



A Single Access Point for Multiple Clouds

Storage Made Easy (SME) is a cloud data broker platform that acts as an intermediary between users of cloud storage and a variety of cloud-based storage services. SME is available via a traditional software-as-a-service model; as a hosted appliance or as an on-site, virtual appliance.

SME gets around the fundamental problem that many organizations have with cloud-based data storage – namely, the lack of IT control over corporate content stored in these repositories. SME permits the mixing and matching of various public and private cloud services and permits IT to manage all corporate content distributed across according to a single set of policies. Among the more important features of SME are:

- Files can be accessed from a variety of clouds, including Dropbox, Box, Amazon S3, Google Drive, Apple iCloud and a number of other solutions, such as EMC Atmos and Microsoft Azure. File access can occur via WebDAV, FTP or the S3 protocol.
- SME can securely track and audit all file shares and events that occur across the network. For example, SME will track events for every user and by IP address, and it will use geolocation data to track data movements to and from the various cloud repositories in use.
- It can lock and password-protect all files stored in the cloud and locally.
- Files can be encrypted using AES 256-bit encryption.
- The ability to perform file versioning and to control revision history.
- The ability to manage user permissions and role assignments for all files. SME integrates with Active Directory's single sign-on capabilities.
- SME has an Outlook plug-in that allows email attachments to be shared as links, including the ability to expire and password-protect links. SME supports a wide range of mobile platforms.
- SME's cloud service allows customers to choose from either US-based or EU-based data centers for performance and/or compliance purposes.

SME is relatively inexpensive: for example, 10-user access to a cloud-based file server costs \$600 for a one-time fee plus \$120 per year thereafter for maintenance and support. An on-premises enterprise solution costs \$15 per user per month.

SME's approach to cloud data management is one that many organizations should consider, particularly if their users have already deployed a number of cloud-based storage options. For example, our own research finds that a number of cloud-based solutions have been deployed in the typical organization. Organizations faced with this situation can either tell users not to use their choice of cloud-based repository (which is dependent on individuals complying with corporate policy), or they can implement a solution like SME that can re-introduce IT control without the pain of forcing a change in user behavior or preference.

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