Data storage and sharing at QUT

A number of options exist to help QUT researchers store and access research data. Review the checklist to see which best suits your needs. Details for each data storage solution are listed below. This information is also available at https://www.library.qut.edu.au/research/data/storage.jsp.

Functionality Checklist

Storage option	Suitable for research data	Available to students	Very large data (>500GB)	Active data	Sensitive data	Share data with QUT researchers	Share data with non-QUT researchers	Remote access to data
Research Data Storage Service (RDSS)	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
H: drive / Standard U: drive folders	✖	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
HPC File Store (HPC-FS)	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✖	✖	✔
QCIF's QRISdata	✔	✔	✔	✔	✖	✔	✔	✔
AARNet's CloudStor	✔	✔	✖	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Syncplicity	✔	✖	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
OneDrive / Google Drive / DropBox	✖	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Transportable storage (USB/CD /DVD/external hard drive etc.)	✖	–	–	–	–	–	–	–

Data storage solutions

Research Data Storage Service (RDSS)

The Research Data Storage Service is a secure research data repository suitable for data at any stage of the research lifecycle. There are three areas within this storage space:

- Acquisitions: for the capture of primary data e.g. from instruments
- Projects: where researchers can analyse, collaborate and share data
- Archives: where published and collections are stored.

Staff and students may request access via the Research data support request form.

Benefits:

- Suitable for master copies of data.
- No maximum file size for single files.
- No quotas applied (usage is monitored).
- Access permissions are at the research project level; users are granted access to specific projects only (as nominated by the data owner).

Limitations:

- Non-QUT researchers will need to be granted 'Like staff' access in order to use this space.

HPC File Store (HPC-FS)

High Performance Computing (HPC) and Research Support provide QUT staff and Higher Degree Research students with specialised advanced computing facilities, storage and support, including HPC File Store.

Benefits:

- Suitable for large compute and storage combined.
- Over 2200TB of storage available to QUT researchers.
- Fully managed data facility.

Limitations:

- Non-QUT researchers will need to be granted 'Like staff' access in order to use this space.

QCIF's QRISdata

QRISdata is a data storage service hosted by the Queensland Cyber Infrastructure Foundation (QCIF), designed to complement well-managed data storage provided by your institution. Depending on the storage option you select, QRISdata may be replicated on tape storage, and/or stored in multiple locations. For more information about QRISdata, read the QRIScloud FAQs.

Benefits:

- High volume storage for research data, both active and long-term use.
- Support for working and archived data is provided.
- Researchers are provided with a range of tools to help manage data, enable collaboration and enable fine-grained control access.

- Large datasets can be shared with researchers/collaborators worldwide.

- Access to a wide range of existing eResearch services, tools and applications is possible.
- Integrated access to Queensland-based high performance computing facilities and specialised cloud services is available.

Limitations:

- Data storage allocation is based on merit, taking into account the data's significance and value to the wider research community. Applications processing could take up to one month.
- Long-term storage plans are required.

AARNet's CloudStor

CloudStor is a file transfer and storage service for easily and securely storing, sending and receiving large files, available to all Australian researchers via the Australian Access Federation.

Benefits:

- Up to 100GB of storage is available to individual researchers. 'Low-cost' additional data storage is available on request.
- Up to 100 recipients can share/receive a file.
- Australian Access Federation credentials used to login, providing access to researchers at other universities and research institutions.

Limitations:

- Maximum file size for transferring data is 100GB.
- Not suitable for master copies of research data.
- Not suitable for sensitive data, as encryption only occurs during transmission.

Syncplicity

Syncplicity is a secure file sharing and syncing service **for QUT staff** which allows secure sharing both within and external to QUT.

Benefits:

- Secure, encrypted files are stored in QUT-managed data centres.
- Complies with QUT's contractual, intellectual property, data jurisdiction and data security requirements.
- Passcodes and expiry dates/times can be applied to files.
- Users (and QUT administrators) can remotely recall and wipe data from devices, including those lost or stolen.
- Data files can be restored from previous versions and deleted files recovered.

Limitations:

- Not suitable for master copies of research data.
- Restrictions on types and size of files that can be shared are dependent on local drives where primary copies of data should be kept.