

All of us together

UK Health Data Research Alliance Symposium

Tuesday 1 December 2020
09:30 - 17:00

Trusted (and Productive) Research Environments for safe research

Chair: Susheel Varma, Health Data Research UK

Panellists: Matthew Howard, AWS; James Zwiers, NHS Digital;
David Sibbald, Aridhia; Angela Wood, University of Cambridge

HDRUK
Health Data Research UK

UK Health Data
Research Alliance

Health Data Research
Innovation Gateway

→ Join the conversation:
hdruk.ac.uk/HDRAlliance20
@HDR_UK
#HDRAlliance20

Trusted Research Environments

Dr. Matthew Howard
International Head of Public Sector Healthcare Data Science & AI
Amazon Web Services

Who Are We? & What is Cloud?



A broad and deep platform that helps customers
build sophisticated, scalable, secure applications

Why do **customers** choose AWS?



Agility

Allows teams to experiment and innovate quickly and frequently



Innovate Faster

Ability to focus on business differentiators, not infrastructure



Cost Savings

Only pay for what you use, lower upfront expenses



Elasticity

Stop guessing capacity, scale up and down with demand



Go Global in Minutes

Most extensive, reliable, and secure global cloud infrastructure



Service Breadth & Depth

180+ fully featured services to support any cloud workload

Architected for European Compliance Requirements



Global Quality Standard



Security Management Controls



Cloud Specific Controls



Personal Data Protection



GDPR

General Data Protection Regulation



SOC 1

Audit Controls Report



SOC 2

Security, Availability, & Confidentiality Report



SOC 3

General Controls Report



Data Security & Protection

Toolkit

Standards Exceeded



C5 [Germany]

Operational Security Attestation



ASIP HDS [France]

Personal Health Data Protection



Cyber Essentials Plus [UK]

Cyber Threat Protection



ENS High [Spain]

Spanish Government Standards



NCSC [UK]

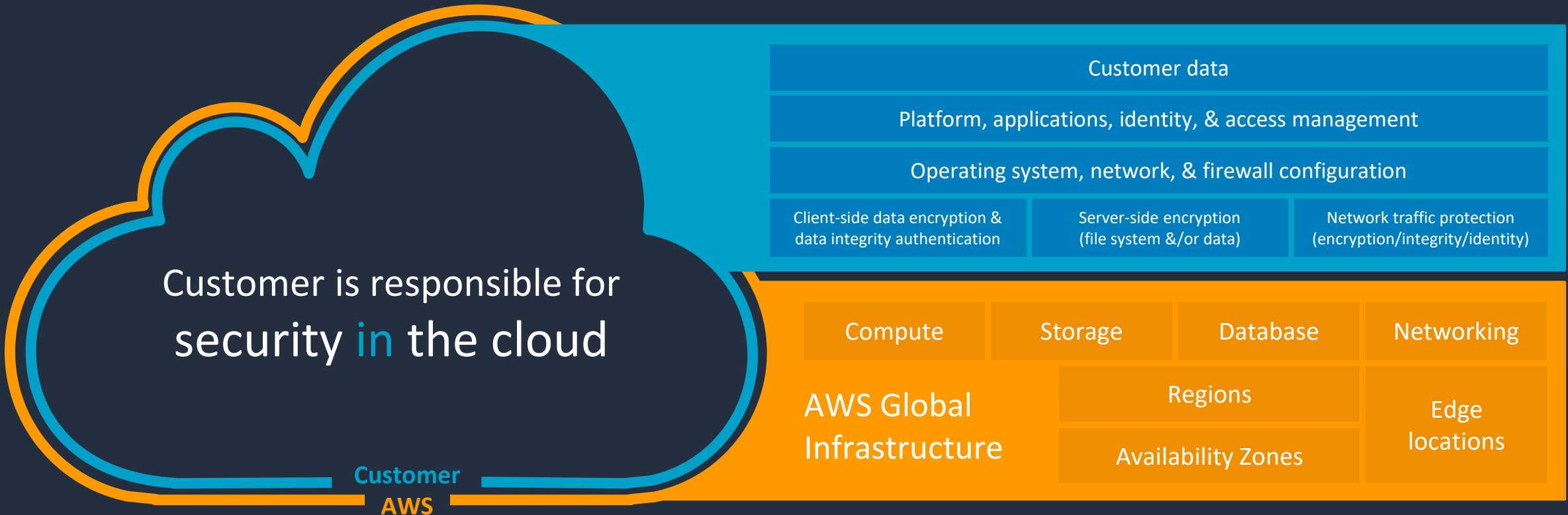
Cloud security guidance



CSA

Cloud Security Alliance Controls

Share your security responsibility with AWS

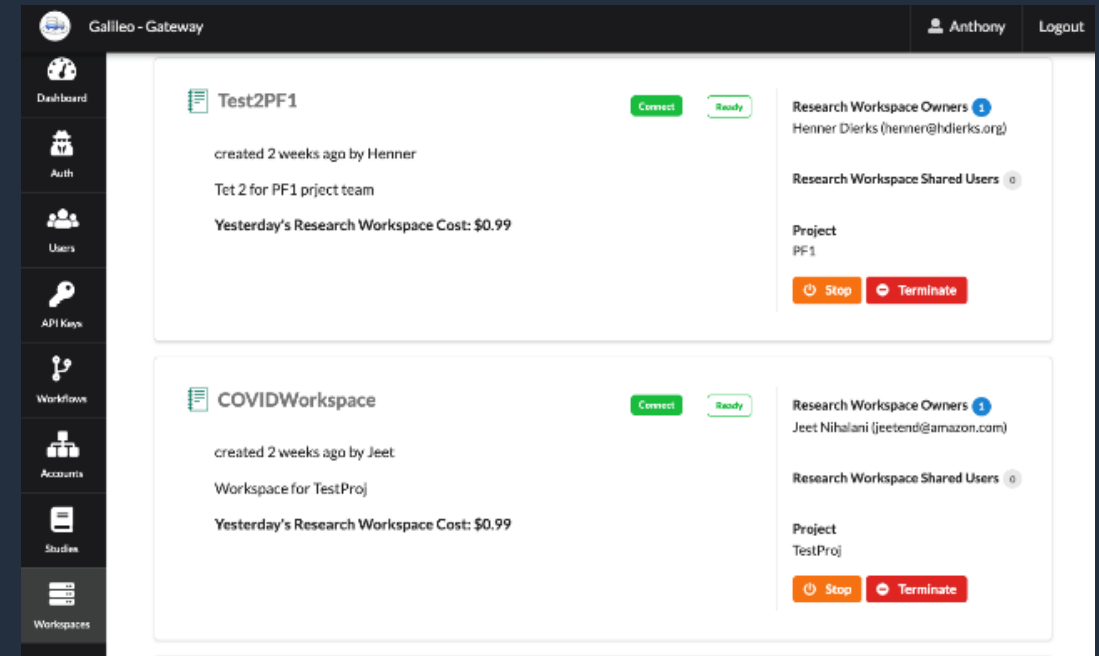


AWS is responsible for security **of** the cloud

Example: Service Workbench on AWS

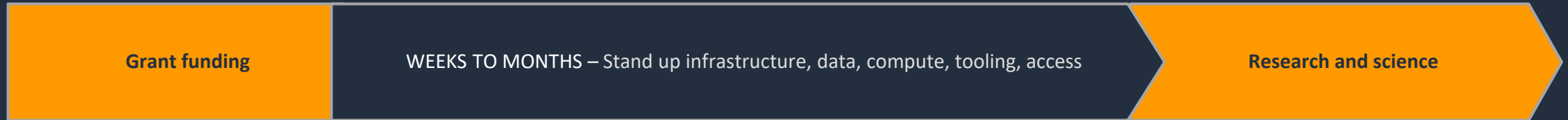
Web-based, Collaborative Research Framework

