

GCSE Bitesize Computer Science

Facebook's Jackson Gabbard on cloud storage

I'm Jackson Gabbard. I'm an engineer at the Facebook London office.

I've been at Facebook about 4 years and across those 4 years I've worked on a lot of different teams, which includes, like, Facebook Timeline for mobile devices. I also worked on the App Center, and then I also spent a little bit of time working on Facebook Groups. Storage, ultimately, is physical.

Any byte of data you ever want to retrieve, there is a physical hard drive somewhere that is storing it. I think cloud-based storage is becoming popular because it is an easy abstraction on the problem of how to physically store stuff.

Inside of Facebook, we have a few of these - photo storage, for instance. People using Facebook upload more than 220 million new photos every week. It is a big distributive file system. And you can just say, 'File system store this photo, file system give me this photo'. It's an abstraction on top of storage. But it ultimately boils down to physical hard drives, in a rack, in a row, in a cluster, in a data centre, somewhere in the world.