

Table of Contents

1. Overview	. 1
1.1. Version information	. 1
1.2. Contact information	. 1
1.3. License information	. 1
1.4. URI scheme	. 1
1.5. Consumes	. 1
1.6. Produces	. 1
2. Introduction	. 2
3. DRS API Principles	. 3
3.1. DRS IDs	. 3
3.2. DRS Datatypes	. 3
3.3. Read-only	. 3
3.4. URI convention (WORK IN PROGRESS)	. 3
3.5. Standards	. 3
4. Authorization & Authentication (WORK IN PROGRESS)	. 4
5. Paths	. 5
5.1. Create a new Data Bundle	. 5
5.1.1. Parameters	. 5
5.1.2. Responses	. 5
5.1.3. Tags	. 5
5.2. List the Data Bundles	. 5
5.2.1. Parameters	. 5
5.2.2. Responses	. 6
5.2.3. Tags	. 6
5.3. Retrieve a Data Bundle	. 6
5.3.1. Parameters	. 6
5.3.2. Responses	. 7
5.3.3. Tags.	. 7
5.4. Update a Data Bundle	. 7
5.4.1. Parameters	. 7
5.4.2. Responses	. 7
5.4.3. Tags	. 8
5.5. Delete a Data Bundle	. 8
5.5.1. Parameters	. 8
5.5.2. Responses	. 8
5.5.3. Tags	. 8
5.6. Retrieve all versions of a Data Bundle.	. 8
5.6.1. Parameters	. 8

	5.6.2. Responses	. 9
	5.6.3. Tags	. 9
	5.7. Make a new Data Object	. 9
	5.7.1. Parameters	. 9
	5.7.2. Responses	. 9
	5.7.3. Tags	. 9
	5.8. List the Data Objects	10
	5.8.1. Parameters	10
	5.8.2. Responses	10
	5.8.3. Tags	11
	5.9. Retrieve a Data Object	11
	5.9.1. Parameters	11
	5.9.2. Responses	11
	5.9.3. Tags	11
	5.10. Update a Data Object	11
	5.10.1. Parameters	11
	5.10.2. Responses	12
	5.10.3. Tags	12
	5.11. Delete a Data Object index entry	12
	5.11.1. Parameters	12
	5.11.2. Responses	12
	5.11.3. Tags	13
	5.12. Retrieve all versions of a Data Object	13
	5.12.1. Parameters	13
	5.12.2. Responses	13
	5.12.3. Tags	13
	5.13. Returns service version and other information	13
	5.13.1. Responses	13
	5.13.2. Tags	14
6.	Definitions	15
	6.1. AuthorizationMetadata	15
	6.2. Bundle	15
	6.3. Checksum	16
	6.4. CreateBundleRequest	16
	6.5. CreateBundleResponse	16
	6.6. CreateObjectRequest	16
	6.7. CreateObjectResponse	17
	6.8. DeleteBundleResponse	17
	6.9. DeleteObjectResponse	17
	6.10. ErrorResponse.	17
	6.11. GetBundleResponse	17

	6.12. GetBundleVersionsResponse	17
	6.13. GetObjectResponse	18
	6.14. GetObjectVersionsResponse.	18
	6.15. ListBundlesRequest	18
	6.16. ListBundlesResponse	19
	6.17. ListObjectsRequest	19
	6.18. ListObjectsResponse	20
	6.19. Object.	20
	6.20. ServiceInfoResponse	21
	6.21. SystemMetadata	21
	6.22. URL.	21
	6.23. UpdateBundleRequest	22
	6.24. UpdateBundleResponse	22
	6.25. UpdateObjectRequest	22
	6.26. UpdateObjectResponse	22
	6.27. UserMetadata	22
7.	Appendix: Motivation	23
	7.1. Federation	24

