

Getting started with S3 storage on RackCorp Hybrid Cloud - Windows & Mac

This document will cover the basics to get up and running to use RackCorp's S3 storage service, including setting up access keys and secrets, creating buckets and transferring/manipulating your files via a number of third party client applications on Windows.

There are several ways to host your files on RackCorp S3. This document focuses on Windows Clients but most applications are also available for Mac and Linux.

- FTP style application (browser)
- Mounted Drive Letter application (drive)
- API access for modern web applications.

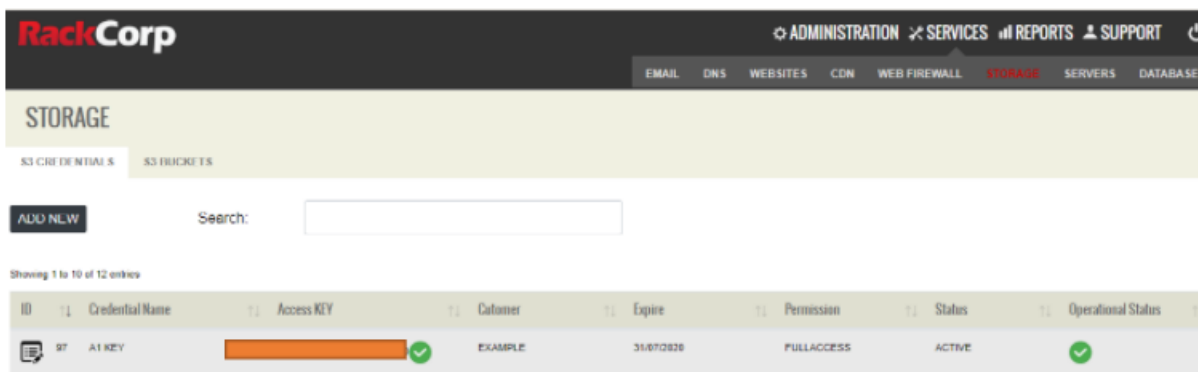
You are free to use a S3 compliant application of your choosing, although the following applications are validated with our service and for which we can provide limited support and assistance.

Windows	MAC	LINUX
FileZilla Pro Payware	FileZilla Pro Payware	FileZilla Pro Payware
Cyberduck (Browser) Free	Cyberduck (Browser) Free	rclone
Mountain Duck (Drive) Trial	Mountain Duck (Drive) Trial	
CloudBerry MSP360 Explorer Free	Cloudberry MSP360 Explorer Free	
rclone	rclone	
TNT Drive Trial	Mountain Duck	
Expan Drive	Expan Drive	
S3Browser Freeware		
WinSCP		

- S3 compatible object storage contains one or more storage buckets; each bucket contains a number of widgets.
- Each widget has a unique ID.
- Each widget has some meta data describing attributes of the object such as dates or revisions
- Inside each widget is some data we want to access.
- We are able to sort through the widgets that are in these buckets until we find the one we are looking for.

1. Create your S3 credentials in RackCorp Portal.

The Storage tab in RackCorp Portal manages your CREDENTIALS and BUCKETS



1.1 Start by adding a new credential. Give your new key a descriptive name, e.g. Employee name, Client or contractor name. Try to keep this distinct compared to what you name your buckets later.

The screenshot shows a modal window titled 'NEW S3 CREDENTIALS'. It contains a yellow warning box that says: 'Import: Please, take a note of the password generated and save in a safe place. This information will not be available anywhere else.' Below the warning box are four input fields: 'S3 Key Name' with the value 'A1 KEY', 'Customer' with a dropdown menu showing 'EXAMPLE (ID #6601)', 'Expire Date' with the value '31/12/2020', and 'Permission' with a dropdown menu showing 'FULL ACCESS'. At the bottom right of the form are two buttons: 'Submit' and 'Close'.


Think of your access key as your username
Think of your 'secret' key as your password.

1.2 Choose the customer in the dropdown field. This would be either your company/client name or a sub-customer/sub-client. You would have originally setup any sub-customers in the RackCorp portal under the Customers section.

1.3 Define an optional expiry date for the key. If you are going to be issuing an amount of keys this is a good way to track of authorised access.

1.4 Define the Read/Write Permission for the credential. This is ideal if you would like to create a credential for someone that you would like to share files with, or to freeze files.

