Open Cloud Mesh

The Open Cloud Mesh project is coordinated by GÉANT with contributions from CERN, National Research and Education Networks (NRENs), academic institutions and commercial partners.

Interconnected Private Clouds for Universities and Researchers

Open Cloud Mesh (OCM) is a joint international initiative under the umbrella of the GÉANT Association that is built on the open Federated Cloud Sharing application programming interface (API) - first initiated and implemented by ownCloud Inc. - taking Universal File Access beyond the borders of individual clouds and into a globally interconnected mesh of research clouds without sacrificing any of the advantages in privacy, control and security an on-premises cloud provides. OCM defines a vendor-neutral, common file access layer across an organization and/or across globally interconnected organizations, regardless of the user data locations and choice of clouds.

Concept document

The Open Cloud Mesh concept document was produced by Christian Schmitz at ownCloud Inc. and first distributed on 23 July 2015. The project has been established under the auspices of the GÉANT Association in order to ensure the vendor neutral design and development of the open protocol.

Download from here...

Statement

All leading partners of the Open Cloud Mesh project are fully committed to the open API design principle. This means that - from day one - the OCM sharing API should be discussed, designed and developed as a vendor neutral protocol to be adopted by any on-premise sync&share product vendor or service provider. We acknowledge the fact that the piloting of the first working interface prototype will be carried out in an ownCloud environment that should not effect the adoption of the open API in any other vendor and provider domain.

Community effort - open for participation

A collaborative project was established under the umbrella of GÉANT called the Open Cloud Mesh project on 22 October 2015. The kick-off meeting was held in Vienna, Austria.

The project is co-managed by Peter Szegedi (GÉANT), Jakub Moscicki (CERN) and Christian Schmitz (ownCloud). This combination of project management ensures that all the major stakeholders – GÉANT National Research and Education Networks, CERN research community and ownCloud Inc. as a commercial company with its open source developers community – are equally represented in the project and the technical, management and business aspects are well-covered.

The collaborative project is fully open to any participation and in-kind contributions. Interested parties can subscribe to the mailing list at: ocm-all@lists.geant.org...

GÉANT Project code P15_225

Repository

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of documentation</th>
<th>Resource</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early Specifications</td>
<td>DRAFT protocol definition v.0.004 released</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Final Specification GitHub | [https://github.com/GEANT/OCM-API](https://github.com/GEANT/OCM-API)  
  [https://rawgit.com/GEANT/OCM-API/v1/docs.html](https://rawgit.com/GEANT/OCM-API/v1/docs.html) |

Key stakeholders

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Interest / Involvement / Role</th>
<th>RACI</th>
<th>Stakeholder Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Organizations from the research and/or education space</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peter Szegedi</td>
<td>GÉANT</td>
<td>Project management</td>
<td>A, R</td>
<td>Committed</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
The project will be delivered in phases.

**OCM - Phase IV.**

Phase IV. aims at paving the way towards standardization. Explore patent and IPR issues, as well as the potential fora for initiating the standardization discussion. Need a reference installation (proxy) fully compliant with the latest specs.

**October 2017 - May 2018**
1. **Pre-project (preparation)**
   - SIG-CICC discussion in Amsterdam
   - **Action 3** - Build a reference proxy/gateway implementation of the agreed OpenCloudMesh (OCM) federated sharing protocol specification to support the on-boarding of closed-source EFSS solutions as well as the compliance of the current open-source products.
   - Peter to present the idea to the GCC. Secure funding! Idea was presented, no conclusions were drawn.
   - Next GCC meeting: 22 February 2018

2. **Initiation**

   **2.1 Secure funding and developers**
   - GCC small project's budget
   - OCM own budget
   - Partners' contributions
   - Vietsch Foundation project
   - Peter

3. **Subsequent stages (execution)**

4. **Delivery**

5. **Closing**

### OCM - Phase III.
Phase III. aims at creating a protocol description/definition that is compliant, described, neutral, modular, minimal, secure and robust in order to be implemented by any vendors.

