Deploying SwiftStack Object Storage for Storage Made Easy

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Introduction

Working together, SwiftStack and Storage Made Easy offer a solution for enterprise file sync-and-share in a private cloud. Storage Made Easy provides the “front end”—software to run on Mac, Windows, Linux, and most mobile devices complete with features like encryption, search, geo-location access control, cloud migration, and more, while SwiftStack provides the “back end”—a massively scalable, incredibly simple-to-manage, and cost-effective object storage platform.

SwiftStack’s software-only object storage is built on widely adopted and proven OpenStack Swift and runs on any industry-standard hardware, which lowers TCO by allowing IT management to mix and match hardware and quickly add capacity as needed instead of over-provisioning in advance. Performance and capacity can scale independently, and automatic geographic distribution of data ensures high availability in the face of disasters or more common hardware and network failures as well as the performance benefits of local data access for clients around the world.

Integrating SwiftStack with Storage Made Easy is simple as well: The management software for both technologies can be deployed using a hosted software-as-a-service platform or by deploying an on-premise version. When both are deployed, you need only point to SwiftStack as a new “storage provider” in the Storage Made Easy interface, provide a few basic credentials or point to your already existing authentication platform, and begin leveraging SwiftStack storage for your file sync-and-share solution.
In this configuration guide, we will discuss the basic steps required to integrate SwiftStack with Storage Made Easy.

**Preparation**

For the purposes of this document, SwiftStack and Storage Made Easy were both deployed and functioning independently in the SwiftStack labs using on-premise controller installations, but the steps would be essentially the same if the as-a-service controllers were used instead (i.e., the SwiftStack Management Service at platform.swiftstack.com and the hosted Storage Made Easy manager service at storagemadeeasy.com).

**Basic Integration Steps**

1. Starting in the Storage Made Easy software appliance user interface on the “Home” screen, choose to “Add a Cloud Provider.”

![Image of Storage Made Easy interface](image)

2. Select the “OpenStack” provider.

   *(Note, in mid-2015, a SwiftStack-specific provider will be included, but the OpenStack provider is currently equivalent, as SwiftStack’s object storage is exactly the same as OpenStack Swift—plus, of course, a large number of simplified and expanded management, integration, monitoring, and support functionality in the controller software.)*
3. Provide the following information:
   a. Name for the storage provider (e.g., “SwiftStack”)
   b. OpenStack endpoint host (e.g., “https://o.swiftstack.lan/auth/v1.0”)
      (Note: In the SwiftStack user interface, this is found easily on the cluster’s “Monitor” page.)
   c. OpenStack login name (i.e., a valid SwiftStack cluster user, e.g., “sme”)
   d. OpenStack password (i.e., password for SwiftStack user)
4. Select or create a container to be used by Storage Made Easy.

![SME Web Client](image1)

5. You should see verification that your configuration and authentication details worked correctly, and Storage Made Easy will begin to synchronize information about the files in the specified container.

![SME Web Client](image2)

6. The “File Manager” screen should now display the new container(s) in the “SwiftStack” cloud provider.
7. From the SwiftStack web console, when you refresh the screen, you should also see the new container that Storage Made Easy created (unless you selected an already-existing container).

8. To test uploading a file, drag and drop a file into the new container in the Storage Made Easy interface.
9. If successful, you should be able to refresh the SwiftStack web console and see the same file there.

Example: Configuring a “Cloud Drive” Client

Storage Made Easy provides a number of “cloud drive” clients—for Mac, Windows, Linux, and many mobile platforms as well. The following steps provide an example of configuring the Mac cloud drive client for connection to the Storage Made Easy and SwiftStack implementation described above.
1. Download and install the Storage Made Easy application for Mac (available from Storage Made Easy).

2. When installed, open System Preferences, and select SME to configure its settings. Provide the Storage Made Easy user, password, and API endpoint (either storagemadeeasy.com/api or your on-premise SME host).

3. Note the default provider; configure this in the Cloud Provider management screen in the Storage Made Easy browser interface (click “Manage” to navigate to that page).
4. There are many settings to explore, but one simple suggestion is to enable the automatic synchronization option.

![SME System Preferences](image1.png)

5. Click “Manage,” and add a mapping from a SwiftStack container to a local folder on the Mac.

![Add Mapping](image2.png)

*Note: Before closing the SME system preferences, if you have not configured SSL in your on-premise SME installation, be sure to disable the cloud drive client from using it (in the “Advanced” settings tab). Most deployments will use HTTPS, but if you are doing a proof-of-concept in a lab environment without SSL configured, the client will fail to connect unless “Run*
over HTTPS” is disabled.

6. When you close the System Preferences, note that SME automatically begins synchronizing your local folder with the SwiftStack container; you can observe that in a Finder window and/or by noting the SME notifications on your screen. At this point, you can add and modify files in the local folder, and SME will keep that folder synchronized with the SwiftStack object storage container.

Summary

This paper has documented the basic steps of integrating Storage Made Easy with SwiftStack object storage. Additional details can be found in each product’s respective documentation or by contacting SwiftStack or Storage Made Easy directly.

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