /nextcloud "/var/www/nextcloud/"
```

```
<Directory /var/www/nextcloud/>  
  Require all granted  
  AllowOverride All  
  Options FollowSymLinks Multiviews  
  <IfModule mod_dav.c>  
    Dav off  
  </IfModule>  
</Directory>
```

Enable the new site and some Apache modules, then restart the web server.

Bash

```
sudo a2ensite nextcloud.conf  
sudo a2enmod rewrite headers  
sudo systemctl restart apache2
```

Step 6: Finalizing the Installation

Open your web browser and navigate to `http://your_server_ip_or_domain/nextcloud`.

On the setup page, you'll be prompted to create an admin user and enter the database details you created in Step 2.

- **Create an admin account:** Choose a username and a strong password.
- **Data folder:** You can keep the default or specify a different location.
- **Database Configuration:** Select "MySQL/MariaDB" and enter the following details:
 - **Database user:** `nextclouduser`
 - **Database password:** `your_password`
 - **Database name:** `nextcloud`
 - **localhost**

After entering the information, click "Finish Setup." The installation will complete, and you'll be redirected to your Nextcloud dashboard.

Nextcloud CEO: Why Self-Hosting Beats Big Tech Every Time

This video is relevant as it features Nextcloud's founder and CEO, Frank Karlitschek, discussing the company's philosophy, its evolution from ownCloud, and its business model.