

Configuring Federation Sharing



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Federated Cloud Sharing is now managed by the Federation app (9.0+), and is now called Federation sharing. When you enable the Federation app you can easily and securely link file shares between Nextcloud servers, in effect creating a cloud of Nextclouds.

Creating a new Federation Share

Follow these steps to create a new Federation share between two Nextcloud servers. This requires no action by the user on the remote server; all it takes is a few steps on the originating server.

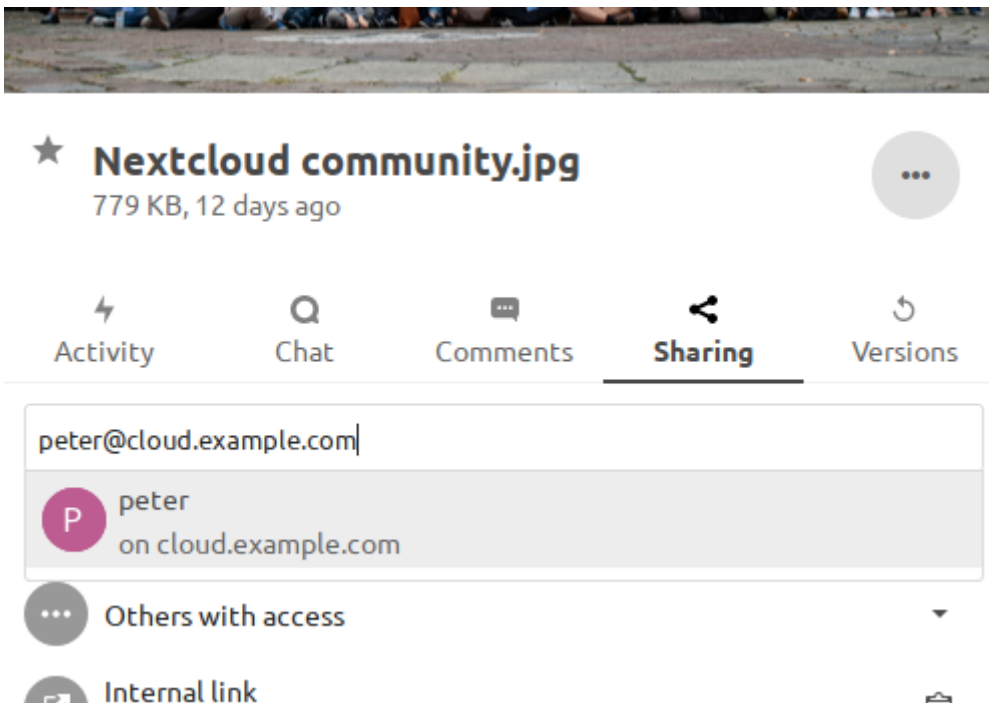
1. Enable the Federation app.
2. Go to your Nextcloud Admin page and scroll to the Sharing section. Verify that **Allow users on this server to send shares to other servers** and **Allow users on this server to receive shares from other servers** are enabled.
3. Now go to the Federation section. The Federation app supports creating a list of trusted Nextcloud servers, which allows the trusted servers to exchange user directories and auto-complete the names of external users when you create shares.

