

Multi-PC Synchronization Based on Cloud Storage

A Cloud Sync Folder allows you to automatically keep your files in sync across multiple computers. Files placed here are instantly synchronized to your other computers that have the same Cloud Sync Folder enabled. Since the Cloud Sync Folder content and changes are recorded to your cloud storage first, the folders and files under it will be available to your other computers even if this computer goes offline after it has synchronized with your cloud storage.

To create a Cloud Sync Folder, we must first mount the cloud storage we intend to use. In this example, we have chosen to create a sync folder using our Amazon S3 account. You can use any of your cloud storage account that is supported by Gladinet.

(Key Concept: each virtual directory you mounted will have one Cloud Sync Folder if you enable it)

The screenshot shows a Windows-style wizard window titled "Mounting Virtual Directory". The window has a close button in the top right corner. Below the title bar, there are three tabs: "Virtual Directory Name" (which is selected and highlighted in orange), "Login Information", and "Finish". The main content area contains the following text: "Please select a storage provider and enter the name of the virtual directory (an ACTIVE Internet Connection is Required)". Below this, there is a section titled "General Information" which contains two input fields: "Storage Provider:" with a dropdown menu showing "Amazon S3 US Bucket", and "Virtual Directory Name" with a text box containing "s3sync2". At the bottom of the window, there are four buttons: "< Back", "Next >" (which is highlighted in blue), "Cancel", and "Help".

This wizard was launched from the Gladinet Management Console by selecting the Cloud Drive panel and then the mount virtual directory icon. The next step is to provide credentials:

Mounting Virtual Directory

Virtual Directory Name Login Information Finish

Please enter requested authentication or configuration information

Bucket ACL: private

Access Key: 0WM86SN9FATBGFCFZU93

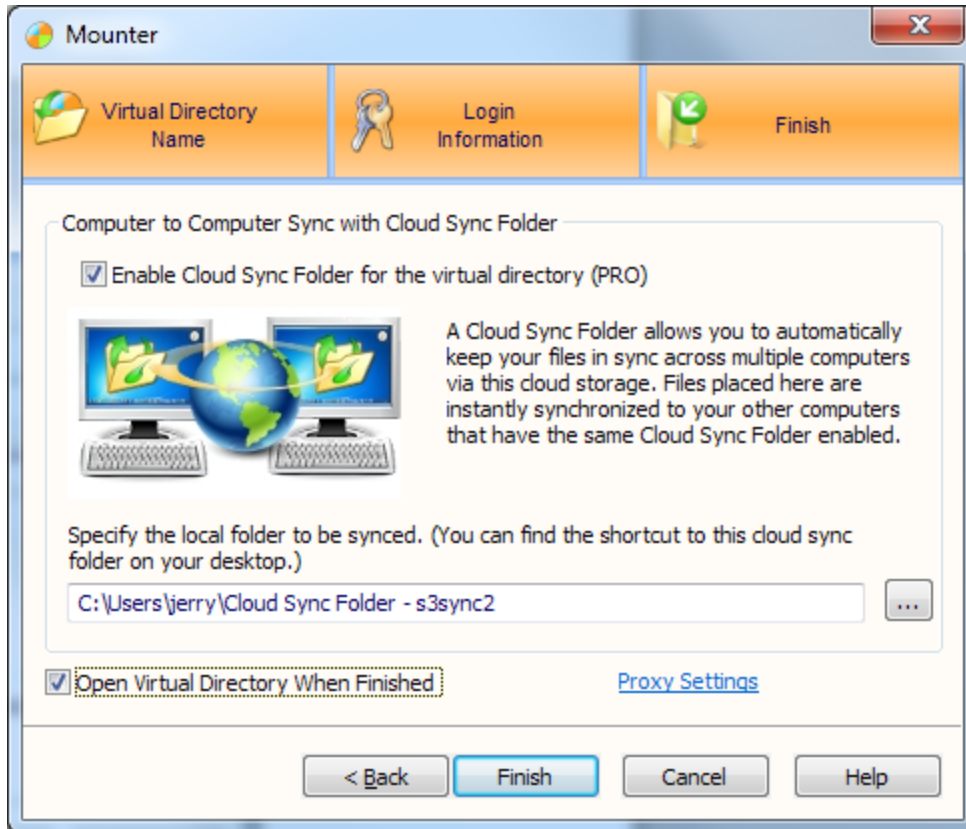
Secret: *****

Bucket Name(Create if doesn't exist): hello123456sync

The login credentials for cloud storage and services are stored on the local PC. They are only used when connecting to cloud services.