**June 2016 - January 2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PHASE III</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>COMMENT</th>
<th>ASSIGNED TO</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Pre-project (preparation)</td>
<td>Initiation</td>
<td>Pick up the results on Phase II.</td>
<td>Peter Szegedi</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>See Section 5. of Phase II. below...</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td>• Find a professional protocol designer who will describe OCM in a more formalized way (using Swagger Framework or similar).</td>
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<td>• Establish a reference infrastructure and test environment where the implementations can be validated against.</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Meeting with Apiwise on 12/07/2016</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

| 2. Initiation | | | |
2.1. Collecting voluntary contributions

The OCM partners have been approached to source the vendor-agnostic, design-first formalization of the OCM API using standard frameworks and proper documentation.

The following 8 partners offered voluntary contributions in the range of EUR 1,000 - 2,500 installments:

AAPNet, Nextcloud, Sciebo, ownCloud, Uni Vienna, CESNET, GWGD and CERN

We have collected sufficient amount of money to contract with the third-party who will deliver the results.

VERY MUCH APPRECIATED TO ALL CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS!!!

Peter Sz

2.2. Administrative

All contributing partners need to be invoiced. An MoU and Order Form have been developed to be signed, if needed by the financial offices.

Peter Sz

2.3. Money received by GEANT

All contributions except one. Solution will be put in place by January 2017.

All DONE. Very much appreciated!

Peter Sz

3. Subsequent stages (execution)

3.1. Offer from third-party API expert

The Dutch company called APIWISE made an offer for the work that has been accepted by the contributing partners.

An amendment has been added to define how GEANT will evaluate the results and what our priorities are.

Contract is finalized and to be signed by GEANT CEO.

Signed!

Dimitri van Hees - Apiwise

Peter Sz

3.2. Tech meeting I.

18 November 2016

The former OCM specifications are now completely (i.e. all modules) translated to https://docs.apiwise.nl/ocm/index.html

There was a discussion about priorities, what should be covered by the new spec and what not. The functional modules are:

1. sharing and federated sharing (this is the CORE)
2. synchronisation and accessing the file using WebDAV or other file transfer protocol (this could be a starting point for discussion)
3. service/user discovery (next thing)
4. what to do with the files/folders after sharing... (outside of scope)

Third party view of APIWise would be appreciated on the overall architecture.

A list of historical decisions had been made that can be revised by APIWise. The sharing part doesn't have to comply with the old Open Collaboration Services specification.

How security works: This must be included in the core stuff. How to trust the other services. Grant and revoke privileges to access the API by other partners. This will be rolled out in next OC/NC versions.

Some vendors don't use WebDAV. Pydio doesn't like WebDAV that is old school, however supports it. Use it because all the other solutions are proprietary but think about new ways.

Based on HTTP and stateless (rest) protocols is good if only domains are talking but if others (e.g. mobile) want to build apps on top of the API that's a different story.

APIWise can suggest on the new file transfer protocol part as a separate module exchanging WebDAV.

The guiding rule for now should be to make it easy as possible to be implemented by other sync&share vendors.

Lookup is another big topic. This could be the focus after file transfer. Exchanging address books and listing remote servers will be implemented in OC/NC 9.0.

We have to make sure that the API is versioned!

Stick to WebDAV for now, but there are several interpretations of the specific parts. It is not just so easy to rely on WebDAV server and expect it to work. Special attributes (tags, fileIds, etc.) are optionally added in OC. Pydio doesn't have them.

Don't try perfect in one step. Staging, modules, versioning.

Document the interaction between remote servers. It is not documented yet. Pydio had identified specification holes. Need to be fixed.

SUMMARY

1. Core specs: federating sharing and sharing API. Modernize it in a vendor neutral way. Don't stick to legacy. This must be completed first. Must be done by the CS3 Workshop (preferably mid December). APIWise has some ideas on how to modernize the federated sharing module to be shared in a written document.

2. Think about file transferring. Won't be completed but start thinking about it. There's less freedom here. Start with WebDAV and the missing documentation. Looking into extensions that OC implemented that are optional to others. By the CS3 Workshop we should at least have a good understanding.

Next meeting in 3-4 weeks.

All
3.3 Tech meeting II. 