- An **open source** research web-application for you and your peers to collaboratively work with federated data, launch compute and tools within minutes
- Enables IT to provide you with secure, repeatable, pre-configured research environments that meet your institution's compliance needs (**HITRUST, HIPAA, ISO, FedRAMP Mod-eligible AWS services**)
- Provides you and IT with cost transparency and spend controls to help your projects stay within budget
- As an AWS open source solution, you only pay for the underlying AWS services consumed

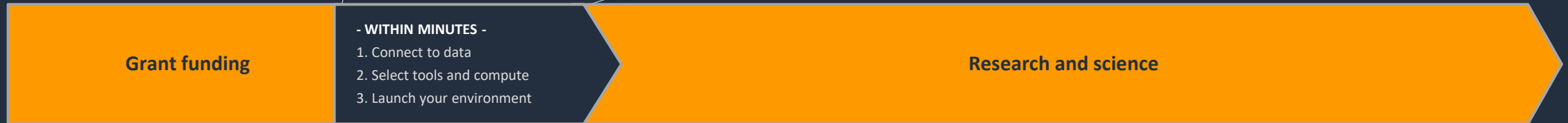


Use Cloud to reduce time to science

Existing



with
Service Workbench



Promotes

- ✓ Repeatable and configurable
- ✓ Secure infrastructure and environments
- ✓ Cost estimation, tracking, and controls

Why researchers are choosing Service Workbench on AWS



Reduce time to science

Access research environments in minutes



Controlled access to data

Controlled access to datasets at scale



Conduct research securely

Maintain consistent security, compliance, and governance



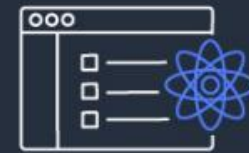
Globally accessible

Collaborate with researchers around the world



Scale and agility to grow

Virtually limitless tooling via AWS Service Catalog




Spend controls

Cost visibility, centralized budgeting and chargeback management

Broad and Deep Functionality






TECHNICAL & BUSINESS SUPPORT





-  Support
-  Professional Services
-  Optimization Guidance
-  Partner Ecosystem
-  Training & Certification
-  Solutions Management
-  Account Management
-  Security & Billing Reports
-  Personalized Dashboard

MARKETPLACE










-  Business Apps
-  Business Intelligence
-  DevOps Tools
-  Security
-  Networking
-  Databases
-  Storage

ANALYTICS








-  Data Warehousing
-  Business Intelligence
-  Hadoop/Spark
-  Streaming Data Analysis
-  Streaming Data Collection

-  Elasticsearch
-  Data Pipelines
-  Interactive SQL Queries
-  ETL







DEV OPS

-  One-click App Deployment
-  Resource Templates
-  Build & Test
-  Application Lifecycle Management
-  DevOps Resource Management
-  Triggers
-  Containers
-  Analyze & Debug
-  Patching








MOBILE SERVICES

-  API Gateway
-  Single Integrated Console
-  Identity
-  Sync
-  Mobile Analytics
-  Mobile App Testing
-  Targeted Push Notifications







IoT

-  Rules Engine
-  Device Shadows
-  Device SDKs
-  Device Gateway
-  Registry
-  Local Compute






MACHINE LEARNING

-  Custom Model Training & Hosting
-  Image & Scene Recognition
-  Facial Recognition & Analysis
-  Facial Search
-  Text to Speech
-  Conversational Chatbots
-  Deep Learning (Apache MXNet, TensorFlow, & others)






ENTERPRISE APPS

-  Virtual Desktops
-  Sharing & Collaboration
-  Corporate Email
-  App Streaming
-  Communications
-  Contact Center






HYBRID ARCHITECTURE

-  Data Integration
-  Integrated Networking
-  Integrated Identity & Access
-  Integrated Resource & Deployment Management
-  Integrated Devices & Edge Systems




MIGRATION

-  Schema Conversion
-  Exabyte-Scale Data Migration
-  Application Migration
-  Database Migration
-  Server Migration

APP SERVICES

-  Queuing & Notifications
-  Email
-  Workflow
-  Transcoding
-  Search

INFRASTRUCTURE

-  Regions
-  Availability Zones
-  Points of Presence







CORE SERVICES

-  Compute
VMs, Auto-scaling, Load Balancing, Containers, Virtual Private Servers, Batch Computing, Cloud Functions, Elastic GPUs, Edge Computing
-  Storage
Object, Blocks, File, Archival, Import/Export, Exabyte-scale data transfer
-  Networking
VPC, DX, DNS
-  Databases
Relational, NoSQL, Caching, Migration, PostgreSQL compatible
-  CDN

SECURITY & COMPLIANCE

-  Identity Management
-  Access Control
-  Monitoring & Logs
-  Assessment & Reporting
-  Web Application Firewall
-  Configuration Compliance
-  Key Management & Storage
-  Account Grouping
-  Resource & Usage Auditing
-  DDOS Protection

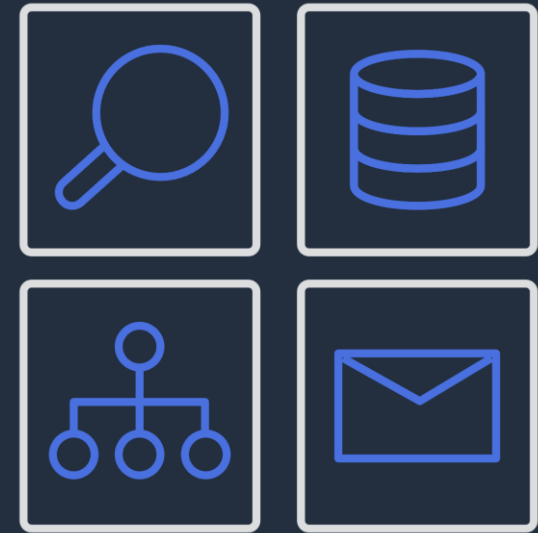
MANAGEMENT TOOLS

-  Manage Resources
-  Service Catalogue
-  Configuration Tracking
-  Monitoring
-  Server Management
-  Resource Templates



