

Box vs Dropbox: Which Is the Top Cloud Storage Option in 2024?

 cloudwards.net/dropbox-vs-box/

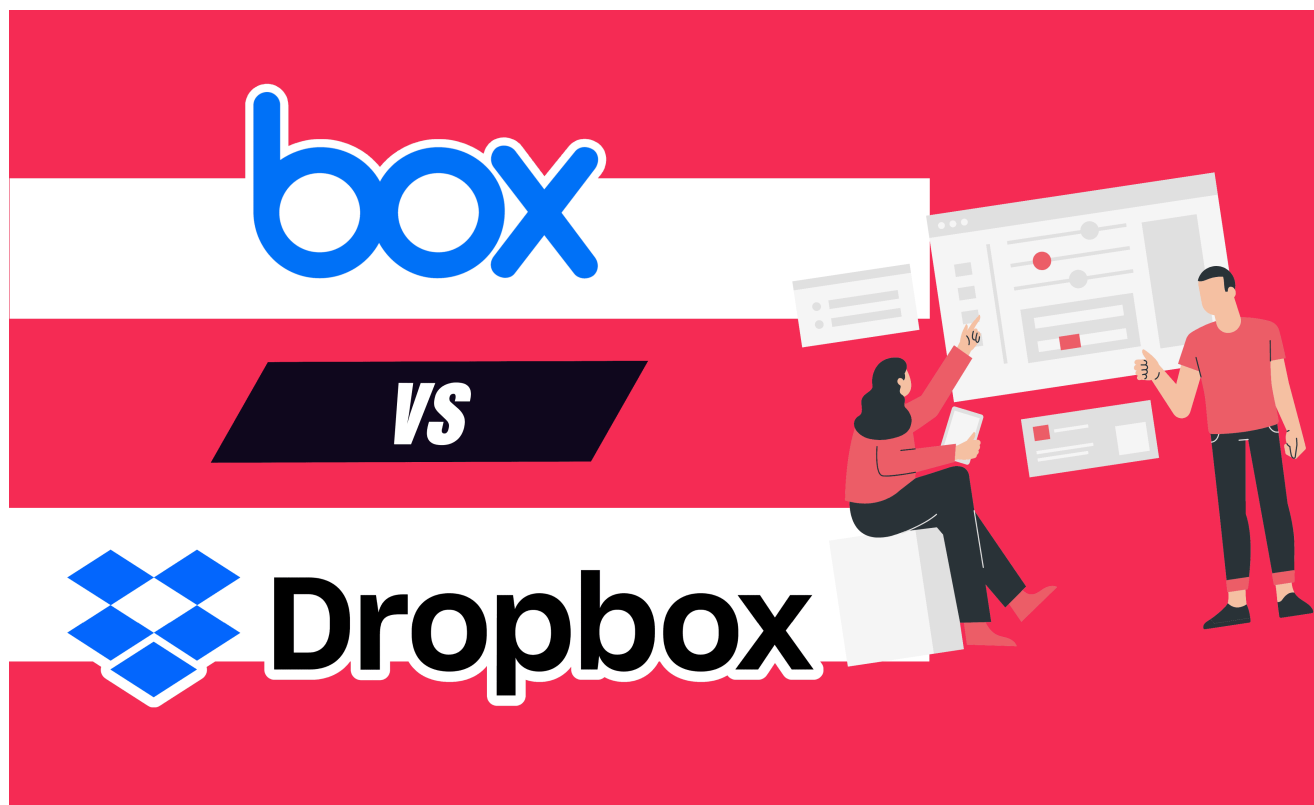
September 12, 2023

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Box and Dropbox target the same customers and have similar cloud features. Both have strong file-sharing and sync capabilities and support external integrations to popular productivity apps such as MS Office or Google Workspace. We look at the similarities and differences to determine which is the better choice in our Box vs Dropbox article.



Written by **Jason Stagnitto** (Writer)

Reviewed by **Jackie Leavitt** (Chief Editor)

Facts checked by **Vildana Bratic** (Video Editor, Fact-Checking Editor)

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4.05

4.15

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- Third-party integrations
 - Robust sharing features
 - Strong security

- Office 365 & Google Workspace integration
- Smart storage usage with “Smart Sync”
- Block-level transfer

[Visit Box](#)

\$5 / month(save 28%)([All Plans](#))

[Visit Dropbox](#)

\$9.99 / month(save 16%)([All Plans](#))

Key Takeaways: Box vs Dropbox

- The main difference between Box and Dropbox is storage capacity. Box's free plan and business plans have more storage than comparable Dropbox plans. However, Dropbox's individual plans provide more storage than Box.
- Privacy could be better with both services, although Box KeyShield for some business plans gives you private key control. Dropbox recently purchased Boxcryptor to bring private encryption to its business plans.
- Dropbox has excellent file syncing and sharing options.

Box and Dropbox are similar cloud storage providers with excellent third-party integrations and homegrown productivity and collaboration tools. Box and Dropbox are solid options, and rank among the best cloud storage services. We pit them against each other in our Box vs Dropbox article.

After spending time with each cloud service, finding differences between Dropbox and Box took some effort. Both support individual and business cloud storage, with a focus on file sharing and collaboration. Neither leads the industry in user-focused privacy practices. Additionally, pricing and affordability vary between the two.

Meet the experts



Jason Stagnitto (Writer)





Jason Stagnitto is a distinguished expert in cloud storage solutions, with a robust background in online backup, data security and cloud computing. With over a year of contributions to Cloudwards, his expertise extends to file sharing, data management and IT infrastructure within the realm of virtual data storage. Holding a Master's in IT from Southern New Hampshire University, Jason combines his academic knowledge with practical insights into data encryption and cloud services. Beyond his technical expertise, he harbors a love for fantasy and sci-fi literature, movies, and a keen focus on health and well-being.

[More about Jason Stagnitto](#)



Jackie Leavitt (Chief Editor)





Jackie Leavitt is an authority in cloud storage solutions, holding the position of chief editor at Cloudwards. With a rich background in editing spanning over a decade and significant expertise acquired over five years in the tech industry, she excels in guiding users through the complexities of cloud storage. Armed with a Master's in Strategic Communications and Bachelor's degrees in Journalism and European Culture Studies, Jackie combines her educational prowess with practical experience. She is committed to demystifying cloud storage options, focusing on how users can leverage these solutions for efficiency and data security.

More about Jackie Leavitt

Learn more about our [editorial team](#) and our [research process](#).

- 07/25/2023 **Facts checked**

This article was rewritten to include updated feature comparisons and pricing plans.

- 09/12/2023 **Facts checked**

Updated to reflect Dropbox Advanced changing from unlimited to 5TB of storage per user.

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2TB – 5TB\$9.99 / month(save 16%)([All Plans](#)).