Once you have created or updated your key, a summary result is displayed. A progress spinner is displayed while your keys are generated and a green tick means they are ready to view.



[ADMINISTRATION](#)
[SERVICES](#)
[REPORTS](#)
[SUPPORT](#)

[HTTP PERFORMANCE](#)
[SECURITY LOGS](#)
[BILLING DATA](#)
[DASHBOARD](#)
[VMHOST STATUS](#)

STORAGE

[S3 CREDENTIALS](#)
[S3 BUCKETS](#)

ADD NEW

Search:

YOUR ACCESS KEY AND SECRET IS BEING CREATED. PLEASE, CHECK THE STATUS IN ABOUT 5 SECONDS.

ID	Credential Name	Access KEY	Customer	Expire	Permission	Status	Operational Status
99	A1 KEY	Creating Credential...	EXAMPLE	31/12/2020	FULLACCESS	ACTIVE	

YOUR ACCESS KEY AND SECRET IS READ.									
Showing 1 to 10 of 12 entries									
ID	Credential Name	Access KEY	Customer	Expire	Permission	Status	Operational Status		
99	A1 KEY		EXAMPLE	31/12/2020	FULLACCESS	ACTIVE			

Click on the access key to retrieve your access key and secret. This is a ONE-TIME PROCESS.

The screenshot shows the 'STORAGE' section of the RackCorp dashboard, specifically the 'S3 CREDENTIALS' tab. A modal dialog titled 'S3 CREDENTIAL' is open, displaying instructions: 'Here is your access key and secret. Please note that the secret key will no longer be visible once you close this box'. It shows an 'ACCESS KEY' (orange bar) and a 'SECRET' (blue bar). The background table lists existing credentials with columns for ID, Credential Name, Access Key, Customer, Expire, Permission, Status, and Operational Status. The first entry is 'A1 KEY' with an orange access key, 'EXAMPLE' customer, '31/12/2020' expiry, 'FULLACCESS' permission, 'ACTIVE' status, and a green checkmark for operational status.

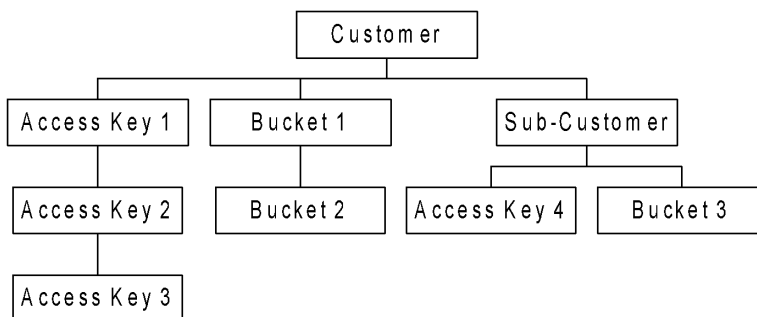
TAKE A NOTE OF YOUR 'SECRET' DISPLAYED IN THIS POPUP.
It is NOT retrievable.

You now have the three elements needed to securely access your files in RackCorp S3

- Your endpoint URL: For some of our customers we will setup a custom URL, In this document we will use s3.rackcorp.com as an example.
- Your ACCESS KEY : Retrievable from the portal
- Your SECRET : A one-time code displayed in the portal

In RackCorp S3, there is a many to many relationships between access keys and buckets. This means all keys created under a customer can access all the buckets created under that customer.

RackCorp S3 Hierarchy



2. Create your S3 buckets.

NEW S3 BUCKET

Bucket Name: A1-BUCKET
Allowed 3-20 alphanumeric characters and dash.

Customer: EXAMPLE (ID #6601)

S3 Region: Australia Sydney

Public Access: PUBLIC DISABLE

Status: ACTIVE

Submit Close

2.1 Define a descriptive name for your bucket. The name should reflect what the bucket's purpose is. Such as `TropicalHolidayProject` or `a1bucket` in our example.

For bucket names please use alphanumeric characters, dash and no spaces.

2.2 Choose the customer in the dropdown field. This would be either your company/client name or a sub-customer/sub-client. You would have originally set up any sub-customers in the RackCorp portal under the Customers section.

2.3 Choose the region for where you would like to store your buckets. In this drop-down we list common regional options and these options may vary per customer. If these do not suit you contact our support department who can define manual region rules for you. An example S3 Region might be “Australia”, which would encompass several physically distinct data storage locations; “Australia - East” for NSW and Victoria or “Philippines and Hong Kong”. The field has been pre-populated with two of our NSW datacentres, a Sydney region covering both as well as Thailand.