1) Open issues and clarifications

We discussed 3 open issues where we needed agreements in order to finalize the work. The full list of issues are at https://github.com/GEANT/OCM-API/issues

- Issue #24 and #25 Sharing proposal: federated sharing w/o acceptance from consumer

We agreed that notification about the acceptance of a share (before access) SHOULD be done, but it's not mandatory by the protocol specifications. It is not functional part of the access flow but SHOULD be implemented as a separate "friendly" notification flow at the application layer.

- Issue #23 Security proposal: trusted services and shared secrets / request signing

We agreed that creating a trusted circle of services is recommended but not functional part of the protocol. The Authentication of the service that offers a share MUST be part of the protocol but the Authorization mechanism is out of scope. The implementation of a potential "whitelisting" authorization mechanism is up to the actual service owner.

- Issue #26 How does a provider know where to send the invitation to?

We agreed that service domain of a particular user is an a-priori knowledge. It is up to the actual implementation whether the user offering the share must specify the service domain explicitly or it can be automatically looked up e.g. via an IdP as an attribute of the user.

Organise a call with the GEANT AAI experts to understand what user attributes can be requested from the IdPs via federations and eduGAIN.

- Discussion about the actual share.

We agreed that currently the share is a WebDAV target (URL of the resource, plus access token, permissions and other metadata). Agreed to include an attribute that can only be WebDAV today but allows the possibility to negotiate on other protocols in the future.

2) Roadmap

- Results considered to be final will be distributed by APIWISE on 16 January 2017.
- Partners can start reviewing, commenting and discussing via email/ticket and at the CS3 Workshop on 1 February 2017.
- Based on the comments, if any, results must be finalized and made available by APIWISE on 10 February 2017.
- Contract closed.

3) CS3 Workshop

The OCM session is scheduled on 1 February 2017 between 11.00 - 13.00 CET. Will be chaired by Peter Szegedi, GEANT. This is to present the results of the OCM work to the broader audience including vendors.

4) Next call

If needed, we can organise a call on the week of 16 January TBC.

4. Delivery

4.1 Delivery of the first results

GitHub

https://github.com/GEANT/OCM-API

API reference documentation

https://rawgit.com/GEANT/OCM-API/v1/docs.html

Dimitri van Hees
4.2 Review by the partners

CS3 Workshop hosted by SURFsara in Amsterdam
https://cs3.surfsara.nl/

Results have been delivered

Presentations:
Peter Szegedi, GÉANT

Dimitri van Hees, APIWSE
https://indico.cern.ch/event/565381/contributions/2401966/attachments/1405101/2146341/ocm.pdf

Notes:
Apiwise guys did a great job. They delivered exactly what we asked for.

Saying that it became clear, especially during the OCM discussion at CS3, that this API spec is only the first step. So there is more work needed to evolve this spec. But this is independent from this current contract with Apiwise.

Most importantly, the current API implementations at ownCloud, NextCloud and Pidyo do not fully comply with the new API documentation!!!

Need some development time to converge... before we go forward.

5. Closing

Acceptance, next steps...
Final results to be submitted by APIWISE.
Close of contract. PAID!

OCM - Phase II.

Phase II. aims at demonstrating the OCM protocol first implemented and working between two independent sync&share software vendors' domains. A live demonstration happened at TNC’16 in June 2016.

February 2016 - June 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PHASE II.</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>COMMENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Pre-project (preparation)</td>
<td>Initiation</td>
<td>Create the new structure of two WGs:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pick up the results on Phase I.</td>
<td>1. Strategic WG <a href="mailto:ocm-admin@lists.geant.org">ocm-admin@lists.geant.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>See section 4.2 Deliverable of Phase I. below...</td>
<td>2. Technical WG <a href="mailto:ocm-tech@lists.geant.org">ocm-tech@lists.geant.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Assign mailing lists above</td>
<td>All: <a href="mailto:ocm-all@lists.geant.org">ocm-all@lists.geant.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Initiation</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### 2.1 Call for a kick-off video conference

**What are the next steps for OCM?**

Understanding current usage of Federated Sharing feature
- How many ownCloud sites in our community have this feature enabled?
- How many admins know about this feature?
- What prevents them from enabling it?
- If enabled, how many users have already used this functionality.