[Visit DropboxReview](#)

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100GB – Unlimited GB\$5 / month(save 28%)([All Plans](#)).

[Visit BoxReview](#)

How Did We Rate Dropbox vs Box?

As you'll see in our [Box Business review](#) and [Dropbox review](#), we put both providers through rigorous testing, exploring what each does well and where things could improve. Areas we looked at include how each handles file sync and sharing, security, privacy and speed. With this information, we are uniquely suited to compare Dropbox vs. Box.

Dropbox vs Box: Similarities & Differences

Box and Dropbox share many similarities, as both target the same customers. They both have individual and business plans, offer third-party connections to widely used apps, and have built-in apps that support productivity and collaboration. However, some significant differences could be the reason for choosing one over the other.

	Visit Dropbox	Visit Box
	2TB – 5TB\$9.99 / month(All Plans)	100GB – Unlimited GB\$5 / month(All Plans)
	Review	Review
Sync		
Sync Folder		
Block-Level Sync		

Visit Dropbox

Visit Box

Selective Sync

Bandwidth
management

Sync Any Folder

File Sharing

File Link Sharing

Link Passwords

Link Expiry Dates

Folder Sharing

Folder Permissions

Link Download
Limits

Upload Links

Productivity

File Previews

Edit Files

In-App Collaboration

Office Online

Google Docs

Notes App

Media Playback

Mobile Apps

Deleted File
Retention

Versioning

WebDAV

Security

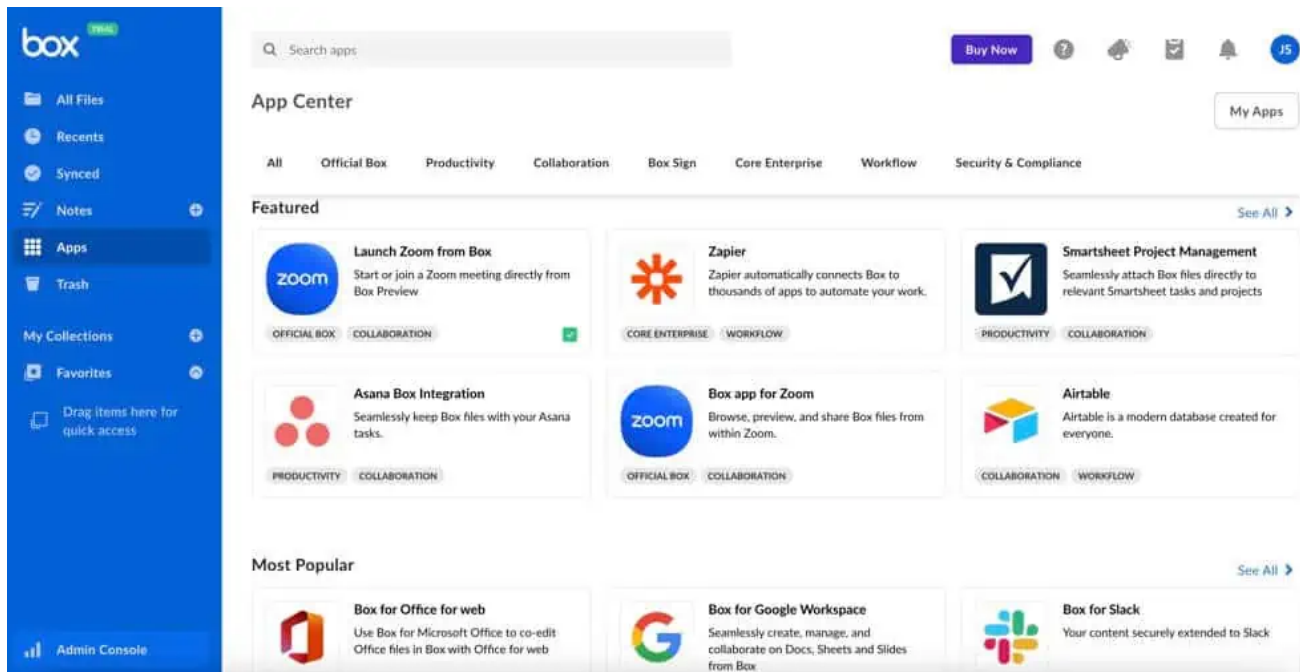
<u>Visit Dropbox</u>	<u>Visit Box</u>
At-Rest Encryption	
In-Transit Encryption	
Encryption Protocol	AES 256-bit
Zero Knowledge	
Two-Factor Authentication	
Server Location	US
Support	
24/7 Support	
Live Chat Support	
Telephone Support	
Email Support	
User Forum	
Knowledgebase	
Misc	
Free Plan	

Similarities

Box and Dropbox focus on providing consumers with tools that foster a collaborative environment and help keep professionals productive.

Third-Party Integrations

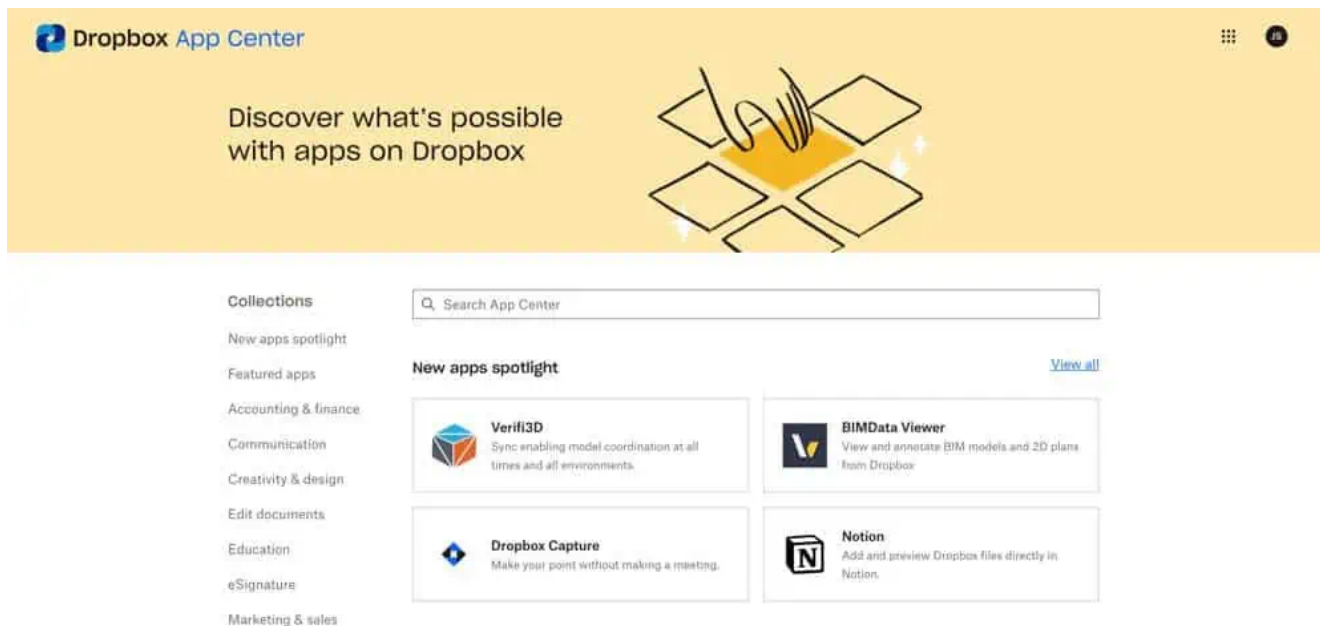
Box and Dropbox offer external connections to Microsoft Office and Google Workspace, letting you stay with either if it's your preferred platform. You don't have to navigate to a different website, as you can create a new Word doc or Google Sheet directly within Box or Dropbox. Both also have external connections to apps such as Zoom, Zapier, MS Teams and Adobe connections.



