



# CalArts University Leverages FileCloud's All-in-One EFSS Solution to Replace Google Workspace

case study

# CalArts University Leverages FileCloud's All-in-One EFSS Solution to Replace Google Storage

California Institute of the Arts (or CalArts) was established in 1961 in Santa Clarita, California. The university is focused on both visual and performing arts and offers bachelors, masters, and doctoral programs. Walt Disney himself was involved in the founding of the school, as he and his associates wanted the school to train artists that could then go out into various arts positions in the surrounding and wider community.

As a fine arts school with about 1,500 students and 400 staff, CalArts originally used Windows file sharing to collaborate on files. However, as sharing and storage needs increased, CalArts transitioned to using Google Workspace for Education. This tool allowed faculty, staff, and students to share files while leveraging unlimited storage, as students often shared and stored large video and image files.

Finding a new EFSS tool and content collaboration platform was something that the IT department at CalArts thought about occasionally, but it wasn't a priority—not until Google's new storage policy went into effect. Previously, Google Workspace for Education provided free sharing and storage, but their new policy capped storage at a pooled 100 terabytes. This isn't nearly enough storage for most universities, especially those like CalArts, which more often generates, stores, and collaborates on large video and audio files. Furthermore, Google doesn't allow a one-time storage purchase; instead, it now requires universities to purchase a new tier of Google Workspace for Education.



**The school didn't want to pay the high costs for a system that they had once gotten for free. They decided they needed a new EFSS tool** that matched their budget and provided a simple, all-in-one solution that students and staff could use easily.



# Requirements

## CalArts — A Private University With Large Video/Images Sharing and Storage

As an arts-focused school, CalArts users often share and store large image and video files. The school needed a solution that would facilitate reliable storage and sharing between students, faculty, and staff, while also being easy to use and implement.

Requirements included:



Large File Storage and Sharing



Granular Access Controls



No VPN Required



Two-Factor Authentication (2FA)



Linux-Supported



Budget-Friendly



Active Directory (AD) Integration



Simple UX

### An All-in-One Solution

Essentially, CalArts needed an EFSS tool that would be useable long-term, with large storage and file sharing capabilities and a simple UI.



# “Nothing Seemed Ideal Until I Saw FileCloud”

## Why FileCloud?

Once the university realized they would need an entirely new solution, they began to search for an EFSS that would provide an all-in-one experience. They looked at common EFSS solutions like Nextcloud; however, they rejected it after realizing Nextcloud was based in Europe (a problem in terms of support requirements) and had a complicated implementation process.

While researching EFSS tools, the CalArts Director of Infrastructure Operations came across FileCloud.

He realized after looking further into FileCloud that the solution was already familiar – he’d encountered it as a startup, then dubbed Tonido. He liked that FileCloud had been around for more than a decade, as the school needed a solution that would have staying power.

CalArts found FileCloud to be the ideal solution, an impression that was reinforced by testing through the free demo.

