



Seafile Project: Status and Outlook

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Seafile is a cloud storage software
focus on reliability and performance

Seafile provides file **Sync and Share**
functionality, as well as **Virtual Drive**
access



Seafile history

- Seafile was started back in **2009** to build a P2P sharing platform when we were students in Tsinghua University in Beijing
- In 2012 we started the company Seafile Ltd and made a first release in November **2012**.
- In October 2013, Wuppertal institution in Germany became our first education customer in Europe. The important feature for them is **end-to-end file encryption**.



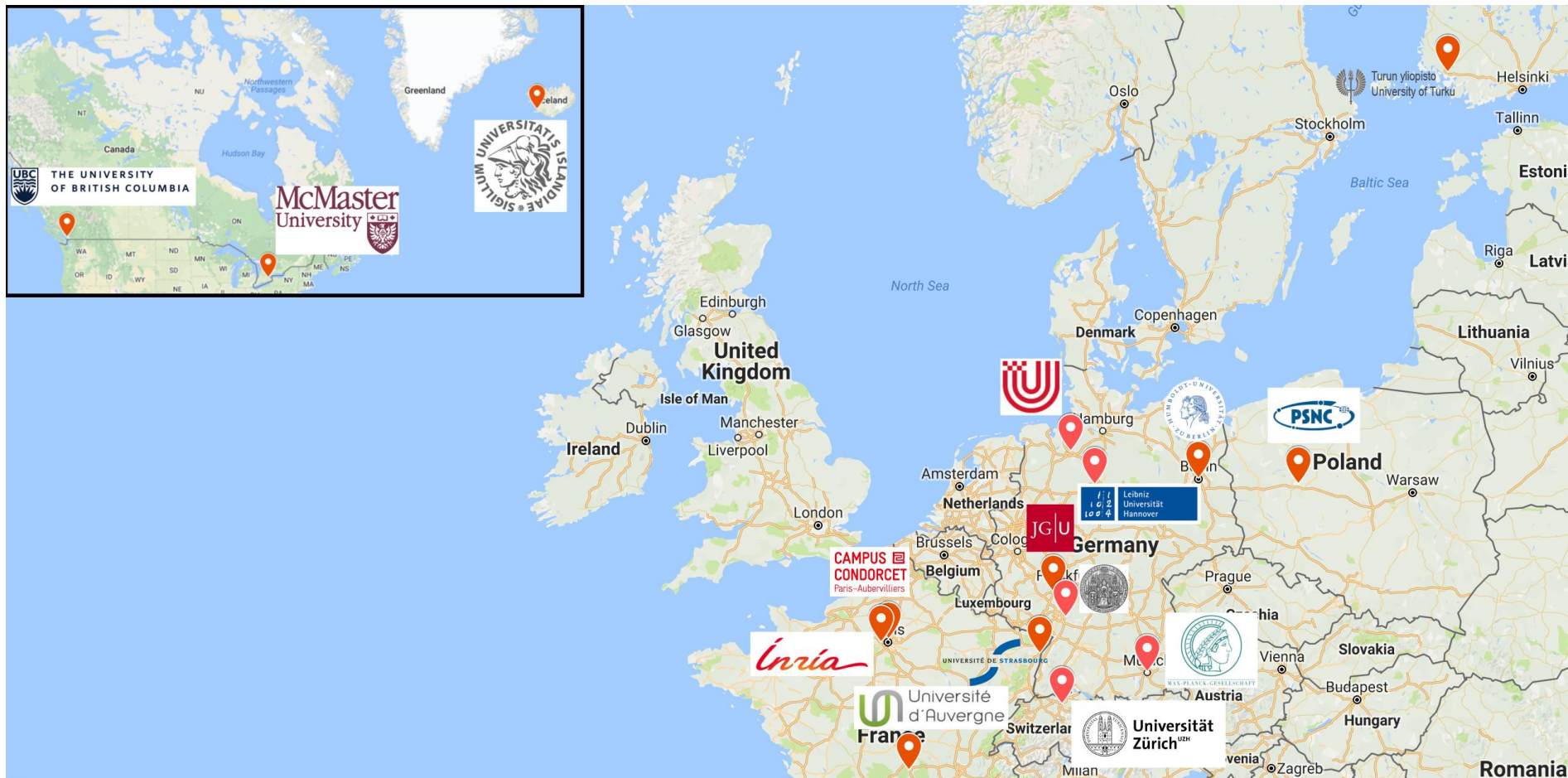
Seafile history

- In 2014, Mainz University began using Seafile. And we began work together closely to provide features important to educational institutions.
- Near 20 educational customers in Europe and North American



Seafire Educations Community

- Near 20 educational customers



Seafile Features

- Seafile has a comprehensive feature set that are common in cloud storage software
 - Desktop syncing clients
 - Mobile clients
 - User and Group sharing and permission control
 - Online co-editing
 - File versioning
 - File locking
 - File share links with password protection
 - Anti-virus



Seafile Features for education institutions

- Shibboleth authentication
- Role based feature control
 - Guest
 - Staff
 - Students
- Guest invitation
- Multi-institution administration
- Client side encryption
- Drive client for working on workstations



Multi-institution administration

- For use cases such as multi universities using the same Seafile instance
- Get user's institution from Shibboleth attribute
- Each institution can have its own admins
- Institution admins can manage users and files for their institution



Client side encryption

- Files put in encrypted libraries are encrypted before uploading to the server, even system admin can't read the file content
- Suitable for public cloud storage or semi-public cloud storage such as cloud storage in universities



Seafile Drive client

- No need to sync files before access
- After logout, local cached files are deleted immediately
- Suitable to be used in workstations



Seafile Project Current Status

- Both the server program and the syncing client are stable and mature
- We release a new major version for the server every year
- The old version will be maintained for 6 months to give users enough time to upgrade
- Compatibility with old version will be maintained as far as possible
- Upgrade to a new version can be done with a simple script

Seafile Future Development Outlook

- Year 2017: Improve the stability of drive client and release drive client for Linux and Mac
 - Currently it works stable on Win 10 in local network with high bandwidth
 - Robustness in error handling is still needed
 - Expected to have a Linux version in the first half year of 2017

Seafile Development Plan Outlook

- Cache server
 - Like Content Deliver Network (CDN)
 - For geo-distributed institutions
 - Files will be cached to local server and authentication will be performed at the local server before accessing.
 - Transparent to end users

Seafile Development Plan Outlook

- Server side: Add features according to feedbacks from customers while keep it lightweight and easy to maintain
 - No big database is needed as now.
 - No database turning is needed as now.
 - People can start with one server to support a few thousands of users.

Thank you!