Box has an app store that lets you search for the external connection you need.

Box has a “Box for Office web app” in its app center. Connecting to your MS account through the app lets you use Box to edit Office files. Similarly, the Box for Google Workspace app accomplishes the same connection. You can create and collaborate on Google Docs, Sheets and Slides without leaving Box.

Dropbox has the same connections to Microsoft Office and Google Workspace, each with a dedicated app that lets you connect to the respective account. Once done, you can use Dropbox to create MS Office or Google files.

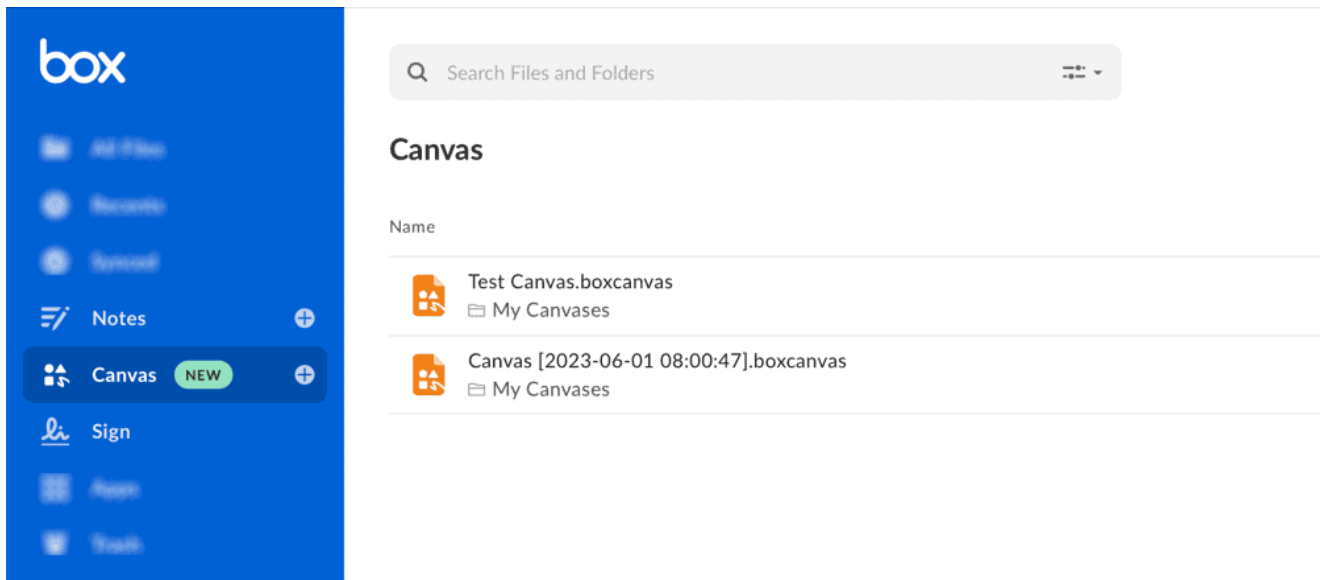


Dropbox offers many connections through its app store that you can find through categories or by searching.

Native Apps

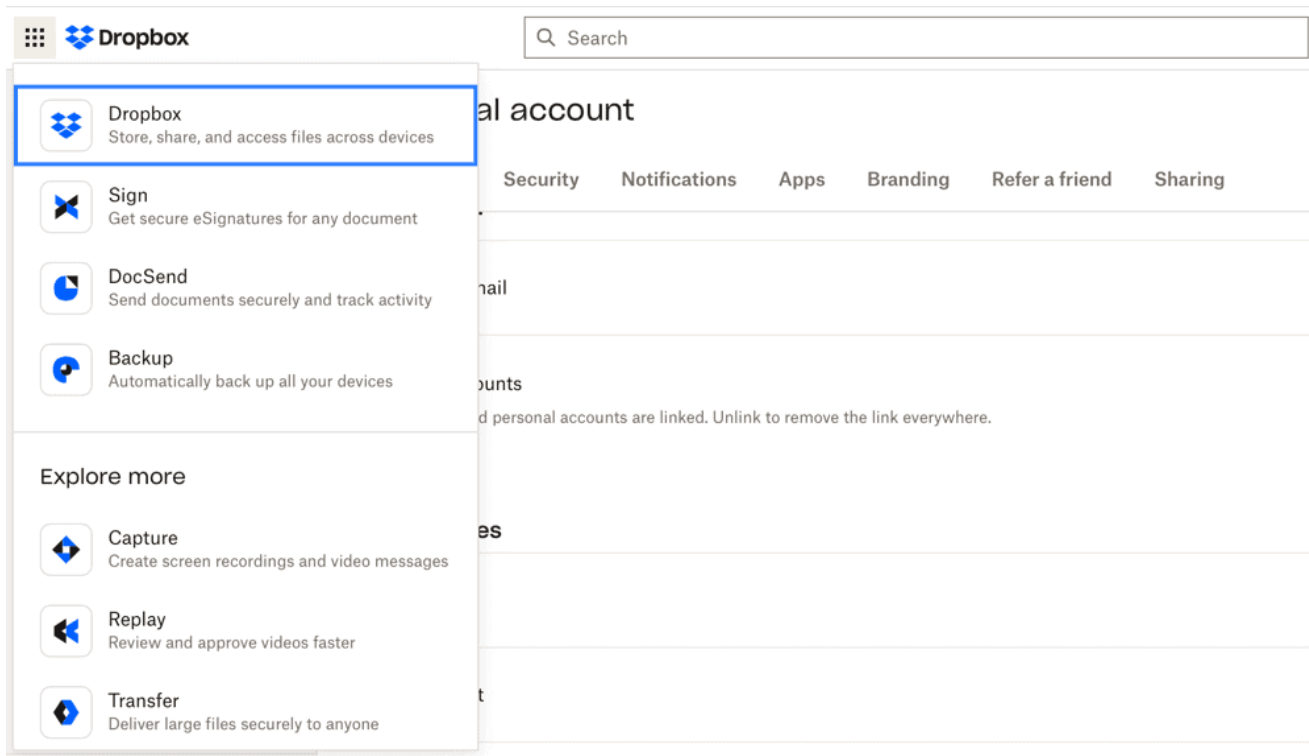
Neither Box nor Dropbox require you to use third-party apps to work on project files or request digital signatures. Both cloud services have apps created in-house.