Service Workbench Core Capabilities

- Comes preconfigured with 5 simple research environments for
 - EC2 VM for Linux
 - EC2 VM for Windows
 - RStudio on EC2
 - SageMaker on EC2 with Jupyter Notebook
 - Hail on EMR
- Federated access to S3 storage whereby datasets are emulated as local file folders with writable storage
- Requires that your IT has resources familiar with AWS services, including AWS Service Catalog, AWS CloudFormation templates
- <https://github.com/awslabs/service-workbench-on-aws>



Thank You!

mjhoward@amazon.com

[aws.amazon.com/health/
github.com/awslabs/service-workbench-on-aws](https://aws.amazon.com/health/github.com/awslabs/service-workbench-on-aws)

NHS Digital Trusted Research Environments

Enabling Repeatable, Reliable Population Scale Research

HDRUK Alliance Symposium

1st December 2020

Information and technology
for better health and care

Presented by
James Zwiers



Data Platform

History & Capabilities



History

Oracle SAS and SAS Grid **2009**

Data analysis and management capabilities within a single toolset

“DME” Oracle and MS SQL with Oracle SAS Grid **2011**

Expanded co-location SQL estate to provide additional capacity

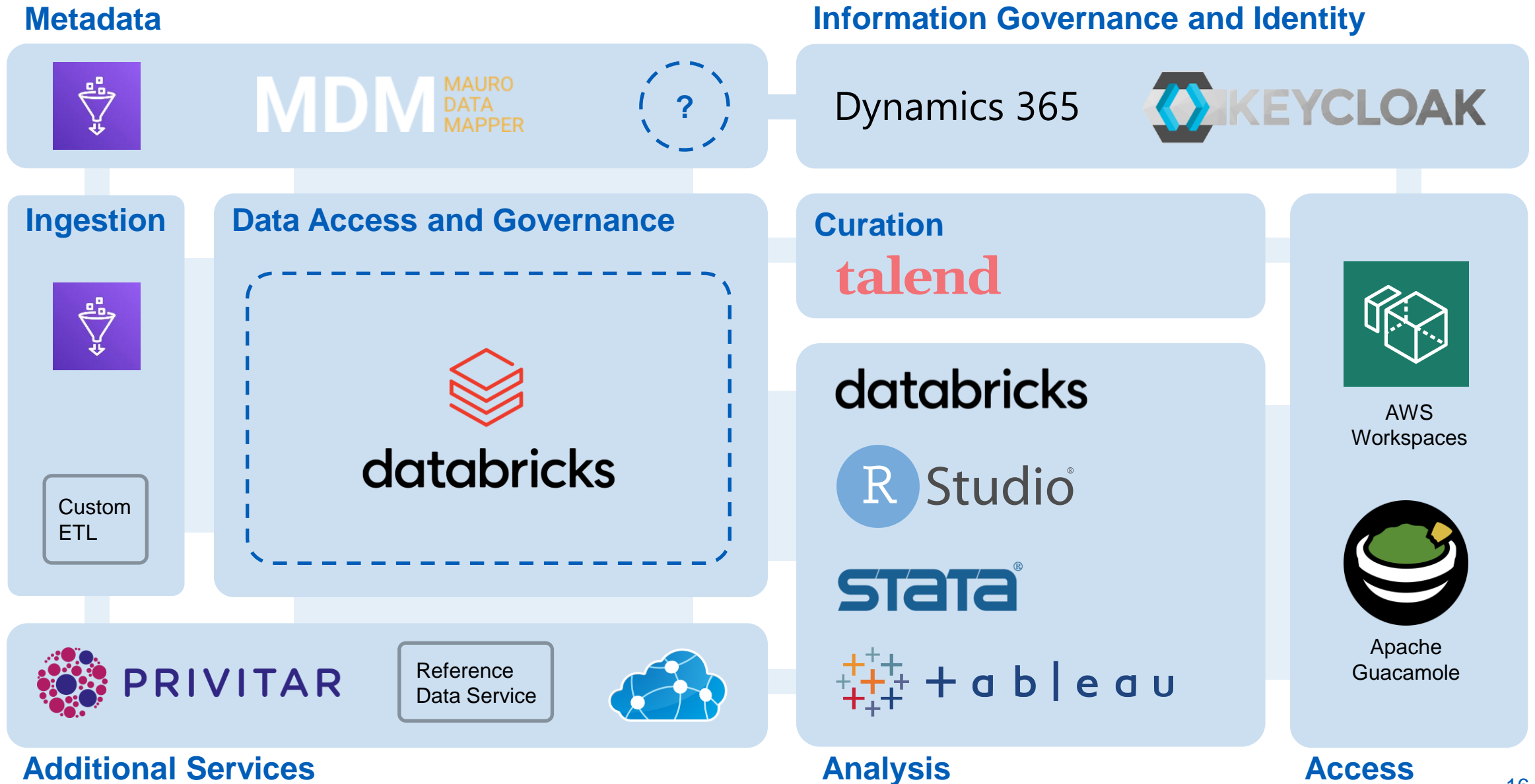
“SDCS Classic” .Net and Riak **2012**

Portal-based data collection facility, which replaced two prior collection tools

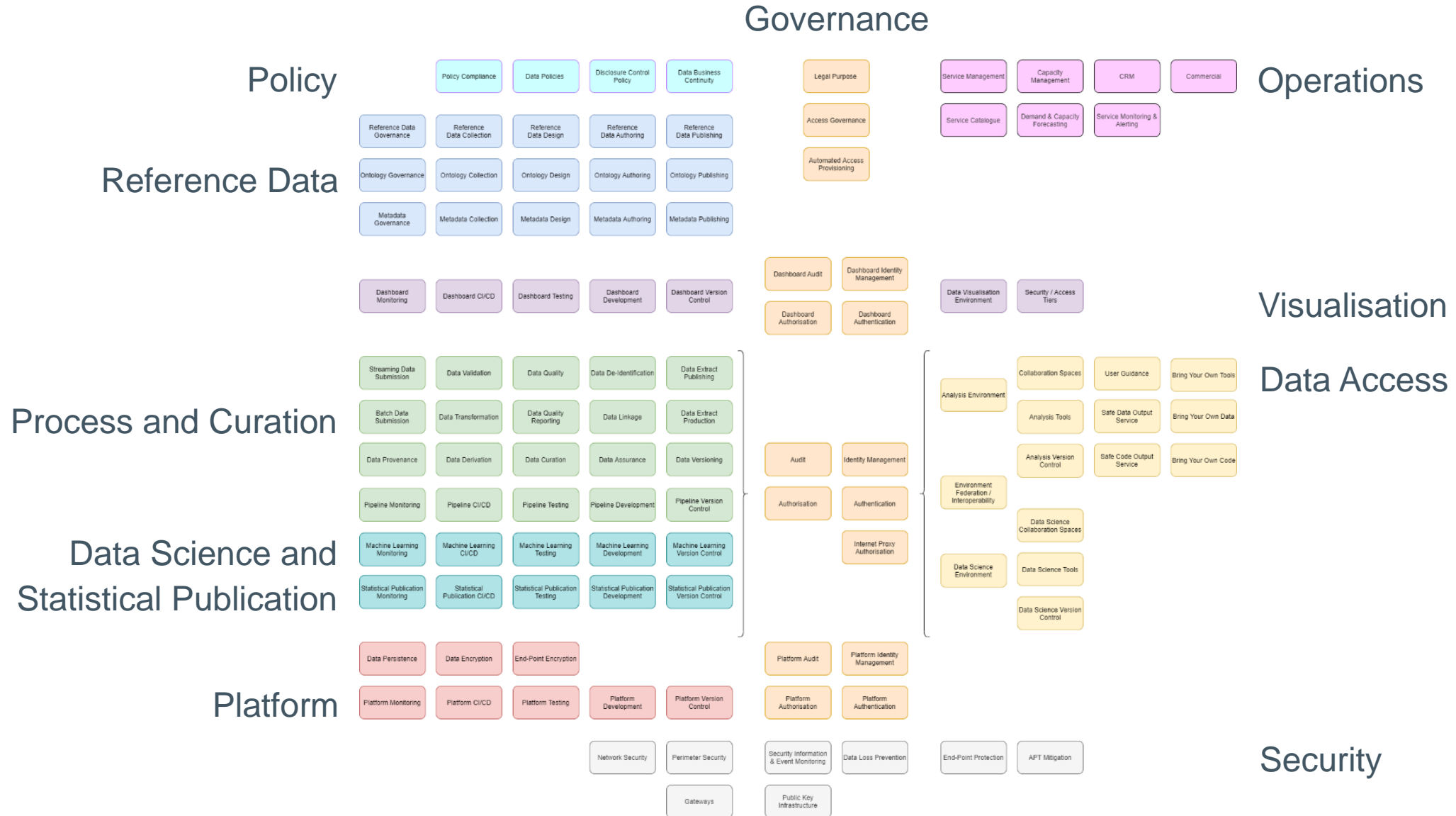
“DPS” Databricks **2018**

A modern cloud-based big-data environment for data management, analytics and data science.

