The safe share project
Controls and safeguards for researchers working with sensitive data
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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 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, running from November 2014 to June 2016, is piloting co-designed solutions with key stakeholders to provide a high volume, 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 sensitive data to further enhance the UK's research capacity in areas such as medical, clinical, health and the social sciences.

The project is being funded and managed by Jisc, in collaboration with key UK universities, and is working in partnership with the Farr Institute, the MRC Medical Bioinformatics initiative and the Administrative Data Research Network. It will lead to UK researchers undertaking more collaborative, better and faster data science by providing additional controls and safeguards when working with sensitive data, and will test approaches to:

- higher assurance network connectivity across the Janet network
- access management mechanisms between health informatics research centres.

The results will be used to inform decisions on a potential Jisc national infrastructure for secure access to data for researchers across various academic disciplines.

Benefits

- Reduction in duplication of effort as a solution is needed by everyone
- Avoidance of potential competing incompatible solutions in different centres
- Support for RCUK and Government strategies for research with sensitive data
- Co-ordinated partnership to help support UK research into public health
- Improved knowledge and a scalable solution providing benefits for other members of the community

"Safe share is a great example of UK-wide collaboration to build e-infrastructure that accelerates national progress, underpins governance and saves money. It will enable Farr Institute researchers to work as one secure analytic 'hive', better serving patients and the public with new knowledge and tools to improve healthcare at UK-scale."   *Professor Iain Buchan, Director of the Farr Institute @ HeRC*

For more information, please join the Community group or contact malcolm.teague@jisc.ac.uk.