2.4 Access Policy determines whether your access key is required to access this bucket. You could typically use this option to enable public web content

PUBLIC ENABLE = No key is required to access the bucket.

PUBLIC DISABLE = Access key is required to access the bucket.

2.5 Status is simply an enable/on-off toggle for the container.

2.6 Wait for your bucket to be added.

STORAGE


S3 CREDENTIALS

S3 BUCKETS

ADD NEW

Search:

Showing 1 to 12 of 12 entries

ID	Bucket Name	Customer	Region	Policy	Storage GB	Status	Operational Status
<div></div> 59	s1-bucket	EXAMPLE	Australia Sydney	PUBLICREAD_DISABLED	0	ACTIVE	SYNCHRONISING

3. Configure your S3 application with your credentials.

We will demonstrate two types of windows applications as client examples for RackCorp S3. A ‘FTP’ style application and a drive-letter type app, where buckets are mounted as windows drive letters, allowing files to be natively accessed by windows applications without having to GET or PUT them from the S3 server first.

S3 Applications	
FileZilla Pro Payware	https://filezillaapro.com/
Cyber Duck (Browser) Freeware	https://cyberduck.io/
Mountain Duck (Drive) Trial	https://mountainduck.io/
CloudBerry MSP360 Explorer Freeware	https://www.msp360.com/explorer.aspx
CloudBerry MSP360 Drive Trial	https://www.msp360.com/drive.aspx
TNT Drive Trial	https://tntdrive.com/
S3Browser Freeware	https://s3browser.com/
WinSCP	https://winscp.net/eng/index.php
rclone	https://rclone.org/downloads/
Expan Drive	https://www.expandrive.com/

WINDOWS

3.1 FTP Style S3 Client

These require your files to be downloaded to your computer and then uploaded back to the server when needed.

These types of clients are ideal for managing files that are not often edited and for which you may require additional features to manipulate your files and buckets.

3.1.1 S3 Browser freeware

Accounts -> Add New Account to setup your keys in the client

Add New Account online help

Enter new account details and click Add new account

Account Name:

Assign any name to your account.

Account Type:

Choose the storage you want to work with. Default is Amazon S3 Storage.

REST Endpoint:

Specify S3-compatible API endpoint. It can be found in storage documentation. Example: rest.server.com:8080

Access Key ID:

Required to sign the requests you send to Amazon S3, see more details at <https://s3browser.com/keys>

Secret Access Key:

Required to sign the requests you send to Amazon S3, see more details at <https://s3browser.com/keys>

☐ Encrypt Access Keys with a password:

Turn this option on if you want to protect your Access Keys with a master password.

☒ Use secure transfer (SSL/TLS)
If checked, all communications with the storage will go through encrypted SSL/TLS channel

[Advanced S3-compatible storage settings](#)

For 'S3 Browser', simply drag and drop your files between your PC and your bucket.

S3 Browser 8.9.7 - Free Version (for non-commercial use only) - s3.rackcorp.com

Accounts Buckets Files Tools Upgrade to Pro! Help

+ New bucket -X Delete bucket

Path: /

File	Size	Type	Last Modified	Stc
GUID-183F293B-4F6B-43F9-AD3C-041CBE570799-low.gif	14.83 KB	GIF File	23/06/2020 11:27:23 ...	ST
S3_DRAFT4.png	185.40 KB	PNG File	23/06/2020 11:27:34 ...	ST