Trusted servers

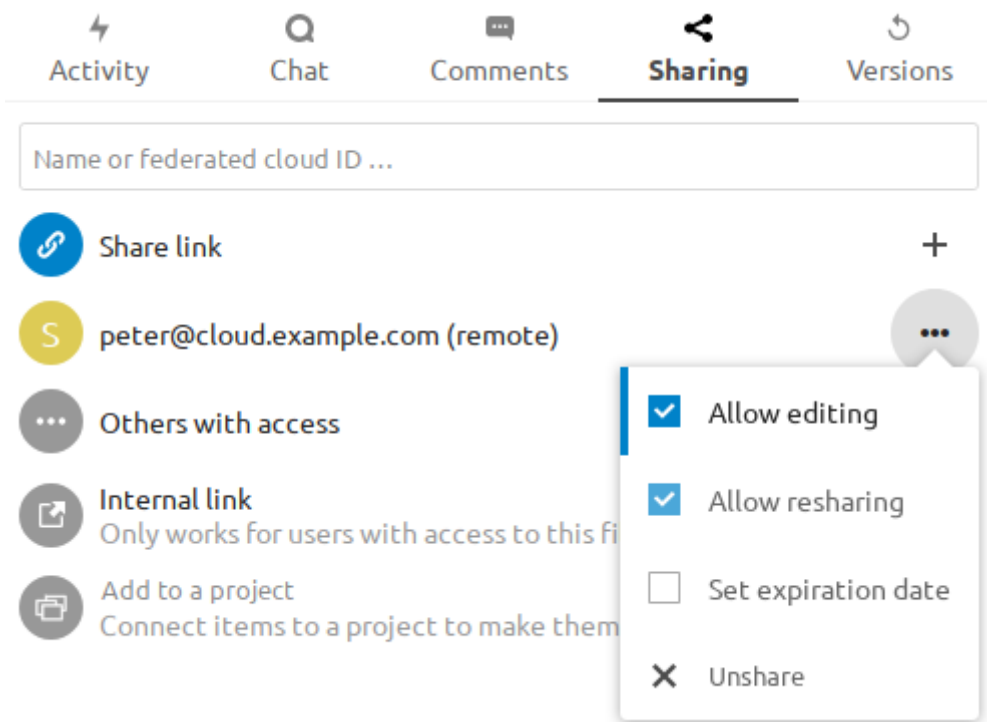
Federation allows you to connect with other trusted servers to exchange the user directory. For example this will be used to auto-complete external users for federated sharing. It is not necessary to add a server as trusted server in order to create a federated share.

+ Add trusted server

- Now go to your Files page and select a folder to share. Click the share icon, and then enter the username and URL of the user on the remote Nextcloud server. In this example, that is `freda@https://example.com/nextcloud`. When Nextcloud verifies the link, it displays it with the **(remote)** label. Click on this label to establish the link.



- When the link is successfully completed, you have a single share option, and that is **can edit**.



You may disconnect the share at any time by clicking the trash can icon.

Configuring trusted Nextcloud servers

You may create a list of trusted Nextcloud servers for Federation sharing. This allows your linked Nextcloud servers to share user directories, and to auto-fill user names in share dialogs.

You may also enter Nextcloud server URLs in the **Add Nextcloud Server** field.

A red light means the connection failed. The yellow light indicates a successful connection, with no user names exchanged. The green light indicates a successful connection with user names exchanged.

The prerequisite for a green status is that the trusted servers were maintained in both interacting Nextcloud servers. Additionally `occ federation:sync-addressbooks` must have been executed (part of cron job list). The delay to execute the cron is based on local configuration of the cron frequency.

Trusted servers

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 <https://localhost/federation> 