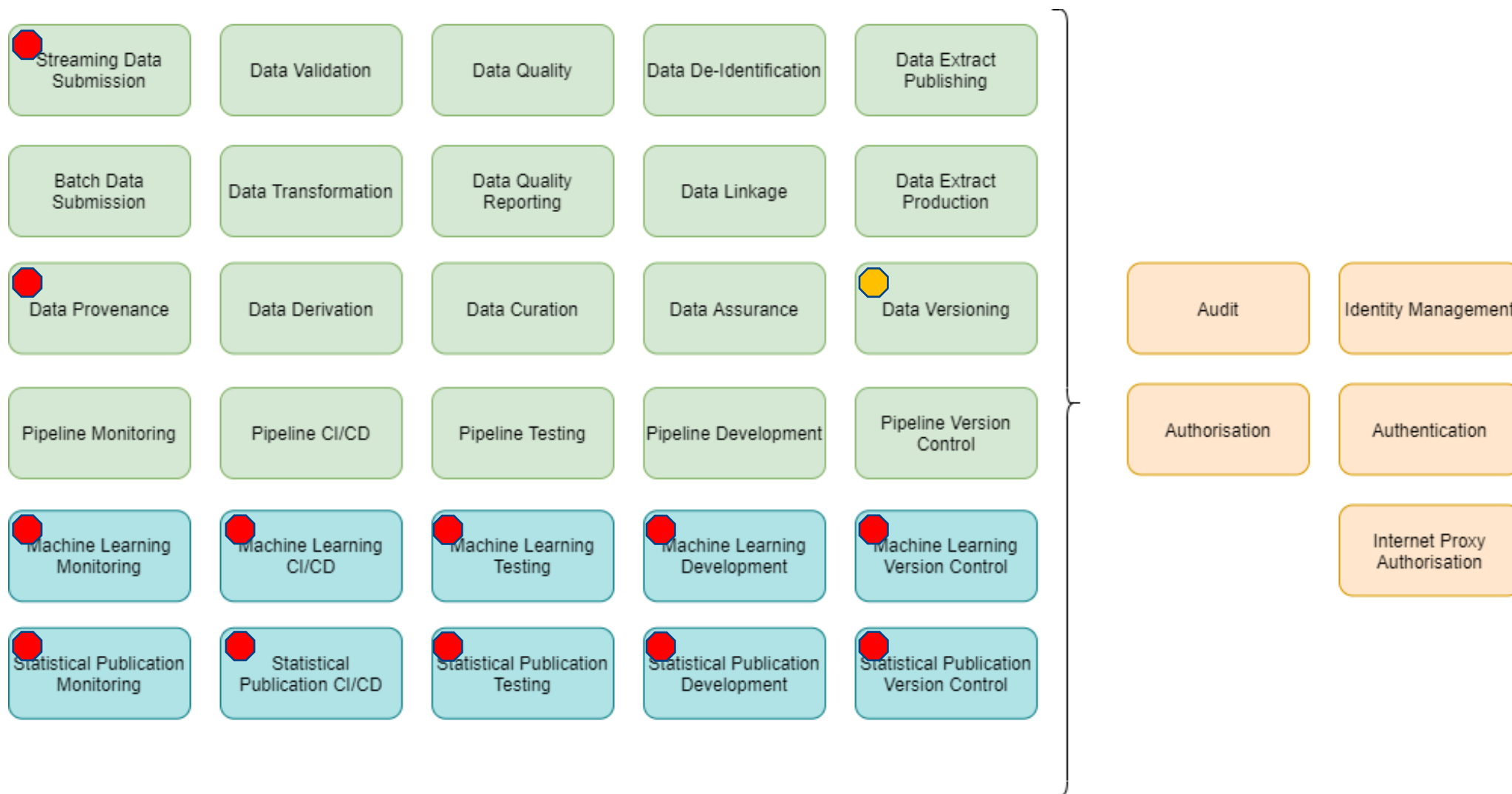
Architectural Overview



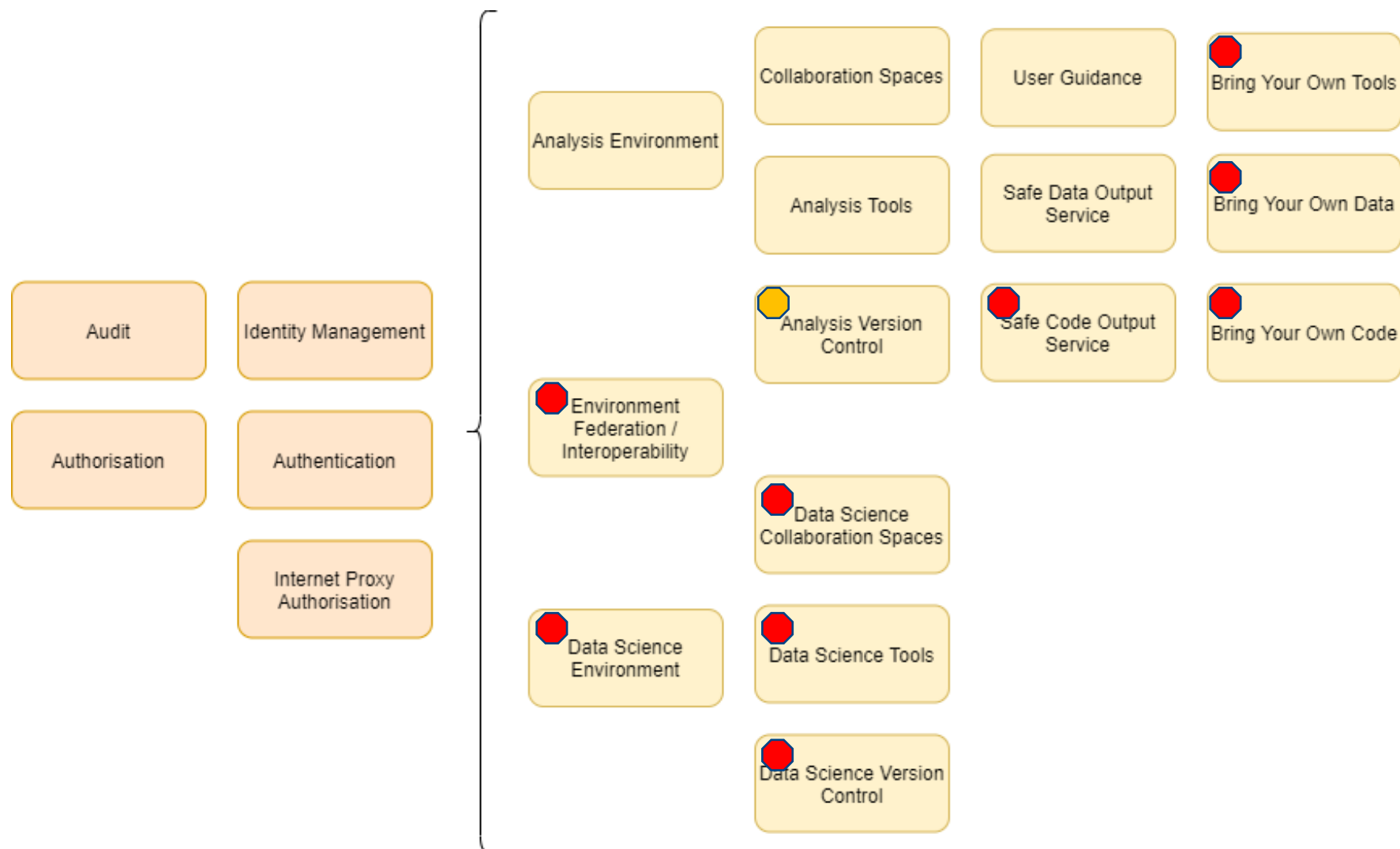
Platform Capabilities



Platform Capabilities: Processing & Curation



Platform Capabilities: Data Access



Platform Forward View

Five Themes



Five Themes

DAE Usability

Adoption of a user-centric design for the Data Access Zone, providing modern, rich and performant analytical and data science environments.

Policy-Based Access Control

Replacing the current direct-grant access control with a highly-scalable policy-based approach will deliver substantive improvements to the data access processes.

Metadata-driven Models

The introduction of a robust, integrated metadata modelling layer, facilitating the exchange of business metadata with partner organisation and full-scale automation of the platform

Five Themes (cont)

Configuration-Based Ingestion

A configuration and orchestration approach to the ingest and pipelining of data allows for the rapid onboarding of novel data collections and reuse of standard pipeline components.

Data Manager Independence

Providing fully independent development environments and lifecycles for data managers and data scientists will enable organisation-wide adoption of the platform.

Five Themes: Impact on the TRE Service

Improving the analytical environment

We are in the process of developing a new analytical environment that will offer a vastly improved user experience, with more capabilities to deliver additional tooling choices. Further, we are expanding the collaborative features of the environment by adding version control that is shared amongst all of the members of a sharing agreement.

Automating the provision of data & access

We are investing in new tools that will automate the provision of data once a sharing agreement has been signed.

Rapid data pipelining and curation

New tools and methodologies are being adopted to radically increase the pace at which we can bring existing data collections onto the platform, as well as bring in new novel data collections.

Building a data science environment

We have begun gathering requirements for a data science environment, with the intention of enabling reliable, reproducible work to be undertaken safely.

Questions?

Connect with us

 **@nhsdigital**

 **company/nhs-digital**

 **www.digital.nhs.uk**

Information and technology
for better health and care



Creating an eco-system for research (of which TRE's are one part)

- **Alzheimers Disease Data Initiative (ADDI)** – a newly formed independent MRO for AD
 - A global, networked approach to improving scientific discovery for AD
 - A two-year Pilot program now moving to global implementation
 - Philanthropic, public and private initiative at scale
- Solving for many to many interactions
 - Many data contributors (the Supply) and many researchers (the Demand)
 - How to discover data and how to work with data
 - Giving data contributors choice on data access approaches and reducing friction on data sharing
- Capacity building and working in the open
 - Open source programs