Upload Download Delete New Folder Refresh

2 files (200.23 KB) and 0 folders

Tasks Permissions Http Headers Tags Properties Preview Versions EventLog

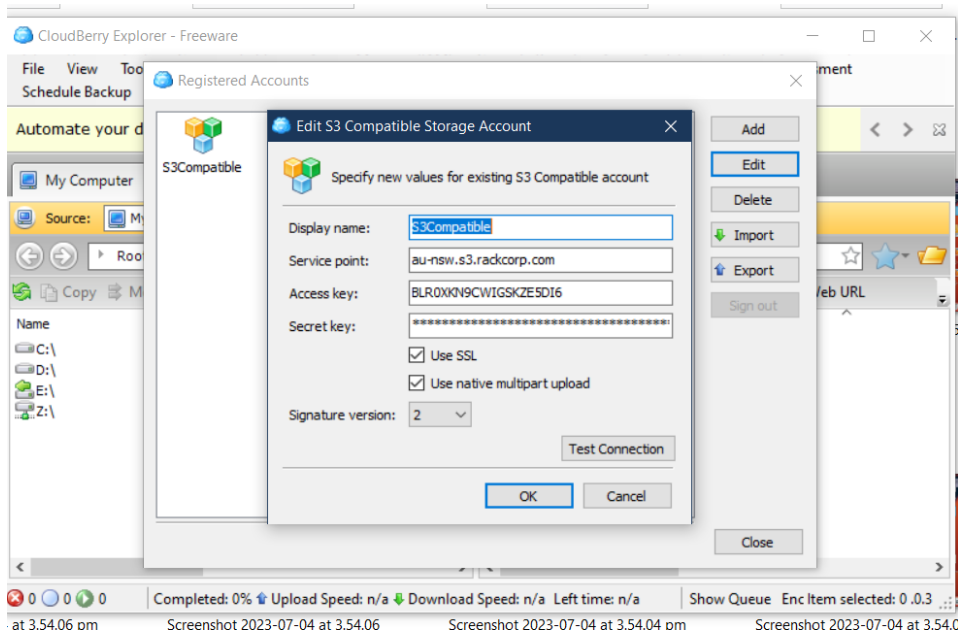
URL: <https://a1-bucket.s3.rackcorp.com/>

Property	Value
Owner	C_38 (54176638901993015127)
Name	a1-bucket
Creation date	23/06/2020 11:19:57 AM
Location	Default Region (au-nsw-gh11)
Total objects	2
Total files	2
Total folders	0
Total size	200.23 KB (205037 bytes)
Bucket logging	failed: The request you provided implies functionality that is not implemented.
Versioning	enabled (MfaDelete: disabled)
Cross-region replication	disabled
Transfer Acceleration	Not supported
Default Storage Class	STANDARD
Server-side encryption	enabled

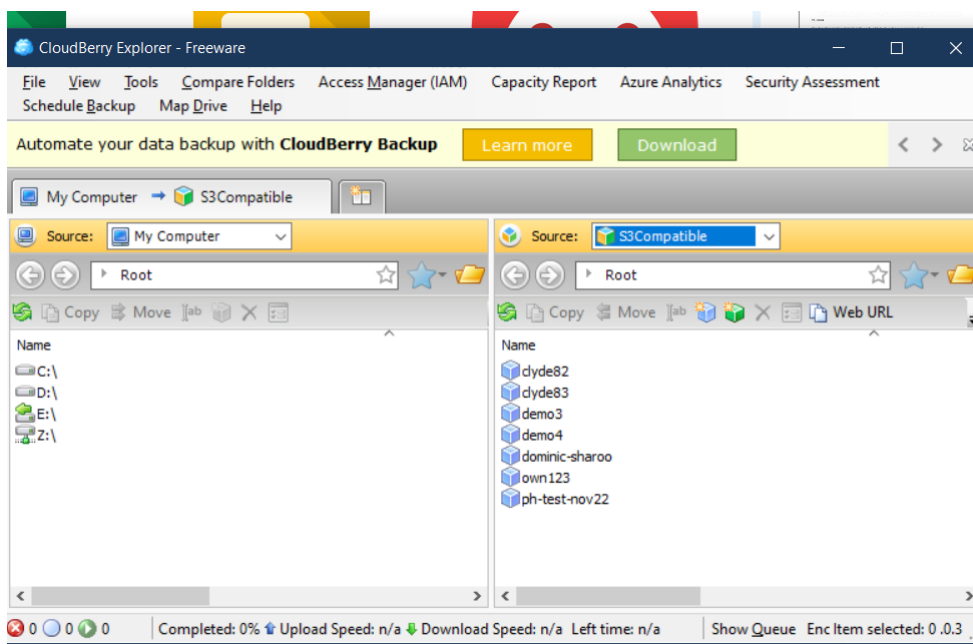
We can see here that our credential has access to two buckets as that's what we created in the portal.

