

Mapping out a Fully Fledged File Handling Infrastructure

Are you launching an app with lots of user-submitted or product content?

Here's a high-level overview of a fully fledged infrastructure for receiving, processing, and delivering files.

Engineering time

Up to 2-3 years to build the whole infrastructure from scratch.

Maintenance

Up to 50 hours of engineering time per year.

Possible metrics

- Time to market
- Resilience, uptime and downtime
- New bugs over time
- Engineering and operational costs
- Net Promoter Score
- Number of support tickets
- Web performance metrics

Uploads



File types

- Audio files
- Video files
- Image files
- Documents
- GIFs
- ZIPs
- Any others
- Crazy large files

UX

- 3rd party sources like Dropbox or Instagram
- Dev experience
- User experience
- Image compression
- Cross-browser UX
- Cross-platform UX
- Lazy uploads/proxy
- I18n and L10n

Performance and security:

- Encryption
- Upload acceleration
- Resumable uploads
- Error handling
- Multiupload
- Multiupload
- Multipart uploads
- Malware protection
- Network issue handling
- Timeout handling
- Monitoring
- Large files
- Custom validation
- File shrinking upon upload
- Upload signing

Storage



Performance:

- Scalability
- Compliance
- Encryption
- Performance
- Dev experience
- Backup
- Management
- Search
- Durability
- Monitoring
- Metadata handling
- Availability
- Automation

Security:

- HIPAA etc. compliance
- Signed URLs

Processing



Performance and security:

- Virus checking
- Malware checking
- Explicit content checking
- Async processing
- DDOS

Content insights:

- Color recognition
- Face and object recognition
- Identity check
- OCR
- Object tagging
- Trend analytics
- Spike prediction
- Categorization
- Duplication checks
- Similarity checks
- Advanced external APIs
- Smart cropping

Content optimization:

- Image compression
- Video encoding
- GIF to video
- Monitoring
- AI-based compression
- Conversion to next-gen formats

Content processing:

- Image enhancement
- Video enhancement
- Doc conversion
- Upscaling
- Cropping
- Watermarks/Overlays
- Thumbnails
- RGB ↔ CMYK
- Filters
- Text extraction

Delivery



Performance:

- Efficiency
- Global presence
- Monitoring
- Resilience
- Cost effectiveness
- Precision
- Auto format switch (e.g. WebP, GIF to video)
- Auto size detection
- Network detection

Security:

- Access control
- Encryption
- Security
- Attack protection
- Audit
- HIPAA etc. compliance