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FROM GOOGLE DOCS TO A LOCAL VAULT IN 10 MINUTES

Build a creative workflow they can't index, lock down, or delete.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Google Docs is fast.

It's also a surveillance terminal dressed as a word processor.

Every keystroke, every sentence you type, every revision you make is logged.

Your unfinished drafts? AI fodder.

Your client's NDA doc? Flagged and fingerprinted.

If you're a creator, your work is your leverage.

If it's stored in the cloud, **you don't really own it.**

This guide walks you through setting up a local-first creative vault using Obsidian, so your ideas, drafts, and IP stay with you, where they belong.

WHAT YOU NEED

- This PDF
- A computer
- Obsidian (free and local by default)

- 10 minutes and a little self-respect

STEP 1: INSTALL OBSIDIAN

Go to [Obsidian.me](https://obsidian.md) and download the app on your computer.

Install it. Don't overthink it.

It runs locally and stores everything in plain text.

STEP 2: CREATE YOUR VAULT

When you launch Obsidian:

- Click "**Create new vault**"
- Name it something like: `Creative_Vault`
- Choose a folder **on your local drive**, not synced to Google or Dropbox

Done. You now own your workspace.

STEP 3: IMPORT YOUR GOOGLE DOCS

Google doesn't make it easy, because they don't want you leaving.

But here's how:

- Open your doc in Google Docs
- Go to **File > Download > Plain Text (.txt)**
- Drop the .txt file into your vault folder

Do that for each doc.

It's not fancy. It's yours.

Optional: Use Google Takeout to export everything at once if you've got a graveyard of drafts.

STEP 4: STRUCTURE IT LIKE A CREATOR

Inside your vault, create folders:

- Projects
- Drafts
- Ideas
- Clients
- Publishing
- Assets

- Inside Drafts, drop your exported files.
- Inside Clients, create a folder per client.
- Inside Ideas, create a note called `seed_bank.md` for your idea parking lot.

You now have **a structure Google can't touch**.

STEP 5: OPTIONAL POWER-UPS

- Turn on **Markdown preview** to make things pretty
- Install the **Daily Notes** plugin to track work logs
- Want encryption? Zip the entire vault and encrypt with picocrypt or create an encrypted folder with veracrypt (guide coming)

WHAT YOU JUST DID

- Moved your creative brain *off the cloud*
- Claimed control of your files, ideas, and workflows
- Took the first step toward building a secure, local-first OS for your work

This is just the start.

You don't need to be a privacy expert.

You just need to stop handing your leverage to Google.

NEXT STEPS

- Stay off the radar and create on your terms
- Check the **Encrypted File Sharing Cheat Sheet** to safely deliver files to clients
- Download the **Creative Vault Template** to expand this into a full OS

Create. Encrypt. Control it all

<https://untraceabledigitaldissident.com>

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