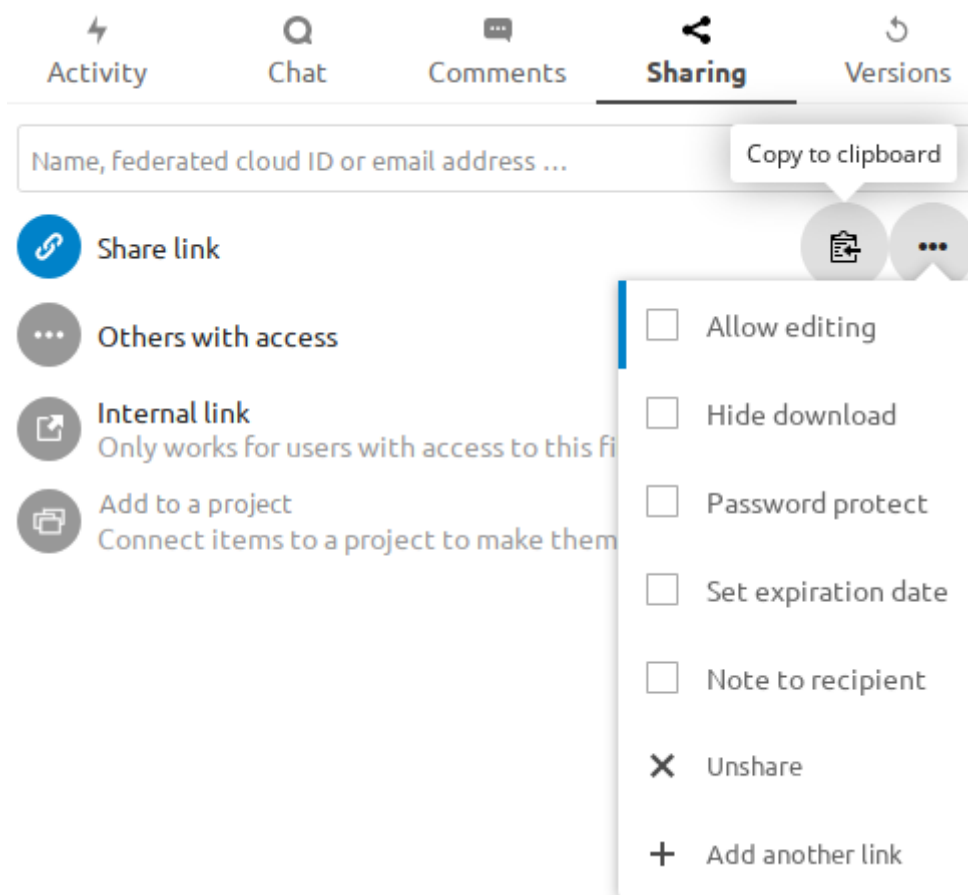
 <https://server2> 

 <https://server3> 

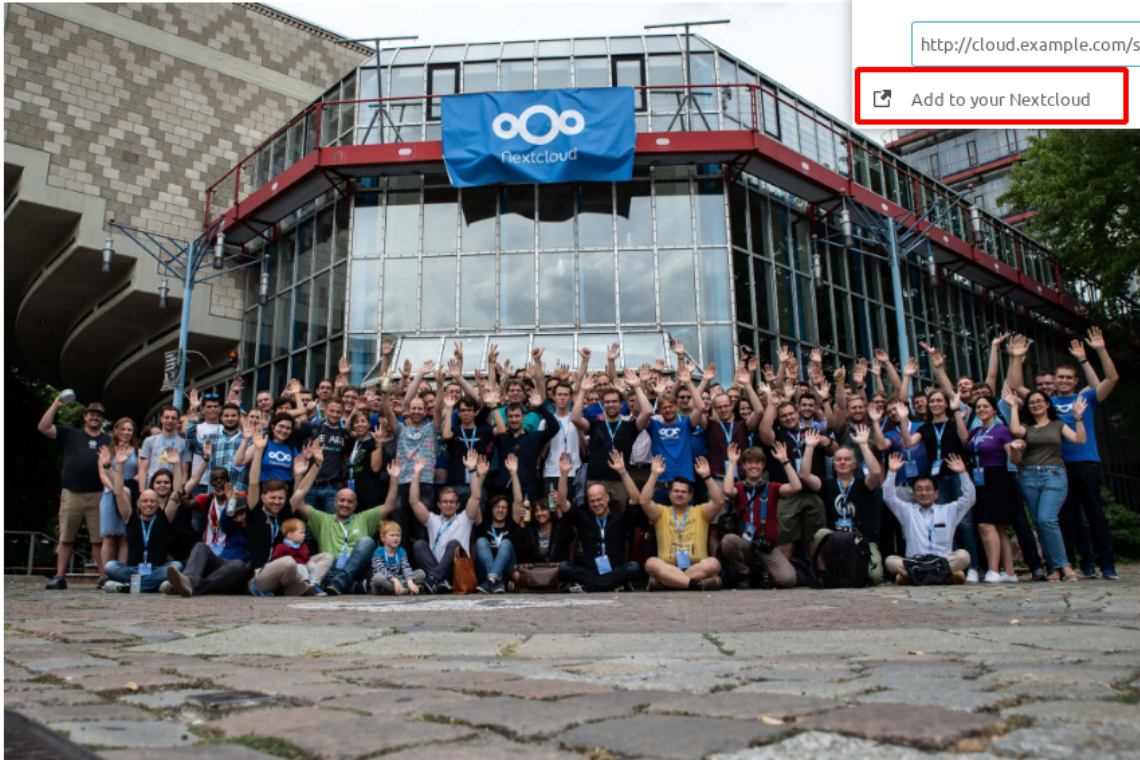
[+ Add trusted server](#)

Creating Federation Shares via public Link Share

Check the [Share link](#) entry to expose more sharing options (which are described more fully in [File Sharing](#)). You may create a Federation share by allowing Nextcloud to create a public link for you, and then email it to the person you want to create the share with.



You may optionally set a password and expiration date on it. When your recipient receives your email they must click the link, or copy it to a Web browser. They will see a page displaying a thumbnail of the file, with a button to **Add to your Nextcloud**.