- **[ACTION]** Christian to send a questionnaire to all known ownCloud instance admins.
- **[ACTION]** Holger to prepare simple admin instructions on how to check usage and status.

General feeling is that we do not have enough understanding of this technology

Tilo proposed to setup a test bed where we could check various technical aspects (ref: [http://cs3.ethz.ch/presentations/Interoperability/02Moscicki.pdf](http://cs3.ethz.ch/presentations/Interoperability/02Moscicki.pdf)) and get confidence.

- **[ACTION]** Kuba to send preliminary test plan.

### 2.2 Define objectives, key results and timelines

- Repeat the Zurich demo but with more domains and more interesting use cases.
- Demonstrate the interest and if possible the active participation of vendors other than ownCloud Inc.

### 3. Subsequent stages (execution)

#### 3.1 Build the OCM community

- ownCloud v.8.2 or higher: Uni Münster, Uni Vienna, AARnet, SWITCH, CESNET, GWDG
- Others very close: SURFnet, DVLA, CERN
- Pydio v.6.4: ASNET-AM, University of Lausanne (TBC)

#### 3.2 KEY - Involvement of other vendors...

- Locate other vendors and identify user cases, universities with two products and cross-sharing needs.

**18-02-2015**

**News from Christian:**

Pydio will most likely join OCM. They are actually aiming for test implementation by end of March.

**16-03-2016**

Charles du Jeu and David Gillard from Pydio ([https://pydio.com/](https://pydio.com/)) joined the OCM project.

Charles, the CEO/CTO of Pydio, confirmed that they are preparing the release of an important dev version, that actually contains the Federated Sharing API implementation. See [https://pydio.com/en/community/releases/pydio-core/pydio-core-631-development-release](https://pydio.com/en/community/releases/pydio-core/pydio-core-631-development-release) for more info. Pydio is making its best to have this release transformed to a stable one by the end of this month.

**Press release**


**16-05-2016**

Russell Albert from Zettabox signaled his interest in OCM. Discussion is on-going...

**10-06-2016**

Christian Sprajc from PowerFolder signaled his interest in the OCM project and reported this

PowerFolder Federated Clouds feature now available: Testers needed!

We just finished the first version of PowerFolder including federated cloud sharing: [https://www.powerfolder.com/powerfolder-11-eap-join-federation/](https://www.powerfolder.com/powerfolder-11-eap-join-federation/)

Version 11 EAP, Documentation: [https://wiki.powerfolder.com/display/PFS/Federated+Clouds](https://wiki.powerfolder.com/display/PFS/Federated+Clouds)

PowerFolder in willing to open up their API and comply with the OCM protocol at a later phase.

**15-06-2016**

Frank Karlitschek from Nextcloud (ownCloud fork) joined the OCM project.
### 3.3 Demonstrate inter-vendor OCM functionality

**29-03-2016 OCM call at 2pm CET**

1) Charles (Pydio) demonstrated via screen-share the OCM functionality that has been implemented by Pydio in their software. Federated sharing of files was shown between two local independent instances of Pydio v.6.4.0 (to be released on 30 March) running locally.

Comments:
- Server name and user name must be defined separately. Should work with `username@domain@servername` (TBC)
- Shared files are kept in a tree separate from the local file tree (this topic is also being discussed by the OCM community)

2) Charles (Pydio) and Frank (ownCloud) also tested the interoperability (technical feasibility) of the OCM protocol implementations between Pydio v.6.4 and ownCloud v.9.0 offline. It was reported successful but yet to be seen...

### 3.4 Multi-vendor OCM validation by the Community

**ownCloud - Pydio**

1) **AARNet** (Guido) initiated some initial testing with **ASNET-AM** (Hrachya)

AARNet (Australia) uses ownCloud and ASNET-AM (Armenia) uses Pydio.

- Some initial issues out of the box. Pydio developers are involved...
- Results to be seen...

2) More Pydio users and test scenarios to be defined (see 3.1)

- RENATER and University of Lausanne to be contacted...