Chapter 1. Overview

https://github.com/ga4gh/data-repository-service-schemas

1.1. Version information

Version: 0.6.0

1.2. Contact information

Contact: GA4GH Cloud Work Stream
Contact Email: ga4gh-cloud@ga4gh.org

1.3. License information

License: Apache 2.0

License URL: https://raw.githubusercontent.com/ga4gh/data-repository-service-schemas/master/

LICENSE

Terms of service: null

1.4. URI scheme

BasePath:/ga4gh/drs/v1 Schemes: HTTPS, HTTP

1.5. Consumes

• application/json

1.6. Produces

• application/json

Chapter 2. Introduction

The Data Repository Service (DRS) API provides a generic interface to data repositories so data consumers, including workflow systems, can access data in a single, standard way regardless of where it's stored and how it's managed. This document describes the DRS API and provides details on the specific endpoints, request formats, and response. It is intended for developers of DRS-compatible services and of clients that will call these DRS services.

The primary functionality of DRS is to map a logical ID to a means for physically retrieving the data represented by the ID. The sections below describe the characteristics of those IDs, the types of data supported, and how the mapping works.

Chapter 3. DRS API Principles

3.1. DRS IDs

Each implementation of DRS can choose its own id scheme, as long as it follows these guidelines:

- DRS IDs are URL-safe text strings made up of alphanumeric characters and any of [.-_/]
- One DRS ID MUST always return the same object data (or, in the case of a collection, the same set of objects). This constraint aids with reproducibility.
- DRS does NOT support semantics around multiple versions of an object. (For example, there's no notion of "get latest version" or "list all versions" in DRS v1.) Individual implementation MAY choose an ID scheme that includes version hints.
- DRS implementations MAY have more than one ID that maps to the same object.

3.2. DRS Datatypes

DRS v1 supports two datatypes:

- Blobs these are file-like objects
- Collections these are sets of other DRS objects (either Blobs or Collections)

3.3. Read-only

DRS v1 is a read-only API. We expect that each implementation will define its own mechanisms and interfaces (graphical and/or programmatic) for adding and updating data.

3.4. URI convention (WORK IN PROGRESS)

For convenience, we define a recommended syntax for fully referencing DRS-accessible objects. Strings of the form drs://<server>/<id> mean "make a DRS call to the HTTP address at <server>, passing in the DRS id <id>, to retrieve the object". For example, these strings are useful when passing objects to a WES server for processing.

3.5. Standards

The DRS API specification is written in OpenAPI and embodies a RESTful service philosophy. It uses JSON in requests and responses and standard HTTP/HTTPS for information transport.

Chapter 4. Authorization & Authentication (WORK IN PROGRESS)

Users must supply credentials that establish their identity and authorization in order to use a DRS endpoint. We recommend that DRS implementations use an OAuth2 bearer token, although they can choose other mechanisms if appropriate. DRS callers can use the auth_instructions_url from the service-info endpoint to learn how to obtain and use a bearer token for a particular implementation.

The DRS implementation is responsible for checking that a user is authorized to submit requests. The particular authorization policy is up to the DRS implementer.

Chapter 5. Paths

5.1. Create a new Data Bundle

POST /bundles

5.1.1. Parameters

Туре	Name	Schema
Body	body required	CreateBundleRequest

5.1.2. Responses

HTTP Code	Description	Schema
200	The Data Bundle was successfully created.	CreateBundleResp onse
400	The request is malformed.	ErrorResponse
401	The request is unauthorized.	ErrorResponse
403	The requester is not authorized to perform this action.	ErrorResponse
500	An unexpected error occurred.	ErrorResponse

5.1.3. Tags

• DataRepositoryService

5.2. List the Data Bundles

GET /bundles

5.2.1. Parameters

Type	Name	Description	Schema
Query	alias optional	If provided returns Data Bundles that have any alias that matches the request.	string
Query	checksum optional	The hexlified checksum that one would like to match on.	string

