AiM Cloud

Starting with RaceStudio3 release 3.54.00, AiM allows cloud sharing for data and video. For AiM Cloud to work, you must have an AiM User Registration introduced before.

Logged files can be copied on a cloud server, to be shared across all PCs of a single user or between several users. The data analysis process will not be on the AiM Cloud/Server side, it will continue to stay local on the user's PC.

Integration with RS3 Sessions Database

The database window will now show some minor changes, allowing cloud items in. These new items will be visible when there's a valid internet connection and the user has been logged in.
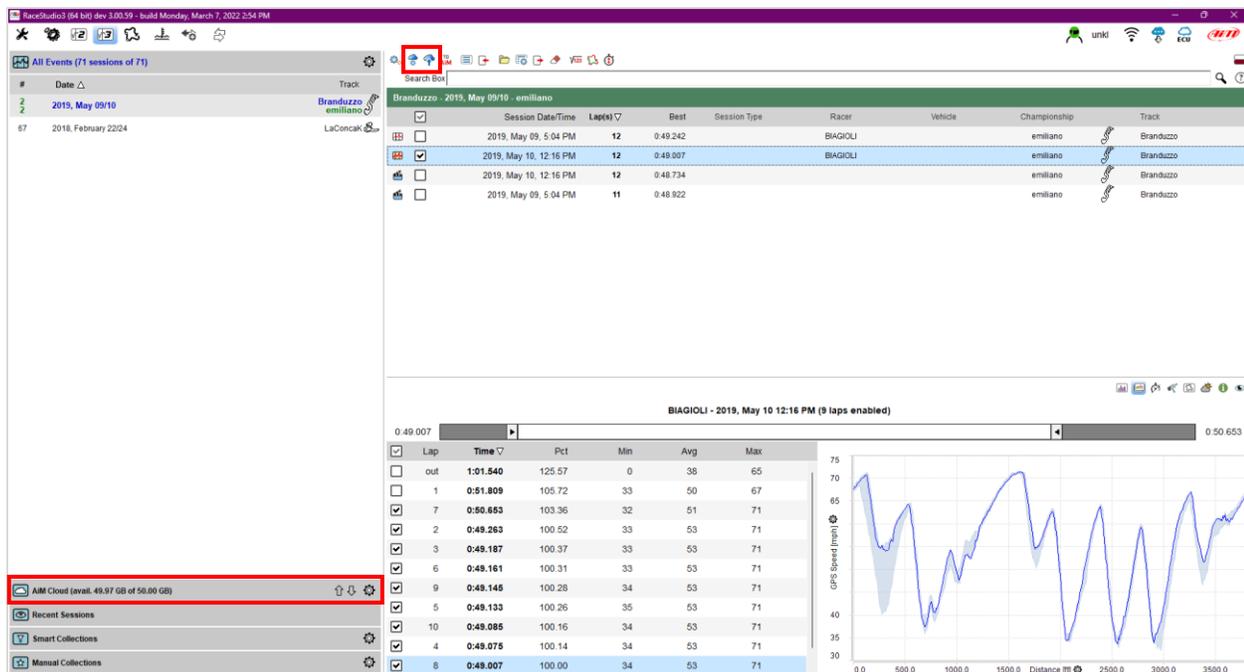
The cloud button highlighted in the left accordion will, upon selection, show the list of all files that have already been shared. It features two arrows, one upward and one downward, that are user interface elements showing the upload or download operation in act. It also features a cogged wheel that is a starting point for a popup menu leading to the AiM Cloud settings.

The two buttons highlighted in the top toolbar:

- AiM Cloud settings (also accessible from here)
- Upload command: select a session to copy it into the AiM Cloud

To allow users to test the AiM Cloud, AiM provides each user a minimum amount of cloud storage space (20MB) for free. It's enough for all users to experiment and decide if there is value for you.