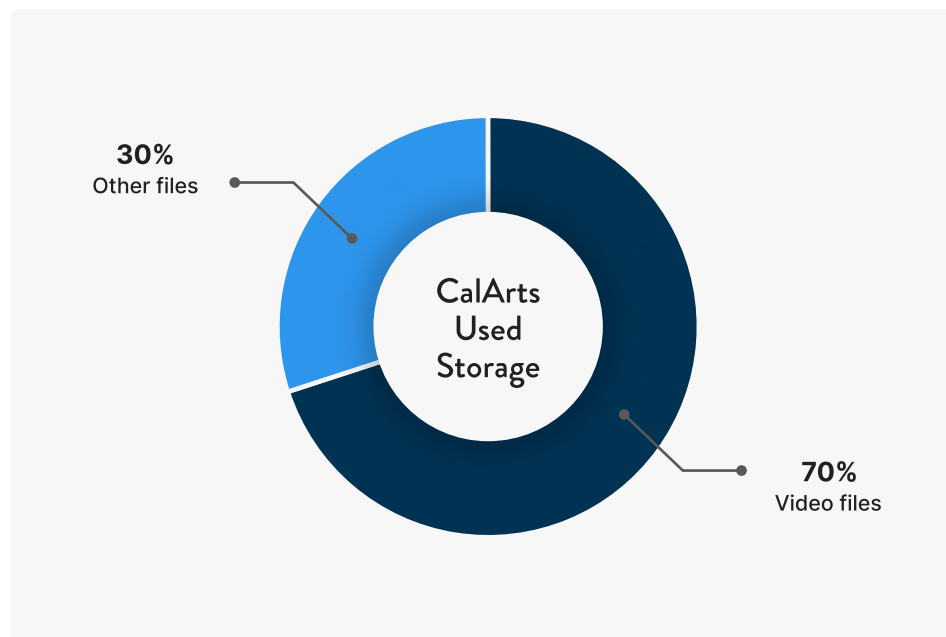
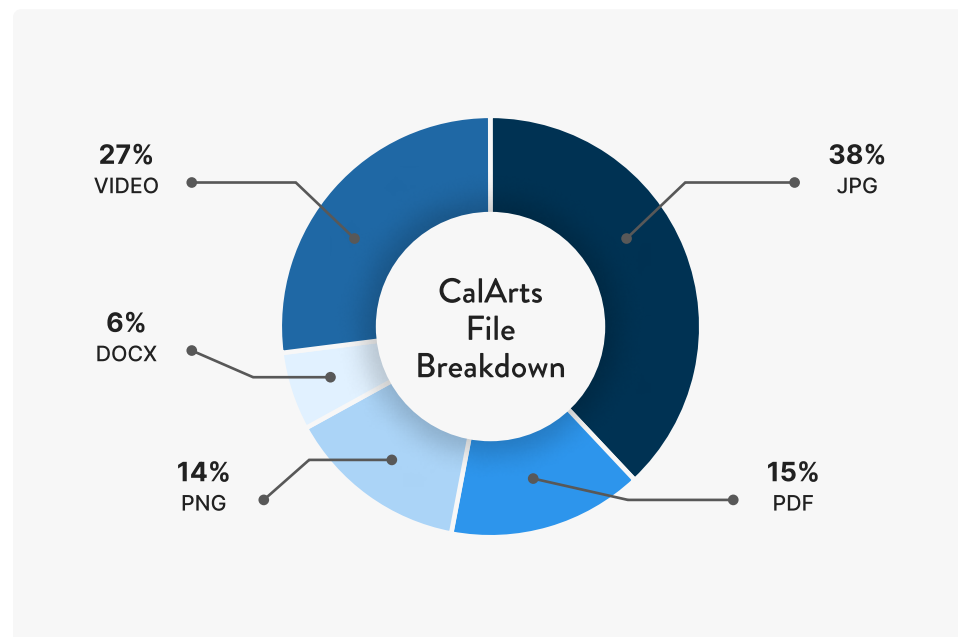
FileCloud checked all the boxes and even some additional ones they hadn’t initially thought of, such as regulatory compliance support and protection against ransomware and viruses.



## Large File Sharing and Storage

Of course, the most important requirement for CalArts was always going to be the ability to easily share and store large files. As a fine arts school, users, faculty, and staff are often working on large video and image files that need to be shared, stored, synced, and revised with real-time collaboration. As such, the **unlimited storage** available with [FileCloud Enterprise Server](#) provides the school with all the storage needed; best of all, it won't require constant upgrading or budget readjustments from price hikes.

FileCloud's Resumable Uploads tool is also useful when uploading large files – in the case of interrupted connectivity, files will simply pause and then continue to upload once connectivity resumes, which greatly reduces time and effort with managing large uploads.