Box Notes is a web-based word-processing app that supports easy team sharing and lets multiple people work on a document in real time. Box Notes won't replace dedicated word processors, as we discuss in our [Box Notes review](#). Another app is Box Canvas, a collaborative whiteboard that works similarly to Notes.



Box Canvas is an app that comes with all subscriptions and lets you work in real time with others.

Dropbox offers similar options, such as Dropbox Paper. Dropbox Paper is also a web-based word processor that supports real-time collaboration. It does many things well, as detailed in our [Dropbox Paper review](#), but it has some shortcomings. Another example of a Dropbox native app is Capture, which records what you do on your computer — like demonstrating how a program works or navigating through a menu — and saves it as a recording.

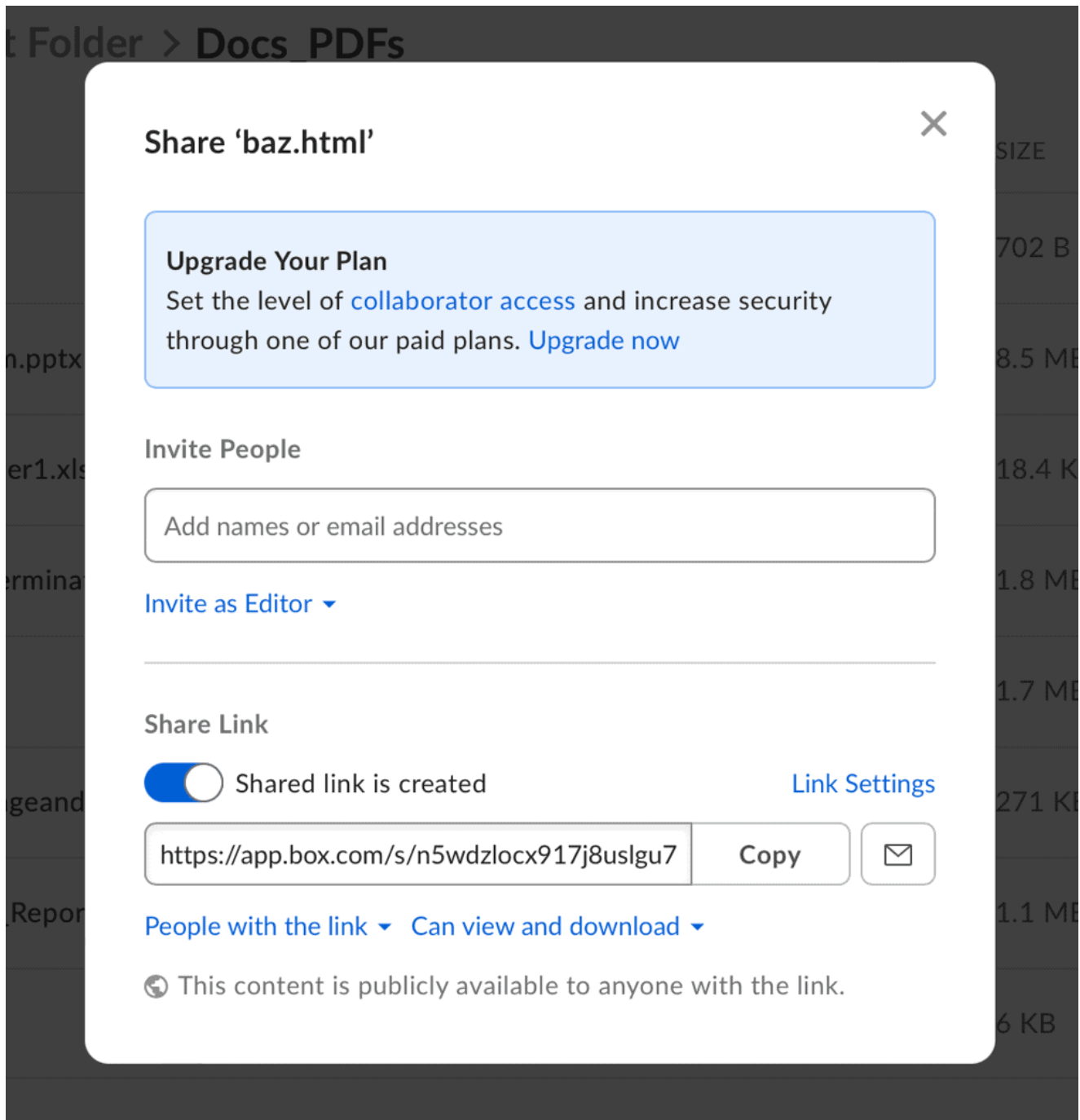


Dropbox has many apps that come with a subscription, including Paper and Capture.

File-Sharing

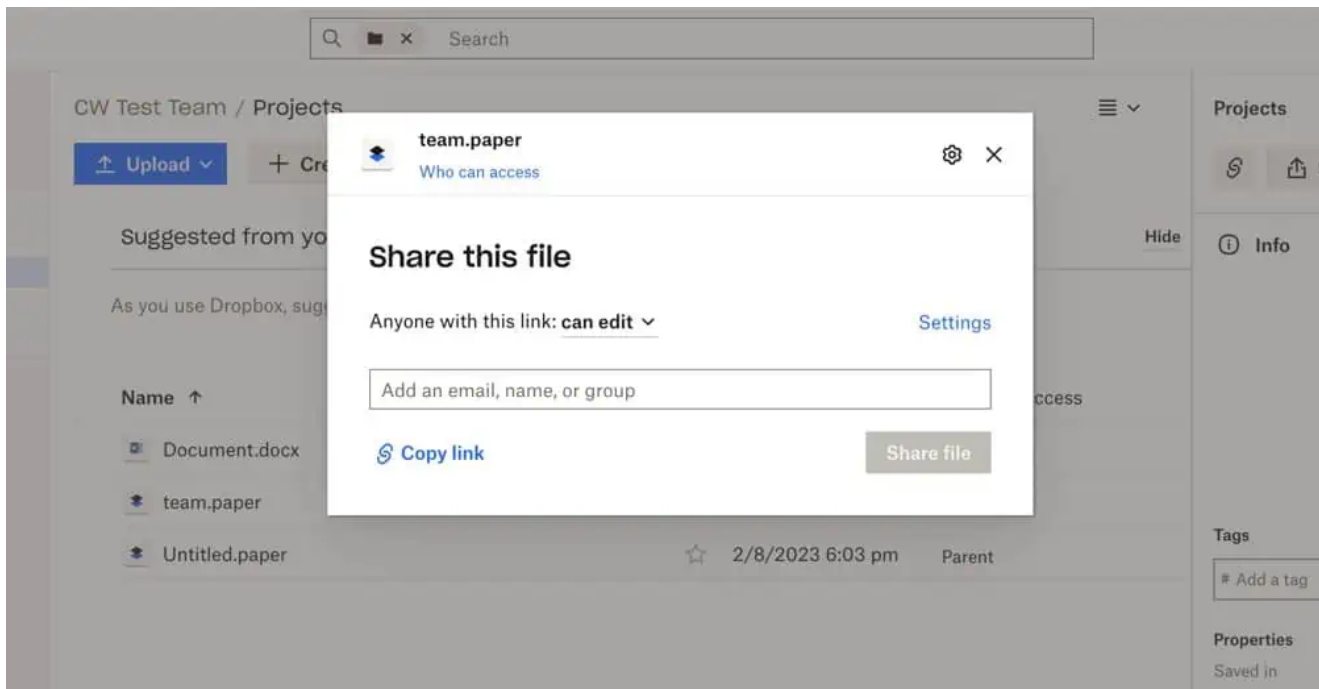
Box and Dropbox handle folder and file sharing in nearly identical ways. Both let you share files or folders by email invitation or by creating a link to share as needed. Sharing folders allows you to invite collaborators directly by email.

