

DIGITAL INDEPENDENCE DAY

**Your tools.
Your data.
Your choice.**

Moving from Google Workspace to Nextcloud

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Six parts of the journey

1. Understand Google Drive
2. Keep the ability to choose
3. Meet Nextcloud
4. Map the tools and standards
5. Choose suitable hosting
6. Migrate and verify

My Drive and Shared Drives

My Drive

Files have individual owners

Sharing starts around individual files and folders

Ownership needs attention when people leave

Shared Drives

Files belong to the organization

Access can be managed around a team

Files remain when team members leave

A shared folder in My Drive is not a Shared Drive.

Source: Google: What are shared drives?

Storage and editing are different layers

Google Drive $\neq$ Google Docs

Drive

Stores, organizes, synchronizes and shares files.

Docs, Sheets, Slides

Create and edit documents collaboratively.

The strength of Google Workspace is the **integration** between services.

Why consider a change?

- One provider controls many connected workflows.
- Pricing, access rules and product direction can change.
- Moving becomes harder when data and routines are tightly coupled.

A good service can still create dependency.

Android: ecosystem rules can change

Google is introducing developer verification for app distribution on certified Android devices, with a regional rollout.

Alternative installation remains possible, including an **advanced flow** for unregistered apps and **ADB**.

The platform owner can change the conditions of access.

Policy context checked 2 October 2026 · Android developer verification

KeepAndroidOpen.org campaign



Digital independence means keeping the ability to choose.

A fork made another path possible

2016

Nextcloud emerged from ownCloud, led by its founder Frank Karlitschek and other contributors.

The split raised questions of **governance, openness and control**.

Source: Nextcloud launch announcement · 2 June 2016

A modular collaboration platform

Work

Nextcloud components

Store and share

Files

Write and edit together

Office

Organize people and time

Calendar and Contacts

Communicate and collect input

Talk and Forms

Choose the apps you need — and a host that supports them.

Source: Nextcloud Hub

Familiar jobs, different components

Google Workspace

Drive

Docs / Sheets / Slides

Calendar / Contacts

Meet / Chat

Forms

Nextcloud option

Files

Office, powered by Collabora Online / Nextcloud Office

Calendar / Contacts

Talk

Forms

A functional mapping, not a promise of feature parity.

Sources: Nextcloud Hub · Nextcloud Office

Files and Office need different services

Nextcloud Files $\neq$ Nextcloud Office

Files

File storage, synchronization, sharing and access control.

Office

Collaborative editing through an additional Collabora Online / Nextcloud Office service.

Source: Nextcloud Office installation

Open standards make switching easier

Standard or format

What it helps you move or connect

WebDAV

Files and compatible clients

CalDAV / CardDAV

Calendar and contact synchronization

iCalendar (.ics)

Calendar exports and imports

OpenDocument (.odt, .ods, .odp)

Editable documents across compatible tools

Portability improves your options. **Compatibility still needs testing.**

Other paths to digital independence

Option	Main focus	What to consider
Seafile	File sync and sharing; self-hosting	Office editing needs a supported integration
ownCloud Infinite Scale	Team files and collaboration spaces	Editors and identity services need deployment planning
Syncthing	Synchronize folders between devices	No browser-based office suite or Drive-style sharing portal

A file-sync tool and a collaboration platform solve different problems.

Sources: Seafile · ownCloud · Syncthing

Hosted services and encrypted collaboration

Option	Main focus	What to consider
Proton Drive	Hosted encrypted storage, Docs and Sheets	Test export formats, clients and required workflows
Infomaniak kDrive	Hosted file sharing and online Office	Features depend on the plan; provider dependence remains
CryptPad	Encrypted browser-based collaboration	Test document import/export and workflow compatibility

Hosted convenience and infrastructure control are different choices.

Sources: Proton Drive · kDrive · CryptPad

Choose around the work you actually do

- **Files across your own devices:** consider Syncthing.
- **A file-sharing server:** compare Seafile and ownCloud.
- **Encrypted document collaboration:** evaluate CryptPad or Proton.
- **A hosted file-and-office service:** evaluate kDrive.
- **Files, calendars, contacts and apps together:** evaluate Nextcloud.

Test one real workflow — including how you would leave.

Match the hosting to the workload

Basic collaboration

Files, sharing, Calendar and Contacts can work on suitable shared hosting.

Check supported software, background jobs, storage and resource limits.

Collaborative Office

Adds an editing service with its own CPU, memory and process needs.

Plan capacity for simultaneous editors.

Our Netcup shared-hosting experience

Built-in CODE on a large shared-hosting package:

1. High load
2. Poor performance
3. Automatic shutdown

A larger hosting package did not solve this workload.

Presenter-reported experience; not a benchmark or a general claim about Netcup.

Plan beyond ordinary shared hosting

A full Nextcloud setup usually needs more than ordinary shared hosting.

Option	What you need to establish
VPS / virtual server	Capacity, maintenance and backups
Managed Nextcloud	Whether Office is included and supported
Separate Collabora server	Connectivity, capacity and responsibility

Source: Nextcloud recommends dedicated Collabora for improved performance

The migration sequence

1. Check access

3. Export Google-native files

5. Install Nextcloud Client

7. Recreate permissions

2. Make everything local

4. Create a migration copy

6. Copy files

8. Verify

1–2 · Access first, then local files

- Inventory My Drive, Shared Drives and shared-with-me content.
- Confirm download rights and record who has access.
- Download or make the required files available offline.
- Wait for completion and check local disk space.

Visible does not mean local.

Source: Google Drive: streaming and mirroring

3 · Export Google-native files

Source	Example editable export
Google Docs	.docx or .odt
Google Sheets	.xlsx or .ods
Google Slides	.pptx or .odp

Use **File** → **Download**, or an appropriate bulk export.

Check layout, formulas and links. Keep a PDF when a fixed visual record matters.

Source: Google: download a file

4–6 · Copy through a staging folder

Google → **Migration copy** → Nextcloud

1. Put downloaded files and exports in a separate local folder.
2. Install Nextcloud Client and select a new sync folder.
3. Copy the migration folder into it; wait for uploads to finish.

Keep the staging copy outside both live sync folders.

7–8 · Rebuild access, then verify

Recreate permissions

Users, groups, team folders and external shares.

Check access as a normal user, including what they must not see.

Verify the result

File counts, sizes, upload errors and representative documents.

Test editing, links and a restore from backup.

Permissions do not migrate automatically with a file copy.

Calendars move separately

Google Calendar → .ics → Nextcloud Calendar

1. Export the calendar in Google Calendar on the web.
2. Extract the downloaded archive, if present.
3. Import each .ics file into the intended Nextcloud calendar.
4. Check time zones, recurring events and sharing.

Sources: Google Calendar export · Nextcloud Calendar import

Sync is not backup

Synchronization

Keeps working copies aligned.

It can also propagate deletions and unwanted changes.

Keep a verified recovery path before retiring the old system.

Backup

Provides separate recovery points.

It needs retention, an independent copy and a tested restore.

DIGITAL INDEPENDENCE DAY

Digital independence is not isolation.

It is the ability to **choose your tools, move your data**
and **control your infrastructure.**