Activity app

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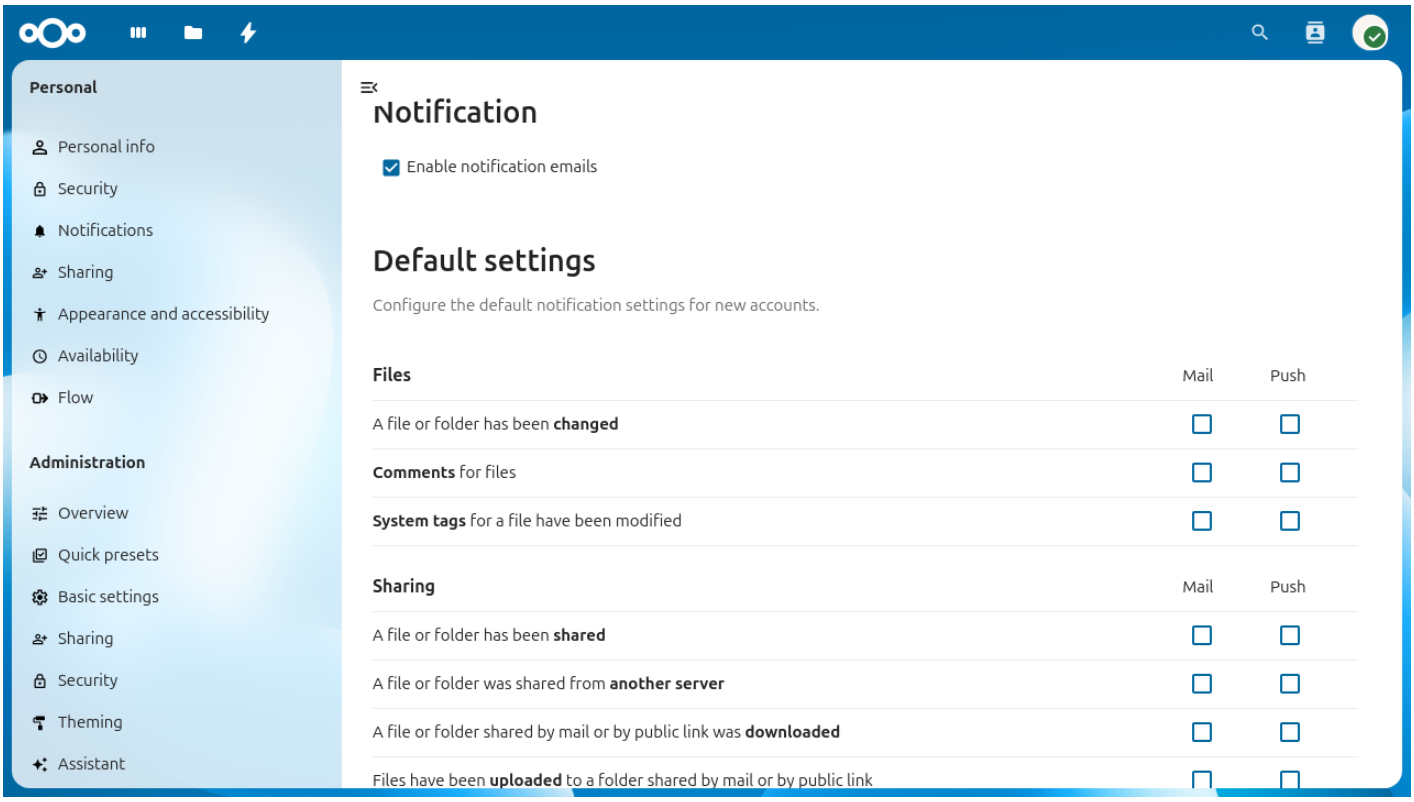
The Activity app records and summarizes user-visible events across your Nextcloud instance and can notify users via the activity stream, email, and push notifications. It is shipped and enabled by default.

> The Activity app is designed for user notifications, not for compliance or auditing. Users can enable or disable activity tracking for their own account, so the activity stream is not a reliable audit trail. If you need a complete log of all actions on your instance, use the **admin_audit** app instead — see Logging.



The Activity admin settings page showing default notification preferences for new accounts.

Configuring your Nextcloud for the Activity app

Enabling email notifications

To send activity notification emails, a working Email is required.

It is also recommended to configure the background job run mode to a system run mode (`System Cron` or `systemd`) as described in Background jobs. The `Ajax` and `Webcron` modes may delay or skip email delivery.

Admin settings

As an administrator, you can:

- Enable or disable notification emails globally using the **Enable notification emails** checkbox in **Settings** > **Administration** > **Activity**.

- Configure the default notification preferences for new accounts. Existing users keep their personal settings. The defaults apply to accounts created after the change.

