

Fostering Research

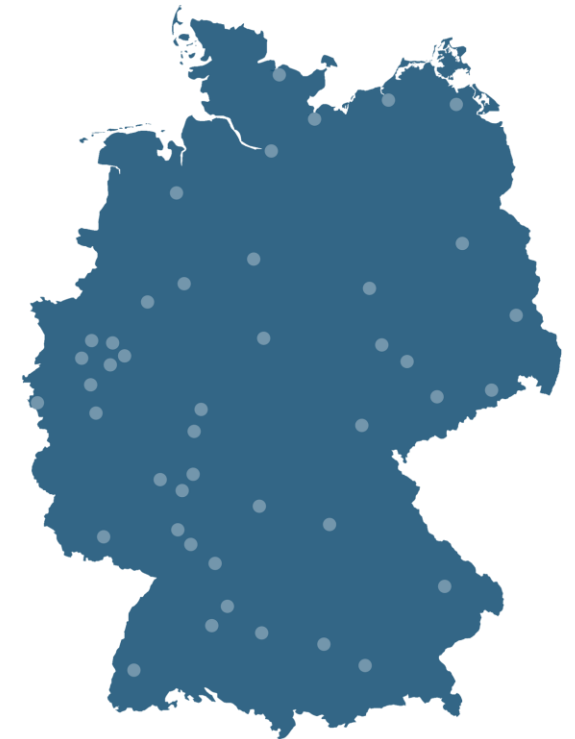
Real World Data Sharing and Process Orchestration with FHIR and BPMN

HL7 FHIR DevDays - Amsterdam, June 2025

Hauke Hund, GECKO Institute, Heilbronn University of Applied Sciences

Motivation

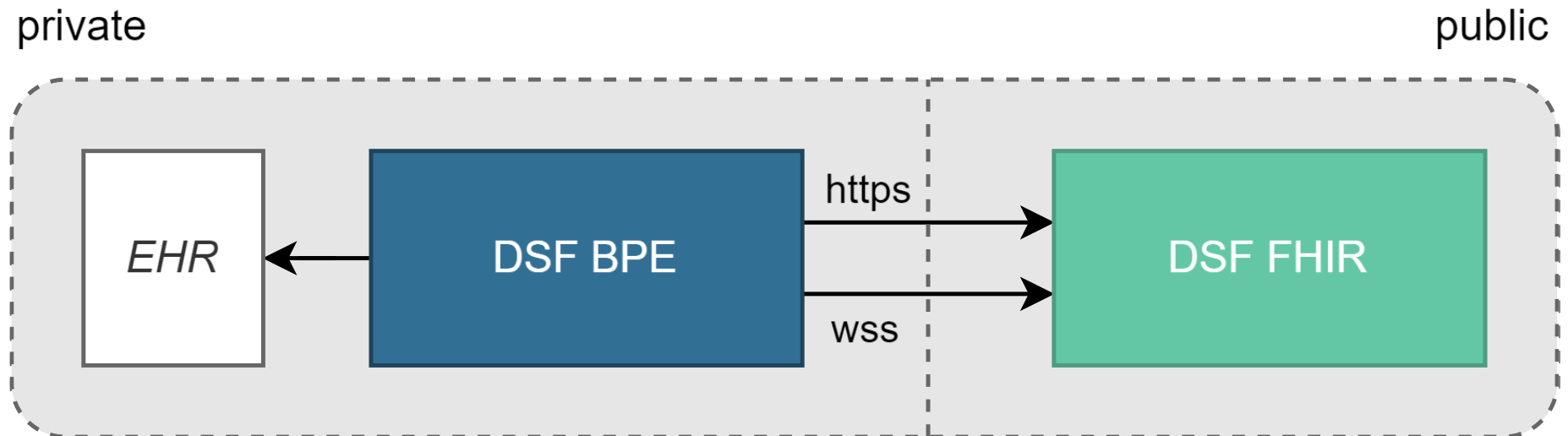
- Enhanced research collaboration
- Standardized data access and usage
- Interoperable solution
- Data discovery with feasibility queries
- Coordination of data requests and approvals
- Data transport, consolidation, pseudonymization and distribution
- Distributed data analysis