Box limits customization options to either “editor” or “viewer.” With paid plans, you can have more customization options, including security settings. Dropbox does not have any additional security settings for folder sharing.



With a Box paid plan, you get access to additional settings for your shared files.

Both services let you create a link for shared folders or files. Box has link expiration and password protection options, which are reserved for paid plans. You can specify whether the recipients have edit privileges or can only view the link's contents. Dropbox follows a similar pattern when creating links. With a Professional plan or better, you can set link expiration dates, add a password or turn off downloads.



Dropbox has plenty of accessibility options when you share files by email or a link.

Folder Structure

Both Box and Dropbox have similar folder structures. You can navigate by clicking through folders and subfolders until you find the files you want to work with. In Dropbox, you can use the dropdown arrows in the sidebar to expand folders and subfolders. You can't do this with Box.

Box and Dropbox let you select folders or files to move or copy using the drag-and-drop functionality. This is a cleaner and more direct way to sort and organize your folders and files, particularly if you have a complicated project.

Security

Box and Dropbox handle security using AES 256-bit encryption for files at rest, which protects your data from brute-force attacks or data leaks.

Both use TLS/SSL encryption for files in transit, such as when you're uploading or sharing. TLS/SSL encryption protects against man-in-the-middle attacks which is when hackers act like the intended recipient and intercept your data transfers.

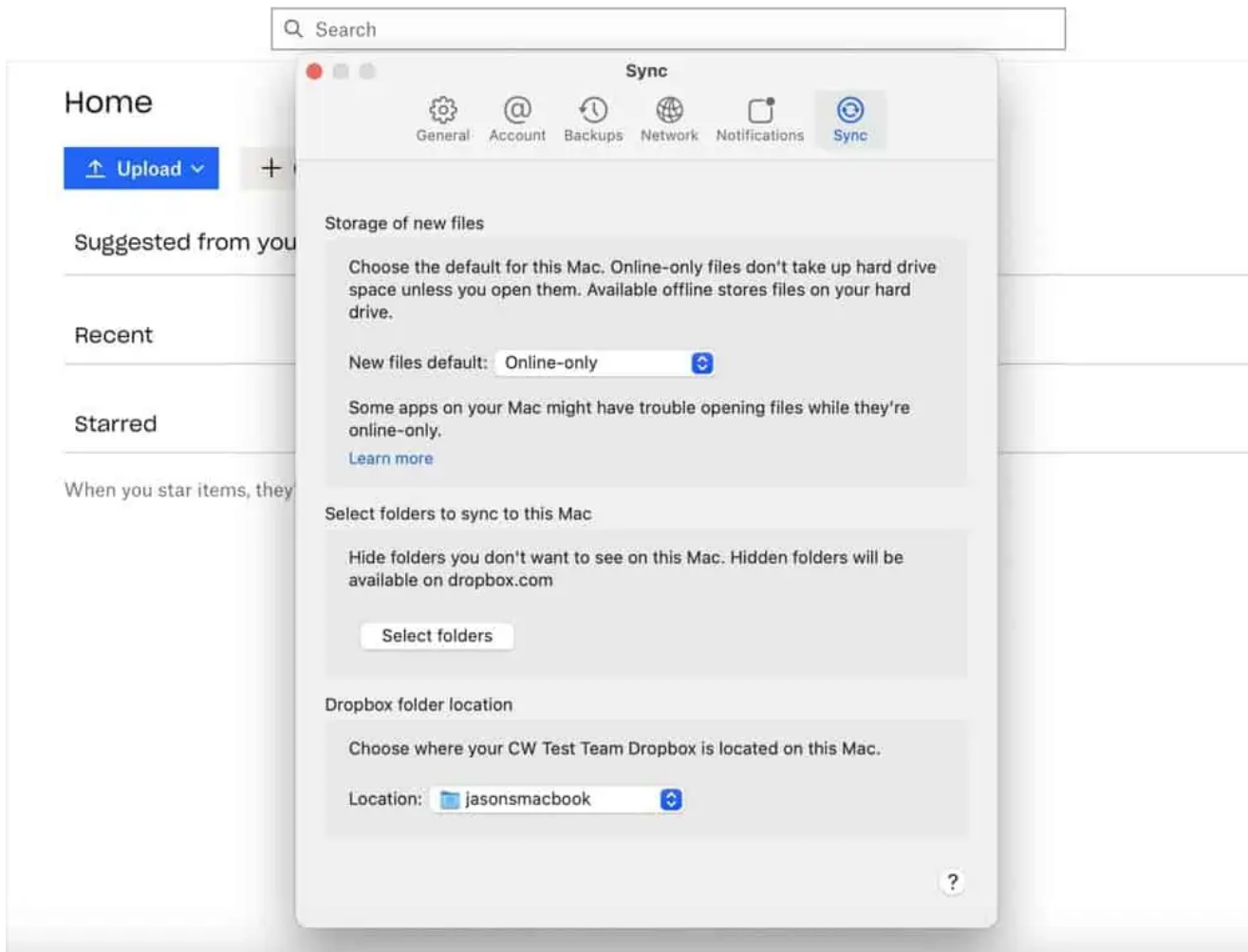
Box and Dropbox support two-factor authentication for all individual accounts. This optional security setting creates an additional step to the login process, requiring a separate code or other verification method in addition to your standard login credentials.

