

Introduction



Cloud computing [1] refers to the provision of computational resources on demand via a computer network. The Dropbox [2] is a virtual disk that uses cloud computing to enable users to store and share files and folders with others across the internet using file synchronization. Once your files are correctly uploaded to the Dropbox server, the files are going to be available from any place, with internet access.

One of the main benefits of the Dropbox, besides the fact that it is easy to use, is its compatibility with different uses. It is available using a simple web browser or through applications for Windows, Linux, Mac OS, Android, iPhone and Blackberry.

It is ready to use in English, French, German, Spanish and Japanese language, and it is available in different sizes. The free Dropbox account comes with 2GB that you can use for as long as you like, but by referring the Dropbox to other people you can win 250MB for each affiliate, to a maximum of 1GB. If you need more space you can opt for the Pro 50 plan with 50GB which costs \$9.99/month or the Pro 100 plan with 100GB for \$19.99/month.

Comparison between services

	Dropbox	SugarSync	ZumoDrive
Free Plan	2GB (but you can win 1GB by referring it to your friends)	5GB	2GB
Paid Plans	50GB - \$9.99/month 100GB - \$19.99/month	30GB - \$4.99/month 60GB - \$9.99/month 100GB - \$14.99/month 250GB - \$24.99 / month	10GB - \$2.99/month 25GB - \$6.99/month 50GB - \$9.99/month 100GB - \$19.99/month 200GB - \$37.99/month 500GB - \$79.99/month
Language(s)	English, Japanese, German, French and Spanish	English, Japanese, German, Spanish and Chinese	English, Japanese, French, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Korean and Chinese
Public Internet file hosting	Yes	Yes	Yes
Maximum per-file size	300 MB on the web interface; none for the desktop app	-	No Limit
Server location(s)	USA	-	USA
Supports	Windows, Linux, Mac OS, iPhone, Android and Blackberry	Windows, Mac OS, iPhone, iPad, Android, Blackberry, Windows Mobile and Symbian	Windows, Linux, Mac OS, iPhone, Android, Palm Pre
Website	http://www.dropbox.com	http://www.sugarsync.com	http://www.zumodrive.com

Table 1. Comparison between Dropbox, SugarSync and ZumoDrive [4]

Methods



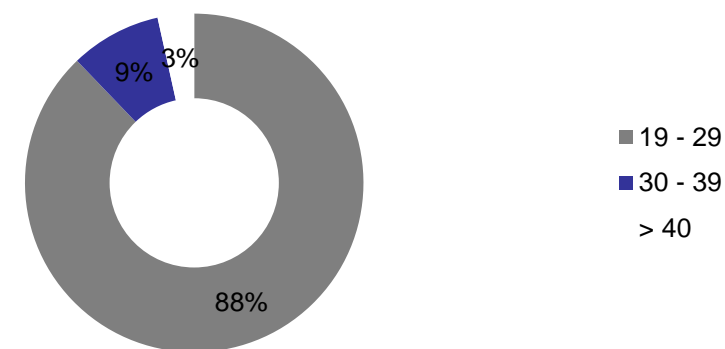
Fig. 1 – Method used to motivate users to answer Dropbox questionnaire

The online questionnaire was easy to answer and had the participation of xxx users in total, from around the World. The questions included in the questionnaire were:

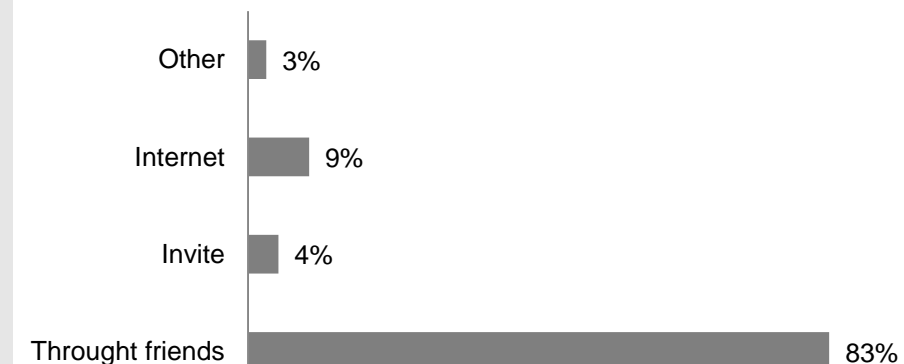
- How old are you?
- How have you found Dropbox?
- Why do you use Dropbox (choose one or more options)
- Type of use
- Are you happy with Dropbox?
- Rate the application in the following characteristics
 - Usability
 - Invisibility (your awareness that the application is running)
 - Portability
 - Available space