Data Sharing Framework

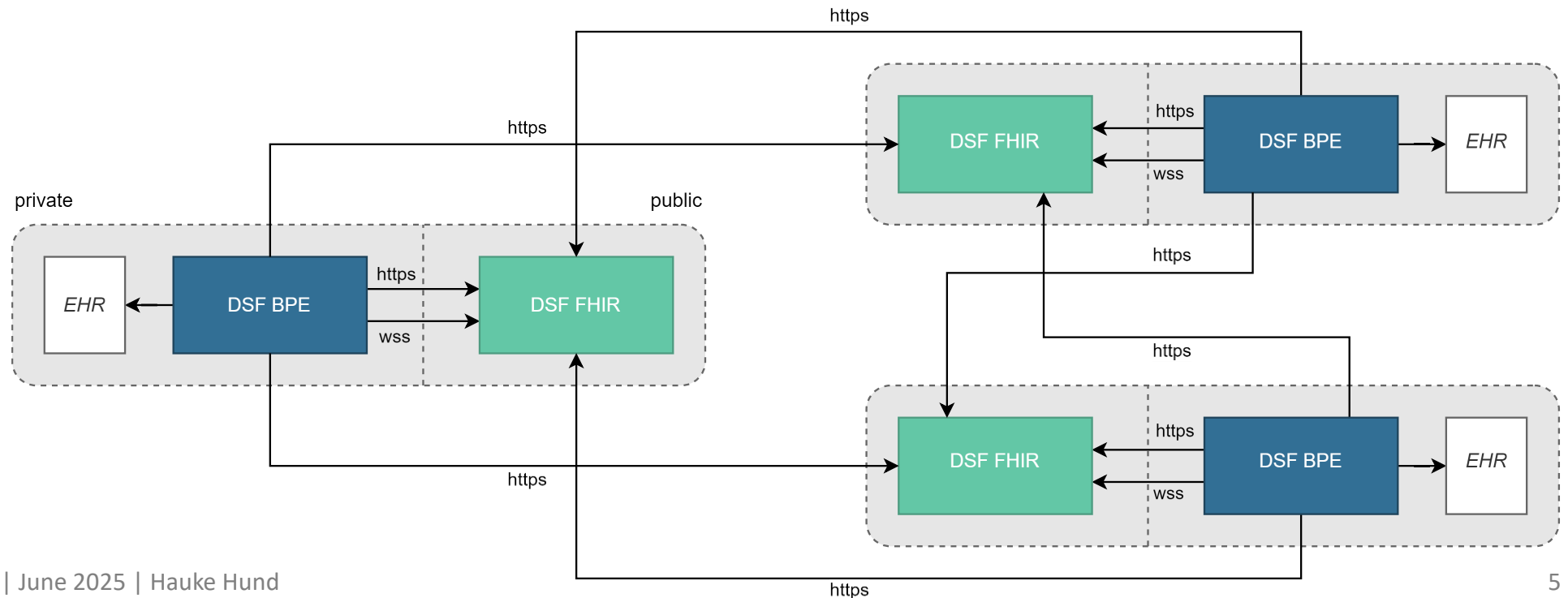
Public: FHIR Server “Mail Box”

Private: Business Process Engine



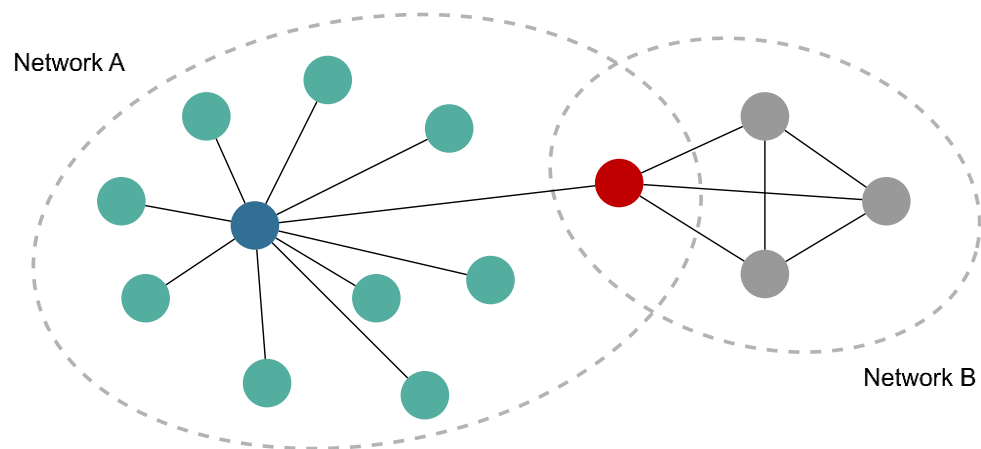
Data Sharing Framework

A distributed business process engine to coordinate and exchange medical data in healthcare research and delivery