The First Upload Operation

Let's now move into the main AiM Cloud functions. From your local database, select a session and click the upload button.
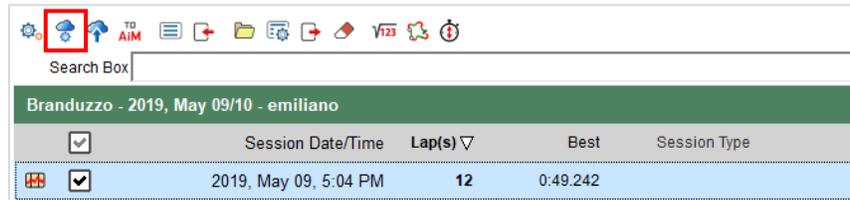
You will be presented a window where RS3 will in effect be telling you: "OK, I'm about to upload a session" but… RS3 asks you to choose if you want to upload it only for yourself (to share only among your different PC's) or if, in parallel, you also want to share it with any friends or racing teammates.
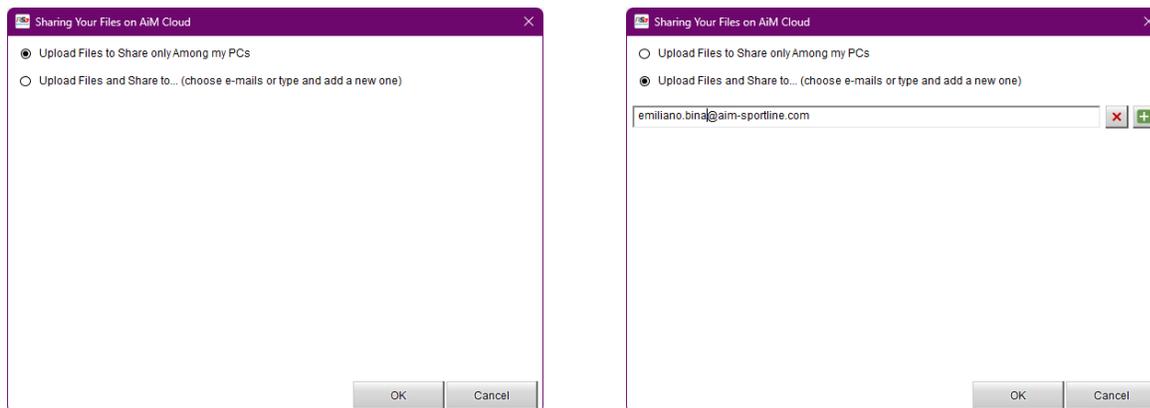
In the second case, enter a valid email address, then click the '+' shaped button and click OK.

Users that you choose to share your files with must be AiM Cloud users, registered with the email address you entered, this is a key point. If you enter an e-mail address that is not currently a registered AiM Cloud user, the user will receive an email (one only, no spam) asking them to register with AiM to see the availability of the files you shared with them.

When you click on the OK button, the file of the session you selected will be uploaded. Once the file is copied to the AiM Cloud server, the dedicated cloud shaped icons will notify you that the file is both locally on your PC and on the AiM Cloud server.
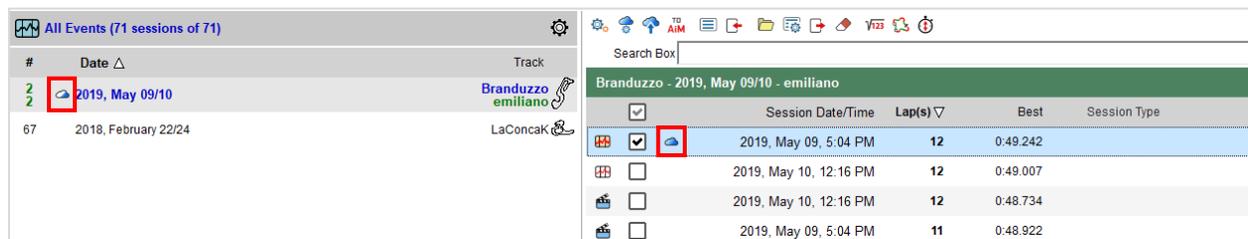
Selecting the AiM Cloud button in the left accordion you'll see a user interface that is very similar to the main database with a few differences.
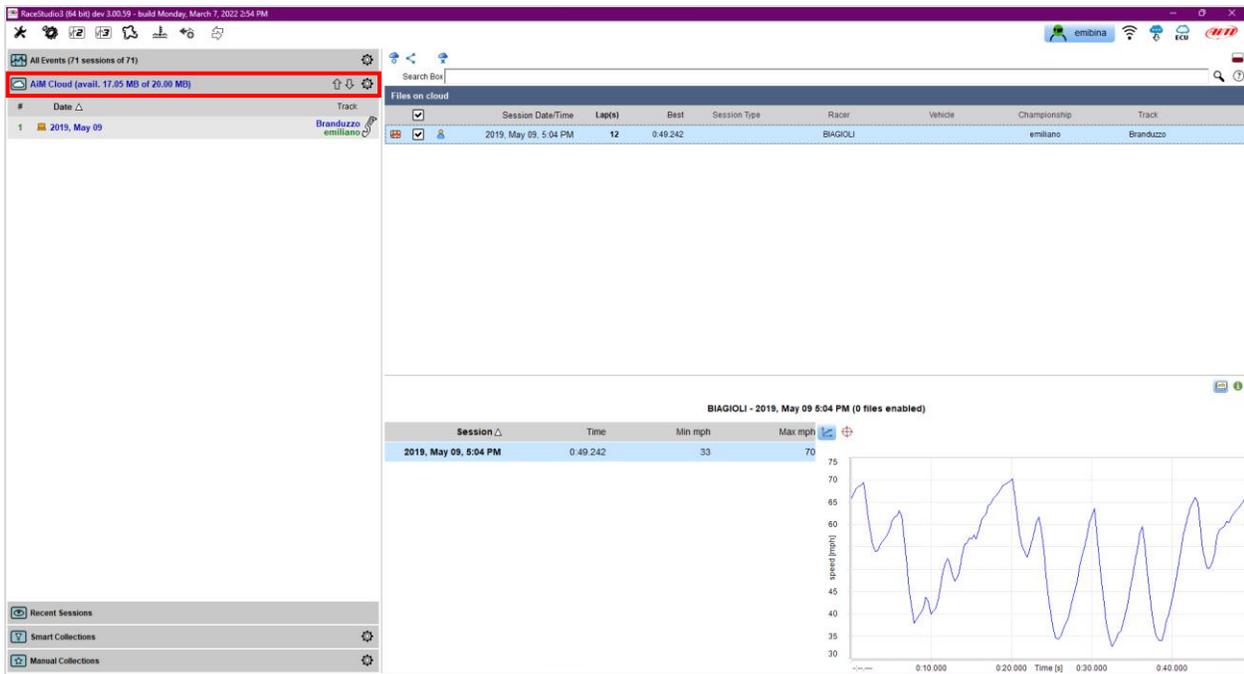
In the left accordion you will find a smart calendar of all your events, in the right side you will find a list all your sessions/files. Below that there is also a small preview portion of the screen, allowing two different windows.

