

NOTE: [Google FileStream](#) is now [Google Drive for Desktop](#) January 29, 2021

Google is discontinuing the Google Drive **software** that synchronizes files from your computer to the cloud. The software is being replaced with two new options, outlined below. The Google Drive **online service** (<https://drive.google.com>) is **not** changing, and can be accessed on the web or using one of the replacements below. On **December 11, 2017** Google stopped supporting the Drive software. On **March 12, 2018**, the Drive software will **stop working**.

If you use Google Drive strictly via the website (<https://drive.google.com>) and do not use the Google Drive software on your Mac or PC to synchronize your files to the cloud, then you will **not be affected** by the changes listed below. However, you should still consider the new functionality offered by Google and described below.

Of the two replacement options made available by Google, ITS recommends that users of the Google Drive software install **Drive File Stream** to access their Middlebury Google Drive. Drive File Stream frees up disk space, decreases sync time and minimizes the amount of Middlebury data stored on your computer. Backup and Sync does not offer these advantages.

Drive File Stream

- Recommended for use on Middlebury computers to access your Middlebury Google Drive.
- Allows you to “stream” your Drive files from the cloud to your Mac or PC.
 - This sounds sophisticated but it basically means that you can see, organize and edit your Google Drive files in Finder/Explorer without downloading all of them.
 - Because the files are “streamed”, this frees up disk space and network bandwidth, decreases sync time, and makes your data more secure by minimizing the amount of institutional files stored on your hard drive.
 - Your Google Drive files will appear as a folder on your computer (more specifically, a network drive that’s mapped automatically.) See the [How it works section](#) for more info.
- A file or folder can be stored locally and made available for offline usage.
- Here’s [how to get Drive File Stream](#).

Backup and Sync

- Recommended for use on *personal* computers to access your *personal* Google account.
- Can be used on Middlebury-owned computers to automatically backup your Desktop, Photos, and other folders on your computer to your Google Drive. If you do not want to use the backup feature, use Drive File Stream instead.
- Allows you to access your Google Drive using a folder on your computer.
- You can [download Backup and Sync](#) at any time.

Help

- **How do I know if I have the Google Drive software?**

You have Google Drive if you see the drive icon  on your computer. On a PC the icon is at the bottom right and on a Mac it’s at the top right of your screen.

- **Are there any videos showing how Drive File Stream works?**
These short videos may be useful: [Mac](#) | [PC](#)
- **How do I install Drive File Stream?**
To get Drive File Stream, visit [this page](#).
- **How do I install Backup & Sync?**
To download Backup and Sync, visit [this page](#).
- **I want the benefits of Drive File Stream and Backup & Sync. Can I install both?**
Yes, you can install and use both. You'll be prompted to stop syncing My Drive with Backup and Sync in order to save disk space. We don't recommend running both as it can be confusing and use up resources on your computer.
- **What are Team Drives?**
It's a new feature that ITS is still testing. Check out [Google's info on team drives](#).
- **I thought we are supposed to use OneDrive. Is OneDrive going away?**
If you're using OneDrive, continue to do so. OneDrive is not going away.
- **I'm not sure which option to pick. What should I do?**
See if the table below helps. If you're still not sure, [install Drive File Stream](#) and try it. If you run into any issues, please [make a ticket](#) using the **Request Google Cloud Support** button so we can assist you.
- **I'm still not sure what to do. Where can I get more help?**
Review the chart below and [our documentation](#). If you're still unsure what to do, [contact the Helpdesk](#).

Comparison of Drive File Stream vs Backup and Sync

Feature	Drive File Stream	Backup and Sync
Access files in My Drive	✓	✓
Access files in Team Drives	✓	✗
Stream files on demand	✓	✗
Sync only selected folders in My Drive	✓	✓
Sync only individual files in My Drive	✓	✗
Use native applications like MS Word and Photoshop	✓	✓
Sync other folders, such as Documents or Desktop	✗	✓