Results

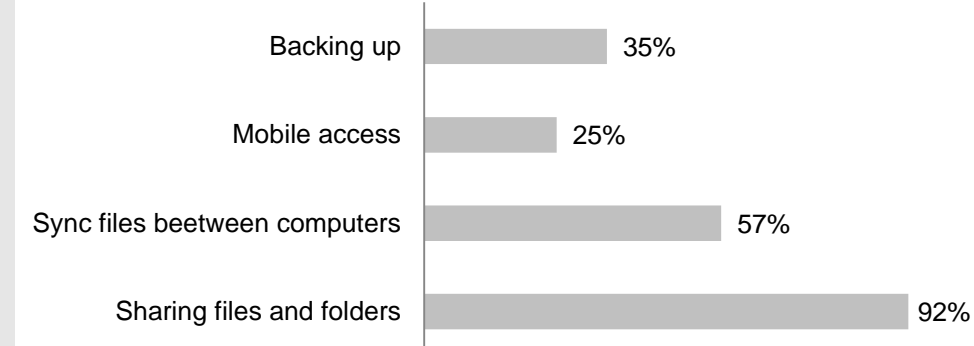
Age



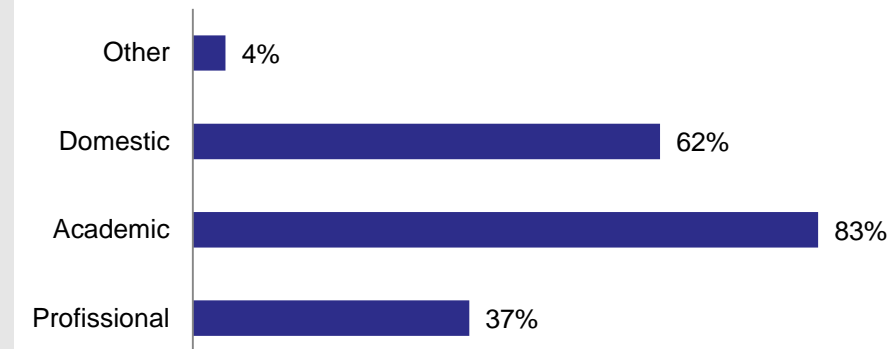
How have you found about Dropbox?



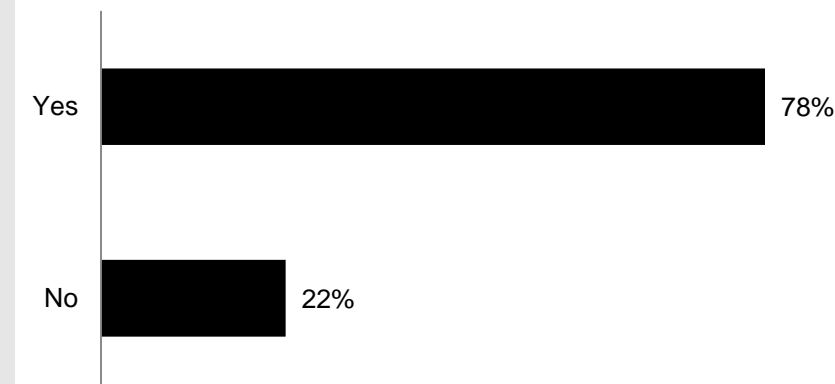
Why do you use Dropbox?



