RESIST KIT

GET OUT OF THE CLOUD

RECLAIMING CONTROL OF YOUR DATA

Cloud storage was sold to us as a convenience.

What most people didn't realise is that convenience quietly became **centralisation** and centralisation became **loss of control.**

This guide explains, in plain language, how to exit mainstream cloud storage and why doing so matters.

What Is "The Cloud" — Really?

The cloud is simply **other people's computers**, in unknown locations, governed by:

- foreign laws
- changing terms of service
- government access powers
- opaque security practices

Once your data is there, y**ou no longer control who can access it.**

What We Found When We Looked

Many people who check their cloud storage for the first time are shocked to find:

- thousands of personal photos
- scans of identity documents
- financial and medical records
- private communications

Most of it uploaded automatically, without informed consent.

Plain, Practical Steps

You don't need to be technical. You just need to be methodical.

Step 1: Log In From a Secure Desktop Environment

Log into your cloud account **on a desktop computer**, not your phone. Privacy-oriented browsers include:

- LibreWolf - hardened Firefox with strict privacy defaults, no telemetry, and built-in tracking protection.
- Mullvad Browser - created with Tor Project; designed to minimise browser "fingerprinting." Excellent for research and general browsing.

This reduces tracking, syncing surprises, and automatic re-uploads while you work.

Step 2: Download Everything Locally

From the cloud dashboard:

- Downloaded **all files and photos** to my local desktop (you may have to do it in tranches - only 1000 photos downloaded at a time)
- Ensure files are fully extracted (not just previewed)

Take your time. Large libraries can take hours.

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Step 3: Back Up What You Downloaded

Before deleting anything from the cloud, ensure:

- Everything is copied to an **external hard drive**
- Optional but recommended: **a second offline backup** stored separately

Rule of thumb:
Never delete cloud data until you have at least one verified local backup.

Step 4: Delete Everything in the Cloud

Once backed up:

- Deleted **all files, photos, and documents** from the cloud account
- Emptied trash / recently deleted folders

This step matters. Deleting files without emptying the trash often leaves them recoverable.

Step 5: Cancel the Cloud Subscription

If you pay for storage:
- Cancel the subscription
- Confirm it will not auto-renew

This sends a clear signal: you are no longer a customer.

Step 6: Turn Off Cloud Services on Your Phone

On your phone:

- Turn off photo syncing
- Turn off document syncing
- Disable automatic backups to the cloud

Otherwise, your phone will quietly begin re-uploading your life again.

Result: Immediate Peace of Mind
No background syncing. No silent uploads. No wondering who has access.

Just **your data, under your control.**

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