



Public Values at Stake

e-IRG NL Semester Workshop – Amsterdam

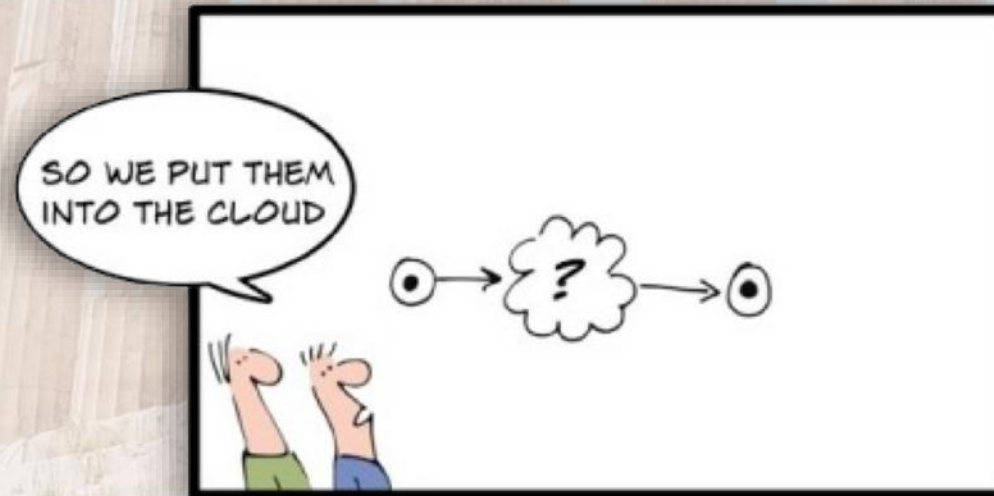
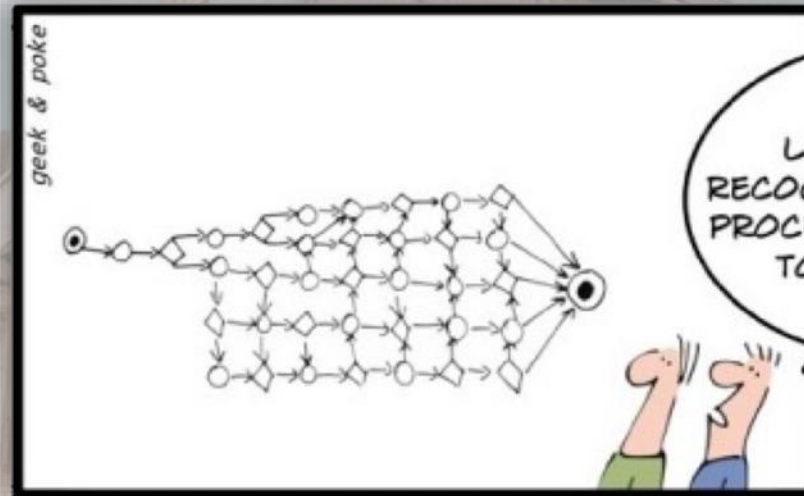
Harold Teunissen et al.
December 2025



| Goal for today

- Are you also concerned about the new geopolitical reality that has emerged recently? Educational and research institutions are in the danger zone. There are concerns about data security, disinformation, and our autonomy.
- What steps is SURF taking now?

| Let the cloud make your life easy...



| We are not in Kansas anymore...

Evolution of Cloud Service at SURF

2014 – 2016: “Outsourcing”

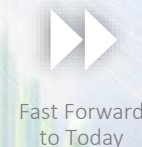
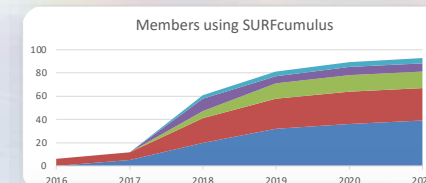
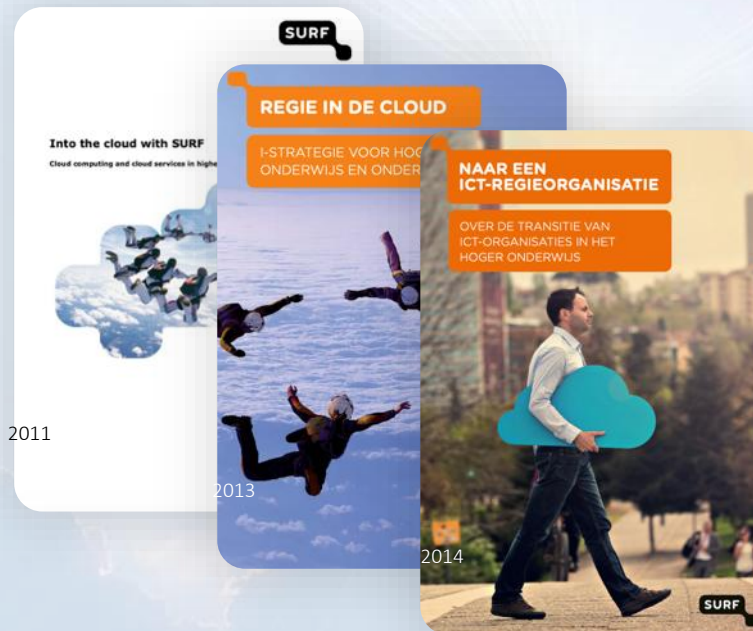
2016 – 2018: “Cloud Only”