Differences

There are a few important differences between Box and Dropbox, a good example being privacy. Neither service sets the benchmark for privacy, although there are some caveats. Let's explore them below.

File Syncing

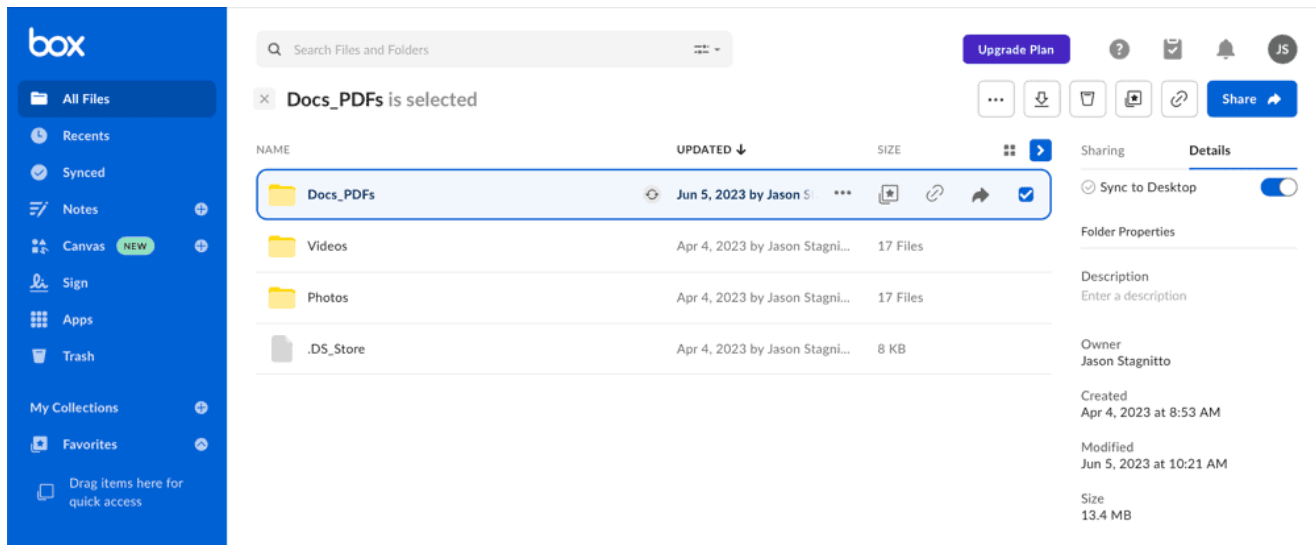
File sync with Dropbox is one of the service's most robust features, giving account holders plenty of flexibility to determine what to sync. You must download the Dropbox desktop app to access the sync options.



Dropbox's file sync capabilities are some of the service's best features.

The sync tab has a dropdown menu to choose what to do with new files. You can make them online only, which won't download the files to your computer, saving hard disk space. The other choice is "available offline," which will keep the files on your computer, letting you work on documents without an internet connection.

Dropbox supports selective sync, which is also accessible through the desktop app. Selective sync lets you designate specific folders to sync to your computer. Deselected folders will remain available on the Dropbox web app.



Box supports selective sync, letting you determine which folders to keep in the cloud or on your computer.

Box lets users determine which folders to designate for offline use and keeps them synced online. You'll need the Box desktop app to take advantage of selective sync; however, you won't find anything in the settings. From the Box folder on your computer, right-click on a folder and choose "make available offline" from the choices.

The Box Sync app is a productivity tool that mirrors the folders and files stored on your computer. Downloading and running the app lets you designate folders to sync with your computer and captures changes as you work on your documents. Box Sync is separate from the Box desktop app.

Free Storage

Box and Dropbox offer free plans that let you test out either service and see if their product suits your needs. However, Box gives you more storage to use than Dropbox.

Box's free account is easy to find. Click the "get started" button from the homepage, which will take you to the pricing page. Under the individual and team options, you'll see the free individual plan with 10GB of file storage.

A free Dropbox account comes with a paltry 2GB of storage, which lags far behind nearly every one of its competitors. It's not overtly obvious where to find the free plan: If you navigate to the "plans" page, a small link is located about halfway down the page to create a free account.

Pricing

Box and Dropbox have vastly different pricing options for individuals or teams. Generally, Box is the more expensive of the two. Additionally, Dropbox offers more plan choices for individual users, but only by a little. Box and Dropbox also offer business plans, which we will

cover in the next section.

Choose the best plan for your business

Individuals and Teams

Business Plans

Monthly ☐ Annually ☒ (Save 25%)

FOR INDIVIDUALS Individual Free single user Sign Up Sign up with Google Secure file storage, sharing and native e-signatures for personal use	FOR INDIVIDUALS Personal Pro ~~\$14~~ \$10 per month paid annually single user Buy it Upgrade your personal plan for more flexibility, storage and e-signatures	FOR BUSINESS TEAMS Business Starter ~~\$7~~ \$5 per user/month paid annually minimum of 3 users Buy It Try It Secure file collaboration, storage and native e-signatures for up to 10 users
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Box offers one individual paid plan that comes with 100GB of storage space.

Box's lone paid individual plan, Personal Pro, affords users 100GB for \$120 per year, or \$14 paid monthly. Dropbox has more choices, starting with the Plus plan, which has 2TB of storage for \$119.88 annually or \$11.99 monthly. The Professional plan has 3TB of storage for \$198.96 per year or \$19.99 per month.

Box and Dropbox cloud storage solutions will support your individual needs. However, the choices and plan options are far more robust for businesses.

Dropbox

Login

☒ Billed monthly ☐ Billed yearly

Best Value

For individuals

Plus

\$11.99 / month

2 TB (2,000 GB) • 1 user

Buy now →

- ✓ Unlimited device linking
- ✓ 30-day file and account history
- ✓ Large file delivery with Dropbox Transfer (up to 2GB)
- ✓ 3 free eSignatures per month

For freelancers

Professional

\$19.99 / month

3 TB (3,000 GB) • 1 user

Try free for 30 days →

or buy now →

Everything in Plus, and:

- ✓ Advanced sharing controls and file locking
- ✓ 180-day file and account recovery
- ✓ Large file delivery with Dropbox Transfer (up to 100 GB)

For smaller teams

Standard

\$18 / user / month

5 TB (5,000 GB) • 3+ users

Try free for 30 days →

or buy now →

- ✓ Easy to use content protection and external sharing controls
- ✓ Recover files or restore your entire account for up to 180 days
- ✓ Automatically back up computers - and connected external drives - directly to the cloud

Dropbox has two affordable individual plans if you need more storage.

Business Plans

Business plans are where Box and Dropbox excel, as both offer more plan choices than they do for individuals. Box makes its business plan choices more evident than Dropbox, which has two locations with different business plans.