Туре	Name	Description	Schema
Query	checksum_typ e optional	If provided will restrict responses to those that match the provided type. possible values: md5 # most blob stores provide a checksum using this multipart-md5 # multipart uploads provide a specialized tag in S3 sha256 sha512	string
Query	page_size optional	Specifies the maximum number of results to return in a single page. If unspecified, a system default will be used.	integer (int32)
Query	page_token optional	The continuation token, which is used to page through large result sets. To get the next page of results, set this parameter to the value of next_page_token from the previous response.	string

5.2.2. Responses

HTTP Code	Description	Schema
200	Successfully listed Data Bundles.	ListBundlesRespo nse
400	The request is malformed.	ErrorResponse
401	The request is unauthorized.	ErrorResponse
403	The requester is not authorized to perform this action.	ErrorResponse
500	An unexpected error occurred.	ErrorResponse

5.2.3. Tags

• DataRepositoryService

5.3. Retrieve a Data Bundle

GET /bundles/{bundle_id}

5.3.1. Parameters

Type	Name	Description	Schema
Path	bundle_id required		string

Type	Name	Description	Schema
Query	version optional	If provided will return the requested version of the selected Data Bundle. Otherwise, only the latest version is returned.	string

5.3.2. Responses

HTTP Code	Description	Schema
200	Successfully found the Data Bundle.	GetBundleRespons e
400	The request is malformed.	ErrorResponse
401	The request is unauthorized.	ErrorResponse
403	The requester is not authorized to perform this action.	ErrorResponse
404	The requested Data Bundle wasn't found.	ErrorResponse
500	An unexpected error occurred.	ErrorResponse

5.3.3. Tags

• DataRepositoryService

5.4. Update a Data Bundle

PUT /bundles/{bundle_id}

5.4.1. Parameters

Type	Name	Description	Schema
Path	bundle_id required	The ID of the Data Bundle to update	string
Body	body required	The new content for the Data Bundle identified by the given bundle_id. If the ID specified in the request body is different than that specified in the path, the Data Bundle's ID will be replaced with the one in the request body.	UpdateBundleReque st

5.4.2. Responses

HTTP Code	Description	Schema
200	The Data Bundle was updated successfully.	UpdateBundleRes ponse
400	The request is malformed.	ErrorResponse

HTTP Code	Description	Schema
401	The request is unauthorized.	ErrorResponse
403	The requester is not authorized to perform this action.	ErrorResponse
404	The requested Data Bundle wasn't found.	ErrorResponse
500	An unexpected error occurred.	ErrorResponse

5.4.3. Tags

• DataRepositoryService

5.5. Delete a Data Bundle

DELETE /bundles/{bundle_id}

5.5.1. Parameters

Туре	Name	Schema
Path	bundle_id required	string

5.5.2. Responses

HTTP Code	Schema
200	DeleteBundleResponse

5.5.3. Tags

• DataRepositoryService

5.6. Retrieve all versions of a Data Bundle

GET /bundles/{bundle_id}/versions

5.6.1. Parameters

Туре	Name	Schema
Path	bundle_id required	string

5.6.2. Responses

HTTP Code	Description	Schema
200	The versions for the Data Bundle were found successfully.	GetBundleVersion sResponse
400	The request is malformed.	ErrorResponse
401	The request is unauthorized.	ErrorResponse
403	The requester is not authorized to perform this action.	ErrorResponse
404	The requested Data Bundle wasn't found.	ErrorResponse
500	An unexpected error occurred.	ErrorResponse

5.6.3. Tags

• DataRepositoryService

5.7. Make a new Data Object

POST /objects

5.7.1. Parameters

Туре	Name	Description	Schema
Body	body required	The Data Object to be created. The ID scheme is left up to the implementor but should be unique to the server instance.	CreateObjectRequest

5.7.2. Responses

HTTP Code	Description	Schema
200	Successfully created the Data Object.	CreateObjectRespo nse
400	The request is malformed.	ErrorResponse
401	The request is unauthorized.	ErrorResponse
403	The requester is not authorized to perform this action.	ErrorResponse
500	An unexpected error occurred.	ErrorResponse