2018 – 2020: Governance

2020 – 2023: Hyperscaling

2023 – 2024: Business Critical

Today: Sovereignty



Fast Forward
to Today



“ Public values are values that we, as a society, consider so important that we organize them at the societal level. ”

“ Publieke waarden, zijn waarden waarvan we het belang als samenleving zo hoog achten dat we ze op het niveau van de samenleving organiseren. ”

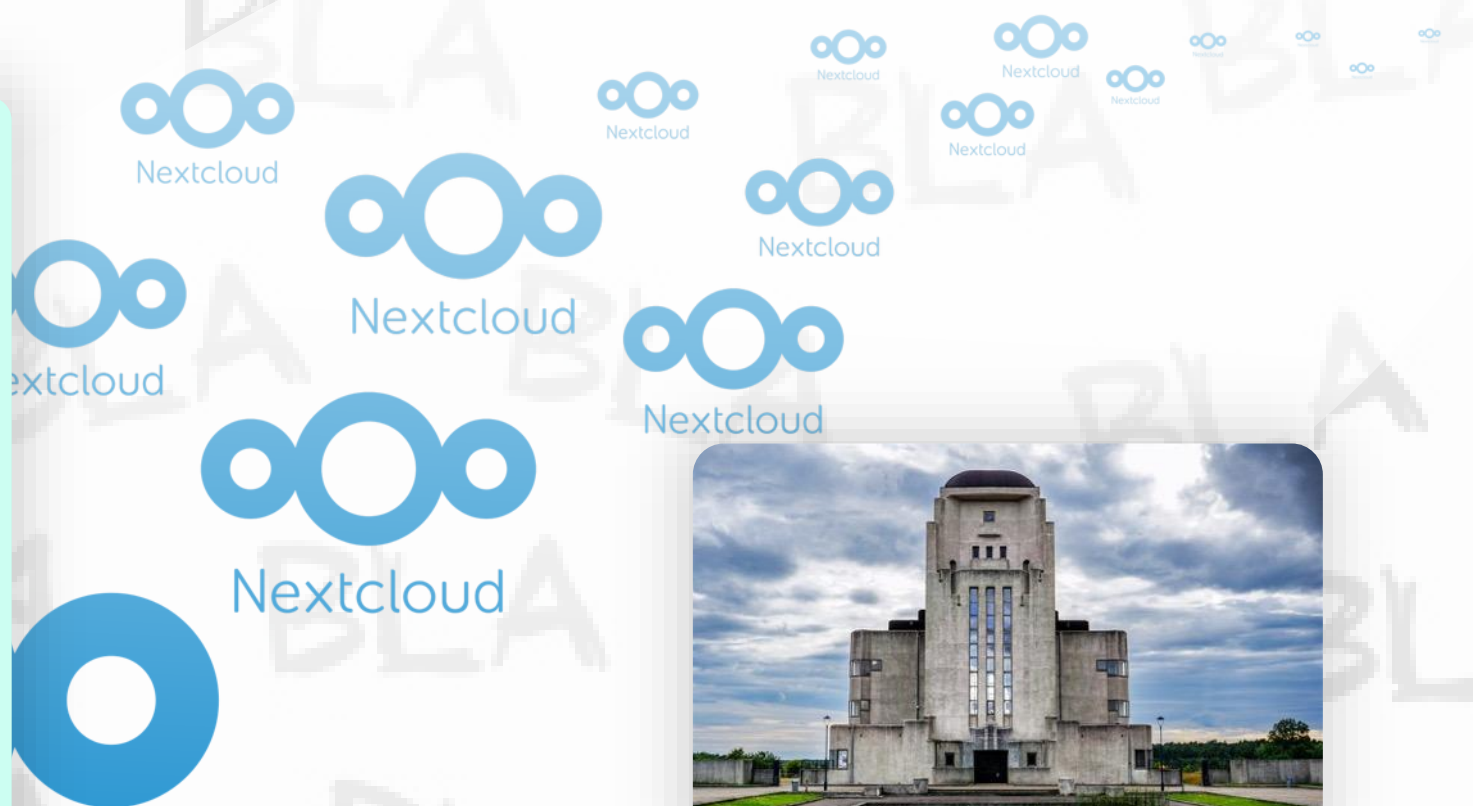
EuroStack – A European Alternative for Digital Sovereignty