< Back Next > Cancel Help

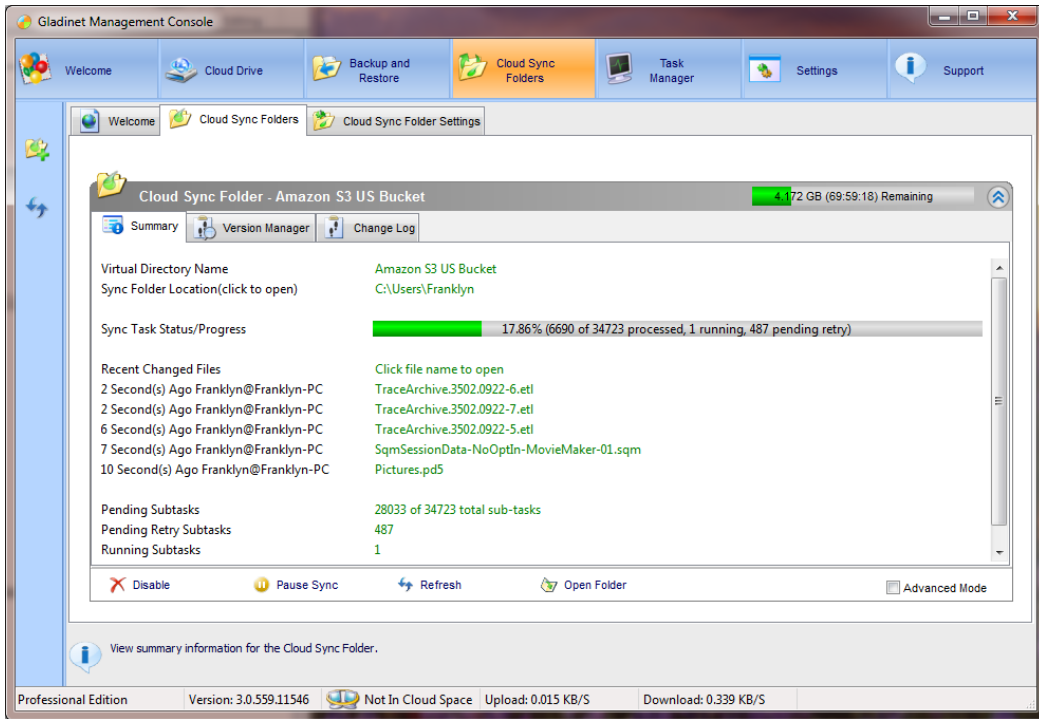
Make sure to use the same account information (such as access key, secret and bucket name) on each machine that you want to include in the sync. Once this has been done, the following screen is displayed:



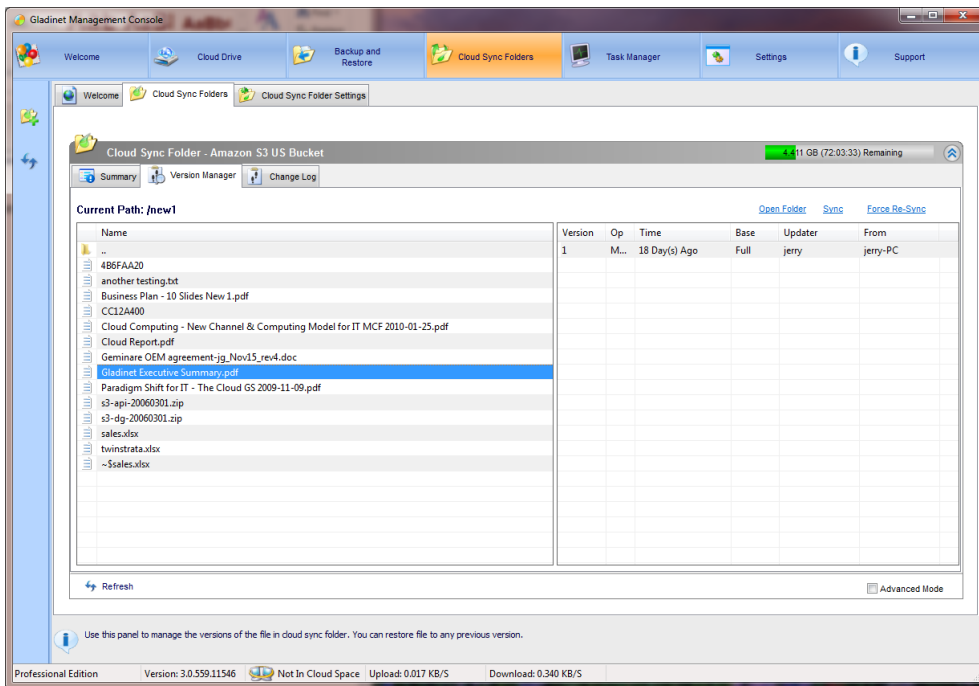
(Note that a professional edition license is required for this feature.)



A sync folder will now be available from your desktop. Anything you place into that folder will be placed into cloud storage and sent to the sync folders on any machine that has a sync folder enabled for this account on this machine. Once the folder has been created by checking the enable box and clicking on finish, more details can be found on the cloud sync panel of the management console.



Here you can look at the overall summary of synchronization activities, use the version manager to revert to any previous version of a synchronized file, or use the change log to view a comprehensive list of all the files that have been changed.



In the settings panel, it is also possible to change the polling so the GCD will check for changes more or less frequently.

Now that we have setup our sync folder, let's see what it looks like and how we can use it. On the desktop, we can see that there is a shortcut called "Cloud Sync Folder – Amazon S3". Anything placed into this folder will be synchronized with all other machines that have configured a sync folder. This activity may create one or more tasks that can be monitored and managed from the task manager. If a file in the sync folder is being updated by more than person at the same time, the software will create multiple versions of the file and the correct version must be manually submitted or edited.

Version Control

The Contents of your Cloud Sync Folder is version controlled. You can retrieve a specific version of a file from the Version Manager

The screenshot shows the Gladinet Management Console interface. The main window is titled "Gladinet Management Console" and has a navigation bar with buttons for Welcome, Cloud Drive, Backup and Restore, Cloud Sync Folders (highlighted), Task Manager, Settings, and Support. Below the navigation bar, there are tabs for Welcome, Cloud Sync Folders, and Cloud Sync Folder Settings. The "Cloud Sync Folders" tab is active, showing a window for "Cloud Sync Folder - s3sync". Inside this window, there are sub-tabs for Summary, Version Manager, and Change Log. The "Version Manager" sub-tab is selected, displaying a table of file versions. The table has columns for Name, Version, Op, Time, Base, Updater, and From. Below the table, there is a "Refresh" button and an "Advanced Mode" checkbox. At the bottom of the window, there is a progress bar for "Cloud Sync Folder - s3sync2" showing "114.033 MB (00:55:15) Remaining". A green "Upgrade Now" button is visible in the bottom right corner. The status bar at the very bottom shows "Starter Edition With Trial", "Version: 3.0.562.11633", "Not In Cloud Space", "Upload: 0.000 KB/S", and "Download: 264.902 KB/S".

Name	Version	Op	Time	Base	Updater	From
ChatLog Follow up meeting ...	5	De...	21 Hour(s) Ago	Full	jerry	jerry-PC
ChatLog Meet Now 2010_12_...	4	M...	21 Hour(s) Ago	Full	jerry	jerry-PC
ChatLog Meet Now 2010_12_...	3	M...	21 Hour(s) Ago	Full	jerry	jerry-PC
test1.txt	2	M...	21 Hour(s) Ago	Full	jerry	jerry-PC
test2.txt	1	M...	21 Hour(s) Ago	Full	jerry	jerry-PC
test3.txt						