 - Freedom to operate for researchers
 - Serving the many researcher profiles that make up the community



"I'm optimistic that this will make a real difference in Alzheimer's research, because there are many examples where we've made progress on diseases after bringing together large amounts of data."

Bill Gates



AD Workbench

01

Search data
sets on existing
platforms

03

Combine
data across
multiple
platforms

02

Add new multi-
dimensional
datasets

04

Analyze new
and existing
data sets



[AD Workbench Video](#)

Together, we can connect
the dots and fight AD.

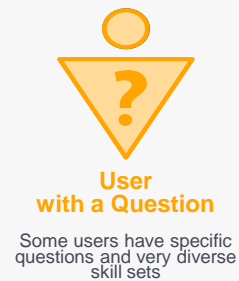
For Data Contributors – Federated Data Sharing

- Data sharing agreements are diverse and we need to reduce barriers for data sharing amongst data controllers
- **Our approach asks data controllers to self-select at what ‘level’ they can join the network**
- 3 levels of which federation is one (remember federation is not always the best choice, that’s why choice is important!)
- Audit all use and transactions that run through the lifecycle of the project – transparency and productivity
- **For the Federated approach –**
 - Create an **open ecosystem** through a software development kit (SDK)
 - Partners can implement the API in a way that suits their local circumstances, join the ADDI network AND can re-purpose the implementation to join other networks
 - Researchers can implement their analysis plans or develop tools that suit their requirements
- Currently, the Federated API is an **open specification** shared by ADDI and other initiatives (HDR UK, ICODA)
 - <https://github.com/federated-data-sharing/>
- **Establish an open standard for data platforms to participate in open and closed data sharing networks**
 - Implement once, join multiple networks
 - Encourage convergence of existing (proprietary or niche) efforts
 - Encourage an ecosystem of tools & syndication
- **“Package” existing standards where they exist and fit**
 - OpenAPI
 - OAuth2 for API authentication
 - W3C DCAT standard for catalogues
 - GA4GH TES = Task Execution Service for compute tasks



For the researcher community – recognising the diversity of requirements

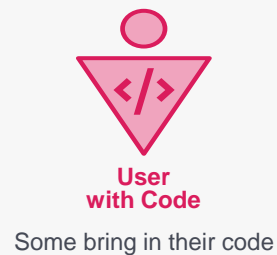
Different types of Users want to interact in different ways – there's a very **longtail** of use cases and skill sets



Standard

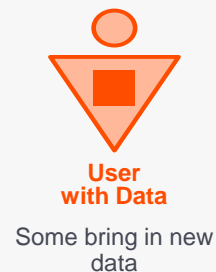
SQL console	✓				
Data Table Analytics		✓	✓	✓	
R Console	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
R-Shiny Apps	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Virtual Machine	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Jupyter Notebooks - beta	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Code Options
PostgreSQL
R code generation
R
R
Multiple, optional GPU
Python, R, Julia



Add on

Containerised apps	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Azure ML Services					✓
Cromwell on Azure	✓				✓
Azure Cognitive services	✓				
3rd party Apps	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cohort browsing	✓	✓			



How?

