



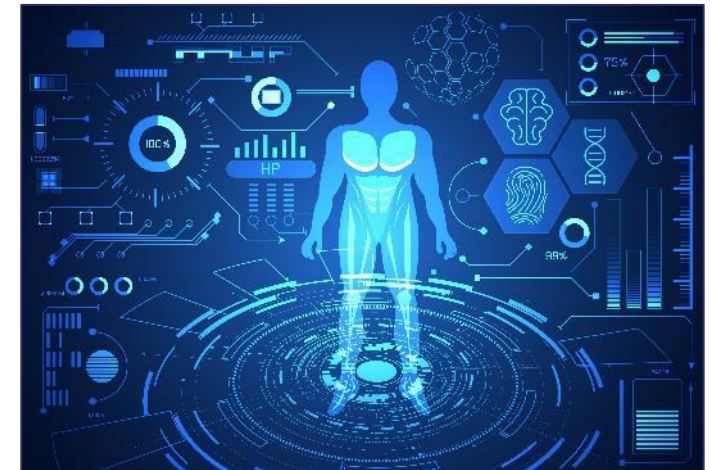
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University of Southampton, IT Innovation Centre

Interim Progress - April 2022

Motivation

- Research to improve health and wellbeing increasingly depends on **combing diverse data from multiple organisations**
- However, “..the **use of data presents risks**; those risks need to be fully understood and taken into account”,
UK’s National Data Sharing Strategy, DCMS
- Even with shared principles for safe data usage, **privacy risk management is still vague**
 - no consistent guidance for risk assessment, mitigation and management
 - resulting in different implementations of Trusted Research Environments
- A **common way to assess privacy risk** is needed



-

```

graph TD
    EC[ESTABLISH CONTEXT] --> IR[IDENTIFY RISK]
    IR --> AR[ANALYSE RISK]
    AR --> ER[EVALUATE RISK]
    ER --> TR[TREAT RISK]
    TR --> EC
    
    subgraph ASSESS_RISK [ASSESS RISK]
        IR
        AR
        ER
    end
    
    CC[COMMUNICATION & CONSULTATION] <--> EC
    CC <--> IR
    CC <--> AR
    CC <--> ER
    CC <--> TR
    
    MR[MONITORING & REVIEW] <--> EC
    MR <--> IR
    MR <--> AR
    MR <--> ER
    MR <--> TR
  
```

The screenshot displays the System Modeler reidentification tool interface. The main workspace shows a complex dependency graph with nodes representing various data sources and processes, connected by arrows indicating data flow. The left sidebar contains a 'Modeler Palette' with icons for different data types and processes. The right sidebar shows a 'Model Summary' panel with sections for 'Assets (80)', 'Controls (87)', and 'Adverse Effects and their Impact (195)'. Below these, there is a table listing various assets and their associated impacts, along with a 'Threats (9/375)' section and a 'Compliance (97)' section.

Name	Asset	Impact	Likelihood	Risk
Loss of Confidentiality	ENR	High	Very High	Very High
Loss of Confidentiality	Benefits Record	High	Very High	Very High
Loss of Integrity	ENR	High	Very High	Very High
Loss of Integrity	Benefits Record	High	Very High	Very High
Loss of Availability	ENR	Medium	Very High	High
Infected by Malware	Council Router	Very Low	Very High	Low
Infected by Malware	Analysis Server	Very Low	Very High	Low
Infected by Malware	Hospital Router	Very Low	Very High	Low
Infected by Malware	Hospital Router	Very Low	Very High	Low
Infected by Malware	Council Server	Very Low	Very High	Low

Threats (9/375)

- GDPR Compliance Issues (8/10)
- Possible Widespread Error (8)

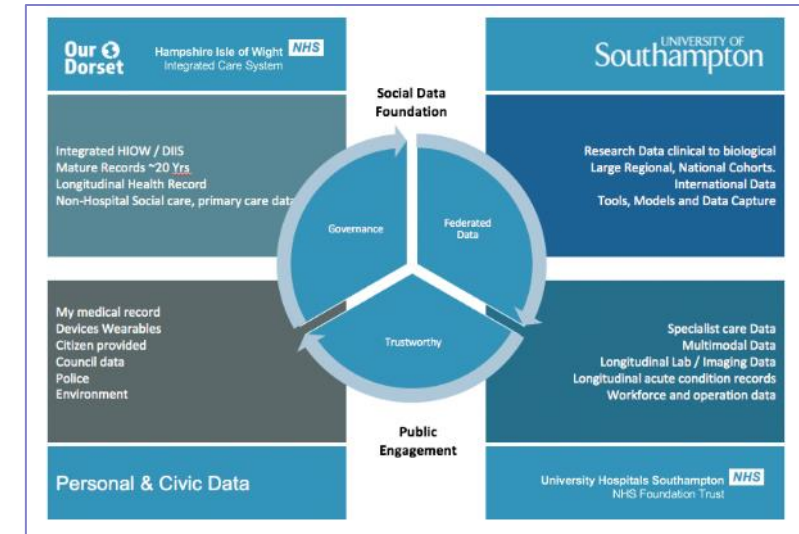
Compliance (97)