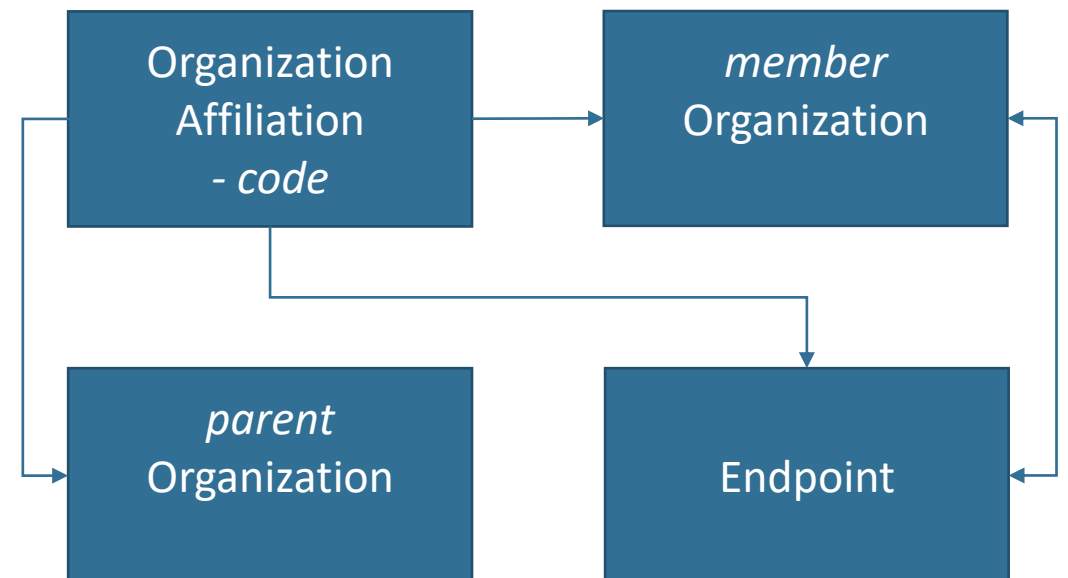


Research Networks by Configuration

One DSF instance can operate in multiple research / healthcare delivery networks

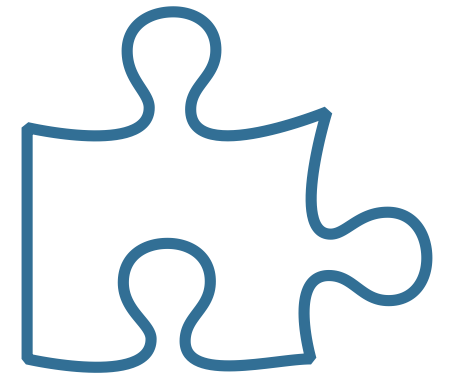


Allow-List configures roles in network



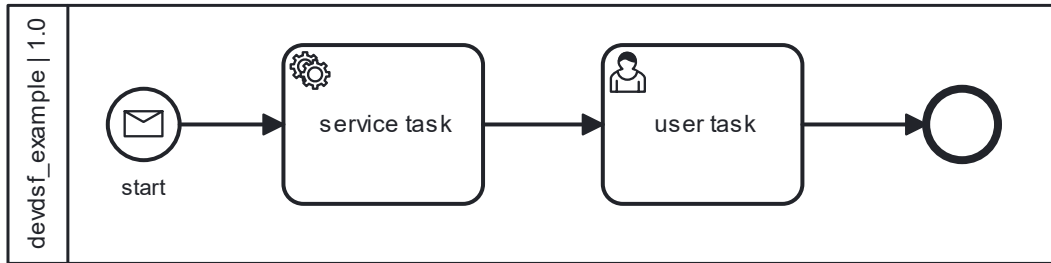
Process Plugins

- Use case specific data structures and logic
- A process plugins is an archive with
 - BPMN 2.0 models
 - FHIR R4 resources
 - Java Code
- Deployed in the DSF BPE as a Jar file
 - Web Application Style Class Loading
 - Same process, multiple versions

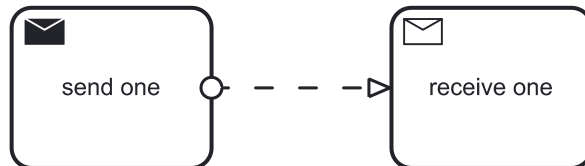


BPMN and FHIR

Process



Message Send / Receive Tasks



Message Events



Alias: \$pa = <http://dsf.dev/fhir/>

[CodeSystem/process-authorization](#)