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> The **Enable notification emails** toggle prevents **new** emails from being queued. It does not retroactively remove emails that are already waiting in the queue. Emails queued before the toggle was disabled will still be sent by the background job on its next run. To stop those emails immediately, truncate or clear the `oc_activity_mq` database table.

- Configure the maximum number of activities fully displayed in notification emails using the `mail_max_items` setting. Activities beyond this limit are summarised as "*and X more*" at the bottom of the email. The default is `200` and the maximum allowed value is `1000`. For example, to set it to `500`:

```
occ config:app:set activity mail_max_items --value=500
```

Configuration reference

The following `config.php` options control Activity app behavior.

Option	Default	Description
`activity_expire_days`	`365`	Number of days to retain activity records. A daily background job deletes all activities older than this value. Minimum is `1` day.
`activity_use_cached_mountpoints`	`false`	When `true`, activities in team folders and external storages are generated for all users with access, not just the acting user. See Activities in Team Folders or External Storages for details and caveats.
`activity_expire_exclude_users`	`[]`	An array of user IDs whose activity records are never deleted by the expiration job. See Excluding users from activity expiration.

Activities in Team Folders or External Storages

By default, activities in team folders or external storages are only generated for the current user. This is due to the underlying logic of these storage backends. The config flag `activity_use_cached_mountpoints` makes activities work like in normal shares when set to `true`.

```
'activity_use_cached_mountpoints' => true,
```

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> If "Advanced Permissions" (ACLs) are enabled in a team folder, activities do not respect those permissions. As a result, users may see activity entries for files and directories they cannot access. **This can leak sensitive information.** See this issue for more information.

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> Users who previously had access to a team folder, share, or external storage can continue to see new activity entries in their stream and emails until they log in again after access is removed.

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> Users who are newly added to a team folder, share, or external storage will not see new activity entries in their stream or emails until they log in again after access is granted.

Excluding users from activity expiration

For certain users, it might make sense to never expire their activity data, for example administrators. Set the config value `activity_expire_exclude_users` in your `config.php`:

```
'activity_expire_exclude_users' => [
  'admin',
  'group_admin',
  'second_admin'
]
```

For these users, their activity records will never be deleted from the database.

Better scheduling of activity emails

In certain scenarios it makes sense to send the activity emails more regularly. For example, you may want to send the hourly emails always at the full hour, daily emails before people start to work in the morning, and weekly emails on Monday morning.

A console command is available to trigger sending those emails. This allows you to set up custom cron jobs with specific timing instead of relying on the Nextcloud background job:

```
# crontab -u www-data -e
 0  *  *  *  *    php -f /var/www/nextcloud/occ activity:send-mails hourly
30  7  *  *  *    php -f /var/www/nextcloud/occ activity:send-mails daily
30  7  *  *  MON  php -f /var/www/nextcloud/occ activity:send-mails weekly
```

If you want to manually send out all queued activity emails, you can run `occ activity:send-mails` without any argument.

Troubleshooting

Users are not receiving notification emails

1. Verify that email is configured correctly. Send a test email from **Settings** > **Administration** > **Basic settings**.
2. Check that **Enable notification emails** is turned on in **Settings** > **Administration** > **Activity**.
3. Verify that the user has email notifications enabled in their personal notification settings (**Settings** > **Personal** > **Notifications**).

4. Ensure the background job is running. If you use `Cron`, check that the system cron job is executing `php -f /var/www/nextcloud/cron.php` regularly.
5. Check the Nextcloud log (`data/nextcloud.log`) for mail-related errors.

Activities are missing for shared files or team folders

By default, activities in team folders and external storages are only generated for the acting user.

See Activities in Team Folders or External Storages for how to enable activities for all users with access.

Database growing large due to activity data

The Activity app stores all events in the database. On instances with many users or high file turnover, this can lead to significant database growth. To manage this:

- Set `activity_expire_days` to a lower value (e.g. `90` or `180`) to automatically clean up older records.
- Ensure the Nextcloud background job is running so that the daily expiration job executes.
- To assess current database usage, check the size of the `oc_activity` and `oc_activity_mq` tables directly.

Emails are still being sent after disabling notification emails

The **Enable notification emails** toggle is checked when *queuing* new emails. The background job that actually delivers emails (`MailQueueHandler`) does not re-read the toggle before sending, so emails that were already in the queue when the toggle was turned off will still be delivered.

To stop those emails immediately, clear the `oc_activity_mq` table:

```
DELETE FROM oc_activity_mq;
```

After clearing the table, no further queued activity emails will be sent until new ones are queued (which requires the toggle to be re-enabled).

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□ cocobook-sync □□□ 2026-10-28 16:26:50 UTC

 cocobook-sync □□□ 2026-10-29 01:09:16 UTC