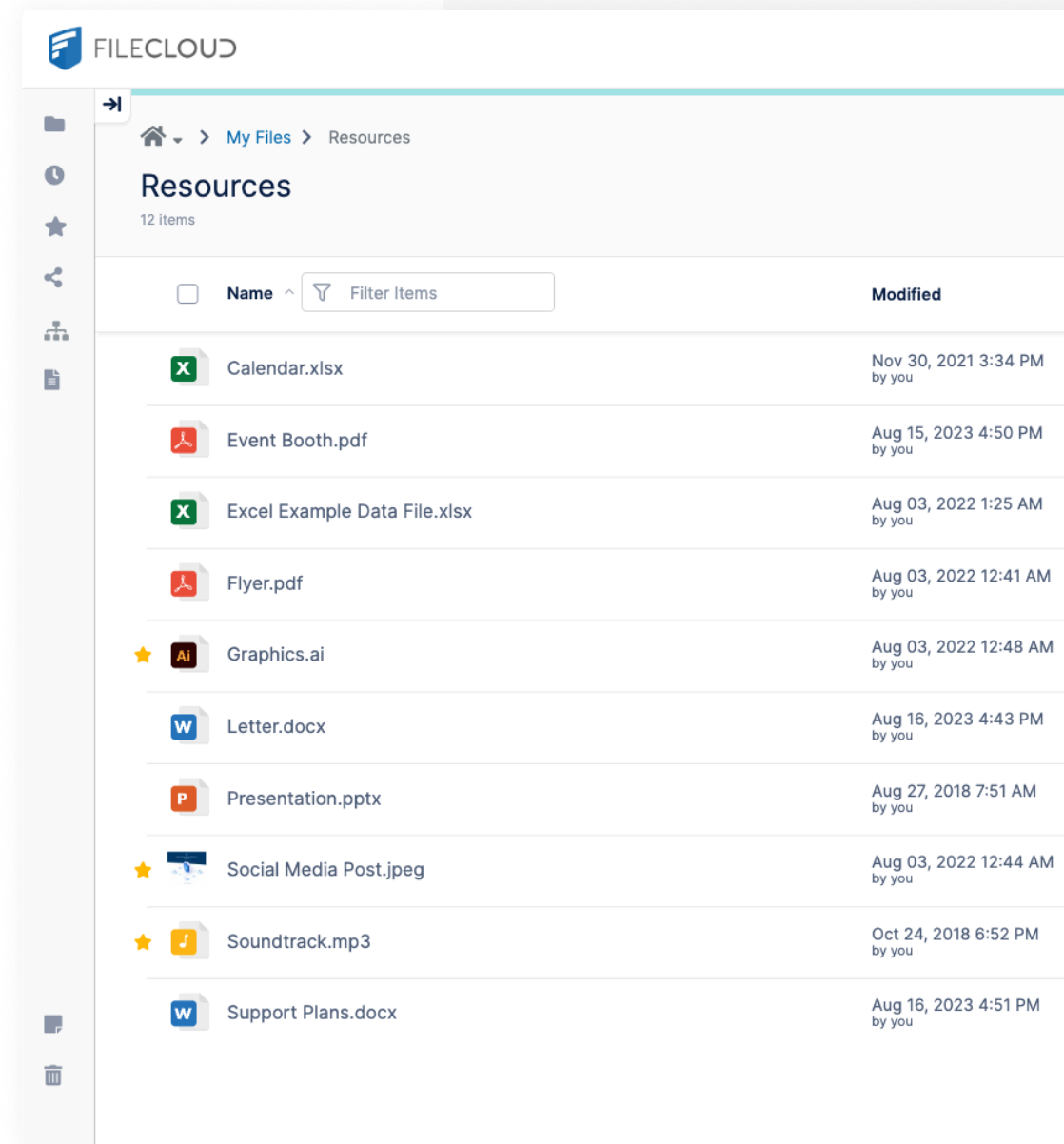
## Simple UX/UI

CalArts knew that their EFSS solution was not only going to be used by tech-savvy users – it would be deployed for everyone on their campus, including students, faculty, and staff. They needed a simple-to-use system that had recognizable UI which wouldn't cause innumerable tickets in the IT department.

