



Products and Services

Azure Active Directory External Identities
Azure Search (AI)
Azure Storage

Industry

Health Provider

Organization Size

Small (1 - 49 employees)



Accelerated medical discoveries
and improved human health
with clinical data-sharing and
Microsoft Azure

The healthcare industry is drowning in data — but much of it is siloed, hampering scientific breakthroughs and driving up research costs. Vivli is an independent, nonprofit organization that partnered with Insight and Microsoft to create an innovative, global data-sharing and analytics platform for clinical research. Working together, they successfully created a robust platform, powered by Microsoft Azure, to share and analyze clinical data among academia, healthcare organizations, and the pharmaceutical industry across the globe.

Healthcare data is immense, highly secure, and very complex. Research conducted from various organizations around the world isn't tabulated or organized in the same way, making it difficult to combine and analyze with other studies. Data platforms are often designed for specific disease states, and high-security concerns and policies add more barriers to easy information sharing.

These are the challenges Vivli sought to overcome.

Vivli is an independent, nonprofit organization that facilitates a global data sharing and analytics platform to serve all elements of the international research community. The organization acts as a neutral broker between data contributor, data user, and the wider data-sharing community. The ultimate goal for Vivli is to advance human health from the insights and discoveries gained by sharing and analyzing data.

Better together

Vivli partnered with Insight and Microsoft to collaboratively develop a first-of-its-kind global health data-sharing platform for clinical trial research. The Digital Innovation team at Insight offered a breadth of experience helping life sciences and healthcare industries execute transformation projects, as well as a strong working relationship with Microsoft. Vivli chose Microsoft as a partner with a keen eye toward privacy protections and was encouraged by the Microsoft Azure platform's scale and flexibility. Together, Vivli, Insight, and Microsoft tackled the specific data-sharing challenges faced by clinical researchers worldwide.

“Insight specializes in digitally transforming healthcare and life sciences companies into continuously-learning health systems, and our strategic partnership with Vivli and Microsoft showcases a multitude of industry firsts,” says David Le Penske, Client Director of Healthcare & Life Sciences at Insight.

Data for the greater good and global health

The Vivli platform, powered by Microsoft Azure, includes an independent data repository, in-depth search engine, and a cloud-based, secure analytics platform to provide transparency and access to clinical research across the globe.

“Our collaboration with Insight and Microsoft brings together long-standing leaders in technology and digital health to transform how clinical trial data is mined to improve human health,” says Dr. Rebecca Li, Vivli co-founder.

The clinical research and pharmaceutical markets demand a one-stop-shop platform to aggregate research studies, provide an easy-to-use search interface, and offer tools for select data analysis. “If you are a clinical researcher and you have a set of data that you want to share, there are very limited databases or platforms of data repositories where you can actually deposit the data,” explains Harvard University Chief Compliance Officer, Ara Tahmassian. He continues, “Limited information available, limited resources available, scattered in multiple locations, or something like Vivli where everything is in one place. Using the Vivli platform, public and private institutions worldwide can optimize time, effort, and financial resources spent on research, as well as unearth new insights that may lead to critical discoveries.”

“The Vivli platform successfully tackles complexities such as global identity and regulatory compliance, provides robust elastic search to easily group like-data across multitudes of study data sets, houses the most powerful analytics tools and offers a modern and intuitive user experience to more rapidly accelerate and unlock a host of potential discoveries and benefits in global health,” explains Le Penske. “We see it as a massive opportunity for the greater good and global health — a way to democratize that information, share it, and level the playing field between industrial and developing nations.”

The Microsoft Azure advantage

With an Azure foundation, Vivli is the beneficiary of the security, stability, and reliability that Microsoft has put into the underlying platform.

Vivli provides a secure environment for data requestors to combine anonymized Individual Patient Data (IPD) from different hosts and data generators, including industry, academia, and biotech.

Within the Vivli application, data is secured by permission models applied against user attributes representing roles on the system. All user rights flow through either the Vivli admin role or through membership in a given organization. In this controlled-access environment, strict data security models and export controls can be applied according to the specifications of each data contributor. A wide array of analytical tools will be available through the platform.

“Developing effective strategies and platforms for pooling and sharing clinical data is a long-term dream for academia, healthcare organizations, and the pharmaceutical industry,” says Dr. Kenji Takeda, director of Microsoft Research. “Microsoft is delighted to help Vivli be successful and looks forward to bringing our expertise in artificial intelligence as well as the global scale, flexibility and advanced security capabilities of Microsoft Azure to this initiative. The prospect of working together is an exciting opportunity to help deliver global impact through Vivli and the future of research in healthcare.”

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Dr. Rebecca Li: Co-founder
Vivli

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Ara Tahmassian: Chief Compliance Officer
Harvard University