

Uploading image to the iPlant servers: iDrop vs. Cyberduck

There are currently two GUI (graphical user interface) options for uploading images to the iPlant servers. They are iDrop and Cyberduck. Both of these options are supported by iPlant and the SERNEC – TCN. Below you will find an outline of the Pros and Cons of each piece of software.

iDrop:

iDrop is a cross-platform data transfer application that allows iPlant account users to upload and download multiple large files and directories from your local machine to the iPlant Data Store. It was developed specifically for use with the iPlant environment.

The main limitation of iDrop is that it is Java based software. This means that from time to time the software will stop working on your computer because either your operating system or Java has gone through an update. This can happen without notice and this problem is expected to persist and happen intermittently for the foreseeable future.

iDrop has a feature called Diff that allows to user to verify that all the image have made it to the server and have not been corrupted. This is very useful for those uploading large numbers of large files.

iDrop works on Windows, Macintosh and Linux/Unix

Cyberduck:

Cyberduck is an Open Source application that supports server connections using a number of different protocols (e.g., FTP, Amazons3, WebDAV). It latest release is now compatible with the iPlant servers and can be used to transfer files to and from iPlant utilizing a custom configuration file.

Cyberduck is not prone to the same Java based issues as iDrop.

Cyberduck has a feature called Compare that is supposed to function similarly to the Diff tool in iDrop. However, it is not clear exactly how this tool works and is still being tested by iPlant and SERNEC.

Cyberduck works on Windows and Macintosh only. Configuration of Cyberduck on Macs for use with the iPlant servers can be quirky, but it has been set up and used successfully on Mac OS X 10.10.4.

General Information/Questions:

The SERNEC – TCN has developed documentation for iDrop and Cyberduck. These can be found at <http://sernec.appstate.edu/resources>.

If you are having trouble with your uploads to the iPlant servers using either iDrop or Cyberduck, please contact Michael (michael.denslow@gmail.com) and Herrick (herrick.brown@gmail.com). If they can't resolve your issue they will contact iPlant support for additional help.