



Cancer Research UK

Cancer Research UK to connect research institutes with Moonshot technology

Cancer Research UK is well known for its pioneering work in cancer research. However, the centralised way in which the charity runs its funding operation is different to the way that research is delivered, whereby many regional research institutes come together to collaborate within Cancer Research UK. This creates a major challenge for identity management.

The need to share information collaboratively has led the company to trial Janet's Moonshot technology at the charity's Cambridge Research Institute.



Image courtesy of Cancer Research UK

"Moonshot is a valuable enabler for Cancer Research across the UK. It will make collaboration systems easy to build internally so that we can quickly share large data sets between institutes, without complicating the management of that system."

*Peter Maccallum,
Head of IT & Scientific
Computing, CRUK
Cambridge Research
Institute*



Image courtesy of Cancer Research UK

CASE STUDY

Linking research and removing the barriers to collaboration.

Cancer Research UK is the world's leading charity dedicated to beating cancer through research.

The charity supports the work of over 4,000 scientists, doctors and nurses across the UK, and each year over 30,000 people enter clinical trials. The work has saved millions of lives through preventing, diagnosing and treating cancer.

Between £300-400 million is spent on research grants, a significant share of which goes to five major research institutes, two of which are based in London, and three in Cambridge, Manchester and Glasgow.

Separate institutes create separate identity issues

Each of the five key institutes that perform research for Cancer Research UK has its own organisational model, local HR, and local identity systems.

The institutes regularly form ad hoc relationships to collaborate for research purposes, but when the need arises to share data and documents, each institute can only authenticate within their own organisation. Currently, swapping data between institutes places a burden on system administrators and has the potential to create IT problems.

Creating an external website for collaboration between the regional organisation would have resulted in multiple security risks to small data sets of extremely high value (such as clinical results from patient trials), and as well as requiring petabytes of hosted storage (for DNA sequencing data).

Linking all five institutes

Cancer Research UK believes that Moonshot will address the issue of providing single sign-on for all five institutes, deliver significant cost and overhead savings, and preserve Cancer UK's existing security.

Peter Maccallum says: "We want to lift all of our institutes up into one virtual structure, and Moonshot technology makes

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that possible without having to re-write systems at a deeper level. With different research agendas, backers and systems between institutes that's a very important advantage for us."

A trial of Moonshot technology by Cancer Research UK is currently underway, with the goal of providing basic web or file services, document management systems and to distribute High Performance Computing work-flows which are currently localised.

Find out more about Moonshot

Moonshot is a Janet initiative in partnership with the GÉANT project and others, to develop a single unifying technology for extending the benefits of federated identity to services beyond the web, including cloud infrastructures, High Performance Computing, grid infrastructures and other services such as email.

A pilot to explore the use of Moonshot technology is underway. If you would like to take part in the pilot or get involved in other ways, please get in touch. You can contact Dr John Chapman, Strategic Programmes, on +44 (0) 1235 822346 for an informal chat, or you can contact Janet Service Desk on service@ja.net: Tel 0300 300 2212.

To learn more visit the Project Moonshot website: <http://www.ja.net/moonshot>

Image courtesy of Cancer Research UK