EUROSTACK

Building a European alternative for technological sovereignty

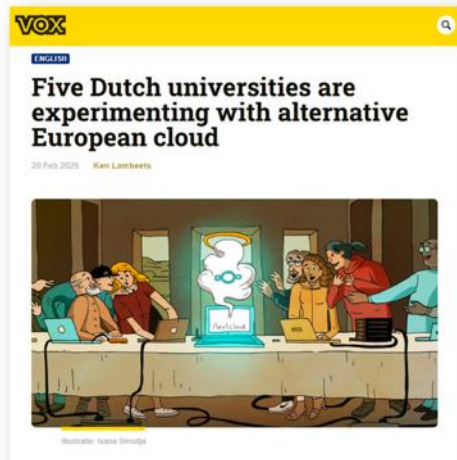
Sovereign AI, open-source ecosystems, green supercomputing, data commons, and sovereign cloud: Building homegrown alternatives to empower Europe to reclaim control of its digital future—layer by layer, innovation by innovation.



Radio Kootwijk

Naar aanleiding van een vraag daarover van Six Dijkstra (NSC) deed Hubert nog een interessant voorstel uit de doeken. In zijn *position paper* repte hij over Radio Kootwijk, een voormalig zendstation op de Veluwe. Met de bouw daarvan tuide Nederland begin twintigste eeuw een eigen communicatiekanaal op om zelfstandig te kunnen praten met het toenmalige Nederlands-Indië – onafhankelijk van de Britten en Amerikanen. ‘Dat gevoel krijg ik nu weer,’ aldus Hubert. ‘Zou het niet fijn zijn als we een cloud-equivalent voor Radio Kootwijk konden bouwen, zodat onze eigen communicatie in eigen land blijft?’

Why it matters?



OPINIE

Opinie: Trap niet in het charmeoffensief van big tech

Techlobbyisten proberen overheden ervan te overtuigen dat zij heus niet onafhankelijker hoeven worden van big tech. Maar het kan toch niet zo zijn dat onze vitale infrastructuur zonder de gratie van enkele Amerikaanse multinationals, niet functioneert?

Reijer Passchier 12 mei 2025, 15:41



- Did you expect the world to change so fast?
- Do you think SURF was ready for all the Geopolitical commotion?

“How do we really get moving now?”

(before it moves us)



| Approach within SURF

1. Save Haven for Research Data
2. Identifying bottlenecks and dependencies
3. Looking for alternatives
4. Organizing our environment
5. Sustainable Autonomy

Partly new, partly existing initiatives

And, we continue our existing work, both on our relations with big tech and on our search for alternatives – together with our members



| Safe haven for research data

The first concrete step is to provide a safe place for sensitive research data that has become vulnerable in the current geopolitical context.

Through SURF's existing research infrastructure, we can already facilitate these requests

In consultation with NWO, UNL, and KNAW, we will determine which data qualifies for this

We will scale up as the need increases, so scientists can rely on reliable, secure storage – within our own sphere of influence