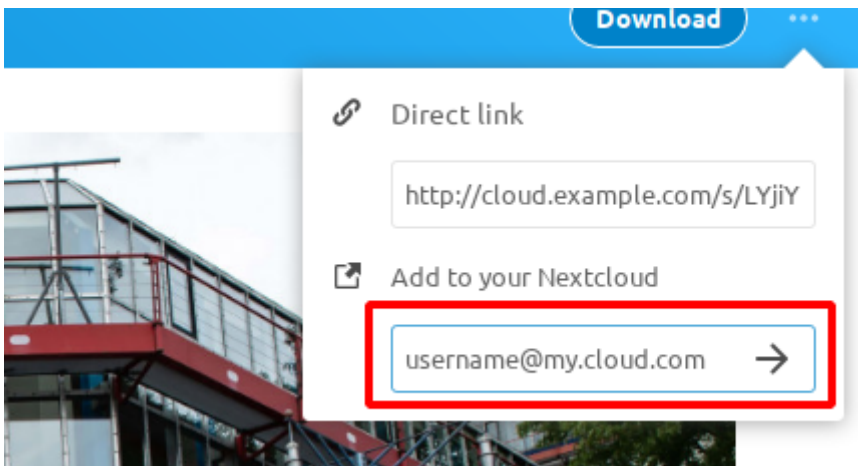
Direct link

<http://cloud.example.com/s/LYjiY>

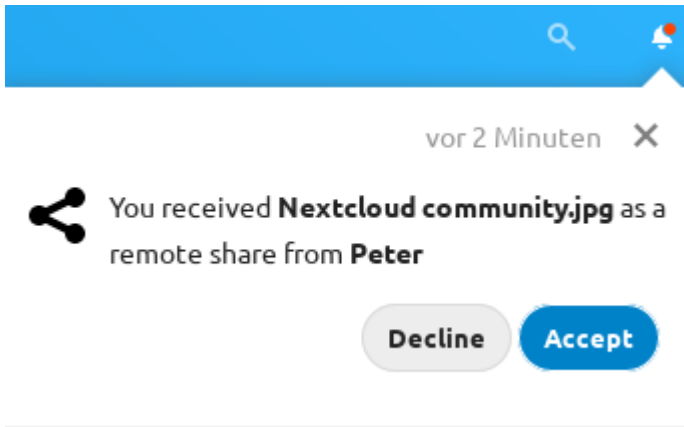
Add to your Nextcloud

Nextcloud – a safe home for all your data

Your recipient should click the **Add to your Nextcloud** button. On the next screen your recipient needs to enter the URL to their Nextcloud server, and then press the return key.



Your recipient has to take one more step, and that is to confirm creating the federated cloud share link by clicking the **Accept** button.



Un-check the `Share link` checkbox to disable any federated cloud share created this way.

Configuration tips

The Sharing section on your Admin page allows you to control how your users manage federated cloud shares:

- Check `Enforce password protection` to require passwords on link shares.
- Check `Set default expiration date` to require an expiration date on link shares.
- Check `Allow public uploads` to allow two-way file sharing.
- If you encounter timeouts for downloading or uploading large files, you can use the option `davstorage.request_timeout` in your `config.php` to increase the timeout. The default value is 30 seconds.

Your Apache Web server must have `mod_rewrite` enabled, and you must have `trusted_domains` correctly configured in `config.php` to allow external connections (see [Installation wizard](#)). Consider also enabling SSL to encrypt all traffic between your servers .

Your Nextcloud server creates the share link from the URL that you used to log into the server, so make sure that you log into your server using a URL that is accessible to your users. For example, if you log in via its LAN IP address, such as `http://192.168.10.50`, then your share URL will be something like `http://192.168.10.50/nextcloud/index.php/s/jWfCfTVztGLWTJe`, which is not accessible outside of your LAN. This also applies to using the server name; for access outside of your LAN you need to use a fully-qualified domain name such as `http://myserver.example.com`, rather than `http://myserver`.

Changing the display of federated shares

By default, federated shares are displayed in a separate section in the Nextcloud interface. It is possible to change this behavior and display them in the same section as internal shares. This can be controlled with a `occ` command:

```
occ config:app:set --value false --type boolean files_sharing
show_federated_shares_as_internal
```

Set the value to `true` to display federated shares mixed with internal shares, or `false` to keep them in a separate section (default).

```
[[[ #3
[] cocobook-sync [[[ 2026-10-28 16:27:41 UTC
[] cocobook-sync [[[ 2026-10-29 01:09:18 UTC
```