

TOOLS of the TRADE



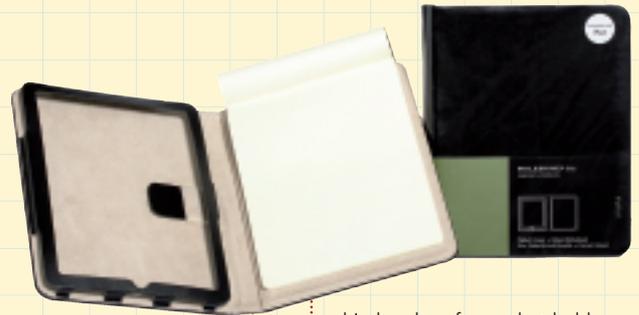
Canon Selphy Printer

The Selphy CP 800 Compact Photo Printer from Canon is small enough to take with you. The overall size is 4.7" × 6.7", and the under-\$100 printer weighs two lbs. There's an optional battery pack so you can print in the car on your way to the next vacation stop. The Selphy prints 4" × 6" postcard-size color prints in about 50 seconds, and the prints are dye-sublimation so they're water-resistant and will last up to 100 years. A 2.5-inch LCD display tips up, presenting a clear image of the single print or shuffle collage made up of multiple pictures. The Portrait Image Optimizer offers automatic backlight corrections and noise reduction, and the Smooth Skin

feature adjusts skin tone colors. Red-eye Correction automatically reduces red-eye from flash. The prints are borderless, and the other paper sizes include card (2.13" × 3.39"), card "full" label, and card 8-labels. You connect to the Selphy printer via USB connection, compatible memory card (SD, SDHC, SDXC, MultiMediaCard, MMC-plus Card, Compact Flash Card, Memory Stick and Memory Stick Pro, and Memory Stick Duo and Pro Duo), adapters for other card formats like micro and mini formats, and mobile phones equipped with PictBridge or with Bluetooth v 2.0 and optional Canon BluetoothUnit. Dye-sublimation prints don't require multiple color ink cartridges. There's a film and paper cartridge combination that prints an exact number of photos, so you aren't left with partially used cartridges or paper packs. www.canon.com

Moleskine Tablet Cover

The Apple iPad has created a number of new support industries besides the programming factory that's supplying 600 to 1,000 new programs, known as



apps, every day. The thin, smaller-than-page-size computer has a curved aluminum back, and although the glass face is made of a very tough scratch-and-oil-resistant composite, it's glass nonetheless, and it will break when dropped or struck with sufficient force. For that reason, one of the biggest-selling accessories for the device is the case/binder. There are plastic and metal cases that will make the iPad almost bulletproof, but the most popular ones seem to be those that preserve the book, or notepad, format of the computer. Some are bookshelf traditional, like the BookBook for iPad from www.twelvesouth.com. These hardback leather cases look exactly like small, antique, leather-bound books. Another very popular binder is from Dodocase (www.dodocase.com). It's a handmade cover that looks a lot like a traditional Moleskine notebook. It has a

thin bamboo frame that holds the computer snug inside black book covers.

And now, the Moleskine company is releasing its own version of a cover with the traditional look of its notebook—the kind once used by Picasso and Hemingway. The Moleskine Tablet Cover has a traditional paper notepad on the right side of the open cover, and the iPad is on the left. The smooth, black cover; the rounded corners; and the elastic along the edge that keeps the cover closed are all Moleskine traditions—the suede protective lining inside is something new. The tablet and iPhone covers are available at Amazon.com, and information is available at www.moleskine.com (search "iPad cover").

Griffin Stylus

Griffin Technology's writing/drawing stylus is compatible with any touchscreen, including the iPad, Samsung's Galaxy tablet, the BlackBerry Storm,

TECH FORUM

A Pocketful of Clouds

By Michael Castelluccio, Editor

Odds are that you're already an active user of cloud computing away from the office. At the very least, you probably depend on the most ubiquitous cloud application—e-mail—whether it's Yahoo, Gmail, or Hotmail. And there are numerous other cloud applications—such as Flickr, the photo posting site; Google Docs; and the Amazon.com general store—all of which have massive subscription lists. For this column, we'll take a closer look at some of the established noncorporate cloud storage offerings. These self-storage locations are free or very low cost and within reach from anywhere.

THE ADVANTAGES

Extra storage space for all your digital stuff can be expensive and inconvenient. That additional 16GB of memory on an iPad will cost you another \$100. And if you've reached the stage where that rattling collection of thumb drives hanging around your neck makes it look like you're getting ready for Mardi Gras, you know how inconvenient some solutions can be.

Personal cloud storage space has two primary advantages. First, it's cheap, especially if you can live within the limits of what's offered on the free services. Most allow and even encourage you to add to your space by paying a small monthly storage fee. Second, your files are accessible from every computer you own, including your smartphone and tablet. A number of the services even allow you to share your files with others if you want to.

DROPBOX

Developed by two MIT graduates, Dropbox is a file hosting service that offers 2GB of free storage space. If 2GB sounds a little undersized, keep in mind you could probably fit about one million typed pages, or roughly 450 bankers boxes, of plain-text printed material. Images take up more space, roughly 50K per page (for TIFF Group IV compressed images) or 40,000 pages in your free Dropbox allotment. Video files need the most space, so you

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and the iPhone and iPod Touch. But the question is why would the revolutionary touchscreen interface benefit from a pencil or brush that works on its electrostatic surface? First, there are the multitudes of drawing and painting apps and those that store or even convert handwritten notes. Most people prefer writing and drawing with implements, not their fingers. Then there's the smudging. The iPad is so efficiently oleophobic (oil averse) that every session will mark up the screen with dots (taps) and streaks no matter how clean you think your hands are. The stylus's soft tip won't scratch your phone or tablet. www.griffintechology.com.

