

eBook

The Future Is Now:

The Benefits of Cloud-Based
Alternatives to FileCabinet CS®



Contents

Introduction 03

Farewell FileCabinet CS: 04

The sunset of FileCabinet CS

What is Cloud-Based Software?. 05

The benefits of cloud-based alternatives vs FileCabinet CS. 06

Improved accessibility

Real-time collaboration 07

Backup and cloud synchronization

Security and compliance 08

Documentation and evidence 09

Why SmartVault is the ideal cloud-based alternative for UltraTax CS® users 11

Unlimited cloud storage 12

Easy document migration with UltraTax integration 13

Print and route documents directly to SmartVault 14

Combined branded client portal and DMS 15

SOC 2 Type 2 Compliance 16

Unmatched uptime 17

Comparing cloud-based solutions: SmartVault vs Onvio®. 18

Step into the future with SmartVault 20





Thomson Reuters is sunsetting FileCabinet CS, leaving many accounting firms in need of a new document storage system that's compatible with their UltraTax CS software. Although it will be a couple of years before the solution is completely phased out, we know time flies when you're an accountant.

If you're like many accounting firms that have been using FileCabinet CS for years, you may be dreading the time and effort required to migrate your data to another solution.



But the sunset of this legacy software shouldn't be seen as an inconvenience; rather, it's an opportunity to invest in improved technology.

Today's cloud-based systems offer a range of benefits that native solutions simply can't match, and selecting the right software can fundamentally upgrade how your entire firm operates.

The most successful migrations typically happen when firms switch based on their specific needs, rather than vendor relationships. So, while your first instinct may be to stay within the Thomson Reuters ecosystem, limiting your evaluation to just one vendor means potentially missing out on better solutions. And if you're concerned about maintaining connectivity to your tax software, modern document management systems (DMS) are designed to integrate seamlessly with UltraTax CS, often offering enhanced functionality compared to the legacy systems they replace.

To help you find the right FileCabinet CS alternative for your firm, we've put together this guide. As you begin your search, consider how choosing a cloud-based alternative, such as SmartVault, could enhance your workflows.

The sunset of FileCabinet CS

Thomson Reuters plans to sunset its legacy document management system, FileCabinet CS, on December 31, 2027. But what does this mean for you? The FileCabinet CS departure presents your firm with a fresh opportunity to find a replacement software that better meets your needs.

Think about the possibilities a more advanced solution could provide.

A cloud-based alternative can offer not only the features you expect, but also ramp up your capabilities and supercharge your efficiency.

That means less time spent on busy work during tax season, and maybe even making it home in time for dinner.

But changing software can be difficult. If you use UltraTax CS, you need a new solution that's still compatible with your current technology. Although moving over to Onvio may be your initial idea since it's what Thomson Reuters suggests, take a step back and consider how finding an advanced solution that creates an efficient document management process and provides a client portal could improve your team's tax workflows.

You also need buy-in from your team. While some members could be excited to trade in outdated tech, those who are more set in their ways may be resistant. After all, some accountants have been using FileCabinet CS for more than 15 years, since its introduction to the market.



Sometimes it takes a push (like the software being discontinued entirely) to get out of your comfort zone and try something new. And that something new might end up being the best thing you've ever done for your business, thanks to all of the advancements in cloud-based DMS.



What is cloud-based software?

Cloud-based software can be accessed anywhere with an internet connection, increasing its flexibility and accessibility compared to traditional on-premise software.

Unlike local devices, the most popular cloud-based solutions don't have storage or accessibility limits, so they can easily grow with you and be accessed on the go. They also automatically update, eliminating the need for your team to monitor them.

Until now, FileCabinet CS users haven't had access to the benefits of this advanced technology. By switching to a cloud-based solution, you can streamline your workflows and eliminate some of the outdated processes required by software like FileCabinet CS.



Pro Tip:

Worried about the security of a cloud-based solution? Check out our no-nonsense guide to cloud security.

THE BENEFITS:

FileCabinet CS vs cloud-based alternatives

If you currently use FileCabinet CS, you know the solution is rigid and requires a lot of hands-on work. Meanwhile, cloud-based alternatives are fast, flexible, and streamlined. They eliminate the need for clunky, outdated processes that slow down results, allowing your team to accomplish more with a fraction of the effort.

Given online access and automated processes, your team can manage busy season workloads from anywhere — and with fewer manual errors. The following benefits of cloud-based technology can enable your firm to achieve greater efficiency, productivity, and peace of mind.