3.1.2 Cloudberry Explorer for Windows

Please add a 'S3 Compatible' Connection



Choose your S3 Source either in the left or right pane of the application

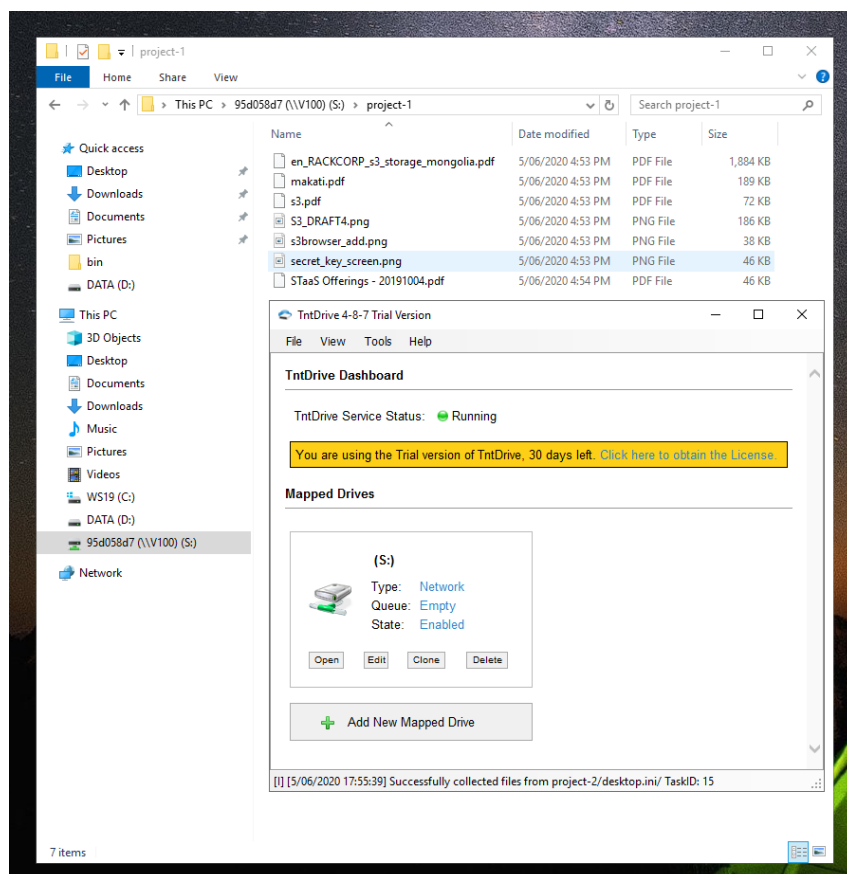
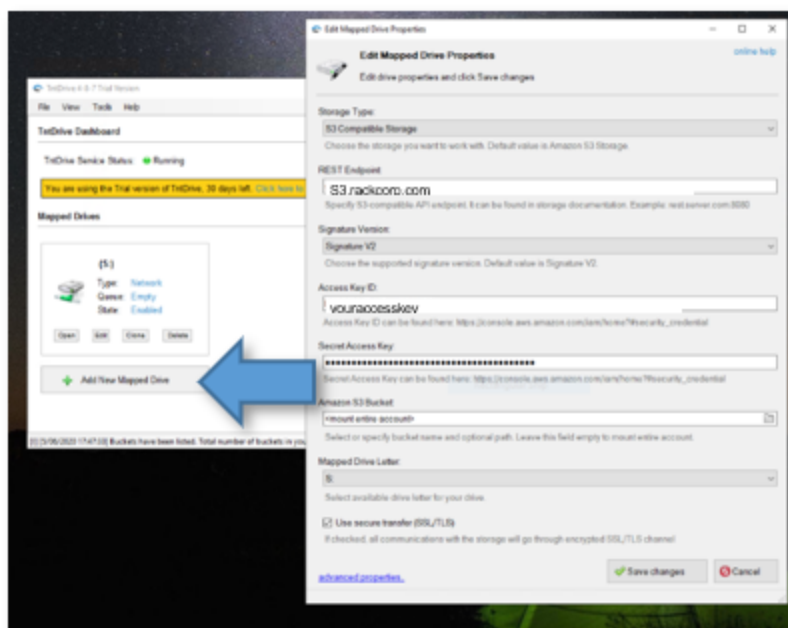


3.2 Drive Letter mount clients

These applications mount each bucket a driver letter in windows explorer, allowing you to manage your files as if they are native in your windows system. Downloads/uploads occur when you copy files to/from that particular drive letter/bucket.

These are better for managing large numbers of content rich files that would be edited by the end user such as photos text or video, and for those who would like ease of use.

