How Safe Is Cloud Storage?

In one way, Cloud Storage has made our data much safer than it used to be in the sense that it is no longer stored on a medium that you keep on your person, and therefore cannot be physically stolen. But can your data be stolen when it's in the cloud?

It is possible for hackers and identity thieves to capture data as it is being transferred across the internet. For you to be able to store your personal and financial documents in the cloud, you'll need to first transfer it there. Fortunately, the reputable services for cloud storage opt to encrypt your data while it's being uploaded, which makes it impossible for cyber criminals to access if they do get their hands on it. If the URL of your cloud storage web app says "https" instead of "http", it's using secure HTTP and is encrypted. A standalone app will usually also use its own encryption.

When it comes to hacking, internet criminals tend to go for the option with the most gains for the least effort, and that means attacking the hub on which your data is stored. Most service providers will boast of their history of keeping client accounts safe, if they've been able to do so – for the best security, those are the providers it's best to choose. For instance, the WebDispatch cloud service provider uses a fully private encryption key and a two-party pass phrase recovery system suitable for requirements established by HIPAA, NASD, legal, etc.

Government entities are sometimes able to seize your data, of course, by serving your cloud storage company with a subpoena, but you can often get around this, if this is an issue for you, by choosing a provider with storage centers in another country that is difficult to enforce a subpoena in. But many jurisdictions have different requirements for storage security, and you will need to be aware of them.

Finally, if your cloud storage provider relies on a password to allow you access to your files, you can only ever be as safe as the password you choose – and who you give it to. If you use a unique password that contains no real words, and tell nobody what it is, you should be perfectly secure. The bottom line is Cloud Storage is more secure than most other data storage options, although it is not without its flaws.