Query	Visualise	Test	Model	Learn
SQL Tidyverse, Pandas Bioinformatics pipelines, NLP Image analysis	Charts and reports, Interactive apps, Matplotlib, plotly Imaging tools Graph visualisation	CRAN packages R Studio Anaconda	CRAN packages, R Studio Anaconda	scikit-learn tensorflow keras pytorch Automated training



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE



Working within a Trusted Research Environment (TRE) for access and analysis of population-wide patient-level healthcare data

My user experience in the NHS Digital TRE for England

Angela Wood

Reader in Health Data Science

Cardiovascular Epidemiology Unit

Department of Public Health and Primary Care

University of Cambridge

amw79@medschl.cam.ac.uk



**British Heart Foundation
Data Science Centre**

Led by Health Data Research UK

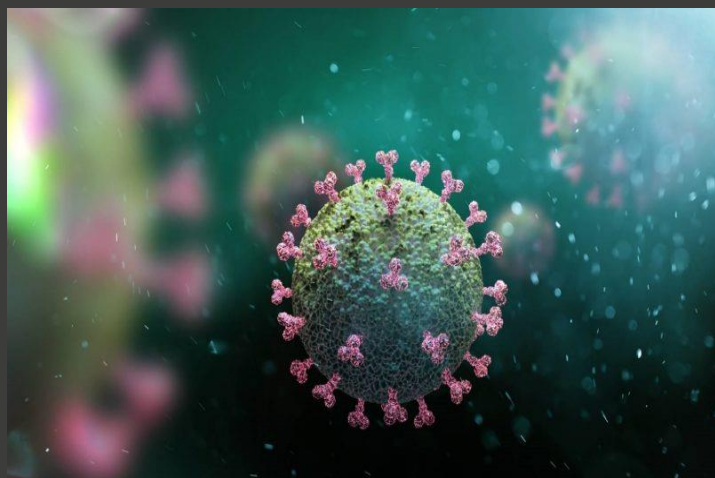
HDRUK
Health Data Research UK



Professor Cathie Sudlow,
Director of the
[BHF Data Science Centre](#)

Vision:

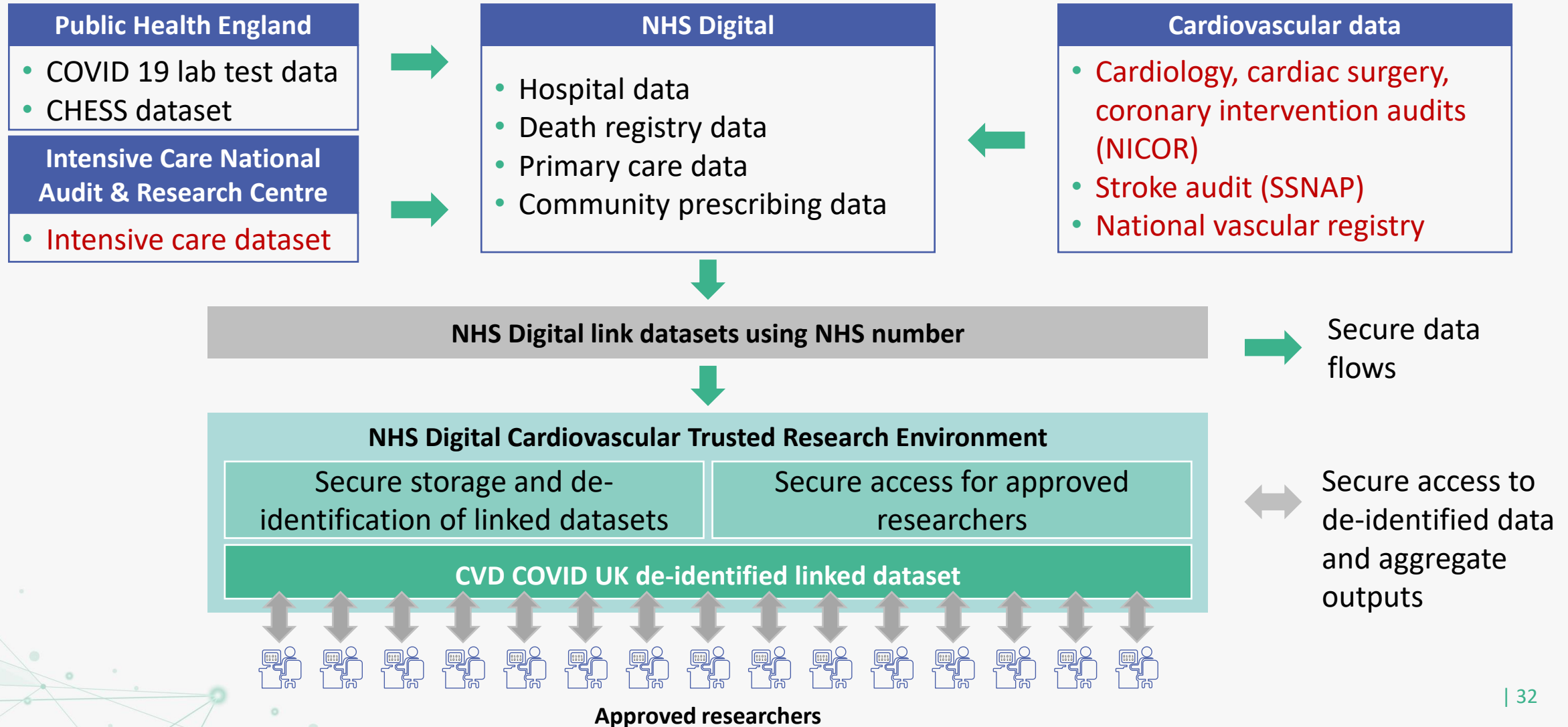
To improve the public's cardiovascular health using the power of
large-scale data and advanced analytics across the UK