Buttons: Cancel



Objectives

- Analyse **driver use cases** in public health prevention and integrated care
- Identify **factors contributing to privacy risks** within the Five Safes
- Define a **framework** to provide a consistent methodology for privacy risk assessment
- Assess privacy risks for use cases using a cyber security **risk modelling and simulation** platform
- Codesign and evaluate the framework, modelling and simulation through **engagement with the public and multidisciplinary stakeholders**



Source: Wessex Trusted Research Environment (NHSx)

Privacy Requirements for Safe Federations

- Explore context of privacy risks for federated research networks
 - address multiple **interpretations** of principles
 - consider multiple **perceptions** of risk
 - elaborate **harms** related to federation
 - focus on **information privacy**
 - define **privacy goals** including CIA, acceptability, intervenability, transparency and unlinkability
 - identify of **privacy controls**
- Introduce the principle of ‘safe federation’
 - Protocols for commitment from parties over goals, standards, success measures, costs, benefits and value creation
 - Benefits -> *local control, risk mitigation, large data, potential reduction in costs, cross border working*
 - Challenges -> *decision making complexity, new risks from infomediaries, new approaches to federated controls (e.g. intervenability)*
- Define of operational/functional privacy requirements for safe federations

Table 1: Different interpretations of Five Safes					
Five Safes Framework	Original Five Safes	HDRUK [7] Interpretation	AIHW (2021) [18] Interpretation	UK Data Service, SecureLab (2022) [19] Interpretation	Arbuckle and Ritchie (2019) [20] Interpretation
Safe projects	"Is this use of the data appropriate?"	"Data is only used for ethical, approved research with the potential for clear public benefit"	"Use of the data is legal, ethical and the project is expected to deliver public benefit"	"research projects are approved by data owners for the public good"	"Will personal data be anonymized? What are the legal/ethical boundaries?"
Safe people	"Can the researchers be trusted to use it in an appropriate manner?"	"Only trained and specifically accredited researchers can access the data"	"Researchers have the knowledge, skills and incentives to act in accordance with required standards of behaviour"	"researchers are trained and authorised to use data safely"	"Evaluate recipient trust, and manage their motives"
Safe data	"Is there a disclosure risk in the data itself?"	"Researchers only use data that have been de-identified to protect privacy"	"Data has been treated appropriately to minimise the potential for identification of individuals or organisations"	"data is treated to protect any confidentiality concerns"	"To determine the data transformations necessary to deal with residual risk, we need to understand the risk from the data"
Safe settings	"Does the access facility limit unauthorised use?"	"Access to data is only possible using secure technology systems – the data never leaves the TRE"	"There are practical controls on the way the data is accessed – both from a technology perspective and considering the physical environment"	"a SecureLab environment prevents unauthorised use"	"Assess security and privacy controls of the recipient"
Safe outputs	"Are the statistical results non-disclosive?"	"All research outputs are checked to ensure they cannot be used to identify subjects"	"A final check can be required to minimise risk leaving the project"	"screened and approved outputs"	"Evaluate context of data released"
Key purpose	To be used as discussion points about data access	Presented as key principles of TREs	Presented dimension with "potential to be mitigated"		