Instance: 8ce64ff9-bea6-4674-a305-0f8c7591fe23

InstanceOf: ActivityDefinition

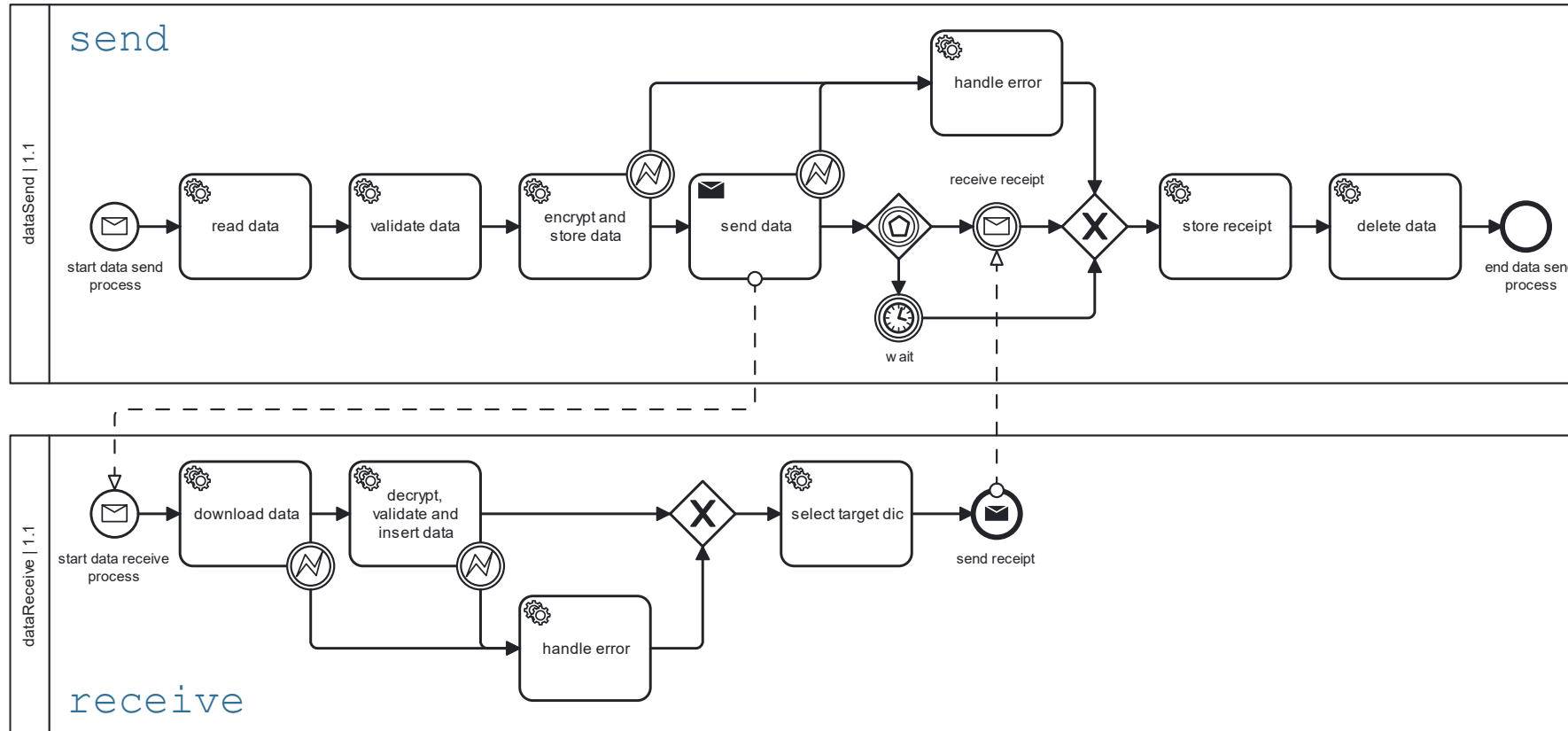
Usage: #example

```

* extension.url = "http://dsf.dev/fhir/
  StructureDefinition/extension-process-authorization"
* extension.extension[0].url = "message-name"
* extension.extension[0].valueString = "start"
* extension.extension[1].url = "task-profile"
* extension.extension[1].valueCanonical = "http://dsf.dev/
  fhir/StructureDefinition/example|1.0"
* extension.extension[2].url = "requester"
* extension.extension[2].valueCoding = $pa#REMOTE_ALL
* extension.extension[3].url = "recipient"
* extension.extension[3].valueCoding = $pa#LOCAL_ALL

* url = "http://dsf.dev/bpe/Process/example"
* version = "1.0" /* version managed by DSF BPE */
* status = #active /* status managed by DSF BPE */
* date = "2025-06-06" /* date managed by DSF BPE */
* kind = #Task
  
