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# The safe share project

## Highlight report 3

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### Background

To address the need for research in the UK to use and share sensitive data securely and safely, Jisc and leading UK universities are collaborating to provide Higher Assurance Network (HAN) connectivity over the Janet network and access management mechanisms between research centres. The safe share project is working with two particular research communities that use sensitive data to pilot the infrastructure:

- Biomedical researchers e.g. through the Farr Institute and the MRC Medical Bioinformatics initiative
- Administrative data researchers e.g. through the Administrative Data Research Network.

The safe share project is piloting a high capacity, encrypted network between research centres across the Janet network. The project is also piloting an Authentication, Authorisation and Accounting Infrastructure (AAAI) to demonstrate how Jisc's access and identity management services can be used to control access to sensitive data to further enhance the UK's research capacity in areas, such as medical, clinical, health and the social sciences.

There are two streams of activity within the safe share project:

- Higher assurance network connectivity across the Janet network (HAN)
- Access management mechanisms between health informatics research centres (AAAI)

### Project status

#### Stream 1 update – Higher Assurance Network (HAN)

1. Hardware arrived, pre-staged and tested, first pilot site implementation planned.

The hardware and related software has been received by the project and has been pre-staged and configured prior to deployment.

2. Implementation at Jisc Shared Data Centre in Slough.

The routers for the core of the HAN initiative were installed at the data centre at the end of November.

3. Implementation at Pilot Sites

The first implementation is expected to take place in December 2015 in support of the ADRN's "SafePod" project where a prototype SafePod (a specially-designed secure room) developed at St Andrews University will be connected to a safe share router at the University of Southampton.

Swansea University is ready for implementation in January 2016 with The University of Manchester and University of Leeds to follow soon after. The University of Edinburgh is currently configuring a new service to

support Farr@Scotland and ADRC-S, and will not be in a position to take part until this has been done. Further discussions are also taking place with Farr@London.

### Stream 2 update – Authentication, Authorisation and Accounting Infrastructure (AAAI)

There has been particular progress this quarter with the HPC pilot (The University of Manchester and University of Leeds) and eMedLab as follows:

- **HPC Pilot:** The University of Manchester is working on deploying the Moonshot infrastructure, and have a target resource in the HPC at University of Leeds to authenticate to, once ready. Jisc is assisting both Universities as infrastructure deployment is required at both sites. University of Sheffield has signed up for Assent, but its involvement is on hold due to other priorities and lack of site resources.
- **Swansea University:** The pilot project has been changed to the use of Assent as part of the Open Stack infrastructure for the Cloud Infrastructure for Microbial Genomics (CLIMB) project. This is a partnership between Swansea, Cardiff, Warwick and Birmingham Universities. The project is about to engage in detail with the technical lead for CLIMB at Birmingham.
- **eMedLab:** Jisc and eMedLab held a technical workshop in November to investigate requirements. eMedLab is working to get into a production-ready state with an initial system for partner use by the end of 2015; Assent (deploying and using moonshot) will come afterwards. More institutions from the eMedLab group are expected to join the Francis Crick Institute and sign up to Assent.
- **University of Oxford:** No updates as they are looking to learn from the other pilots first.

### Next Steps

- Further deployment of HAN equipment at those pilot sites that are ready, followed by testing.
- Review and acceptance of required policies, produce the HAN operational procedures
- Finalise the HAN accreditation design document
- Progress with the Leeds HPC AAAI pilot working with Leeds and Manchester and further planning with the eMedLab and CLIMB pilots.

*This communication was reviewed at the last Project Board meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2015. The next meeting is on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2016.*

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