Box has five business plans. The Business Starter plan is the only one with a storage limit cap of 100GB. It costs \$5 per user per month, paid annually. The Business, Business Plus, Enterprise and Enterprise Custom all have unlimited file storage. The Business plan costs \$15 per user per month, paid annually. Business Plus is \$25 per user per month, while the Enterprise plan costs \$35 per user per month. You can pay monthly for any of these plans if needed.

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Choose the best plan for your business

Individuals and Teams **Business Plans** Monthly ☒ Annually (Save 25%)

Business	Business Plus	Enterprise	Enterprise Plus Custom
\$20 \$15 per user/month paid annually minimum of 3 users	\$33 \$25 per user/month paid annually minimum of 3 users	\$47 \$35 per user/month paid annually minimum of 3 users	\$47 \$35 per user/month paid annually minimum of 3 users
Buy It	Buy It	Buy It	Contact us
Try It	Try It	Try It	Learn more
Team collaboration for any business	Content management for your entire organization	Advanced content management and data protection	The power of the Content Cloud in one simple plan

Except for the Business Starter option, Box has unlimited storage for its business plans.

On Dropbox's main plan page, you'll see three plans designed for businesses: Standard, Advanced and Enterprise. The Dropbox Business Standard plan has 5TB of storage annually for \$15 per user per month.

The Advanced plan has 15TB of storage per license (minimum of three) and costs \$24 per user per month when paid annually. Finally, Dropbox Business Enterprise is a customizable option intended for large corporations that requires working with the sales department for pricing.

Dropbox has a separate [business page](#) with more plan choices. Two plans focus on individuals: Professional and Dropbox One. The Professional has 3TB for \$16.58 per month, paid annually. Dropbox One has the same storage amount for \$18 per month, paid annually. It adds unlimited signature requests and eSignature templates.

The screenshot displays three pricing cards for Dropbox. The first card, 'Professional', is for freelancers at \$16.58/month with 3 TB and 1 user. The second card, 'Dropbox One', is also for freelancers, marked as 'NEW', with a price reduction from \$41.58 to \$24.99/month, also with 3 TB and 1 user. The third card, 'Standard', is for growing teams at \$15/user/month with 5 TB and 3+ users. Each card includes a 'Buy now' button and a list of features.

Plan	Target Audience	Price	Storage & Users	Key Features
Professional	For freelancers	\$16.58 / month	3 TB (3,000 GB) • 1 user	3 free eSignatures per month, Advanced sharing controls, 180-day recovery.
Dropbox One	For freelancers	\$24.99 / month (was \$41.58)	3 TB (3,000 GB) • 1 user	Everything in Professional, plus: Unlimited signing, 5 custom eSignature templates, Analytics on client engagement.
Standard	For growing teams	\$15 / user / month	5 TB (5,000 GB) • 3+ users	Admin console, Recover files or restore account for up to 180 days, External content controls.

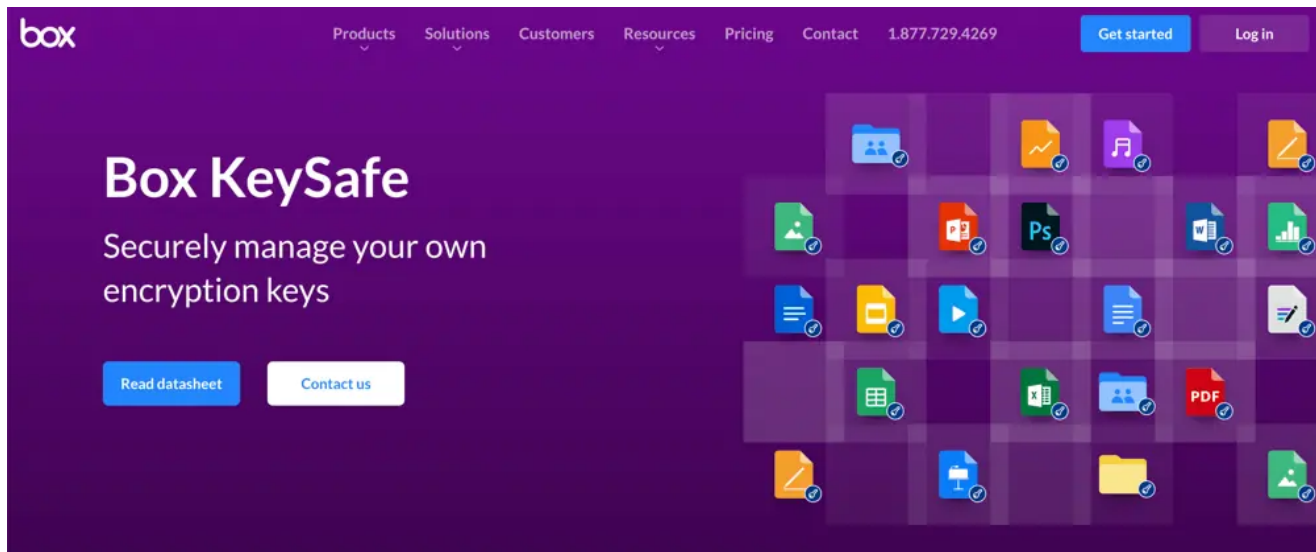
Dropbox has additional business plans available, separate from its normal plan choices.

The previous Dropbox Business plans also show up on the business pricing page with the addition of Standard + DocSend. It offers 5TB for \$50 per user per month on the annual plan, or \$83 monthly. DocSend lets you securely send documents and provides real-time analytics when recipients interact with your document.

