

The FAIRVault project is an interuniversity collaboration between four Flemish universities (Ghent University, Hasselt University, University of Antwerp and Vrije Universiteit Brussel) to develop a generic solution for archiving, in a FAIR-aligned way, research data for which no suitable repository exists, in particular sensitive data.

### Why?

- 1) Researchers and institutions are expected to
 

**Preserve** for a specified retention period & **provide access** to finished research data for validation & reuse

**Protect** data

“As **open** as possible, as **closed** as necessary”
- 2) Existing data repositories do not cover all of our needs, especially for sensitive data
  - Constraints of **scope** & collection policies
  - No (sufficient) access control mechanisms
  - Compliance with applicable **legislation/regulations?**
  - Data beyond institution’s control
  - Not always trusted by researchers
  - Sometimes **dissemination** rather than preservation focus
- 3) Current research data ‘archiving’ practices are often suboptimal
 


  - Use of expensive, ‘active data’ storage types
  - Lack of **metadata** & documentation
  - Risks of data alteration
  - No clear disposal process
  - No (proper) **access request** & reuse management

## 1. Project’s proposition

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**Adressing unmet needs**

Domain-agnostic, FAIR-enabling archiving solution, even for sensitive research data, aligned with local (regulatory) context
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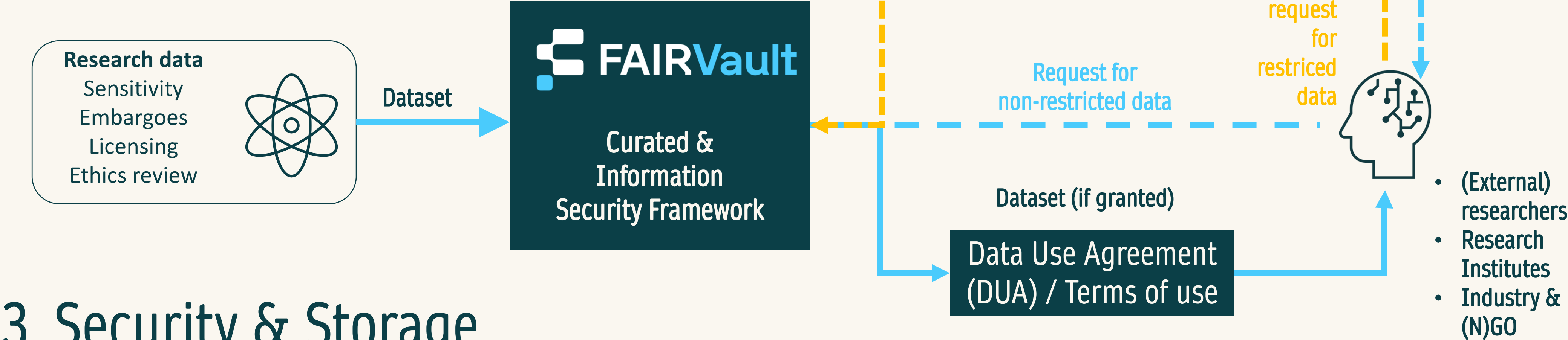
**Institutional control**

Custom storage, centrally controlled access to institutional research data assets
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**Collaborative**





With potential for expansion beyond universities

## 2. Concept



## 3. Security & Storage

Data Tags (originally developed at Harvard University) are a tool to quickly assess the level of sensitivity of a dataset in a standardized way that is easy to understand for both humans and machines. We tailored Data Tags to be in line with the EOSC-Hub recommendations and to optimize user-friendliness of the FAIRVault.

Tag	Description	Security features	Access conditions	Access level compatibility
	Non-confidential and non-sensitive information	Clear storage Clear transmit	None. The dataset can be freely downloaded without registration.	Open, accessible to registered users or restricted
	Non-confidential and non-sensitive information with some access control	Clear storage Clear transmit	Contractual obligations are agreed upon clicking a checkbox, button or link to indicated consent.	Accessible to registered users or restricted
	Confidential and sensitive information	Encrypted storage Encrypted transmit	Contractual obligations are defined in a pre-set DUA that needs a signature of the data requester. Access request approval via an institutional employee.	Restricted
	Very confidential and sensitive information	Encrypted storage Encrypted transmit	Contractual obligations are defined in a pre-set DUA or a custom-made DUA agreement that needs a signature of the data requester. Access request approval via a DAC.	Restricted