The first window is depicted in the picture just above here: session date and time, minimum and maximum speed. Also available are speed curves or accelerations diagram.
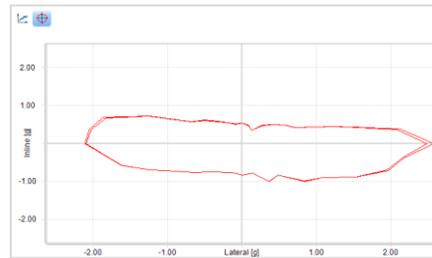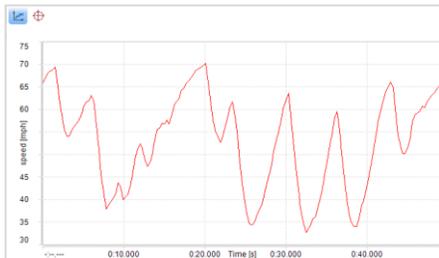
If you select the small green 'i' icon in the lower section, you will be presented with a list of all the metadata associated with the file copied on the AiM Cloud server. Pay special attention to the Owner and to the Status fields as shown in the image below.

The **Owner** can be you or any friends or racing teammates who shared the file with you (in this case you'll see their full name, AiM nickname and email), while the **status** will be displaying where the file is; on the AiM Cloud server only or on both the AiM Cloud server and locally on your PC.

In the bottom right corner of this window, you'll be notified of the persons you shared this file with, and a quick button will allow you to share with someone else.

When you upload or share data files, RS3 displays the usage of your AiM Cloud space in the accordion button.

Moreover, if you try to upload a file that's bigger than your available AiM Cloud space, RS3 prompts you with a window notifying you of the need to acquire more storage if you want to continue.
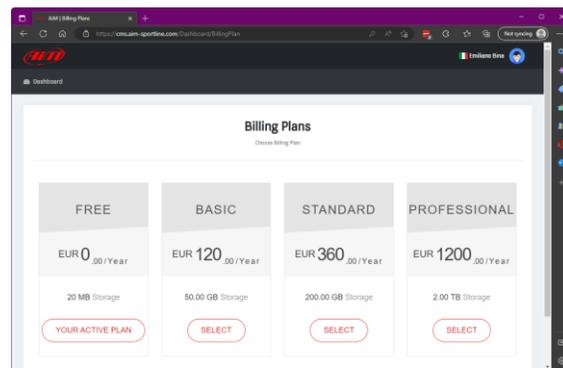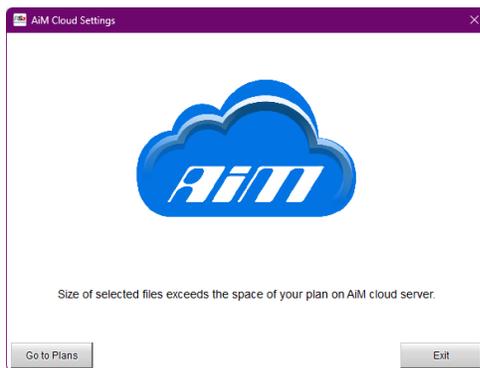
In the first window in the bottom left corner, you'll find a button 'Go to Plans' that will open the AiM Cloud dashboard webpage where you can subscribe to a new AiM Cloud plan.