3.2.1 TNT drive trial



MAC OS

FTP-Style

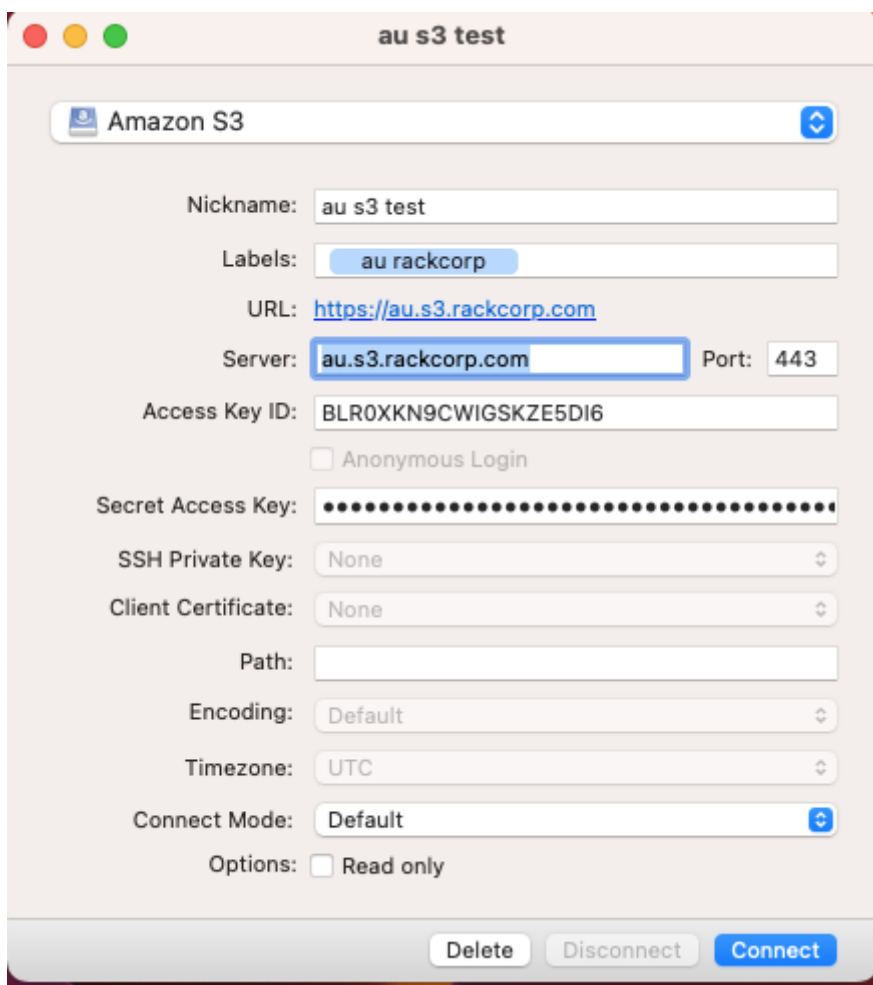
We recommend Cyberduck for those who would like get/put style of application.

Drive-Mount

We have tested and validated both Mountain Duck (from the developer of Cyber Duck) as well as Cloud Mounter against MacOS Ventura. These S3 clients will give you folder/drive mount access for your S3 Buckets.

Mountain Duck

Please add a "amazon s3" type connection configurator, using the endpoint of your choice

















The screenshot shows the 'au s3 test' window in Mountain Duck. It features a title bar with standard macOS window controls. Below the title bar is a dropdown menu set to 'Amazon S3'. The main area contains several input fields and checkboxes: 'Nickname' (au s3 test), 'Labels' (au rackcorp), 'URL' (https://au.s3.rackcorp.com), 'Server' (au.s3.rackcorp.com), 'Port' (443), 'Access Key ID' (BLR0XKN9CWIGSKZE5DI6), 'Anonymous Login' (unchecked), 'Secret Access Key' (masked with dots), 'SSH Private Key' (None), 'Client Certificate' (None), 'Path' (empty), 'Encoding' (Default), 'Timezone' (UTC), 'Connect Mode' (Default), and 'Options' (Read only unchecked). At the bottom are three buttons: 'Delete', 'Disconnect', and 'Connect'.

CloudMounter


Please update to the latest version For Ventura Support and follow the below settings example to setup Cloud Mounter.