Privacy

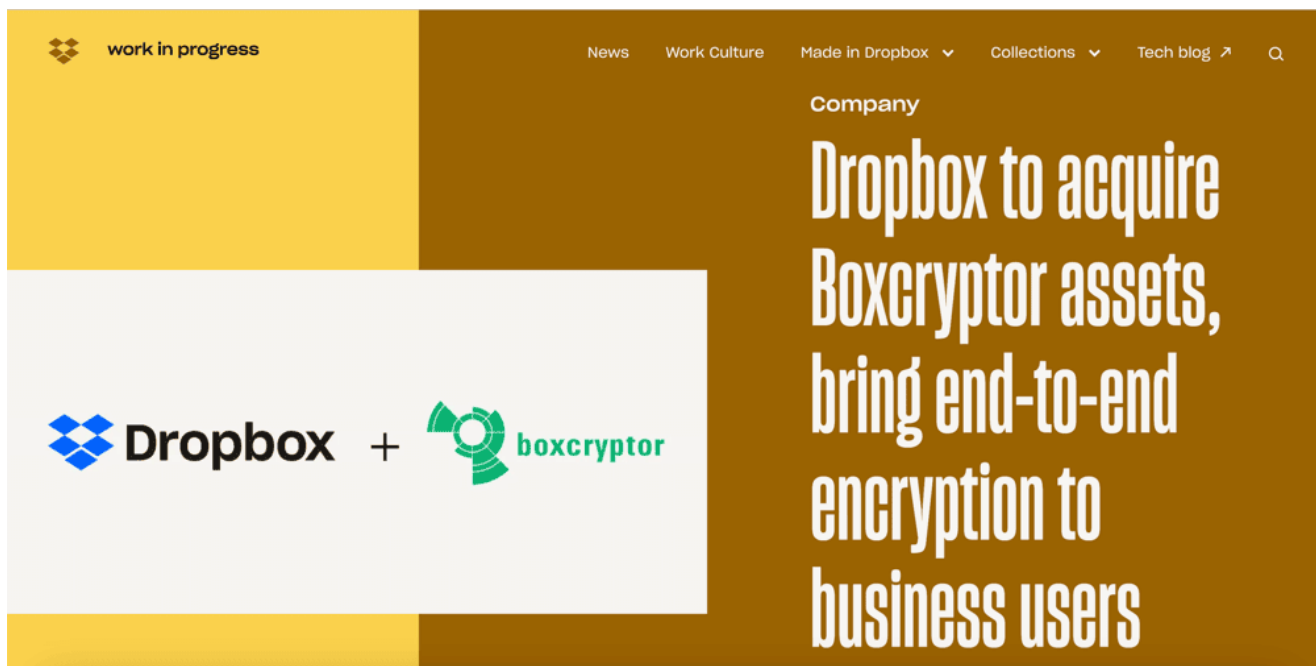
Privacy is not a strong suit for Box nor Dropbox. Both services collect personal data on how you use each service. Depending on the data collected, Box or Dropbox could use it in advertising or share it with a third party performing services on its behalf.

Neither cloud service has zero-knowledge encryption, so storing sensitive files or confidential information on either Box or Dropbox is not recommended. Private encryption is the typical trade-off with cloud services focusing on collaboration and productivity. However, that's not necessarily the case for Box or Dropbox.



Box KeySafe is a paid add-on for some business plans that gives you control of your encryption keys.

Box has a paid add-on called KeySafe. With KeySafe on your account, you gain control of the private keys needed to decrypt your account. Usually, Box has the ability to access these keys. However, only some accounts can purchase KeySafe as it is reserved for business plans. With the business plans, only the higher-priced plans can add KeySafe as an option. Securing your Box account with private encryption is possible for the right price.



Dropbox recently purchased Boxcryptor to bring data encryption to its business plans.

Dropbox personal accounts do not come with private encryption, and there's no way to add it to your account. However, Dropbox recently purchased Boxcryptor, a third-party app that enables zero-knowledge encryption for cloud storage providers. With this addition, Dropbox Business will see private encryption added as an option in the near future.

Which Is Better: Box vs Dropbox?

Even with all the similarities, Box edges out Dropbox with unlimited storage for business plans and a more accessible free cloud storage plan for individuals. Although neither service offers private encryption, the paid add-on Box KeySafe for some business plans makes your account private.

Both cloud services do an excellent job with external integrations and provide proprietary apps that support real-time collaboration. Box Notes and Dropbox Paper are two examples of web-based document creation tools.

We Recommend Box if You Want...

- **Unlimited business storage:** [Box's business plans](#) offer unlimited storage space, except for Business Starter.
- **Free cloud storage:** The free Box plan has 10GB of cloud storage.
- **Private encryption:** Although limited to the higher-priced business plans, Box KeySafe effectively gives accounts private encryption.

We Recommend Dropbox if You Want...

- **File syncing:** Dropbox's selective sync and offline-access capabilities give account holders agency to keep data synced.
- **Affordable plans:** [Dropbox's individual and business plans](#) offer affordable options for most users.
- **Native apps:** Dropbox Send and Paper are two examples from a solid selection of apps account holders can access.

If You Want to Consider Other Services, Check Out...

If you find that Box or Dropbox doesn't meet your requirements, there are plenty of alternatives. For the privacy-minded, [a top choice is Sync.com](#). Sync.com has zero-knowledge encryption for the whole account, meaning anything you store in your account remains private. We cover its excellent file sharing, sync features and more in our [Sync.com review](#).

For those with business needs, Egnyte is one of the [best business cloud storage](#). It has apps that support connections to Google Workspace and MS Office. Additionally, [Egnyte is a highly customizable](#) cloud storage solution, giving businesses the flexibility to create the cloud environment needed. Our [Egnyte review](#) goes into more detail. You can also read our [Egnyte vs Box](#) comparison to learn more.

If you prefer the Google ecosystem of apps, then Google Drive is a natural alternative. A free Google Drive account has 15GB of storage and built-in Google apps like Docs or Sheets. You'll also get a Gmail account that integrates with Google Drive for easy email sharing. Check out our Google Drive review.

Similarly, if you're invested in using MS Office, OneDrive works seamlessly with files created using Word or Excel. A free OneDrive account comes with 5GB of storage space, which is enough to try out the cloud service. We cover all the details in our OneDrive review.

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1TB – 1TB\$10 / month(All Plans)

Visit EgnyteReview

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100GB – 30TB\$1.67 / month(save 16%)(All Plans)

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1TB – Unlimited GB\$6 / month(All Plans)

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100GB – 6TB\$1.67 / month(save 16%)(All Plans)

Visit OneDriveReview

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2TB – Unlimited GB\$9.06 / month(save 16%)(All Plans)

Visit MEGAREview

The Verdict: Why We Think Box Wins Overall

Box edges out Dropbox as a cloud storage service supporting individuals and teams. Giving its business plans unlimited storage and its free individual plan of 10GB of file storage makes it easy to choose Box. Dropbox has its strengths, particularly its file sync, flexible sharing and affordable plans.

Do you use Box or Dropbox? How do you rate these cloud storage services? Are there better cloud-based storage alternatives to Box or Dropbox that we missed? Let us know in the comments section below. Thanks for stopping by to read our article.

FAQ: Dropbox vs Box Compared

- Yes, Box has many of the cloud features and functionality that Dropbox has. Box tends to be more expensive than Dropbox. However, you will be fine staying productive and working collaboratively with Box.
- Both Box and Dropbox use the same security features to protect your data. At rest, both cloud services use AES 256-bit encryption and TLS/SSL encryption protocols during data transfers.
- Yes, Box file-sharing is secure. Box has additional customization settings when sharing files on its paid plans, including adding password protection or setting a link expiration date.

Vildana Bratic is not just a video editor, but also a photo editor and a graphic designer. She earned her BA in Comparative Literature and Library Science, but the force of IT was strong with her, which led her to Cloudwards.net. Vildana lives in an enchanted land of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and she has a passion for books, handicrafts, cats, cooking, manga and memes.