5.7.3. Tags

• DataRepositoryService

5.8. List the Data Objects

GET /objects

5.8.1. Parameters

Туре	Name	Description	Schema
Query	alias optional	If provided will only return Data Objects with the given alias.	string
Query	checksum optional	The hexlified checksum that one would like to match on.	string
Query	checksum_typ e optional	If provided will restrict responses to those that match the provided type. possible values: md5 # most blob stores provide a checksum using this multipart-md5 # multipart uploads provide a specialized tag in S3 sha256 sha512	string
Query	page_size optional	Specifies the maximum number of results to return in a single page. If unspecified, a system default will be used.	integer (int32)
Query	page_token optional	The continuation token, which is used to page through large result sets. To get the next page of results, set this parameter to the value of next_page_token from the previous response.	string
Query	url optional	If provided will return only Data Objects with a that URL matches this string.	string

5.8.2. Responses

HTTP Code	Description	Schema
200	The Data Objects were listed successfully.	ListObjectsRespon se
400	The request is malformed.	ErrorResponse
401	The request is unauthorized.	ErrorResponse
403	The requester is not authorized to perform this action.	ErrorResponse
500	An unexpected error occurred.	ErrorResponse

5.8.3. Tags

• DataRepositoryService

5.9. Retrieve a Data Object

GET /objects/{object_id}

5.9.1. Parameters

Туре	Name	Description	Schema
Path	<pre>object_id required</pre>		string
Query	version optional	If provided will return the requested version of the selected Data Object.	string

5.9.2. Responses

HTTP Code	Description	Schema
200	The Data Object was found successfully.	GetObjectRespons e
400	The request is malformed.	ErrorResponse
401	The request is unauthorized.	ErrorResponse
403	The requester is not authorized to perform this action.	ErrorResponse
404	The requested Data Object wasn't found	ErrorResponse
500	An unexpected error occurred.	ErrorResponse

5.9.3. Tags

• DataRepositoryService

5.10. Update a Data Object

PUT /objects/{object_id}

5.10.1. Parameters

Type	Name	Description	Schema
Path	object_id required	The ID of the Data Object to update	string

Type	Name	Description	Schema
Body	body required	The new Data Object for the given object_id. If the ID specified in the request body is different than that specified in the path, the Data Object's ID will be replaced with the one in the request body.	UpdateObjectReques t

5.10.2. Responses

HTTP Code	Description	Schema
200	The Data Object was successfully updated.	UpdateObjectResp onse
400	The request is malformed.	ErrorResponse
401	The request is unauthorized.	ErrorResponse
403	The requester is not authorized to perform this action.	ErrorResponse
404	The requested Data Object wasn't found.	ErrorResponse
500	An unexpected error occurred.	ErrorResponse

5.10.3. Tags

• DataRepositoryService

5.11. Delete a Data Object index entry

DELETE /objects/{object_id}

5.11.1. Parameters

Туре	Name	Schema
Path	object_id required	string

5.11.2. Responses

HTTP Code	Description	Schema
200	The Data Object was deleted successfully.	DeleteObjectRespo nse
400	The request is malformed.	ErrorResponse
401	The request is unauthorized.	ErrorResponse
403	The requester is not authorized to perform this action.	ErrorResponse

HTTP Code	Description	Schema
404	The requested Data Object wasn't found.	ErrorResponse
500	An unexpected error occurred.	ErrorResponse

5.11.3. Tags

• DataRepositoryService

5.12. Retrieve all versions of a Data Object

GET /objects/{object_id}/versions

5.12.1. Parameters

Туре	Name	Schema
Path	object_id required	string

5.12.2. Responses

HTTP Code	Description	Schema
200	The versions for the Data Object were returned successfully.	GetObjectVersions Response
400	The request is malformed.	ErrorResponse
401	The request is unauthorized.	ErrorResponse
403	The requester is not authorized to perform this action.	ErrorResponse
404	The requested Data Object wasn't found.	ErrorResponse
500	An unexpected error occurred.	ErrorResponse