Add a "amazon s3" connection and fill in the details per rackcorp portal. Substitute theServer Endpoint for the one of your choosing eg AU or AU-NSW or S3 regions s per our S3 settings page.

< > CloudMounter

Today		Date Modified	Size	Kind
 clyde82		Today at 3:49 pm	--	Folder
 clyde83		Today at 3:49 pm	--	Folder
 demo3		Today at 3:49 pm	--	Folder
 demo4		Today at 3:49 pm	--	Folder
 dominic-sharoo		Today at 3:49 pm	--	Folder
 own123		Today at 3:49 pm	--	Folder
 ph-test-nov22		Today at 3:49 pm	--	Folder

Connections

 s3
Amazon S3

 Amazon S3

Name: s3

Access Key: BLR0XKN9CWIGSKZE5DI6

Secret Key:

Server endpoint: https://au.s3.rackcorp.com

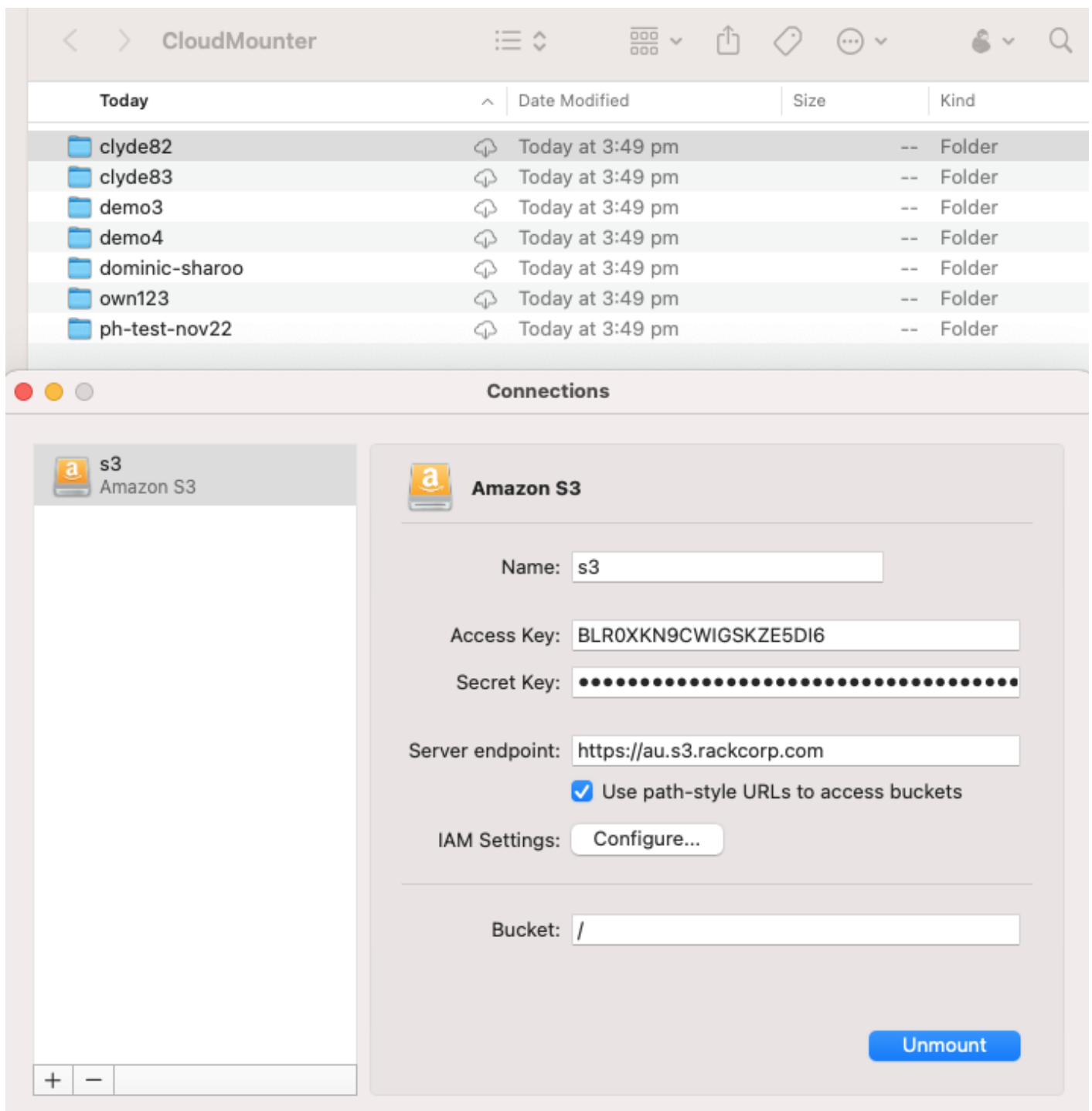
☒ Use path-style URLs to access buckets

IAM Settings:

Configure...