Improved Accessibility

Your team no longer has to be at their desks to access your document management system. *With cloud-based access from any mobile device, tablet, laptop, or desktop, your team can operate more efficiently from anywhere, at any time.*

Not only can your team better access documents, but clients can as well. Whether it's sharing important tax information or signing off on completed returns, the accessibility of cloud-based software breaks down the roadblocks that once stood in the way of your clients filing quickly.

THE BENEFITS:

FileCabinet CS vs cloud-based alternatives



Real-time Collaboration

While FileCabinet CS has your team working in silos (which can create inefficiencies and lead to costly mistakes), cloud-based solutions are built for collaboration. Team members can easily access files in real-time and work together to solve issues, ensure accuracy, and speed up workflows.

Working in real-time with a cloud-based solution expands the remote possibilities of your organization, opening your firm up to hiring talent from across the country, rather than being limited to a local pool of accountants.

It also creates opportunities for enhanced teamwork. Real-time collaboration tools enable you to communicate more effectively on important documents, make necessary changes, and provide a helping hand where needed. This added level of synchronization can enhance overall office productivity and culture, driving results and improving employee satisfaction.



Backup and Cloud Synchronization

FileCabinet CS is not built for the worst-case scenario. In the event your server crashes, you could lose hours of precious time trying to recover lost files or duplicating work that cannot be restored.

With cloud synchronization, your files are consistently backed up and secure. This allows your team to keep files safe and up-to-date automatically, rather than having to back up and transfer data manually with every new version.

THE BENEFITS:

FileCabinet CS vs cloud-based alternatives

Security and Compliance

Many firms that rely on FileCabinet CS don't realize they're expected to implement controls that previously only applied to banks and financial institutions, including:

- ◆ Setting granular access to files and folders, as well as who can view, create, edit, or delete them
- ◆ Periodically checking access permissions to revoke or change them as needed
- ◆ Encrypting data in transit and at rest
- ◆ Ensuring systems have multi-factor authentication (MFA) as part of their login processes
- ◆ Monitoring and maintaining a user activity log when accessing customer information

Advanced cloud-based solutions make it easy to implement these controls, and many of the top vendors can also assist you with achieving the FTC's requirement for a comprehensive Written Information Security Program (WISP). The best vendors offer templates, guides, and resources to help you create a robust plan without starting from scratch.

THE BENEFITS:

FileCabinet CS vs cloud-based alternatives



Documentation and Evidence

Perhaps the most underrated compliance advantage of cloud-based solutions is automatic documentation. If you've ever been through an audit or regulatory review, you know that "we do it, we just don't document it" doesn't cut it with examiners.

To help prove your dedication to compliance, cloud-based solutions automatically generate:

- ◆ **Detailed audit logs and activity tracking:** Comprehensive records of who accessed what and when
- ◆ **Security control implementation evidence:** Proof that your security measures are actually working for your DMS
- ◆ **Regular assessment reports:** Systematic evaluations of your security protocols that identify issues before regulators do
- ◆ **Incident response documentation:** Structured records of how security incidents have been addressed
- ◆ **Encryption verification:** Confirmation that encryption is properly implemented and functioning

THE BENEFITS:

FileCabinet CS vs cloud-based alternatives



Documentation and Evidence

This documentation acts as proof of compliance during reviews or audits.

When the IRS comes knocking, would you rather hand them a comprehensive security report with time-stamped evidence or a stack of sticky notes and your best recollection of what happened?

Cloud-based solutions have you covered with the evidence you need to stay above board.

While this level of visibility wasn't possible with FileCabinet CS, cloud-based solutions offer built-in activity tracking, so you always know who made changes and when. That means fewer errors, greater accountability, and more accurate data.

Advanced platforms like SmartVault even include audit logs, providing a detailed view of your team's activity. Auditing document access is crucial for meeting security and compliance guidelines. Features like the SmartVault Activity Log track changes to access settings and activities like uploading, downloading, deleting, or modifying folders, vaults, or documents.

Not only should a cloud-based solution enhance your operations with the above capabilities, but it's also imperative that it provides the same level of compatibility with UltraTax CS that FileCabinet CS offers. Adding this requirement narrows the field of available options.

One such solution that offers more than the rest? —————→ **SmartVault.**

Why SmartVault is the ideal cloud-based alternative for UltraTax CS users

Out of a sea of document management solutions, only a few have the compatibility with UltraTax CS that you need to get the job done with your existing tax software. Solutions like Thomson Reuters may offer document management tools, but as you search for a replacement, you should look for one that goes a step further to act as an assistant for your entire tax preparation process. And one that consolidates your tech stack by replacing two outdated systems: FileCabinet CS and NetClient.