Let's Now Move Onto Another PC

When you open RS3 on any other PC and log in, you will see that your database window will look exactly like before, but when you choose the AiM Cloud accordion button on the left, you will see that there are new files are available on the AiM Cloud server.

The icon at the very left of any file row represents the **status** of the file, already described above.

Files are organized 'per event' in a smart calendar in the left accordion and when you select an event, the list of all the files from that event will be shown in the list on the right (with the associated preview).
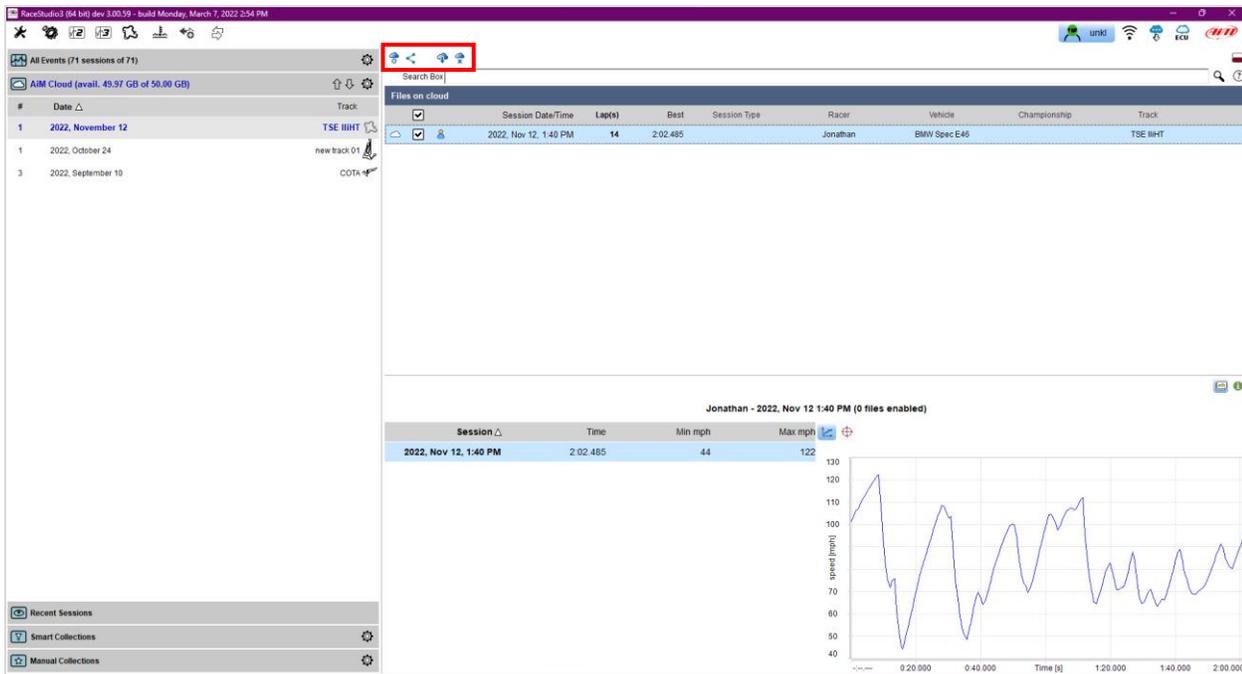
The icons in the top toolbar are different for AiM Cloud files, representing all the tasks you can do from here.

- Settings; to change the AiM Cloud setup
- Share; to share selected files with a friend or racing teammate
- Download*; to start the download operation of the file from the AiM Cloud server to your PC
- Delete; to fully delete a file from the AiM Cloud server

(*) The downloaded files will be placed in the same folder as the files downloaded from your AiM devices and they will be following the same download rules for creating and naming subfolders. For example, if you setup your download options to create a subfolder based on 'Vehicle' and to automatically name the file after 'Racer' and 'Session Date', this is the same process that is followed when downloading from the AiM Cloud server.