Bucket: /

Unmount



Expan Drive

For ExpanDrive please add a "Amazon S3" Connection

Server: au-nsw.s3.rackcorp.com

Access Key: BLR0XKN9CWIGSKZE5DI6

Secret Key: ☐ Use MFA

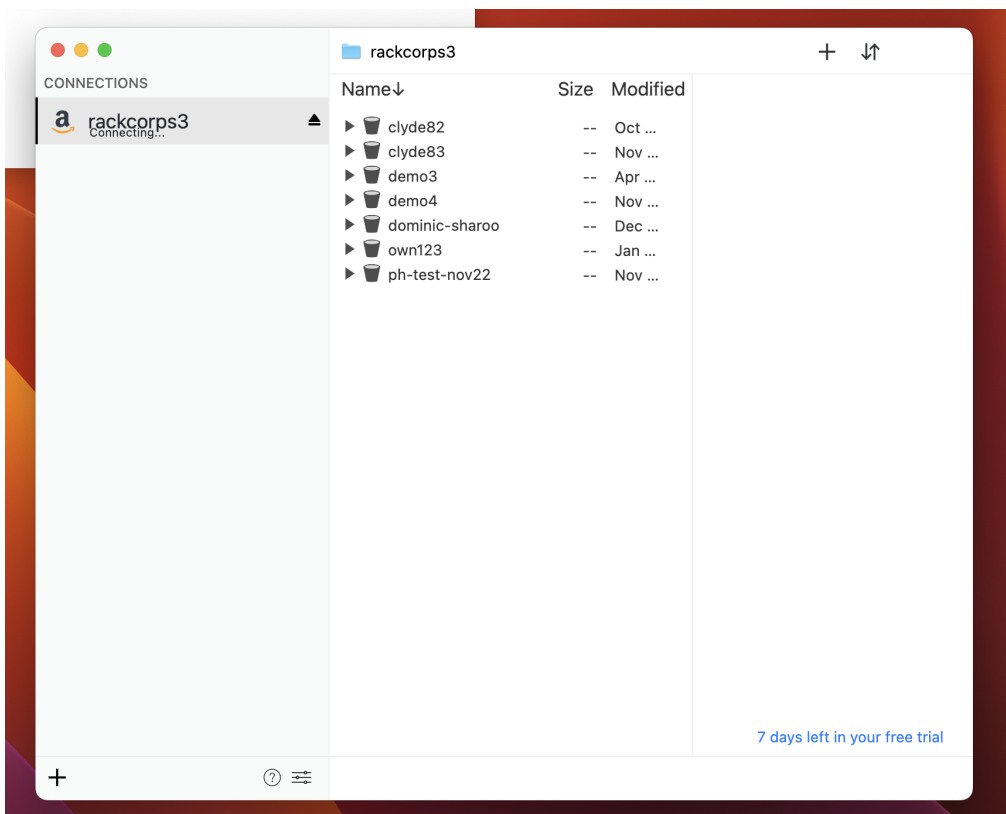
Custom Region: (optional)

Nickname: rackcorp s3

Bucket: Bucket Name (optional)

☒ Automatically Mount as Drive ☐ Read Only

Delete Save



4. Advanced Features

This document is intended to get you up and running with the RackCorp S3 Storage service using popular Windows client applications.

To use advanced features like file versioning, encryption, Access Control Lists, cross-region replication, Transfer Acceleration, bucket logging and API access, please contact your account manager for additional

information. These features may require specific settings or regions to work.

Document History:

008: Add Mac/Windows Expan Drive, Cloudberry for Windows

007: Added Mountain Duck and Cloud Mounter for Mac OSX Ventura

006: Added WinSCP and rclone

005: Multi Language support

004: Add support and usage guidance for Cyber Duck and Mountain Duck from iterate GmbH

Revision #32

Created 17 November 2021 06:49:23 by KonS

Updated 10 August 2023 06:24:43 by RackCorp