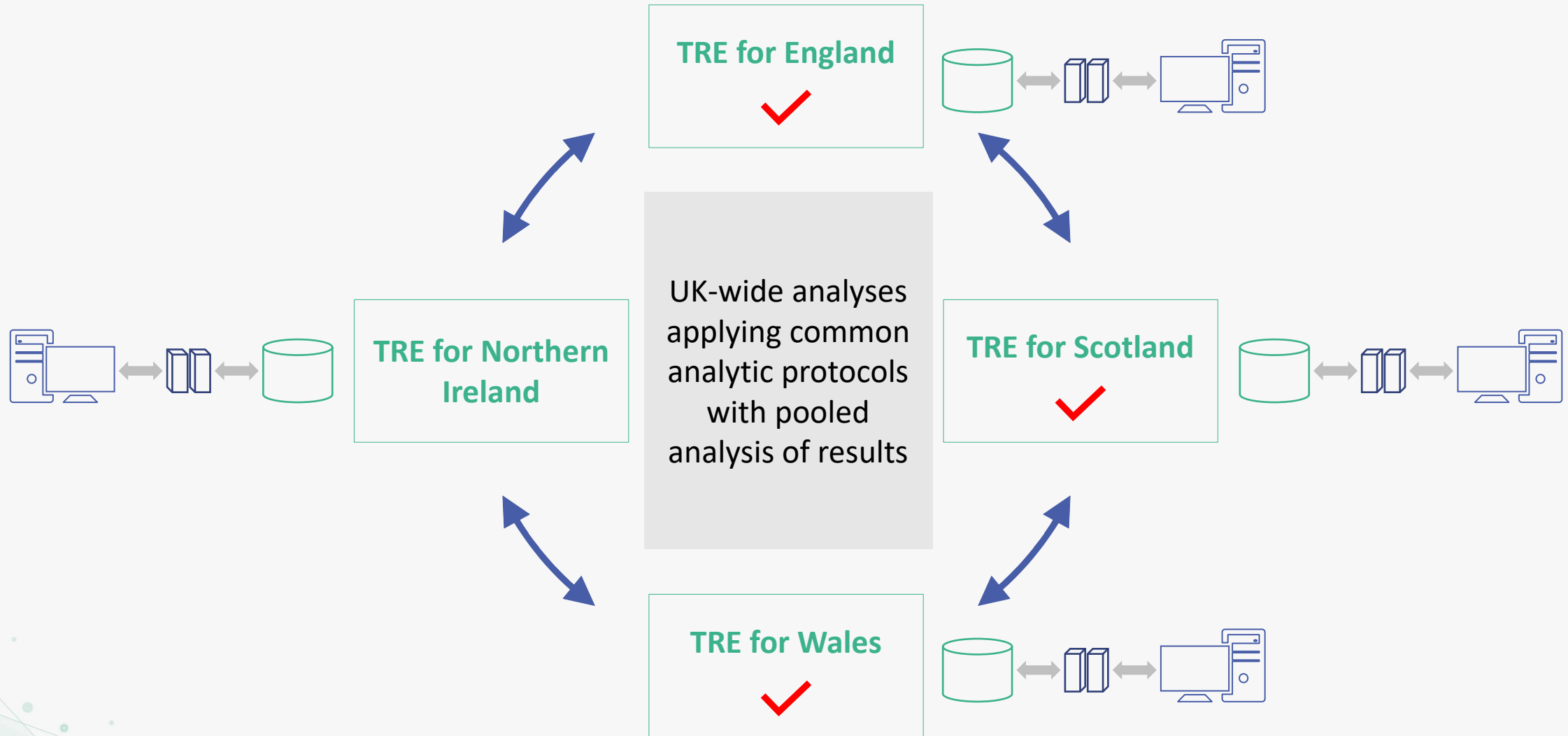
DRIVER PROJECT: The CVD-COVID-UK project

Aims to understand the relationship between COVID-19 and cardiovascular diseases such as heart attack, heart failure, stroke, and blood clots in the lungs through analyses of de-identified, linked, nationally collated healthcare datasets across the four nations of the UK

Infrastructure of the NHS Digital TRE



CVD-COVID-UK: building UK-wide infrastructure



My journey into the NHS Digital TRE for England

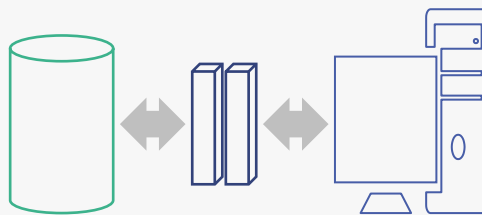
May 2020



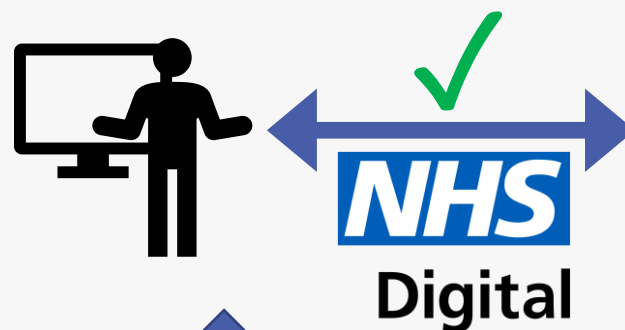
Nov 2020

1. User input into design of platform
2. Structuring TRE collaboration folder spaces
3. Data quality checking, cleaning
4. Writing and refining analysis plans
5. Preparing datasets for planned analyses
6. Reference codelists to define variables of interest
7. “Approvals and Oversight board” with lay members
8. Descriptive analysis of available resources