Strategy still needs to be developed



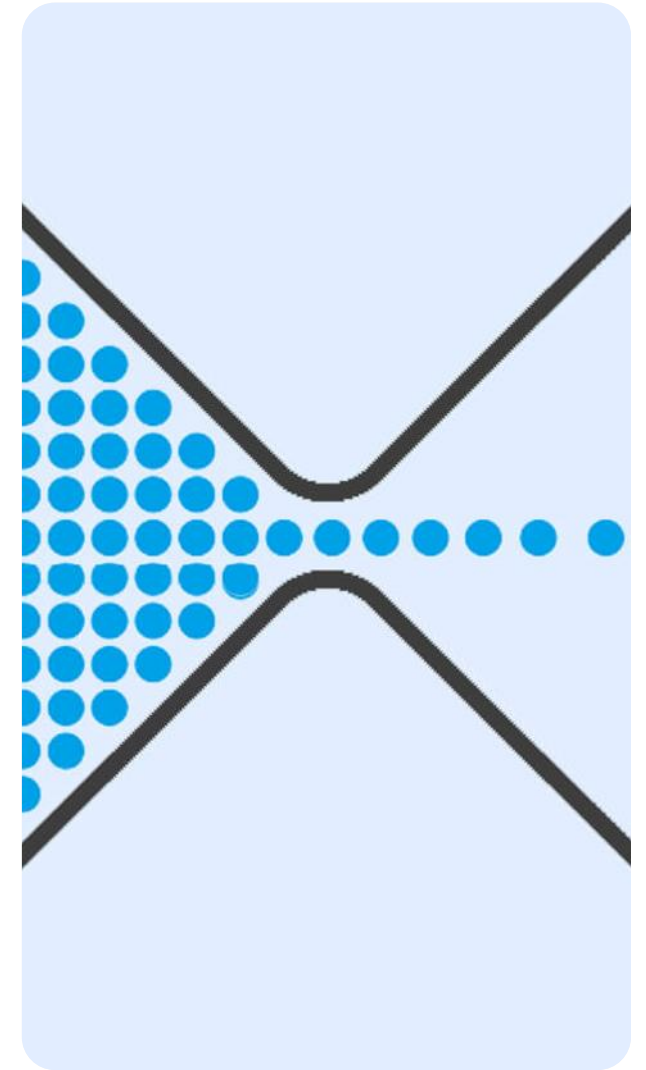
| Bottlenecks and dependencies

A solid plan starts with knowing where you stand.

- Therefore, we will map out the areas where SURF – and our members – are dependent on foreign or risky technology of vendors

We will look at:

- The services SURF hosts for members,
- The systems and tools we use within SURF,
- The services we procure for members.
- First assessment is underway

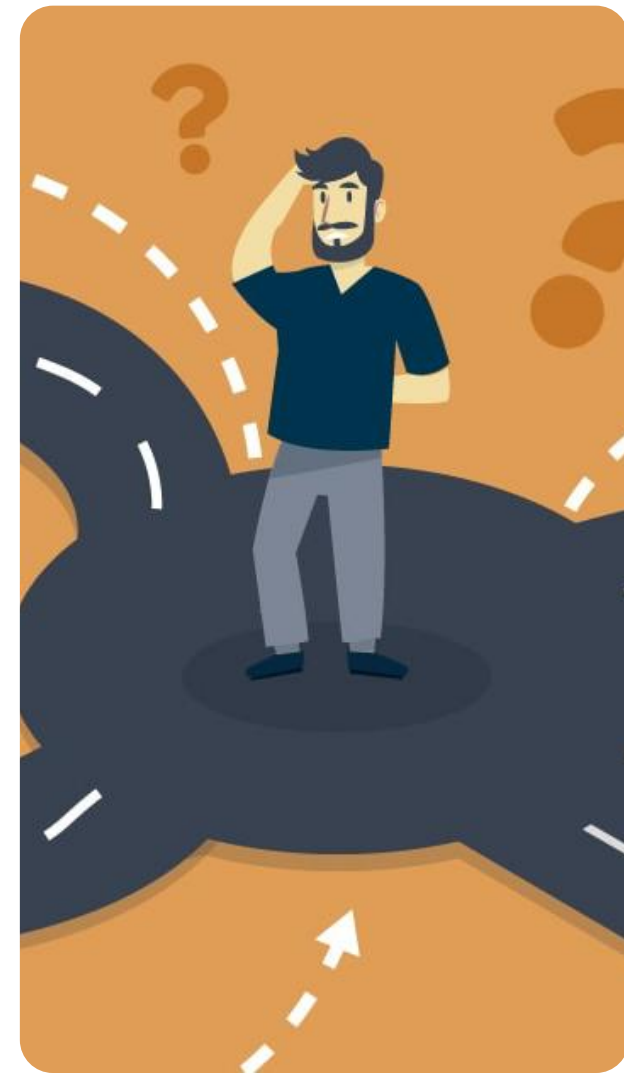


| Looking for alternatives

Becoming less dependent also means being able to make new choices

Therefore, we will broadly explore possible alternatives, from collaborative environments and office applications to European cloud solutions

Think of specific proposals for strategically urgent domains such as office productivity and smaller pilots like with Nextcloud or GPT-NL



| Organizing our environment

We are not alone in this...

Other public organizations, ministries, and (top) sectors are also concerned and taking steps

SURF actively seeks to connect with these initiatives

By working together, we can pool resources, knowledge, and influence

Our position in national and international networks enables us to play a meaningful role in this

But is this too big to chew on?



| Sustainable Autonomy

How do we ensure that strategic autonomy continues to receive attention within the SURF cooperation?

How do we make digital resilience a fixed part of our choices in service delivery, innovation, and operations? How can SURF contribute to a healthy market?

This track focuses on embedding: in policy, processes, and the culture of within the cooperation

Only in this way can we remain agile and autonomous – as a collective

An important principle here is the laid out in the SURF Cloud Sourcing Strategy



QUESTIONS