Sharing Policy

Only data uploaded by you will be consuming your AiM Cloud space. When another user shares a file with you, these files are not using your storage space, only the space of the file creator/owner. Files shared with you will only require storage space on your AiM Cloud drive when you choose to download the files.

If you share a file with another AiM Cloud user and they have not downloaded the file, then you delete the file from your AiM Cloud server, the shared file will disappear from their list. If they already downloaded the file onto their local PC, they will still have access to the file.

Let's Now Automate This Stuff!

You can automatize, separately, three processes: Upload, Download and Share.

Upload

Three possibilities:

- Never upload automatically; RS3 will never upload anything on its own
- Upload all your sessions automatically; in background RS3 will upload till completion (given that you have enough space in your plan)
- Choose the device you want to upload data of
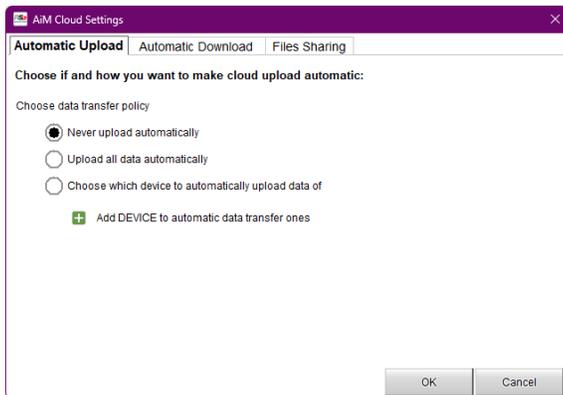
In our analysis, a user managing only their own data may highly benefit from the second possibility of uploading all data automatically. A user managing not only their own data but also from friends or teammates may decide to automatically upload data from their own specific device, while leaving the data from friends and teammate's devices to be uploaded by teammates.

Download

Three possibilities:

- Never download automatically
- Download all files automatically
- Choose which user to automatically download data from
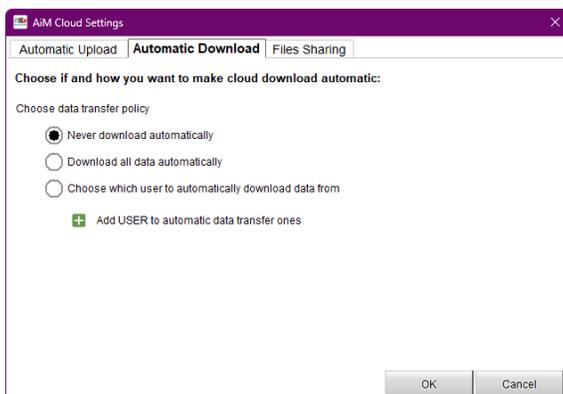
In our analysis, the third possibility can be useful when a user is downloading and then sharing data with many friends or racing teammates.

Sharing

Once files have been uploaded to the AiM Cloud server, you can decide to automatically share the files with any friend or racing teammates. For example, if you upload files from several racers, vehicles, championships, tracks, etc you can set the AiM Cloud settings to automatically share files according to user defined rules.
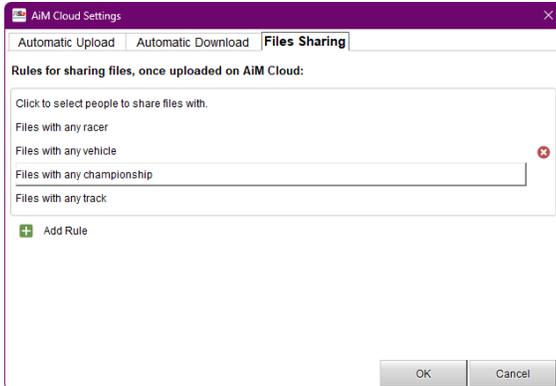
Details Around Using 3rd Party Cloud Services

In past years we have seen users installing RS3 into a cloud shared folder. Cloud services are appropriate for sharing final data or results of a file system, but not program related files as this often will create problems to the working of RS3 itself. That's why we advise against our users doing this.

RS3 lives upon the synchronization of its databases and the files in its installation folder. Data need to match. 3rd party cloud services have a process constantly running on PC's that copy files from one machine to another. This process can temporarily lock files while the copy is in progress and when this happens, RS3 may incorrectly synchronize configurations, improperly import analysis sessions, and more if the file is locked when RS3 attempts to access the file.

These processes can move files and create unpaired sets of data and databases among different machines. These failures can temporarily lock RS3 databases, and this forbids a correct RS3 start.

'AiM Cloud' was created to avoid all these bad possibilities.