

The safe share project

Highlight report 6

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.

Recent Major Achievements

- Researchers at Swansea and Cardiff have actively used the ADRN connection, the first direct use
- Further development of the Higher Assurance Network core infrastructure and security arrangements
- Routers delivered to 6 partner end sites, testing plans created and testing started.
- Positive AAI workshop with eMedLab and Cloud Infrastructure for Microbial Genomics (CLIMB) projects as a basis for those pilots.

Project status

Stream 1 update – Higher Assurance Network (HAN)

1. The safe share core has been configured for three service slices: Farr, ADRN and PSN.
2. The ADRN service slice between Swansea and Cardiff has been used by researchers
3. Routers have been configured and delivered to Leeds University and The London Borough of Hillingdon, taking the number of external end sites to 6.
4. PSN connection procurement successful and site surveyed.
5. A detailed test plan has been developed and is being implemented with all sites.
6. A safe share Service Design Document has been produced, detailing the low level design and technical details of safe share.
7. An implementation 'Quick Start Guide' has been developed for safe share members.
8. Service process documents are under development
9. Further work has been undertaken on the Business Case to take safe share to a production service.
10. Briefings on safe share have been had with 3 universities to discuss three different use cases.

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

1. A workshop took place with the eMedLab and Cloud Infrastructure for Microbial Genomics (CLIMB) projects to investigate how to use Moonshot with OpenStack with a view to them implementing Moonshot replying party proxies and testing with Jisc's test Identity Provider.
2. Initial contact has been made between Manchester and Jisc's Moonshot implementation consultancy.
3. There are now 16 organisations that have signed up to Assent. The full list can be found here¹

¹ <https://community.jisc.ac.uk/library/network-and-technology-service-documentation/assent-service-customer-list>

Next Steps

- Continue testing with all end sites.
- Configure and ship routers to Edinburgh and UCL.
- Re-engage with Southampton and St Andrews and update their routers.
- Move core equipment into new racks with additional security features to enhance the physical security of safe share.
- PSN connection to be installed.
- IT Healthcheck (penetration testing) for PSN compliance.
- Configure and ship a Farr service slice router to Swansea for testing.
- Shepherd Business Case through Jisc's product development process.
- Further review then acceptance and implementation of required policies and operational procedures
- Implementation of Moonshot at Manchester to allow for testing with Leeds via Assent.

Further Background

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 and investigating using the safe share infrastructure with local authorities and the Cabinet Office to extend the reach of the Public Services Network (PSN).

The project is also piloting an Authentication, Authorisation and Accounting Infrastructure (AAAI) to demonstrate how Jisc's trust and identity 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.

This communication was reviewed at the last Project Board meeting on 14th September 2016. The next meeting is on 7th December 2016.

For more information, please contact malcolm.teague@jisc.ac.uk, see <https://www.jisc.ac.uk/rd/projects/safe-share>, join the Community group at <https://community.jisc.ac.uk/groups/safe-share-project>, and follow [#jiscsafeshare](https://twitter.com/jiscsafeshare)