Aegis Padlock Drive

The Aegis Padlock drive from Apricorn is a little larger than the average smartphone at 0.75" × 3.3" × 4.7", but its storage capacity is up to 750GB of password-protected, encrypted mobile information. There are three capacities—250GB, 500GB, and 750GB—all protected by a personal six-to 12-digit PIN keyed in on

the device's keypad. The data is protected with 256-bit AES Encryption, and all PINs and encryption keys are encrypted while the device isn't being used. Repeated attempts using a brute-force hacking attack will cause the device to lock down and destroy the encryption key. The level of detail designed to keep your data safe even includes a keypad that resists wear, so often-used keys and combinations aren't apparent, and the specification used is designed to prevent wear for many years beyond the useful life of the drive. Designed for notebook use, there are no batteries, and the connection is Hi-Speed USB 2.0. The drive is plug-and-play with no software setup, and it operates on Windows, Mac, and Linux computers. www.apricorn.com



will probably be able to store only two hours of SDTV video at 2.2 Mbit/s or 14 minutes of HDTV video at 19.39 Mbit/s. The premium service upgrades are the Dropbox Pro 50 (50GB) at \$9.99 a month or \$99 per year and the Pro 100 (100GB) offered at \$19.99 a month or \$199 a year. The service works on all platforms (Windows, Mac, and Linux) and also the mobile Android, BlackBerry, iPhone, and iPad. When you make changes to a file or add a new one, synchronization to the box is automatic. The company backs up your files and uses military-grade encryption to transfer and store your data. Setting up file sharing with others is a snap. Dropbox has been around since 2007. www.dropbox.com

ZUMODRIVE

Zecter, Inc.'s ZumoDrive was first released in February 2009, and it does all the basic things Dropbox does. It's cross platform, working on Windows, Mac, Linux, iPhone, Android, and Palm webOS. The file synchronization and storage service provides a free 2GB plan, and the premium plans have more steps than Dropbox: 10GB is \$2.99/month, 25GB is \$6.99/month, and 50GB is \$9.99, not to mention the 100GB, 200GB, and 500GB plans. The interface is very clean, and the operations are simple and intuitive. ZumoDrive offers the same kind of sharing with others that Dropbox does, but the direct sync with your iTunes music library is a strong draw. There's a demo at the site. www.ZumoDrive.com.

MOZYHOME

The MozyHome free version offers 2GB of storage with the option to upgrade to unlimited storage space for \$4.95 a month. It's a PC service compatible with Windows 7, 2000, XP, and Vista, as well as Mac OSX, and you can store any kind of file, music, photos, and documents, all locked down with military-grade encryption. There are two kinds of backups, automatic and scheduled, and live support and tutorials are available even for the free service. Founded in 2005, the company was acquired by EMC in 2007. There are two versions of the product—MozyHome and a business version called MozyPro. Information about the free and the unlimited personal versions is at <http://mozy.com/home/free>.

SUGARSYNC

Originally, SugarSync specialized in photo storage and sharing, but now the San Mateo, Calif., enterprise is a full-fledged cloud storage service that offers online file sync and backup for PCs, Macs, and mobile devices. The mobile plat-

forms served include iPhone, Android, BlackBerry, Windows Mobile, and Symbian. The pricing schedule doesn't include a free entry, only a 30-day free trial with 30GB that will cost you a reasonable \$4.99 a month once the free trial period is up. Plans go up to 500GB spaces. The service keeps multiple backups of previous versions of changed files, and you can sync files to all your computers. There's a chart that compares other cloud services and a video overview at the www.SugarSync.com site.

CARBONITE

Carbonite has a home and a pro version, and it offers backup services for unlimited uploads at \$54.95 per year. You set up the program on your computer, PC, Mac, or iPhone, and, as you work, the program looks for new and changed files and backs them up. Each file gets compressed and is encrypted with the same system used by banks (448-bit Blowfish encryption). It's then sent to Carbonite's data centers over the Internet. The system is designed to protect the computer you're working on, and in case you miss the reason for doing that, there's a small note on the Carbonite home page reminding you that 97% of stolen laptops are never recovered. www.carbonite.com

SCRIBD

The Scribd depository of information is different from the services we've been looking at, but it's included here because it's such an outstanding example of everyman publishing. On Scribd, you can set up an account and store documents, articles, letters, and images, but they are there for the specific purpose of sharing with others. In the cloud storage space occupied by Dropbox and ZumoDrive, you set up specific permissions for others with whom you want to share your files. On Scribd, once it's up, it's out there for all to see. The San Francisco-based three-year-old had its start as an alternative way to publish professional papers. Soon, book publishers like Simon & Schuster decided to sell ebooks on the site, and more than 150 professional publishers have affiliated with Scribd. Today, the nickname "YouTube for Documents" seems to fit very comfortably. Wikipedia offers these defining numbers for the site: "Scribd has currently more than 50 million users and it hosts more than tens of millions of documents. Scribd's documents are embedded more than 10 million times across the Web and more than 1.8 million searches are conducted on Scribd's website every day." You can set up your own account at www.scribd.com. **SF**