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This page shows how to backup data from a local machine to Cloud Storage using Cloud Tools for PowerShell. Unlike most resources, Cloud Tools for PowerShell provides two ways to access Cloud Storage resources, the cmdlets and a PowerShell provider.

The provider allows you to access Storage buckets and objects like a file system, using the file system commands you are already familiar with. The provider has some limitations, however. Not all legal object names convert to legal provider paths. You can't use the provider to manage ACLs. For these advanced cases, you can use the cmdlets. See the [Cloud Tools for PowerShell cmdlet reference](http://googlecloudplatform.github.io/google-cloud-powershell/) (<http://googlecloudplatform.github.io/google-cloud-powershell/>) to learn more about Cloud Storage cmdlets.

Data in Cloud Storage is organized into buckets. Create a new bucket as follows:

You can upload a single file or an entire directory to your bucket:

You can search data with cmdlets, or with the provider through the common file search cmdlets.

To read data through the provider, use the standard `Get-Content` cmdlet. Alternatively, use the `Read-GcsObject` cmdlet.

To delete data through the provider, use the standard `Remove-Item` cmdlet. Alternatively, use the `Remove-GcsObject` cmdlet.