

Selfhosting as an alternative to the public cloud

Pitfalls and how to work around them

Albert Dengg
<albert@fsfe.org>



Free Software Foundation Europe

2018-09-22

What is this cloud thing?



Or perhaps something like this?

"It was raining in the datacenter," he explains.

This resulted in cold aisle supply temperature exceeding 80°F¹ and relative humidity exceeding 95%. The Open Compute servers that are deployed within the data center reacted to these extreme changes. Numerous servers were rebooted and few were automatically shut down due to power supply unit failure.[Cla13]

¹approx. 26,67°C

Maybe this goes in the right direction

"The beauty of Telescript," says Andy, "is that now, instead of just having a device to program, we now have the entire Cloud out there, where a single program can go and travel to many different sources of information and create sort of a virtual service.[Lev94]

There is NO CLOUD, just



other people's computers

What Services do we want to run

- ▶ synchronization
 - ▶ contacts
 - ▶ calendars
 - ▶ files
 - ▶ notes
 - ▶ photos
 - ▶ ...
- ▶ collaborative editing
- ▶ ...

Main Threats

- ▶ data loss
- ▶ data breach

Data Loss

Backup

Have a BACKUP!

Data Loss

Backup

- ▶ if you think you don't need one think hard about it and reevaluate regularly, as the nature of new data tends to change
- ▶ have at least one copy at a different location
- ▶ test it!

Data Breach

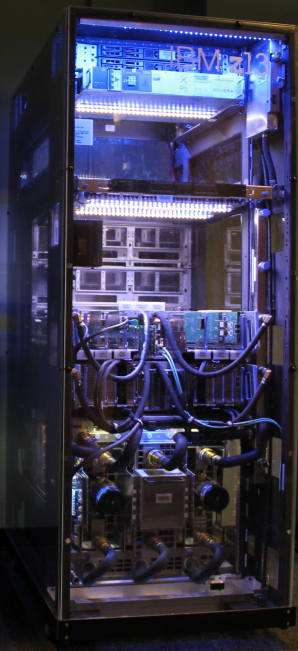
There are no 100% secure systems!

Data Breach

Considerations

- ▶ who needs to access the data?
- ▶ does it need to be publicly available?
- ▶ are there legal implications if there is a problem?

You are going to need some
computing power



Some Storage



...and something for
connecting it to the internet



Basic Considerations

Before you start

No Seriously, *think about what
you are you are going to need
before you start!*

Basic Considerations

Before you start

- ▶ pick something which you are comfortable with
- ▶ find out how to keep track of news/updates about the system you are using

Basic Considerations

Before you start

Usecase

- ▶ home use
- ▶ small to medium sized buisness
- ▶ large enterprise
- ▶ number of users
- ▶ amount of data
- ▶ do you have an admin at hand with expirience in running the stuff you need?
- ▶ do you have the resources to hire one?
- ▶ do you need/want/must have it on site?
- ▶ is paying somebody to run it for you a valid option?

Basic Considerations

Operationally

- ▶ use strong authentication methods
- ▶ use two factor authentication if available
- ▶ consider using automatic updates

Sources I

[htt14] [htt12] [Net14] [Mei16]



Jack Clark.

Facebook's first data center drenched by actual cloud, 6 2013.

https://www.theregister.co.uk/2013/06/08/facebook_cloud_versus_cloud/.



CC-BY-SA 3.0

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/User:Victorgrigas>.

Netapp fas3240 (second from bottom) with three ds4243 shelves on top, 7 2012.

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/41/Wikimedia_Foundation_Servers-8055_01.jpg.

Sources II



CC-BY-SA 4.0

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/User:Agiorgio>.

Glowing ibm zenterprise ec12, 9 2014.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/IBM_zEnterprise_System#/media/File:Glowing_IBM_zEnterprise_EC12.JPG.



Steven Levy.

Bill and andy's excellent adventure ii, 3 1994.

<https://www.wired.com/1994/04/general-magic/>.



CC-BY-SA 4.0 Markus Meier.

There is no cloud, 2 2016.

<https://download.fsfe.org/advocacy/promomaterial/NoCloud/NoCloud-sticker/wir-machen-Druck/thereisnocloud-sticker-120mm.en.pdf>.

Sources III



CC-BY-SA 3.0 Juniper Networks.

Juniper networks srx5800 service gateway and security appliance, 7 2014.

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/41/Wikimedia_Foundation_Servers-8055_01.jpg.

Questions?

THANK YOU