### 4. Delivery

### 4.1 Demonstration at the TNC’16 Conference in Prague, Czech Republic

**DEMONSTRATION ownCloud, Pydio: Interoperability demo at GÉANT booth**

Lightning talk by Guido Aben: submitted and approved

Presented by Christian Schmitz, ownCloud.
4.2 Demo feedback

This vision is that the OCM spec should be:

- **compliant**: with standard practices of the http world (error codes, conventions, …)
- **described**: using industry-strength documentation/testing system (e.g. swagger.io)
- **neutral**: should not have any artifacts or assumptions stemming directly from particular implementation or implementation language
- **modular**: allow providers to implement minimal functionality and add optional components of the spec as they please (or not)
- **minimal**: offload as much as possible of additional functionality to existing mechanisms in the network, especially for optional modules (e.g. lookup)
- **secure**: compliant with modern security frameworks (e.g. OAuth2, JWT, …) For the modules, I would consider at first:
  - auth/autz negotiation
  - sharing of files
  - synchronization of files
  - user discovery (optional)

**PREFERRED MODULES:**

- auth/autz negotiation
- sharing of files
- synchronization of files
- user discovery (optional)

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5. Closing

Publish results and define next phase


News item about the OCM demo at TNC'16:


Next steps:

- We'll find a professional protocol designer who will describe OCM in a more formalized way (using Swagger Framework or similar).
- We'll establish a reference infrastructure and test environment where the implementations can be validated against.

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**OCM - Phase I.**

Phase I. aims at demonstrating the first working prototype of the OCM protocol (API v1.0 BETA) functionally working between two separate administrative ownCloud domains (i.e. between two NRENs).

**October 2015 - February 2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PHASE I</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>COMMENT</th>
<th>ASSIGNED TO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Pre-project (preparation)</td>
<td>Start collecting organizations and people interested in joining the initiative.</td>
<td>Mailing list to be created. Announcements to be made.</td>
<td>Peter Szegedi</td>
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<td>Christian Schmitz</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Initiation</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>ownCloud to release the first version of the API code and documentation.</td>
<td>DELAYED</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Code v.0.002 has been released on 27 July 2015 by ownCloud Inc.</td>
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<td>Comments have been provided by CERN.</td>
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<td>Christian Schmitz</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>Create a project team, estimate budget and organize a kick-off meeting.</td>
<td>VC for coordination on 24 August 2015.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Concluded in the Communiqué GL4ec(15)015.</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Pre-launch meeting organized by ownCloud on 28 August 2015 in Berlin. Peter (GÉANT), Guido (AARnet) and Kuba (CERN) and others.</td>
<td>Peter Szegedi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Code v.0.002 released and commented</td>
<td>Christian Schmitz</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Christian as an interim leader</td>
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<td>GEANT to provide the project framework</td>
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<td>• Find the neutral project lead, co-chairs from the community.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Approach other vendors: PowerFolder, W3C, Pydio, Cozy, fixthebug</td>
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<td>• Put it in the GÉANT procurement requirements (the support for the API)</td>
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<td>NIF/PID to be submitted and mailing list migration to be done.</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Kick-off meeting: 22 October, 2015 in Vienna, Austria</td>
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<td>The slides of the event can be found <a href="http://www.geant.org/News_and_Events/Pages/Worlds-first-multi-vendor-server-to-server-cloud-sharing-interoperability-demonstration-powered-by-OpenCloudMesh-.aspx">here</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Subsequent stages (execution)</td>
<td>Get the API v.0.004 code and documentation, define the participating domains, initiate the first tests.</td>
<td>DRAFT protocol definition v.0.004 released</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>OpenCloudMesh = ownCloudMesh</td>
<td>Christian Schmitz</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.2 Demonstrate the first working prototype

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Uni Münster server-to-server sharing (i.e. federated cloud sharing) feature has been demonstrated by Holger to Kuba and Peter.</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| Holger As

There was an agreement to:

- plan for a new demonstration between two administrative domains, say SURFnet or CERN and Uni Münster.
- collect a list of feature requests related to the function (to be discussed with ownCloud)
- think about trust policies and quality assurances in the context of federated cloud sharing.