5.12.3. Tags

• DataRepositoryService

5.13. Returns service version and other information

GET /service-info

5.13.1. Responses

HTTP Code	Description	Schema
200	Service information returned successfully	ServiceInfoRespon se

5.13.2. Tags

• DataRepositoryService

Chapter 6. Definitions

6.1. AuthorizationMetadata

OPTIONAL

A set of key-value pairs that represent sufficient metadata to be granted access to a resource. It may be helpful to provide details about a specific provider, for example.

Name	Description	Schema
<pre>auth_type optional</pre>	The auth standard being used to make data available. For example, 'OAuth2.0'.	string
auth_url optional	The URL where the auth service is located, for example, a URL to get an OAuth token.	string

6.2. Bundle

Name	Description	Schema
aliases optional	A list of strings that can be used to identify this Data Bundle.	< string > array
checksums required	At least one checksum must be provided. The Data Bundle checksum is computed over all the checksums of the Data Objects that bundle contains.	< Checksum > array
created required	Timestamp of object creation in RFC3339.	string (date-time)
description optional	A human readable description.	string
id required	An identifier, unique to this Data Bundle	string
object_ids required	The list of Data Objects that this Data Bundle contains.	< string > array
system_metad ata optional		SystemMetadata
updated required	Timestamp of update in RFC3339, identical to create timestamp in systems that do not support updates.	string (date-time)
user_metadat a optional		UserMetadata

Name	Description	Schema
version required	A string representing a version, some systems may use checksum, a RFC3339 timestamp, or incrementing version number. For systems that do not support versioning please use your update timestamp as your version.	string

6.3. Checksum

Name	Description	Schema
checksum required	The hex-string encoded checksum for the Data.	string
type optional	The digest method used to create the checksum. If left unspecified md5 will be assumed. possible values: md5 # most blob stores provide a checksum using this multipart-md5 # multipart uploads provide a specialized tag in S3 sha256 sha512	string

6.4. CreateBundleRequest

Name	Schema
bundle optional	Bundle

6.5. CreateBundleResponse

Name	Description	Schema
bundle_id required	The identifier of the Data Bundle created.	string

6.6. CreateObjectRequest

The Data Object one would like to index. One must provide any aliases and URLs to this file when sending the CreateObjectRequest. It is up to implementations to validate that the Data Object is available from the provided URLs.

Name	Schema
object required	Object

6.7. CreateObjectResponse

Name	Description	Schema
object_id optional	The ID of the created Data Object.	string

6.8. DeleteBundleResponse

Name	Schema
bundle_id optional	string

6.9. DeleteObjectResponse

Name	Description	Schema
<pre>object_id required</pre>	The identifier of the Data Object deleted.	string

6.10. ErrorResponse

An object that can optionally include information about the error.

Name	Description	Schema
msg optional	A detailed error message.	string
status_code optional	The integer representing the HTTP status code (e.g. 200, 404).	integer

6.11. GetBundleResponse

Name	Schema
bundle optional	Bundle

6.12. GetBundleVersionsResponse

Name	Description	Schema
bundles required	All versions of the Data Bundles that match the GetBundleVersions request.	< Bundle > array

6.13. GetObjectResponse

Name	Schema
object required	Object

6.14. GetObjectVersionsResponse

Name	Description	Schema
objects required	All versions of the Data Objects that match the GetObjectVersions request.	< Object > array

6.15. ListBundlesRequest

Only return Data Bundles that match all of the request parameters. A page_size and page_token are provided for retrieving a large number of results.

