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Choose your sign-in method

Compare the ways your people can sign in to Clouddraw and pick the one that fits your organization.

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How sign-in works in Clouddraw

Your people use **Clouddraw Connect**, the desktop app, to reach the apps, file shares and networks you publish. The first time, they type your **workspace name** into Clouddraw Connect, and a browser window opens where they sign in. Clouddraw then registers that computer to that person.

The sign-in method decides *where* the password is checked:

- **Active Directory:** against your own domain controller, reached privately through the Clouddraw connector.
- **Clouddraw accounts:** by Clouddraw. You invite people and they choose their own password.
- **Microsoft Entra ID, Google Workspace, Okta or another OpenID Connect provider:** at your provider. Clouddraw never sees the password.

Your workspace uses one sign-in method at a time. You can change it later, but read [Changing method later](#) first.

TIP

Find your workspace name in the Clouddraw admin console under **Settings** → **Identity & SSO**, in the **Workspace sign-in** card. Your people type it in Clouddraw Connect.

Quick decision

We run Windows Server domain controllers in the office and everyone has a domain account.

[Active Directory](#) →

We use Microsoft 365, so people already have a work account at Microsoft.

[Microsoft Entra ID](#) →

We use Google Workspace (Gmail for business).

[Google Workspace](#) →

We use Okta, JumpCloud, Keycloak, Ping or another identity provider.

[Okta / OpenID Connect →](#)

We have no directory. Workgroup PCs, a small office, or a few contractors.

[Cloudraw accounts →](#)

Comparison

	Active Directory	Cloudraw accounts	Microsoft Entra ID	Google Workspace	Okta / OpenID Connect
Where the password is checked	Your domain controller, through the Cloudraw connector	Cloudraw	Microsoft	Google	Your provider
Second sign-in step	Cloudraw e-mail code, sent to the user's AD e-mail address	Cloudraw e-mail code	Your Entra MFA and Conditional Access	Google 2-Step Verification	Your provider's MFA (for example Okta Verify)
How people are added	Members of the AD group you choose	You add and invite them	Created when they first sign in, or provisioned by SCIM	Created when they first sign in	Created when they first sign in, or provisioned by SCIM
Groups for access rules	From Active Directory	Cloudraw groups you create	From Entra via SCIM, or Cloudraw groups	Cloudraw groups you create	From your provider via SCIM, or Cloudraw groups
Needs a Cloudraw connector	Yes, one that can reach a domain controller	No (only for the resources you publish)	No	No	No
Works on domain-joined computers	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

	Active Directory	Clouddraw accounts	Microsoft Entra ID	Google Workspace	Okta / OpenID Connect
Works on workgroup computers	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Setup time	About 20 minutes	About 5 minutes	About 20 minutes	About 15 minutes	About 15 minutes
Guide	Guide 2	Guide 3	Guide 4	Guide 5	Guide 6

NOTE

SAML and SMS codes are not supported. Providers connect over OpenID Connect.

The options in more detail

Active Directory (on-premises)

People sign in with the username and password they already use for Windows. Clouddraw talks to your domain controller only through the Clouddraw connector inside your network, so you do not open any port to the internet. After the AD password, Clouddraw e-mails a one-time code to the address stored in the user's AD account. You choose an AD group, and only its members can sign in.

The computer does not have to be joined to the domain. A home laptop or a workgroup PC can sign in with a domain account.

Clouddraw accounts (no directory)

The simplest option. Add people in the admin console and click **Invite**. Each person gets an e-mail, sets a password and installs Clouddraw Connect. Every sign-in asks for a one-time code sent by e-mail. You organize people with Clouddraw groups.

Microsoft Entra ID, Google Workspace, Okta and other OpenID Connect providers

People sign in at your identity provider, with the account, password policy and MFA you already manage there. The first time someone signs in, Clouddraw creates them in your workspace automatically. When you disable someone at your provider, they cannot sign in to Clouddraw again.

You can also turn on **Only allow sign-in through the provider**. This sends people straight to your provider's sign-in page and turns off Clouddraw passwords in that workspace.

Add-on: SCIM provisioning

SCIM lets your identity provider create, update and remove people and groups in Clouddraw by itself. Clouddraw groups that come from SCIM can be used in access rules right away. When the provider deactivates a person, Clouddraw suspends them. SCIM works with Microsoft Entra ID, Okta and other providers that support SCIM 2.0. Google Workspace has no SCIM option for Clouddraw, so use Clouddraw groups there.

SCIM manages *who exists* and *which groups they are in*. It does not sign anyone in, so you still connect a sign-in provider.

After you choose

- 1 Set up sign-in**
Follow the guide for your method. In the onboarding wizard this is step 3, *Sign-in for your users*.
- 2 Decide on two-factor authentication**
See [Two-factor authentication](#).
- 3 Get people onto Clouddraw Connect**
Send them [Install Clouddraw Connect and enroll your computer](#) together with your workspace name.

Changing method later

You can change the sign-in method. Keep these points in mind:

- **Replacing or removing an identity provider** disconnects everyone who signed in through it. Clouddraw does not link accounts by e-mail address automatically, because that would let anyone who controls a provider take over an existing account. Clouddraw tells you how many users are affected and asks you to confirm before it makes the change.
- **Invitations** (Clouddraw accounts) are not available while an identity provider is connected. People in those workspaces sign in with their provider account instead.
- Computers that are already enrolled stay enrolled. Access still follows your device trust and access rules.

IMPORTANT

Plan a provider change for a quiet time and tell your people beforehand. If you are unsure, e-mail support@clouddraw.com and we will help you plan it.