Comments from Kuba:

- quality of service: in the current owncloud implementation a remote share enters into the discovery process for synchronization - unstable or poorly-performing remote instance may impact users of the local instance
- authorization: a service manager should be in some control of which cloud instances can issue external shares requests for their users [there is plenty of room for abuse there, in addition this is amplified by the synchronisation of such injected shares on the user's devices]
- security: it is not clear how secure the federated sharing mechanism currently is under-the-hood
- open protocol: is there a bottom-up interest in OCM being embraced by other sync/share software stacks?
### 3.3 Prepare for a demonstration of the federated cloud sharing feature between two administrative domains, say SURFsara and Uni Münster

We are looking for volunteers with ownCloud server version v.8 or above to test the feature.

Ron: SURFsara pointed out the the Federated Cloud Sharing feature does not work together with SAML/Shibboleth based authentication. This is a showstopper for a planned SURFdrive - Uni Münster demonstration. Ticket has been created: [https://github.com/owncloud/core/issues/21227](https://github.com/owncloud/core/issues/21227)

ownCloud is working on a quick work-around. FCS just needs a user name. Partners to demonstrate Federated Cloud Sharing on 19 January 2016:

- **Uni Münster** (local users)
  - h_zimm01@uni-muenster.de@uni-muenster.sciebo.de
  - a_wilm04@uni-muenster.de@uni-muenster.sciebo.de

- **AARnet** (remote users)
  - david.jericho@aarnet.edu.au@cloudstor.aarnet.edu.au/plus
  - guido.aben@aarnet.edu.au@cloudstor.aarnet.edu.au/plus

- **Uni Vienna** (remote user)
  - kracher6@ucloud-test-files.univie.ac.at

Demonstration has been successfully done:

1. Holger at Uni Münster shared a folder with Guido at AARnet (federated cloud sharing).
2. Holger at Uni Münster shared a folder with Andres at Uni Münster (local sharing).
3. Christian at Uni Vienna shared a folder with Holger at Uni Münster (federated cloud sharing).
4. Simon at SWITCH shared a folder and sync files with Holger at Uni Münster (federated cloud sharing).
### Initiate discussions about policies, metadata release, directories, legal issues, etc.

- Trust policy: What level of trusted relationship is needed to be established and maintained between two administrative cloud domains in order to share files and folders among their users.
- Quality assurance: What service level assurances are needed to be agreed and verified between two server operators in order to maintain the integrity and scalability of shared files and folders inside or outside of the users' file system.

#### Mind map (15 January 2016):

- **Interoperability**
  - Federation
  - Standardization
  - Community Interest?
  - Provider Interest?
- **OpenCloudMesh**
- **OCM API**
- **Quality of Service**
- **GEANT**
- **Server-to-server sharing**
- **Cross-server clients**
- **IETF ISS BoF**
- **Sharing Protocol**
- **Synchronization Protocol**
- **WebDAV/HTTP**
- **Dropbox**
- **Onedata**
- **Owncloud**
- **Seafile**
- **Syncany**

Kuba at CERN talked about the open issues and Simon at SWITCH talked about the standardization aspects 

(19 January 2016)


4.1 Workshop

Open API v.1.0 documented and released at least in BETA version with the intention to come up v.2.0 vendor agnostic version (IETF WG)

Cloud Services for Synchronization and Sharing (CS3) Workshop
ETH Zürich, Switzerland; January 18-19 2016
http://cs3.ethz.ch/program.html

Slides and presentation/demo materials are available!

Praying for OCM to work...
4.2 Deliverables

Come up with recommendations for the development of the API towards a new v.1.0 according to the requirements of an open standard.

