# Summary of UK TRE working group session on Extending Control.

10/01/2024 Zoom call:

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## Summary:

Ten attendees (18 registered), covering commissioning through to technical architecture and delivery of SDE/TREs, discussed the scope and remit of the statement, following an explanation of its naissance by Pete Barnsley (Lead of Working Group) – see slides. There were a wide range of viewpoints expressed, all very supportive of the need for discussion on facilities that do slide page 5.

“The picture (slide 2 or 4) brings together the key pivotal aspects... it is very useful”,” there is tension developing between the (NHS) SDE and the TRE aspects and unpicking the differences will be very useful, especially to consider these as done by different organisations”, “I agree the separation is really useful”, “the next DAREUK Federation architecture has the same picture (but not presented the same)”. “I think that it is good that at this level the picture outlines what we think”.

“SDE can be described as a Data Provision Zone, the TRE as a Research Analytics Zone”, “how do you connect a data curation site to an analytics site whilst maintaining control… a key question… how do you keep information governance happy with this separation” “The DAREUK TELEPORT project is an example of pop-up TRE insides a TRE, … the machinery is quite tricky”, “this is exactly what we should all be thinking about”.

“It is really encouraging that we are all saying we should be looking at this concept”. “The federation of the data into the separated analytics areas is going to be the hard bit”,” and lots of words are already in use to mean the same thing”, “We cannot worry about that for this working group… we need to develop things for use to use internally within the UK TRE community”.

“All the UK needs involvement. SDE does not exist in NI, we only have and reference the NITRE... we piggyback on the SAIL safe haven, there is no secondary use legislation in NI”

“We are looking for the technologies and approaches that can provide the common infrastructure and “share” extension of control – bring the data to project but leave the custody and control of the data in the present hands”, “whether the data actually moves needs to be honestly presented … even if it is in some twilight world … all needs to be unpicked”

“The technology is important BUT so is making sure that Information Governance is happy with this…do we have enough IG representation?” “Getting the IG Groups happy with this will be key and the messages perhaps tricky to convey”

**Extending control: Associated Info from participants**

Phase 1b DARE UK Teleport Project: <https://zenodo.org/records/10084452>

Phase 1 DARE UK project: <https://zenodo.org/records/7119720>

Snowflake and shares: <https://docs.snowflake.com/en/user-guide/data-sharing-intro>

**Slides shared on session:**



Page 1-3: Proposal separating the TRE form the SDE and positioning it within the Trusted Research Edge Domain adjacent to the RPO Research Discovery Domain.

Page 4: The scope of this working group: common infrastructure, architectural share

Page 5: Agenda for event

## Possible form of a Discussion Paper from this Working group:

Below is an indicative structure for a document to share with the UK TRE community and publish. It would be positioned as a discussion document and not policy. Please comment and critique.

**Why extending control and data chain of custody are needed:**

An explanation of key reasons why this working group is important to the space overall and the UK TRE community.

**What options have been proposed for technologies suited to extending the domain of control?**

A presentation of models for extending control and enhancing access to research data for projects. We will use the base pictures (slide page 4 in attached) as the framework to describe the key parts for each option to be able to compare and contrast.

**How could this affect Information Governance (IG) processes?**

An outline discussion of the impact on a generalised IG process: the things that will remain the same; the things that will need to change; the things that may need to change; and possible options and advantages that result. (This section will have had involvement from the UK TRE IG working group)

**How does this affect federation models?**

An outline / explanation of the implications of the federation models and the equivalent for any other working groups that have relevance. (This section will have had involvement from the UK TRE Federation working group)

**The proposed next steps.**

How much agreement is there within the wide UK TRE community on these definitions and thinking? And what is the basis of any disagreement. And then what would be the natural pathway of activity for this area.

## Suggested Scope statement for Working Group

The Extending Domain of Control Working group is focussed on how SDE and TRE facilities operating in different organisations can work effectively together.

It recognises that this is an internal UK TRE discussion, but will help external stakeholder groups and audiences understand the urgent and important need for the separation of SDE from TRE and thus the need to be able to (re)connect SDEs and TREs

As a first phase, it will document the methods and approaches that do enable extension of control by IG processes across technology instances. Its first general aim is communication and so it will attempt to quantify how divergent the UK TRE community is on this – possibly using agree / disagree surveys to capture the level of consensus.