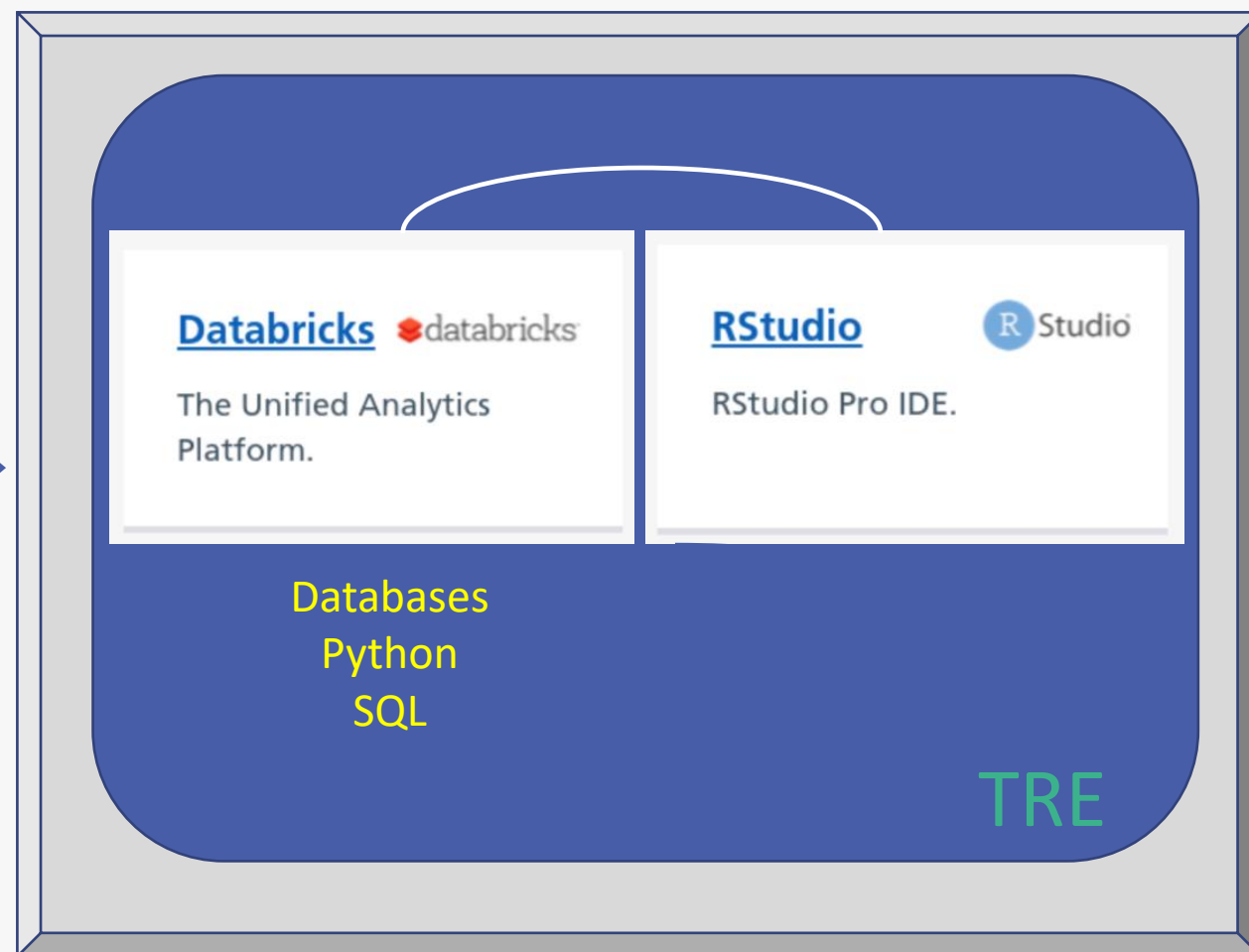
Inside the TRE for England (my experience)



- Login in via web-browser
- 2-factor authentication



- Input / output
software packages / libraries
reference codelists
analysis output



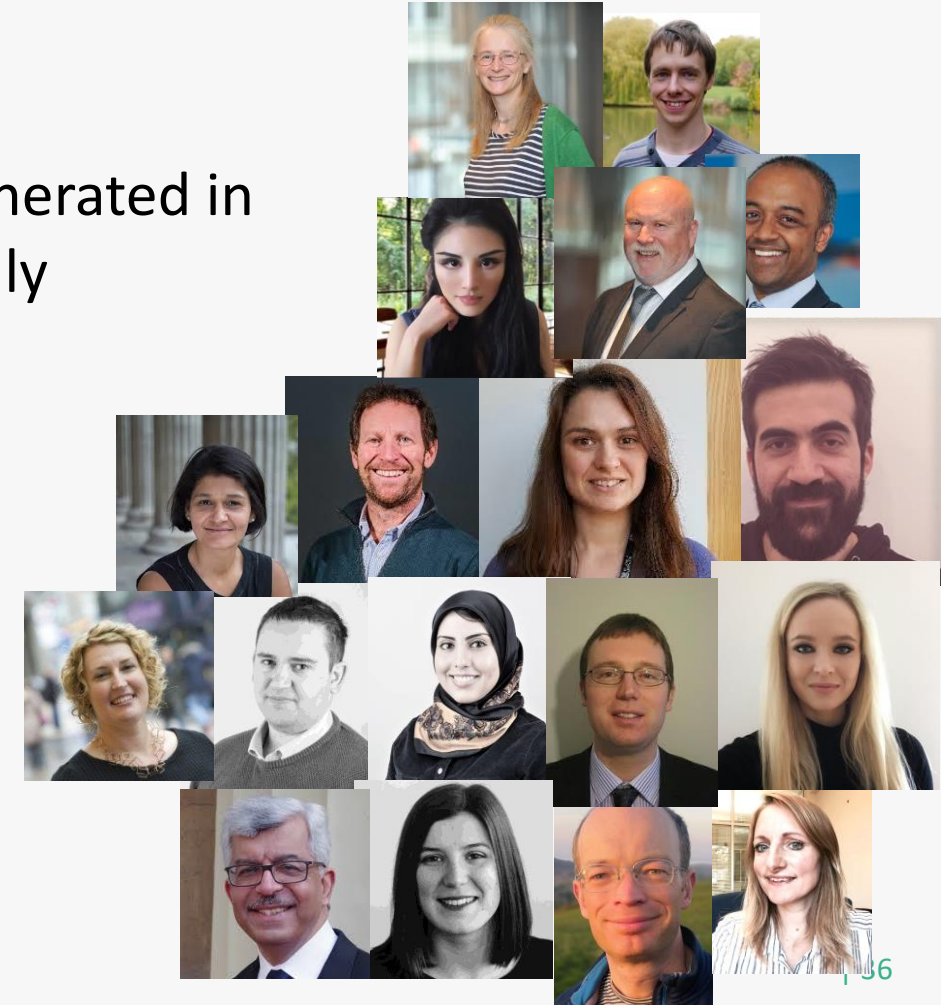
CVD-COVID-UK consortium – key ingredients



This ambitious project depends on:

1. Availability of multiple different sources of data generated in NHS healthcare settings, brought together nationally
2. Researchers collaborating together
3. Data privacy, security and trustworthiness
4. Partnerships and transparency

An inclusive, open and transparent consortium
Committed to the 'Five Safes' (<http://www.fivesafes.org/>)



What is working well?

- ✓ Consortium + NHS Digital working in partnership
- ✓ Across institution academic researchers collaborating
- ✓ Multi-disciplinary research teams
- ✓ Dedicated data curators (eg, Sam Hollings)
- ✓ Hands-on access to the data
- ✓ Learning from other TREs (eg, SAIL via Ashely Akbari)
- ✓ NHS Digital manuals / guides
- ✓ HDR UK Turing/Wellcome PhD students training projects

Hold backs

- ✗ Delays in datasets availability and linkability
- ✗ Lack of user control (inputs/outputs)
- ✗ Users really need SQL / Python skills

Technology “must haves”

- ✗ Github / Gitlab for version control and collaborative work
- ✗ Need more memory on link between Databricks and RStudio
- ✗ GPUs / acceleration chips
- ✗ Known computing capacity

MUST HAVE!

To be determined...

- ? Success of monthly data updates & version controls
- ? Access to TREs for Wales, Scotland and N. Ireland
- ? Scaling up number of analysts / HPC requirements

Future: Increasing productivity

- Dedicated funded researchers
- Extension to support health-related research more broadly beyond COVID-19 & Cardiovascular
- Extending functionality so accessible to broader skillsets
- Establishing overarching analysis approaches across four national TREs



All of us together

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Tuesday 1 December 2020
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Coming up next...

11:35-11:45 Break

11:45-12:35 Innovation Gateway Demo, Drop-in
Session and Lightning Talks

Find the links to join in your brochure or at hdruk.ac.uk/symposium-links-20

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