Enter SmartVault: a solution designed not only to optimize your document storage but also your entire tax workflow.

From client engagement tools that improve customer satisfaction and drive business to compliant document archiving that safeguards your business from legal risk, SmartVault can make operations run smoother, especially with its direct print to and auto-route integration with UltraTax CS, SmartRouting.

By learning more about the differentiating features of SmartVault, from unlimited storage to unmatched uptime, you can gain a clear understanding of why this solution is ideal for UltraTax CS users.



Pro Tip: Did you know SmartVault is more than just a DMS? Our cloud-based solution supports the entire end-to-end tax prep workflow. See what SmartVault can do.





Unlimited Cloud Storage

Although FileCabinet CS offers some cloud-based storage options, they pale in comparison to SmartVault's unlimited storage. With SmartVault's cloud storage capabilities, you can ensure that your files are up-to-date and backed up in the cloud at all times, without worrying about what you may lose if your system crashes.

SmartVault also offers advanced features that simplify organizing your storage. Folder structures can be easily customized to match your preferences. Files can be automatically and intelligently routed and saved to their preferred location. And documents can be locked to avoid unwanted changes.

All in all, SmartVault expands and streamlines your storage, allowing your team to spend less time manually backing up files or trying to free up space on an overcrowded server.

Key advantages

-  Unlimited storage
-  Automatic data backup and synchronization
-  Improved file organization
-  Streamlined document uploads

Easy data migration with UltraTax CS integration

Extracting your data from FileCabinet CS may seem challenging. But with SmartVault, it doesn't have to be. Although Thomson Reuters prevents SmartVault from migrating data automatically, SmartVault can help smoothly transfer your data from one solution to another through a step-by-step export guide.

Many former FileCabinet CS users say they prefer the file structures within SmartVault. You can choose to adopt SmartVault's file structure during the migration, rather than transferring everything over exactly as it was in FileCabinet CS.

Key advantages

-  Expert migration guidance
-  Seamless transfers
-  Improved data organization options





Print and route documents directly to SmartVault

As you transition to a new software, you may be concerned about losing a key feature: direct printing from UltraTax to FileCabinet CS. Not every DMS has an UltraTax CS integration, so if this is a must-have feature for you, you can feel confident knowing that SmartVault has you covered.

Transferring, uploading, and organizing UltraTax CS documents is simple with SmartVault's seamless integration. SmartVault directly prints PDF returns from UltraTax CS and auto-routes them into organized digital folders - eliminating the need for manual filing. This automated document management saves you precious time per filing and can reduce errors associated with manual data transfer.

SmartRouting also features custom mapping. Design custom naming conventions that work for your firm, print tax returns from your tax prep app to SmartVault, route documents to precise locations automatically, and eliminate time-wasting manual document organization, all at no additional cost.

Key advantages

-  Reduced errors
-  Streamlined processes
-  Accelerated filing



Streamlined Service for CPAs:

Kristie Agar of O'Connor and Agar CPA was ready for a change after years of working with Onvio. Discover how SmartVault's UltraTax integration helped accelerate her workflows and improve her clients' experience.

Combined branded client portal and DMS

FileCabinet CS is a capable document management solution, but that's about it. When it comes to communicating with clients, you've likely had to bring in additional tools, such as NetClient, or even have your team handle all the client interfacing. **With SmartVault, your DMS also includes a custom client portal where teammates and clients alike can easily collaborate.**

SmartVault lets you efficiently collect files from clients, store them in your preferred folder system, send them to your tax system, then share them back with your clients again for approval and e-signature once they're done — all without the hassle of manual transfer. Signed documents are then SSSauto-saved in your client's folder and archived SSSSaccording to IRS retention requirements.

SmartVault's SmartRequestAI™ feature also adds an additional layer of efficiency to client intake. SmartRequestAI lets you:

- Create custom request lists by using private AI to scan previous 1040s
- Efficiently collect client files
- Auto-route them to the correct client folder
- Generate a workpaper ready for processing

Through cloud-based collaboration, you can eliminate frustrating bottlenecks and provide access to a branded hub that enhances customer satisfaction.

Key advantages

-  Collaboration with clients
-  Streamlined approvals
-  Seamless file sharing

Unmatched uptime

When you're dealing with a busy tax season, time is money. That's why you can't afford to have crashes and glitches occur. When your document management solution crashes, clients become frustrated, timelines get delayed, and the number of returns your firm can realistically handle goes down, which cuts into profits.

SmartVault is recognized for its industry-leading reliability, providing UltraTax CS users with nearly 100% uptime. Using cloud-based technology, SmartVault ensures your team has consistent access, without worrying about whether your DMS will be working at any given moment, so that they can file with confidence.

