



Ready for  
**BioData.pt**  
Management?



# Intensive Course

## Data Preservation

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# I – Challenges



## Learning Outcomes:

- Tackle the RDM challenges that arise in data preservation

# Data Preservation

- The stage at which the only concern is long-term storage of relevant data (and eventual disposal of irrelevant data)
- It overlaps with **Data Sharing**: we can preserve data by depositing it in a public repository
  - In this chapter, we'll focus only on the local preservation scenario



# Data Preservation

- **Challenges:**
  - Requirements & Relevance
  - Volume, Duration & Accessibility
  - Security
  - Documentation & organization



# Requirements & Relevance

- To identify what data to preserve (and for how long) you must consider:
  - **Requirements** for data preservation:
    - Legal or ethical (e.g. data from clinical trials)
    - Funders' (typically require data preservation for 5 or 10 years after the end of the project)
    - Institutional



# Requirements & Relevance

- To identify what data to preserve (and for how long) you must consider:
  - The **relevance** of the data:
    - Value to society (scientifically, historically or culturally significant data)
    - Uniqueness and difficulty to re-generate
    - Potential for reuse



# Requirements & Relevance

- Raw data are usually more relevant
- Intermediate data processing and analysis files can often be discarded, if they can be easily reproduced from the raw data (if the data processing and analysis workflow is preserved)
- Final result files may also be relevant
- Temporary or mutable data should generally not be selected for preservation



# Volume, Duration & Accessibility

- The three main factors that determine storage costs:
  - **Volume** is dictated by the data and directly affects the required storage capacity
  - **Duration** is usually dictated by external requirements and is a factor due to the limited lifetime of storage media as well as the energy costs
  - **Accessibility** is dictated by the expected need to access the data in the future, which affects the choice of storage media





# Volume, Duration & Accessibility

- Volume can be reduced by compressing the data, at the cost of accessibility
- Duration is less expensive if expected access is low:
  - HDD and SSD disks last longer
  - Tape becomes an option and is cheaper than disks
- Under accessibility we must also consider:
  - Expectancy of changes to the data (low at this stage)
  - Acceptable recovery time in case of disk failure



# Security

- The fourth factor affecting storage costs
- “Standard” security includes disk redundancy and backups on tape
- If data is sensitive, data encryption is recommended as additional security
- If access to the data is restricted, accessibility costs will likely be higher

# Documentation & Organization

- Data selected for preservation requires particular care with respect to both documentation and organisation
  - At the very least, the IT staff need to be able to identify the data and data owner
  - In case of an audit, the auditor needs to be able to identify and understand the data
  - The data owner needs to be able to identify and understand the data after a few years have passed

# Documentation & Organization

- If we did a good job documenting and organizing the data during the previous stages, then little or no work is needed
- Include a README file at the head of the file structure describing the dataset and the file structure
  - Include links to protocols, workflows, and all relevant external references in the README file
  - Alternatively, protocols and workflows can be included in the file structure





**Thank You!**

**Questions?**



## II – Hands-On



### Learning Outcomes:

- Define data storage requirements
- Estimate data storage costs

# Data Stewardship Wizard (DSW)

- A web tool for data management planning developed by DTL-NL (which we'll explore in more detail later)



DSW Storage Costs Evaluator

- Includes a service to estimate storage costs:

<https://storage-costs-evaluator.ds-wizard.org/>

- You can also get the source code from

<https://github.com/ds-wizard/storage-costs-evaluator>



# Group Exercise

- Open the DSW Storage Costs Evaluator at <https://storage-costs-evaluator.ds-wizard.org/>
- Use the tool to estimate the cost of data preservation for the [mock project](#)
  - Note that different datasets may have different storage needs, namely with respect to accessibility and security



# Solution 1

*1st - decide preservation time: assumed 5 years*

Type of Data	Size	Cost
Clinical data and metadata	< 5 GB	21 313 €
RAW fastq	~40 TB	28 177 € or for free*
Analysed	~300 GB	26 957 €

\*if deposited in public repository as it is created



# Clinical Data & Metadata

Total costs:  
**21 313 €**

TB costs per year:  
**852 528 €**

Result details  
▼

Volume  
5 GB

Lifetime  
5 years

Detailed storage properties ▲

Usage Backup Recovery Security

Daily changes  
5 %

Content type  
Many small files

Access type  
Database

Daily read volume  
10 %

- Minor occasional changes to data
- Tape backup w/ low frequency
- Flexible recovery time
- Privacy sensitive
- Authorized people access



# RAW Data

Total costs: 28 177 €      TB costs per year: 141 €      [Result details](#) ▼

Volume  40 TB

Lifetime  5 years

[Detailed storage properties](#) ▲

Usage   **Backup**   Recovery   Security

Daily changes  %

Content type


Access type


Daily read volume  %

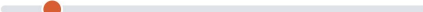
- Few or no changes to data
- Tape backup w/ low frequency
- Flexible recovery time
- Privacy sensitive
- Authorized people access




# Analysis Data

Total costs: **26 957 €**      TB costs per year: **17 972 €**      [Result details](#) 

Volume  300 GB

Lifetime  5 years

[Detailed storage properties](#) 

Usage [Backup](#) [Recovery](#) [Security](#)

Daily changes  %

Content type

Access type

Daily read volume  %

- Many changes / read of data
- Backup w/ high frequency
- High performance
- Privacy sensitive
- Authorized people access



# Solution 2?

***Can we have all these datasets in the same infrastructure?***



## Solution 2

*It might be possible to create different storage solutions inside the same infrastructure and save some money:*

Type of Data	Size	Cost
All project data	~ 41 TB	57 044 €



# Solution 3

*If we decide to submit all sequencing data to a public repository:*

Type of Data	Size	Cost
All project data	< 500 GB	27 160 €





**Thank You!**

**Questions?**