<table>
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<th>Set of recommendations:</th>
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Integration with Macaroons
- authz/authn: Google macaroons (http://research.google.com/pubs/pub41892.html)

Cloud user lookup service
- Need @a @ simple @ username @ structure
- endpoint discovery: DNS

David:
- Rather than trying to implement a meta-data or negotiation server, why don’t we just use the NAPTR/SRV DNS RR method (proposed late last year)? Multiple records, one for each protocol, makes discovery and announcement very easy, and allows the sites to use different endpoints for different protocols as suited. Something akin to:

_standard._opencloudmesh._tcp.cloudstor.aarnet.edu.au.    SRV 0 0 5009 ocm.cloudstor.aarnet.edu.au.
_quic._opencloudmesh._udp.cloudstor.aarnet.edu.au.       SRV 0 0 5009 quic.cloudstor.aarnet.edu.au.
_ftp._opencloudmesh._tcp.cloudstor.aarnet.edu.au.        SRV 0 0 5011 ocm.cloudstor.aarnet.edu.au.

...and so on. Discovery and compatibility is known by simple DNS query, and dynamically configurable using existing standards and tools. Supporting new protocols becomes a server side issue, rather than having to make any additional software aware.

Protocol negotiation handshake

Holger:
- What would you think of a signaling mechanism, comparable to the handshake when handling the method for an encrypted connection? We think of something like: Server A asks server B for a connection and offers WebDAV and CMIS and asks server B which of these it likes. Server B speaks only WebDAV so they agree to use this. Of course it is clear now it could happen that both servers do not offer a matching method. But the acceptance threshold to participate at OCM could be lowered since only the signaling would be mandatory.

David:
- At least if the mandate was WebDAV for the most basic method, that would be the lowest barrier to entry. WebDAV has been around since 1996, and it really doesn’t extend existing HTTP that far, there’s no real excuse for not implementing it. A technical person is able to talk to a service using telnet/ncat/ltsc and do sharing functions manually, as well as making it simple to do these things programmatically using curl. Metadata across the query is also trivial, because HTTP/1.1() support headers that can be used to carry all the relevant information.

- Caching should be a secondary consideration because it’s a non-trivial activity to get right (consider HTTP caching and HTTP 304 return codes). Our primary concern is fast transfer, reliable transfer, and having people join in. In the case of many small files, many alternate protocols allow streaming, batching or the like, akin to the old days of asking a ftp server for a tar of a directory.

Security and Trust

- Trusted circle of servers vs. open internet policy
- Verification of architectures and deployments up to a community standard. DeiC’s Smashbox idea
- More admin features are in 9.0 also better addressing and web popup. Shibboleth ticket.

Data path for federated shares

- pass-through: data is pumped from server B to the client A via server A (as currently available)
- server-cache: as mentioned by Holger (comes with potential consistency/refresh mechanism issues to be addressed)
- client redirect: as mentioned by Paul Millar (would affect the current usability model of ownCloud)

Pick a preferred home for standardization

- IETF??? - Simon to give a thought

All the recommendations have been fed into the Phase II initiation phase.

5. Closing

Summary

The OCM team agreed to continue and split into two working groups (WGs):

1. Strategic policy and standardization oversee WG
2. Technical protocol definition and implementation WG

The key objective of the Strategic WG will be to reach the ultimate “Open Cloud Mesh standard” and to oversee (not overdrive) the Technical WG making sure that the open API design principles are properly addressed. The key objective of the Technical WG will be to deliver one or more working prototypes of OCM and to provide (not force) input to the Strategic WG making sure that their assumptions are realistic.

The detailed objectives and key results of the Phase II will be determined in the initiation phase.

Phase I is considered to be CLOSED.

Peter Sz

History

- Around early 2012, TF-Storage participants started to actively look into data storage software platforms in order to provide on-premise file-based sync&share (aka. Dropbox-like) services to their constituencies.
- Some NRENs even ventured into the development of a proof-of-concept tool called the Trusted Cloud Drive (TCD) under TERENA
- By mid 2013, ownCloud appeared to be the most promising one with a growing open-source development community behind.
- In December 2013, the GEANT Association (formerly known as TERENA) and ownCloud Inc. made an agreement that serves to facilitate the desire of various National Research and Education Networking organisations (NRENs) to introduce services based on ownCloud technology and/or to offer the technology to their constituencies.
- As part of this collaboration effort, in January 2015, Christian Schmitz from ownCloud initiated an idea (aka. Open Cloud Mesh) to interconnect the individual on-premise private cloud domains at the server side in order to provide federated sharing and syncing functionality between the different administrative domains.