Key advantages

-  Reduced stress
-  Improved usability
-  Minimized delays



SOC 2 Type 2 Compliance

Switching solutions shouldn't mean sacrificing security. Since FileCabinet CS offers SOC 2 Type 2 compliance, the gold standard for the industry, it's important to find a solution that provides the same level of security.

SmartVault is also SOC 2 Type 2 compliant, keeping your client data safe from prying eyes. Not only can this make your current clients feel more at peace, but it can be a key differentiator between you and the competition when attracting new business, especially for potential clients who prioritize security.

Key advantages

- ☁ Enhanced security
- ☁ Elevated customer satisfaction
- ☁ Competitive advantage



Comparing cloud-based solutions: SmartVault vs Onvio

Thomson Reuters is encouraging current FileCabinet CS users to migrate documents over to Onvio, their accounting firm management software. But other than UltraTax CS, Thomson Reuters products aren't known for their user-friendliness. Solutions can often crash or glitch, leaving your team in the lurch when they're the most in need of assistance.



Overcoming Onvio:

Sergio Bustamante from MSB Tax & Accounting was at his wits' end with Onvio, saying the company "changed my account and removed all my licenses... right in the middle of the corporate tax deadline." See how SmartVault came to the rescue.

To show how SmartVault is far more advanced than Onvio, here are a few key differences and why they matter to your organization:

	SmartVault	Onvio
Feature		
Consistent uptime	✓	✗
Unlimited clients	✓	✗
Unlimited storage	✓	✗
Unlimited guest users	✓	✗
Comprehensive training and support	✓	✗
Pricing engine	✓	✗
Portal included with DMS	✓	✗
Real-time client collaboration	✓	✗
Seasonal workers licenses	✓	✗

Comparing cloud-based solutions: SmartVault vs Onvio

Consistent uptime

Unlike SmartVault, Onvio doesn't offer nearly 100% uptime. Choosing Onvio would not only mean paying for a solution with fewer advanced features, but it would also mean investing in a solution that is at risk of crashing at any moment, leaving your team unable to do their jobs.

Pricing engine

Your DMS should help with all aspects of your accounting business. With the help of SmartVault's automated pricing engine, SmartPath, you can build out accurate pricing quotes that ensure clients are paying what you're worth. Meanwhile, Onvio falls short in administrative planning.

Unlimited access

Whether it's clients, storage, or guest users, you don't want a solution that restricts your business growth. SmartVault offers room to expand with unlimited access and automatic file routing, whereas Onvio's restricted DMS options do not. With SmartVault, you can remain flexible when adding new clients, reduce the risk of running out of space or incurring additional costs, and provide basic file access to those who need it.

Portal included with DMS

Although Onvio offers a client portal, it's a secondary feature to their base DMS. This means you'll have to pay more to access both. However, with SmartVault, you receive a custom client portal in addition to an industry-leading DMS, allowing you to manage the full range of your firm's operations without needing to upgrade plans.

Comprehensive training and support

Onvio has an unintuitive interface, limited customization, and compatibility issues with other solutions. This creates a steep learning curve that could result in higher costs and increased implementation time. SmartVault is easy to learn and offers comprehensive training options to minimize frustration and help you get up to speed quickly.

Real-time client collaboration

Onvio's client portal doesn't facilitate collaboration, which can slow down every phase of the filing and approval process. SmartVault understands that delays in approvals mean fewer returns filed. That's why SmartVault's client portal is designed for real-time collaboration between your team and your clients, allowing you to accelerate workflows, increase client satisfaction, and ultimately boost your bottom line by taking on more business.

Seasonal workers licenses

Sometimes you need a little extra help during busy season. SmartVault makes it easy to bring on temporary help by offering seasonal worker licenses, allowing you to scale your team up and down as your needs change. Onvio doesn't offer this feature, leaving your team to handle a busy workload on their own, which can lead to burnout or a loss of potential business opportunities.



Step into the future with SmartVault

With the sunset of FileCabinet CS, choosing a new DMS may no longer be optional. But consider it an opportunity to adopt a new cloud-based solution that expands your business capabilities, increases your team's flexibility, and alleviates the headaches associated with outdated software.

While there are many cloud-based solutions on the market, few offer compatibility with UltraTax CS. And even fewer provide the advanced features available on the SmartVault platform.

SmartVault was built with UltraTax CS users in mind, making it the only alternative to FileCabinet CS you should consider for your firm. Contact our team today to discover how SmartVault can equip you for future success.

[Book a Demo](#)