FAIRVault

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Abstract

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, FAIR-enabling solution for archiving research data (in particular sensitive data) for which no suitable repository exists.

Why the FAIRVault:

Researchers and institutions are expected to:

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

*"As **open** as possible, as **closed** as necessary"*

Protect data according to legal and ethical frameworks

Existing repositories do not always meet our needs:

- Insufficient access control mechanisms for **sensitive data**
  - **Variability** in data sensitivity
- Compliance with applicable **legislation/regulations**?
- Not always trusted by researchers
- Constraints of **scope** & collection policies
- Data beyond institution's control
- Sometimes **dissemination** rather than preservation focus

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

Different institutions have shared needs, but different requirements:

- Benefit from shared infrastructure and expertise
- Highly sensitive data may require local storage
- Data curation at institutional level

FAIRVault in a nutshell:

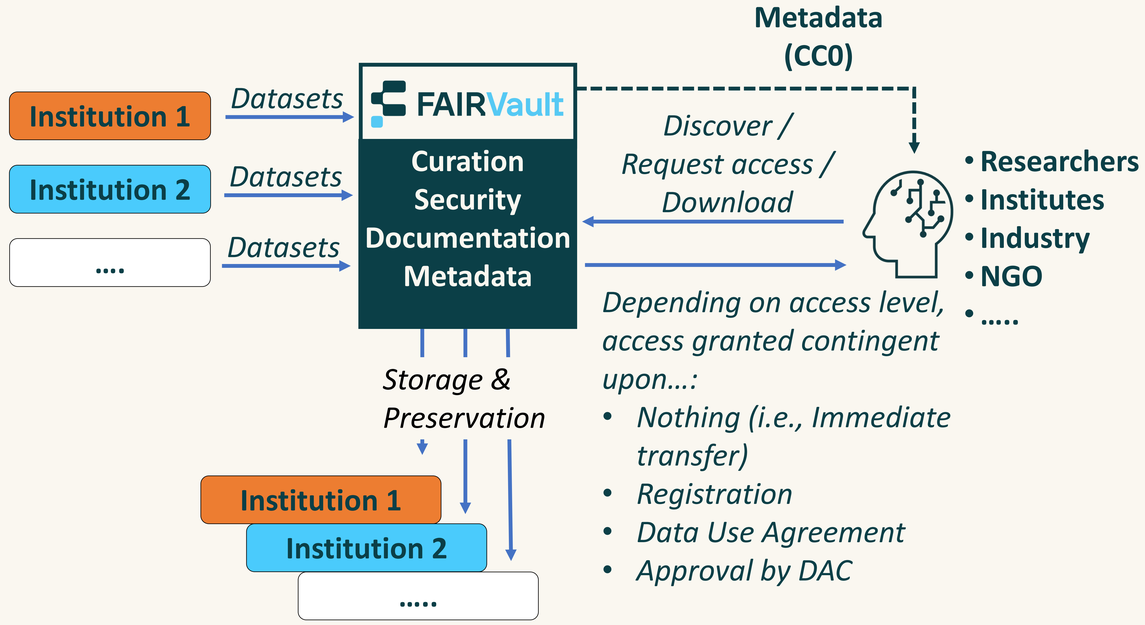
Secure environment
Create a trusted solution for researchers, including those dealing with sensitive data

Institutional control
Custom storage, centrally controlled access to institutional research data assets

Collaborative
Multi-institutional setup to address shared needs
Minimise redundancy and optimise resources – exchange knowledge

Open-source
Making use of Dataverse, engaging in an already vibrant community with longevity and stability

The concept:



Choosing a Data Repository Software

Feature Requirements:

- Customizable, multi-tenant storage solutions
  - S3, Globus endpoint, trusted remote storage
  - Configurable on institutional- or dataset-level
- Graded sensitivity levels
  - File-level access configurability
- Customizable data curation workflows
- Community and sub-community collections
- Integrations with long-term preservation systems
- Active open-source community
  - Users and Developers

Software Evaluation Process:

- Original long list of 14 software choices
- Shortened to two main options:
  - Dataverse and InvenioRDM
- Dataverse selected as option for future testing and development

The Dataverse® Project