OpenArchive's Guide to...

PRESERVING TRUTH TO POWER

Learn how to ethically and safely store sensitive mobile media

If you are documenting injustice on your phone, this guide is for you!

Learn how to safely archive your sensitive mobile evidence to advance justice and accountability.

In this guide, we will share best practices to help protect you and your media.

WHO

we serve

- Citizen reporters, eyewitnesses, activists, documentarians

- Human rights, legal, academic, and journalistic organizations

- Archivists, librarians, GLAM, and historians

WHAT

mobile media you want to securely preserve

If you are among those listed above, you most likely need to verify, securely send/receive, and preserve documentation of:

- Social movements & protests

- Human rights abuses

- Everyday happenings

Ph: Logan Weaver

WHEN

to use *Save*

- After the action/event, when you've already recorded it

- After you've connected to your chosen server (i.e. Internet Archive, Nextcloud, etc.)

- After you've enabled Tor in the settings

- After you've reached a safe place (with safe internet access)

NOT to use *Save*

- During the action

- While using public Wi-Fi or on any other unsecured network

- If you're in imminent danger

When you're at an action, disable GPS and enable airplane mode on your phone to prevent surveillance and location tracking.

WHERE
your media goes

Save enables you to choose where to store your media and how you want to share it.

The app connects to three different types of servers so you can pick which works best for you: a private, WebDAV, open-source, secure server like Nextcloud; a private, closed-source server like Google Drive; or a public server like the Internet Archive.

	BENEFITS ✓	DRAWBACKS ✗
Private WebDAV/ Nextcloud server	✓ You're in control of your data ✓ No third-party has access to your information ✓ Open source (Nextcloud) ✓ Uploads media in pieces in case of poor internet connection (Nextcloud) ✓ If local server, no need to rely on an internet connection to access uploaded data ✓ Control the amount of storage space ✓ You control who can access, collaborate, and contribute to it	✗ Takes time and resources to set up local / physical server ✗ Requires backup ✗ Can influence the performance of your computer if you install it as a local server ✗ Private server space is not free
Google Drive	✓ Minimum data loss risks ✓ Lan synchronization ✓ Commonly used	✗ Google is closed-source ✗ Prevents access to shared folders ✗ Surveillance - Google uses GDrive content to train AI ✗ Free storage is limited to 2 GB
Internet Archive	✓ Allows creation of community collections ✓ Operated by a nonprofit ✓ Preserves your data by making it interoperable and accessible in the future	✗ Any media that you send to the Internet Archive will be publicly available* online, which may not be appropriate for sensitive media sources *they do offer private storage, for a fee

WHY

archiving evidence securely is important

People armed with smartphones are history's first responders, amassing rich, contextualized, and crucial historical records that often contain evidence of injustice.

With new technologies come new risks to both the media and those making it.

While mobile media is increasingly ubiquitous and valuable, it's also more fragile and ephemeral, particularly because it's digital.

Ph: Koshu Kunii

Depending on how and where it's shared, the media can put the creator at risk, especially if it contains evidence of abuse.

Our top priority is to protect eyewitnesses and media evidence from surveillance, doxxing, incrimination, and the following threats:

- Data loss, takedowns, interception, network filtering, shutdowns, blocking

- Media manipulation (deepfakes), censorship, content moderation

- Targeting witnesses for posting or those captured by the media

Social Media is NOT an Archive

- They aren't committed to security or privacy, putting sources at greater risk of exposure.

- It is subject to state and corporate censorship, content moderation, and takedowns.

- There is no commitment to verify, authenticate, and preserve posts.

- The platforms often strip or change the original metadata.

## Social Media does not protect, verify, or preserve your media.

Ph: john vicente

HOW

Save can help you safely preserve your mobile media

Secure, **A**rchive, **V**erify, and **E**ncrypt your crucial photo, video and audio files with the *Save* app, developed by OpenArchive with and for eyewitnesses and human rights defenders. It's a free, open-source mobile archiving application available for iOS and Android.

SECURE

Ensure no one can access the app, even if your phone is unlocked, by selecting "lock app with passcode" in the settings. (keep an eye out for more security settings soon!)
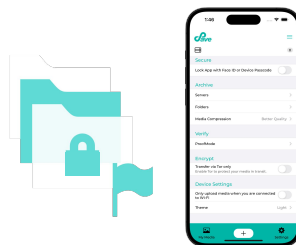
ARCHIVE

Keep your media safe and organized for the long-term by saving it on a secure private server (Nextcloud/DB), accessible, but not secure, server (GDrive), or a public server (IA) committed to interoperability and long-term media preservation.

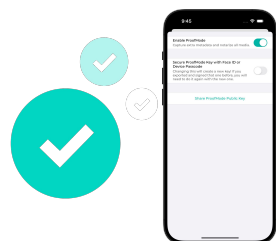Control access to & create in-app project folders that map to your personal or organizational archive.

Easily add Creative Commons licenses, allowing others to reuse or remix media as you intend.
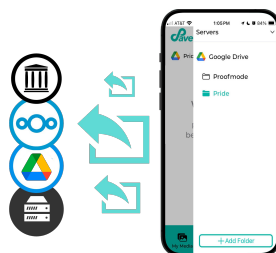
VERIFY

Authenticate and verify your media with sha256 hashes and optional ProofMode.

Add metadata like notes and location to individual or batch uploads.

ENCRYPT

Protect your media in-transit: *Save* automatically uploads over TLS (Transport Layer Security).

To enhance security, enable Tor in settings to further prevent media interception.

HOW

to install *Save* and connect to servers to safely preserve your mobile media

Step 1 Download *Save* on your phone

 iOS

 Android

After installation, select 'open'.

Step 2 Swipe through welcome screens

Step 3 Add server(s)

 Private (Nextcloud (WebDAV)

 Public (Internet Archive)

 Google Drive

Step 4 The full *Save* tutorial

 Learn more about how to use *Save*

Ph: Remy Gieling

JOIN US

to preserve truth to power!

In collaboration with human rights defenders and NGOs, OpenArchive co-develops responsive, secure, verifiable, and ethical archiving tools and resources to advance justice and accountability.

Always free, always open source!

Contact or follow us:

✉ info@open-archive.org

🔗 open-archive.org

🐦 @open_archive

📷 @open__archive