Name	Description	Schema
alias optional	If provided returns Data Bundles that have any alias that matches the request.	string
checksum optional	The hexlified checksum that one would like to match on.	string
checksum_typ e optional	If provided will restrict responses to those that match the provided type. possible values: md5 # most blob stores provide a checksum using this multipart-md5 # multipart uploads provide a specialized tag in S3 sha256 sha512	string
page_size optional	Specifies the maximum number of results to return in a single page. If unspecified, a system default will be used.	integer (int32)

Name	Description	Schema
page_token optional	The continuation token, which is used to page through large result sets. To get the next page of results, set this parameter to the value of next_page_token from the previous response.	string

6.16. ListBundlesResponse

A list of Data Bundles matching the request parameters and a continuation token that can be used to retrieve more results.

Name	Description	Schema
bundles optional	The list of Data Bundles.	< Bundle > array
next_page_tok en optional	The continuation token, which is used to page through large result sets. Provide this value in a subsequent request to return the next page of results. This field will be empty if there aren't any additional results.	string

6.17. ListObjectsRequest

Allows a requester to list and filter Data Objects. Only Data Objects matching all of the requested parameters will be returned.

Name	Description	Schema
alias optional	If provided will only return Data Objects with the given alias.	string
checksum optional	The hexlified checksum that one would like to match on.	string
checksum_typ e optional	If provided will restrict responses to those that match the provided type. possible values: md5 # most blob stores provide a checksum using this multipart-md5 # multipart uploads provide a specialized tag in S3 sha256 sha512	string
page_size optional	Specifies the maximum number of results to return in a single page. If unspecified, a system default will be used.	integer (int32)

Name	Description	Schema
page_token optional	The continuation token, which is used to page through large result sets. To get the next page of results, set this parameter to the value of next_page_token from the previous response.	string
url optional	If provided will return only Data Objects with a that URL matches this string.	string

6.18. ListObjectsResponse

A list of Data Objects matching the requested parameters, and a paging token, that can be used to retrieve more results.

Name	Description	Schema
next_page_tok en optional	The continuation token, which is used to page through large result sets. Provide this value in a subsequent request to return the next page of results. This field will be empty if there aren't any additional results.	string
objects optional	The list of Data Objects.	< Object > array

6.19. Object

Name	Description	Schema
aliases optional	A list of strings that can be used to find this Data Object. These aliases can be used to represent the Data Object's location in a directory (e.g. "bucket/folder/file.name") to make Data Objects more discoverable. They might also be used to represent	< string > array
checksums required	The checksum of the Data Object. At least one checksum must be provided.	< Checksum > array
created required	Timestamp of object creation in RFC3339.	string (date-time)
description optional	A human readable description of the contents of the Data Object.	string
id required	An identifier unique to this Data Object.	string
mime_type optional	A string providing the mime-type of the Data Object. For example, "application/json".	string

Name	Description	Schema
name optional	A string that can be optionally used to name a Data Object.	string
size required	The computed size in bytes.	string (int64)
updated optional	Timestamp of update in RFC3339, identical to create timestamp in systems that do not support updates.	string (date-time)
urls optional	The list of URLs that can be used to access the Data Object.	< URL > array
version optional	A string representing a version.	string

6.20. ServiceInfoResponse

Placeholder for the Info Object

Name	Description	Schema
contact optional	Maintainer contact info	object
description optional	Service description	string
license optional	License information for the exposed API	object
title optional	Service name	string
version required	Service version	string

6.21. SystemMetadata

OPTIONAL

These values are reported by the underlying object store.

A set of key-value pairs that represent system metadata about the object.

Type: object

6.22. URL

Name	Description	Schema
authorization_ metadata optional		AuthorizationMetad ata

Name	Description	Schema
system_metad ata optional		SystemMetadata
url required	A URL that can be used to access the file.	string
user_metadat a optional		UserMetadata

6.23. UpdateBundleRequest

Name	Schema
bundle required	Bundle

6.24. UpdateBundleResponse

Name	Description	Schema
bundle_id required	The identifier of the Data Bundle updated.	string

6.25. UpdateObjectRequest

Name	Schema
object required	Object

6.26. UpdateObjectResponse

Name	Description	Schema
object_id required	The identifier of the Data Object updated.	string

6.27. UserMetadata

OPTIONAL

A set of key-value pairs that represent metadata provided by the uploader.

