OpenCloudMesh

JOIN THE OpenCloudMesh INITIATIVE!

GÉANT announced an ambitious project that for the first time links together researchers and universities in Europe, the Americas and Asia via a series of interconnected, secure private clouds. OpenCloudMesh, a joint international initiative coordinated by ownCloud Inc. as an Associate Member of GÉANT, is built on ownCloud's open server-to-server sharing application programming interface (API). It delivers universal file access through a globally interconnected mesh of research clouds, without sacrificing any of the advantages in privacy, control and security an on-premises cloud provides. Leading research organisations from all over the world have joined the initiative and more participants are welcome.

The ownCloud software provides a common file access layer across an organisation and across globally interconnected organisations, whether the data resides on internal servers, on object storage, in applications like SharePoint or Jive, other ownClouds, or even external cloud systems such as Dropbox and Google. OpenCloudMesh syncs data to desktops or mobile apps, making everything available offline, regardless of the source that is being used.

"We are at an important juncture in cloud-based services," said Peter Szegedi, Project Development Officer at GÉANT's Amsterdam office. "There is no longer a need to choose between strict privacy and security or open collaboration and ease of use. I believe OpenCloudMesh will redefine the way people use the cloud to share their important files in a standardised and trusted manner across all platforms."

ORGANISATIONS JOIN

OwnCloud's open API ensures secure yet transparent connections between remote on-premises cloud installations. The first version of the API has been developed by ownCloud and is already deployed in multi-server installations (between more than 20 universities) in North Rhine-Westphalia in Germany. The OpenCloudMesh initiative is to make this development fully open to the community and come up with a version 2.0 API based on the recommendations of the community. So it will work between different countries where the NREN has deployed ownCloud.
To date, several organisations have signed up to participate, including CERN, SWITCH, SURF, GARR, University of Vienna, Aarnet, the Max Planck Institute, Sciebo (NRW), University of Florida, DESY Research, ETH Zürich, the University of Saskatchewan and Texas A&M."

OWNCLOUD

The collaboration in OpenCloudMesh is not the first that GÉANT has had with ownCloud. At the end of 2013, GÉANT's Amsterdam office (at that time TERENA) secured a discounted price on ownCloud software licenses for its members. These licenses enable institutions to host their own file sync-and-share, giving IT complete control of their data whether using on-premises or cloud storage. It has more than a million users worldwide.

Now that there's a distributed ownCloud environment in the NREN space, the next step is to introduce and further develop OpenCloudMesh.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information please visit the OpenCloudMesh information page, where you can fill in a form to find out more about how to join in this initiative:
https://owncloud.com/lp/opencloudmesh/