FileCloud was able to provide the interface needed with familiar tools like drag-and-drop, no-code designs for functions like Workflow Automation and basic point-and-click storage and sharing. Additionally, the ability to use the platform in both browser, desktop, and mobile phone apps made FileCloud accessible for everyone.

## Collaboration Features

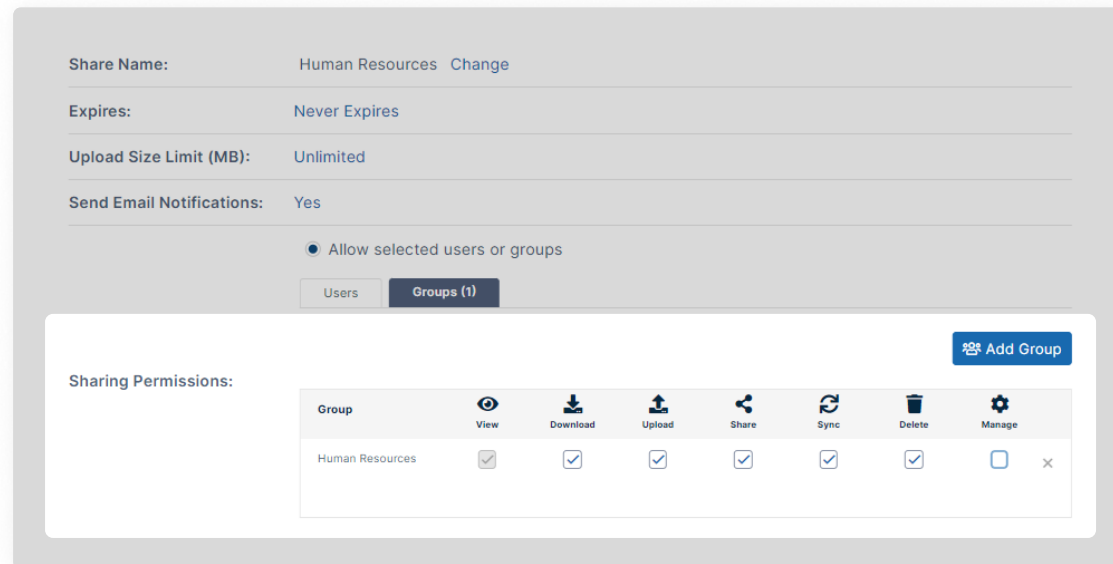
As a university, users at CalArts are constantly collaborating on projects. In addition to needing to store large files, they needed to be able to work together with other students and colleagues on projects. FileCloud is integrated with common tools, such as Windows 365, Google Docs, and MS Teams, thus making collaboration easy for its users.



## Granular Access Controls

With so many users, the IT department at CalArts needed a comprehensive, bird's-eye view over connected users and devices as well as existing share activities. Furthermore, this control needed to be granular in terms of files and folders shared, to facilitate a streamlined file sharing experience for users.

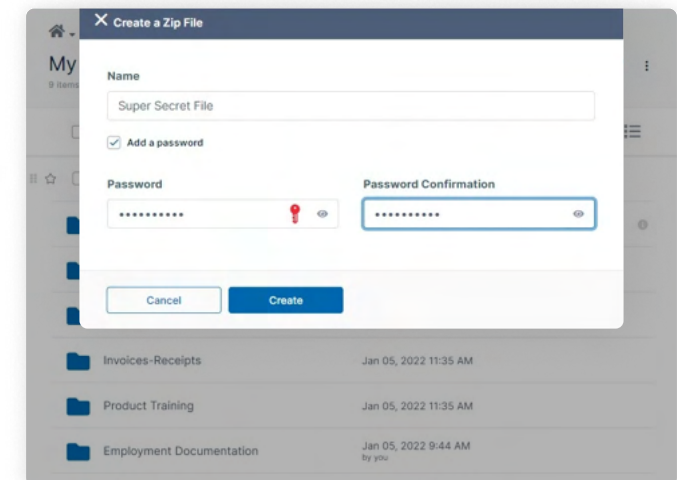
With FileCloud, granular access control is baked in. Admins can easily set and provide access to files and folders, and then enable even more in-depth permissions for group folders and sub-folders. This ensures that admins control what level of access a user or group has to specific files and locations within the platform, thus maintaining the security of folders and files while still providing easy collaboration.