Type: object

Chapter 7. Appendix: Motivation

Data sharing requires portable data, consistent with the principles (findable, accessible, interoperable, reusable). Today's researchers and clinicians surrounded by potentially useful data, but often need bespoke tools and processes to work with each dataset. And today's data publishers don't have a reliable way to make their data useful to all (and only) the people they choose.

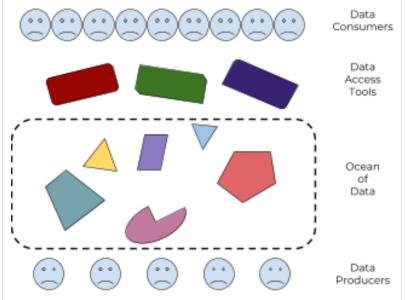


Figure 1: there's an ocean of data, with many different tools to drink from it, but no guarantee that any tool will work with any subset of the data

We need a standard way for data make their producers to available to data consumers, that supports the control needs of the former and the access needs of the latter. And we need it to interoperable, so anyone who builds access tools and systems can confident they'll work with all the data out there, and anyone who publishes data can be confident it will work with all the tools out there.

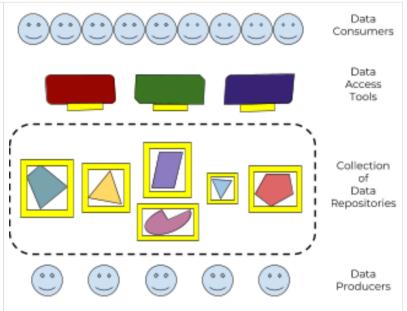


Figure 2: by defining a standard Data Repository API, and adapting tools to use it, every data publisher can now make their data useful to every data consumer

We envision a world where:

- there are many many **data consumers**, working in research and in care, who can use the tools of their choice to access any all data that they have permission to see
- there are many **data access tools** and platforms, supporting discovery, visualization, analysis, and collaboration
- there are many **data repositories**, each with their own policies and characteristics, which can be accessed by a variety of tools
- there are many **data publishing tools** and platforms, supporting a variety of data lifecycles and formats
- there are many many data producers, generating data of all types, who can use the tools of their choice to make their data as widely available as is appropriate

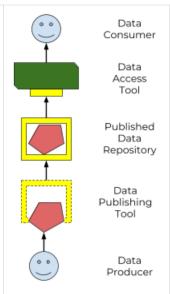


Figure 3: a standard Data Repository API enables an ecosystem of data producers and consumers

This spec defines a standard **Data Repository Service (DRS) API** ("the yellow box"), to enable that ecosystem of data producers and consumers. Our goal is that all data consumers need to know about a data repo is "here's the DRS endpoint to access it", and all data publishers need to know about tapping into the world of consumption tools is "here's how to tell it where my DRS endpoint lives".

7.1. Federation

The world's biomedical data is controlled by groups with very different policies and restrictions on where their data lives and how it can be accessed. A primary purpose of DRS is to support unified access to disparate and distributed data. (As opposed to the alternative centralized model of "let's just bring all the data into one single data repository", which would be technically easier but is no more realistic than "let's just bring all the websites into one single web host".)

In a DRS-enabled world, tool builders don't have to worry about where the data their tools operate on lives — they can count on DRS to give them access. And tool users only need to know which DRS server is managing the data they need, and whether they have permissions; they don't have to worry about how to physically get access to, or (worse) make a copy of the data. For example, if I have appropriate permissions, I can run a pooled analysis where I run a single tool across data managed by different DRS servers, potentially in different locations.