Using and Sharing Cloud Storage Data files with KBL

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Kegsoft's Business Language (KBL) is compatible with most popular cloud storage services which means you can access your cloud files as well as those shared with you by other account owners. This benefits business by utilising commercial-strength security, capacity and simplicity offered by cloud service providers for remarkably little cost. There are also options for sharing content (images, videos and other media file) within KBL applications that you use or create. With the fast file synchronisation offered by most services, difference in speed and efficiency between accessing cloud-based files and those located on your PC or local network are usually imperceptible.

By default, KBL Studios are configured with a self-contained environment on your PC to ensure data integrity, control and stability; however, users can leverage advantages from cloud storage services for tasks and applications that require co-operative working and / or large amounts of data. *Note that Kegsoft will soon be offering its own cloud-based storage resources and file sharing (KSpace) to KBL users.*

KBL Studio Express (KSE)

KSE, allows you to IMPORT (read) data from cloud storage folders (e.g. Dropbox or OneDrive) which are synchronised with the file explorer on your PC. The HOST.LOCATION command is used to set alternative folder locations and providing the files you want to read belong to your cloud service account OR you have shared access granted by another cloud account owner, you can access the files just as if they were on your PC's hard drive. Similarly, when you share your cloud folders or files with other users, they can read your data with KBL scripts as if located on their own PC.

KBL Studio Plus (KSP)

KSP, for users needing to develop more sophisticated, line-of-business applications, has extended cloud storage functionality enabling you to both read *and* write to cloud-based files (where authorised) as well as use cloud storage for content (image, video and other file media resources) included in your business applications.

Turn-key file storage options?

In practical terms, by using of-the-peg cloud services, Kegsoft can provide businesses and organisations with a simple set options to set-up and configure data storage and content delivery services to provide fast access to inexpensive mass storage (e.g. terabytes). Read / Write access can be granted at both folders and file level to associates who can access data and media files directly from their KBL scripts or KBL end-user applications. BUT cloud storage may not always be the most effective or appropriate solution so here are some pros and cons

Pros

- Security: Data is generally encrypted / decrypted as it is moved between your PC and the cloud storage provider

- KBL users can choose from a wide range of Cloud providers – who offer different service options including price, security, server location and performance speeds
- Fast access to inexpensive and plentiful data / file storage
- Can reduce or even remove the need for managing in-house server data storage or traditional server rental for data intensive applications
- Security: Cloud storage services have purpose built-in security and automatic 2-way notification for sharing and access permission events
- Accessibility: Some services enable users to access shared data even while off-line. Users choose which files/folders to synchronise with their PC which is done quickly and incrementally when online and changes are detected
- Cloud storage is accessible across multiple device types for many cloud services
- Cloud Providers provide very high levels of availability and also look after data back-ups (various plans for restores and rollbacks available to business users)
- Value added services for collaborative working
- Ideal for sharing large size static files (images, videos for streaming, read-only data files)
- Flexibility: can choose between Local, Local network, Cloud and Hybrid file storage solutions

Cons

- Importing: You need to be online to pick up the latest data/file changes made by other users
- Exporting: You need to be online for your file updates to be made available to other users
- Asynchronous updates: Large file transfers (and poor connectivity) can take more time to update. The time lag may not always be acceptable if the files are highly active
- Not a substitute for real-time / multi-user applications with high transaction turnover rate, as full a record-locking database will be more appropriate (see Kegsoft KDB shared database options)
- Requires careful consideration, for highly confidential information you may wish to consider in-house private cloud storage– always check cloud providers security and privacy options
- Where's your data held? Check the location of the cloud provider storage servers if there territorial / legal / data protection issues are an issue
- Care with configuration: The default file configuration is tailored to general use and while it is possible to configure for different storage locations, great care must be exercised not to inadvertently lose or misdirect valuable data.