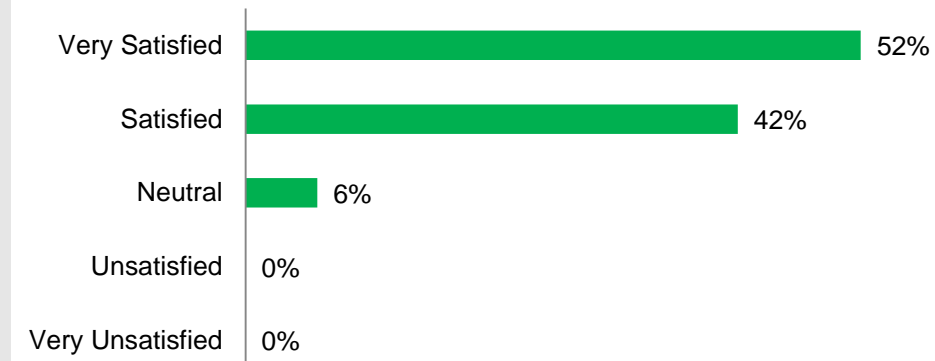
Type of use



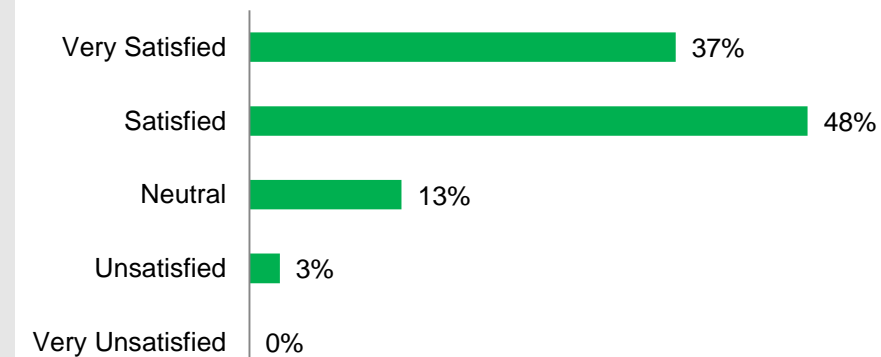
Are you happy with Dropbox?



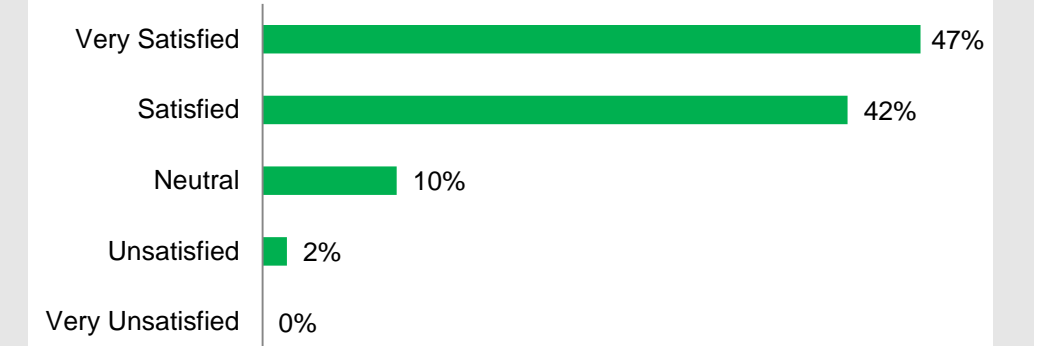
Usability



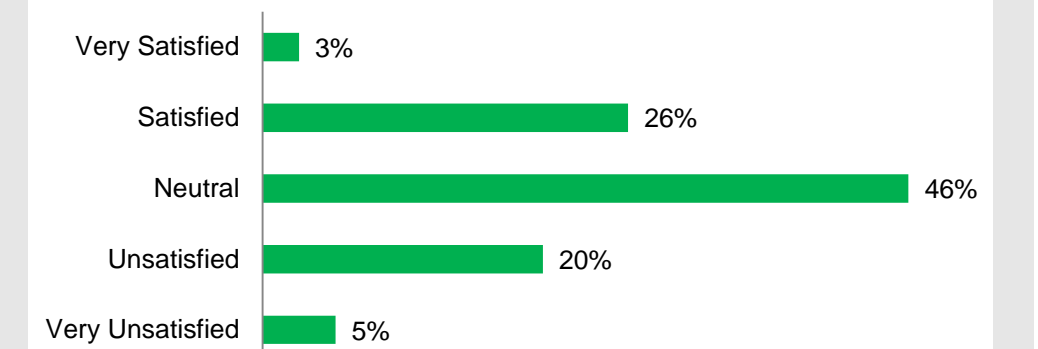
Invisibility



Portability



Available space



Conclusion

From the data retrieved from the questionnaire, we conclude that Dropbox is very popular between young people, mainly students and workers, who see the application as an easy and safe tool to share and have the files safe and available in several locations. We also can get to the conclusion that most of the users are happy with the features already provided with Dropbox, sharing the same opinion in terms of usability, portability and invisibility (some of the characteristics of a ubiquitous system). The overall disappointment is on the space provided for the free account, which could be bigger as Dropbox's competitors.

This application takes the best of cloud computing to provide an easy, fast and safe tool to share and backup our academic, professional and domestic life. We conclude that Dropbox is a ubiquitous system and its use is recommended to everyone.

References

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