```

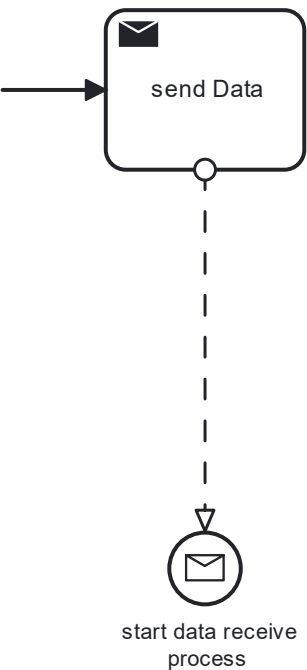
BPMN: Encrypted Data Transfer



- Read from EHR, validate, encrypt, store
- Send trigger
- Download, decrypt, validate, store
- Send receipt

<https://github.com/medizininformatik-initiative/mii-process-data-transfer>

FHIR: Task Resource (FSH)



Alias: \$bpmn-message = <http://dsf.dev/fhir/CodeSystem/bpmn-message>

Alias: \$data-transfer = <http://medizininformatik-initiative.de/fhir/CodeSystem/data-transfer>

Instance: aca4663c-851e-4c33-950b-5ddb40f19afa

InstanceOf: Task

Usage: #example

```
* meta.profile = "http://medizininformatik-initiative.de/fhir/StructureDefinition/task-data-send|1.1"
* instantiatesCanonical = "http://medizininformatik-initiative.de/bpe/Process/dataReceive|1.1"
* status = #requested
* requester.identifier.system = "http://dsf.dev/sid/organization-identifier"
* requester.identifier.value = "sender.org"
* restriction.recipient.identifier.system = "http://dsf.dev/sid/organization-identifier"
* restriction.recipient.identifier.value = "receiver.org"
* input[0].type = $bpmn-message#message-name
* input[0].valueString = "dataSend"

* input[1].type = $data-transfer#document-reference-location
* input[1].valueReference = Reference(https://dsf.sender.org/fhir/DocumentReference/ad900831-9872-47e3-ad07-62ca65a067a1)

* input[2].type = $data-transfer#project-identifier
* input[2].valueIdentifier.system = "http://medizininformatik-initiative.de/sid/project-identifier"
* input[2].valueIdentifier.value = "a-project-identifier"
```

<https://github.com/medizininformatik-initiative/mii-process-data-transfer>

Java: Asymmetric Encryption with ECDH KEM

```
public class DemoCryptoService implements dev.dsf.bpe.v2.activity.ServiceTask
{
    @Override
    public void execute(ProcessPluginApi api, Variables variables) throws ErrorBoundaryEvent, Exception
    {
        KeyPair x448KeyPair = api.getCryptoService().createKeyPairGeneratorX448AndInitialize().generateKeyPair();
        byte[] encrypted = send(api.getCryptoService(), x448KeyPair.getPublic());
        receive(api.getCryptoService(), x448KeyPair.getPrivate(), encrypted);
    }

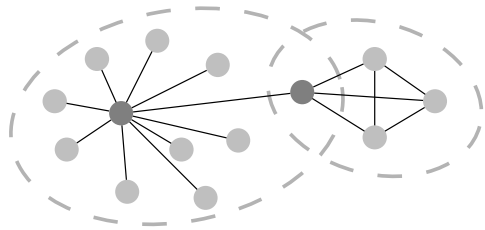
    private byte[] send(CryptoService cryptoService, PublicKey publicKey) throws Exception
    {
        byte[] encrypted = cryptoService.createEcDhKem().encrypt("sensitive-data".getBytes(StandardCharsets.UTF_8), publicKey);
        // store encrypted data in local DSF FHIR server, create download trigger task in remote DSF FHIR server
        return encrypted; // encapsulation, iv, encrypted data
    }

    private void receive(CryptoService cryptoService, PrivateKey privateKey, byte[] encrypted) throws Exception
    {
        // download encrypted data from remote DSF FHIR server
        byte[] decrypted = cryptoService.createEcDhKem().decrypt(encrypted, privateKey);
        assert "sensitive-data".equals(new String(decrypted, StandardCharsets.UTF_8));
    }
}
```



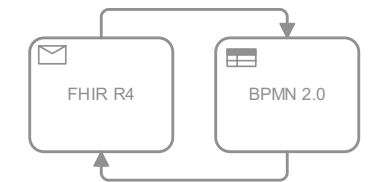
Summary

Extendable with independent use case specific process plugins



Configurable to connect projects, organizations and research networks

Standardized using HL7 FHIR R4 for communication and data storage as well as BPMN 2.0 for visualization and logic



Deployed with 50 installations in Germany



Additional Information and Contact



dsf.dev

- FHIR Implementation Guide
- Plugin API JavaDoc

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