



Better Knowledge Better Society

**Micro, remote, safe
settings (safePODS) –
extending a safe setting
network across a country**

Chris Dibben



Administrative Data
Research Centre
Scotland

An ESRC Data
Investment

Background

- ▶ Administrative Data Research Network (ADRN) is a UK-wide partnership funded by the UK's Economic and Social Science Research Council.
- ▶ It aids accredited researchers carry out social and economic research using linked, de-identified, administrative data.
- ▶ At present there are 6 research centres with safe settings across the UK.



Motivation

- ▶ Geographical distance will discourage use
- ▶ Safe setting can be costly to set up, as it involves the building or modification of a room
- ▶ Overcome barriers - prefabricated micro, safe-rooms - fully controlled and consistent environment for data analysis



What is required?

- ▶ Needs to be equivalent to conditions in a geographically co-located safe setting.
- ▶ ‘five safes’: safe projects, safe data, safe outputs, safe people and safe environments
- ▶ in concert, same time, place - data in practise anonymous



Safe people and environments

- ▶ Production of a 'regulated space' - Space in which the data exists, is:
- ▶ (firstly) only accessible to individuals who are felt to be very unlikely, due to character, professional position and training, to attempt to gain this information
- ▶ (secondly) allows an 'unequal gaze' to exist, where there is the constant *possibility* of observation

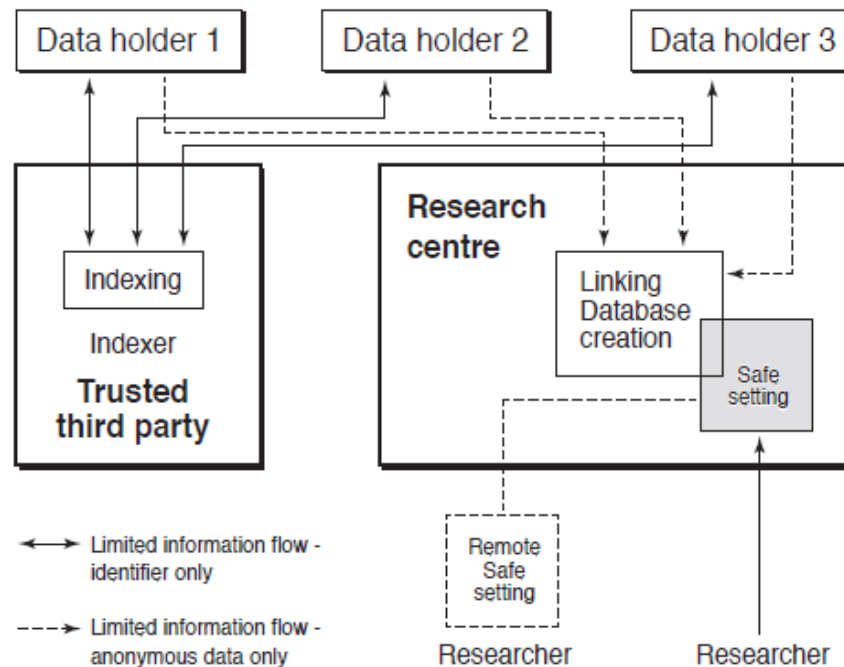


'unequal gaze' - Panoptican



Separation of functions

Privacy-ethical advisory bodies



Safe settings, shaping behaviour and producing regulated spaces

- ▶ Controlled access (ie it is not in a public space) to the space housing the work space.
- ▶ Methods for controlling who has access to or is in the work space.
- ▶ Methods for monitoring behaviour in the workspace – the ‘gaze’ of the research centre.
- ▶ That the remotely executed work is only visible to those in the work space.
- ▶ A pleasant working environment that discourages any forbidden behaviour.
- ▶ Strong environmental ‘cues’ that encourage safe behaviour.
- ▶ A built structure that needs to resist a deliberate but not a determined malicious intruder (eg an intruder using considerable force or tools).



Major advantages

- ▶ The safe setting design/ environment would be identical across a network and the safe setting network, as a regulated space, would be more consistent
- ▶ Could be design to maximise the dual aims of a safe setting: safe and secure but convenient and comfortable research environment.
- ▶ This would be a scalable and so a more affordable solution for small institutions – larger institutions could simply have multiple units
- ▶ Could be designed so de- and re-construction was possible and therefore units moved within the country if not used sufficiently or within an institution when restructuring.
- ▶ Could be reusable as simple workstations/ quiet work places if there use became redundant overtime.
- ▶ It will not be as space efficient for multiple users ie you could fit more people in an open lab.





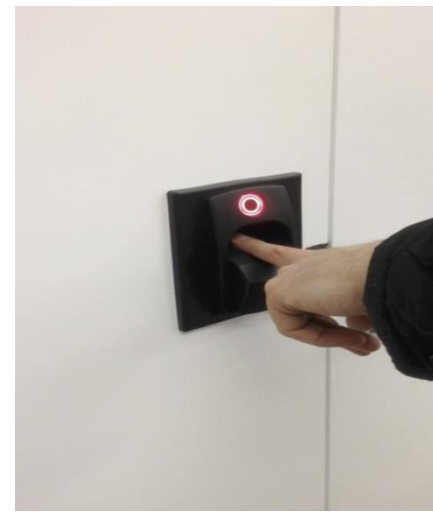
Fingerprint authentication



Blue – reader ready



Green – fingerprint accepted



Red – fingerprint denied

1. Fingerprints enrolled centrally.
2. Remote management of access for a person by date and time.





CCTV camera



View from camera

The CCTV camera monitors and records activity remotely. Alerts are sent on motion activation.





SafePods as Embassies



Micro, remote, safe settings (safePODS) – Chris Dibben



Conclusions

- ▶ The safePOD concept therefore represents a flexible tool for extending a safe setting network
- ▶ Arguably with very little increased risk in the potential of a disclosure of personal data.
- ▶ It involves relatively little management by the host institution
- ▶ It may also have particular advantages over traditional 'safe lab' type safe settings
- ▶ it is possible that the safePOD may actually have a greater degree of control and institute a greater level of self-discipline in users than other types of safe setting.