## A Known Company

As a university and non-profit, CalArts doesn't have the time or money to continually switch from one solution to another. As such, they knew they needed an all-in-one solution that could meet all their requirements and wouldn't collapse overnight.

Once CalArts realized that FileCloud had not only been around for a decade but were constantly innovating and improving the solution (with new tools like Zero Trust File Sharing®), they knew it was a company they could trust and grow alongside.



# The Outcome: FileCloud Provides Unlimited Storage, Collaboration Tools, and Easy UX

## Implementation

CalArts didn't want to spend months or years on implementation and training users on FileCloud – their users needed a solution as soon as possible. Thankfully, the university was able to implement a high-availability version of the server product with three cloud servers and two load balancers, all within two months.

Once FileCloud was deployed, and after providing a couple of brief explanatory training videos, the school's IT team was pleasantly surprised to see only a few tickets coming in related to FileCloud's usage, a testament to the new system's easy-to-use UX and user-friendly features.



CalArts' Director of Infrastructure Operations even said, **"The feature set that we're currently using is ... solving just about every use case we can think of."**

## Impact

With FileCloud, the school was able to provide their students, faculty, and staff with an EFSS solution that would allow them to store, share, and collaborate on large files quickly and with ease.

FileCloud fit into the university's budget and was able to provide additional tools like ransomware and antivirus protection to ensure the security of stored and shared data.







## Conclusion

CalArts' students, faculty and staff are able to share and store large video and image files with confidence knowing that they won't be bumping up against storage requirements. With FileCloud, they're able to continue vital collaboration on assignments and projects both in-browser and desktop, and even on their phones.

Additionally, the school's IT department now has the tools they need to easily manage and secure their file sharing and storage environment, including granular access controls and 2FA, without relying on a VPN.

CalArts can grow and expand with confidence in their EFSS solution, knowing that FileCloud is a tried-and-true solution that is constantly providing new tools and innovative file sharing and storage solutions.



## Summary

CalArts was able to provide their students, faculty, and staff with the EFSS tool they needed by using FileCloud to meet their requirements such as:

- Large file sharing and storage
- Simple UX
- AD Integration
- Collaboration tools

FileCloud offers all these tools and more, ensuring that file sharing and storage can be simple and seamless from start to finish.



To read more about how FileCloud can secure your information and support collaboration, visit [www.filecloud.com/enterprise-file-sharing](http://www.filecloud.com/enterprise-file-sharing)

## Try FileCloud Now

FileCloud's simple UX, unlimited storage, and collaboration options make it the perfect solution for universities and other educational institutes that need to store, share, and collaborate on files from docs and spreadsheets to large audio and visual files.

[With a free demo available and world-class solutions engineers](#), FileCloud can solve your file sharing and storage problems easily and quickly.

Contact FileCloud now and take advantage of our free trial to see what FileCloud can do for you.

**REGISTER NOW**

FOR A FREE 15/30 DAY TRIAL,  
CANCEL ANYTIME

**GET A DEMO**

COMPLETELY FREE,  
NO STRINGS ATTACHED



## About Us

FileCloud is a hyper-secure file sharing, collaboration, and governance solution that provides industry-leading tools for compliance, data leak protection, data retention, and digital rights management. Workflow automation and granular control of content sharing are fully integrated into the complete feature stack.

The FileCloud platform offers powerful file sharing, sync, and mobile access capabilities on public, private, and hybrid clouds. Headquartered in Austin, Texas, FileCloud is deployed by top Global 1000 enterprises, educational institutions, government organizations, and managed service providers, with over one million users worldwide.



**1M+**  
USERS



**3000+**  
ENTERPRISES



**100+**  
RESELLERS



**90+**  
COUNTRIES



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