+ Acceptability

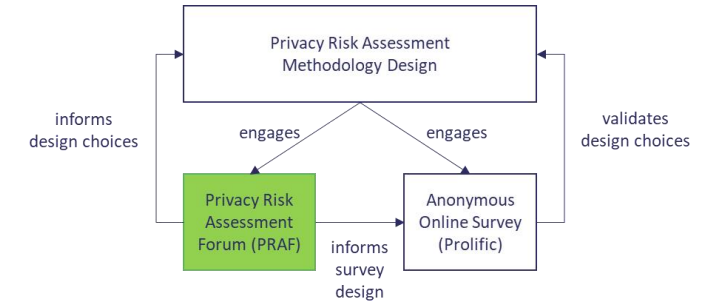
Table 2: Identified Privacy Requirements of 'Safe federation' (O:operational, F:functional)			
ID	Privacy Requirement for Federated Research Network	Related to Extended Five Safes Framework	Reference
O.1	Standardised procedures for assessing outputs, including (but not limited to): 1. Proposed statistical outputs 2. Proposed qualitative outputs 3. Other proposed outputs, such as (but not limited to) metadata, algorithms, workflows, models and software	Safe outputs	[36][40][41]
O.2	Standardised appeals procedure for rejected outputs	Safe outputs	[41]
O.3	Standardised procedure to block and/ or embargo proposed outputs	Safe outputs	[40]
O.4	Standardised procedures to measure and evidence the benefit of approved outputs (on release from a TRE) for individuals, communities and society by those appointed responsible by the TRE and/or the federated TRE network to which it belongs	Safe outputs	[27]
O.5	Standardised procedures for archival, including (but not limited to): 1. One or more workspaces related to a completed project 2. Datasets related to a completed project (including those linked to publications) 3. Tools related to a completed project	Safe outputs	[27]
F.1	Standardised procedures to identify and manage conflicting standards across a federated network of TREs, such as (but not limited to): 1. Screening, training, guidance and/or support 2. Assessing outputs and handling appeals	Safe federation, also related to Safe people, and Safe outputs	Interpretation
F.2	Standardised procedures for intervenability across a federated network of TREs, such as (but not limited to): 1. "Single Point of Contact (SPoC)" for a TRE and/or specified federated network of TREs has been established for data subjects to exercise their data-related rights 2. "disabling options for individual functionalities without affecting the whole system"	Safe federation	[42]
Standardised procedures for change management			

Public Involvement and Engagement – Privacy Risk Assessment Forum

- Find ways to involve members of the public in data sharing decisions
- Approach
 - 12 members of the public
 - Participant journey
 - 1. Privacy attitudes and language (Done)**
 - 2. Privacy and self-efficacy
 - 3. Privacy and responsibilities
 - 4. Check and test findings for online survey
- Emerging themes (1st workshop analysis in progress)
 - Education and support
 - Communication of decisions
 - Polarities in the debate (you signed so your responsibility vs people don't have understanding)
 - Concerns for custodianship incl. data retention beyond business lifecycles
 - Concerns regarding business vs plain language



Public Involvement
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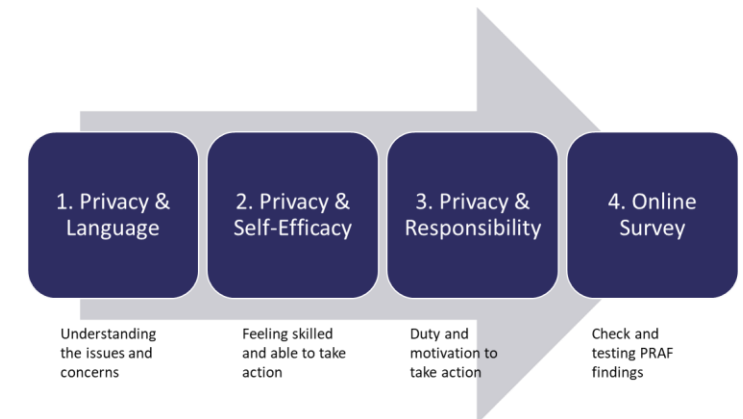


Scenario 1 – Online Shopping

Scenario 2 – Activity Tracking

Scenario 3 – COVID Track and Trace

Scenario 4 – Research Project



What do you understand by....

Safety
 Privacy Harm
 Feared Event
 Data Stewardship
 Trusted Research Environment

....would you use different words?

What do you understand by....

Privacy risk, likelihood and impact
 Asset, threat and vulnerability
 Security and privacy control
 Loss of confidentiality
 Identifier, quasi-identifier, and reidentification

....would you use different words?

Advisory Group

22 experts including:

- Information governance practitioners
- Practitioners running or developing secure research facilities
- Legal professionals
- Oversight bodies
- Academic experts

Semi-structured interviews to understand the risk factors to consider when research projects request data, the controls available and the decisions tied to privacy risk assessment



Bristows



Early findings from the Advisory Board

- Decisions by committees to determine ***functional anonymisation*** guarantees can be subjective and lack transparency
- In data sharing contracts, ***institutions*** that the researcher requesting data is affiliated with matters a lot
 - problems for people who do not have affiliations with a stronger/well established institution
 - bottleneck for researchers to navigate IG inside their own organisation, especially if they are risk averse
- Controls on one safe can ***compensate for risks*** on the other in certain cases (e.g., people and settings) but not in others (e.g., project)

Risk Tiers Framework

Develop a framework to help decision makers:

- **Document** level of risk along each axis of the five safes
- Establish a **shared view** that stakeholders can understand and reason about
- **Evaluate** risk and the actions to reduce risk for each data sharing scenario
- Respond to risk **consistently**

Project	Level 0				
Setting + People + Outputs	Level 0	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Data	Level 0	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	

For example:

- + All activity logged
- + Contractual agreement
- + Trained researcher
- + Differentially private outputs

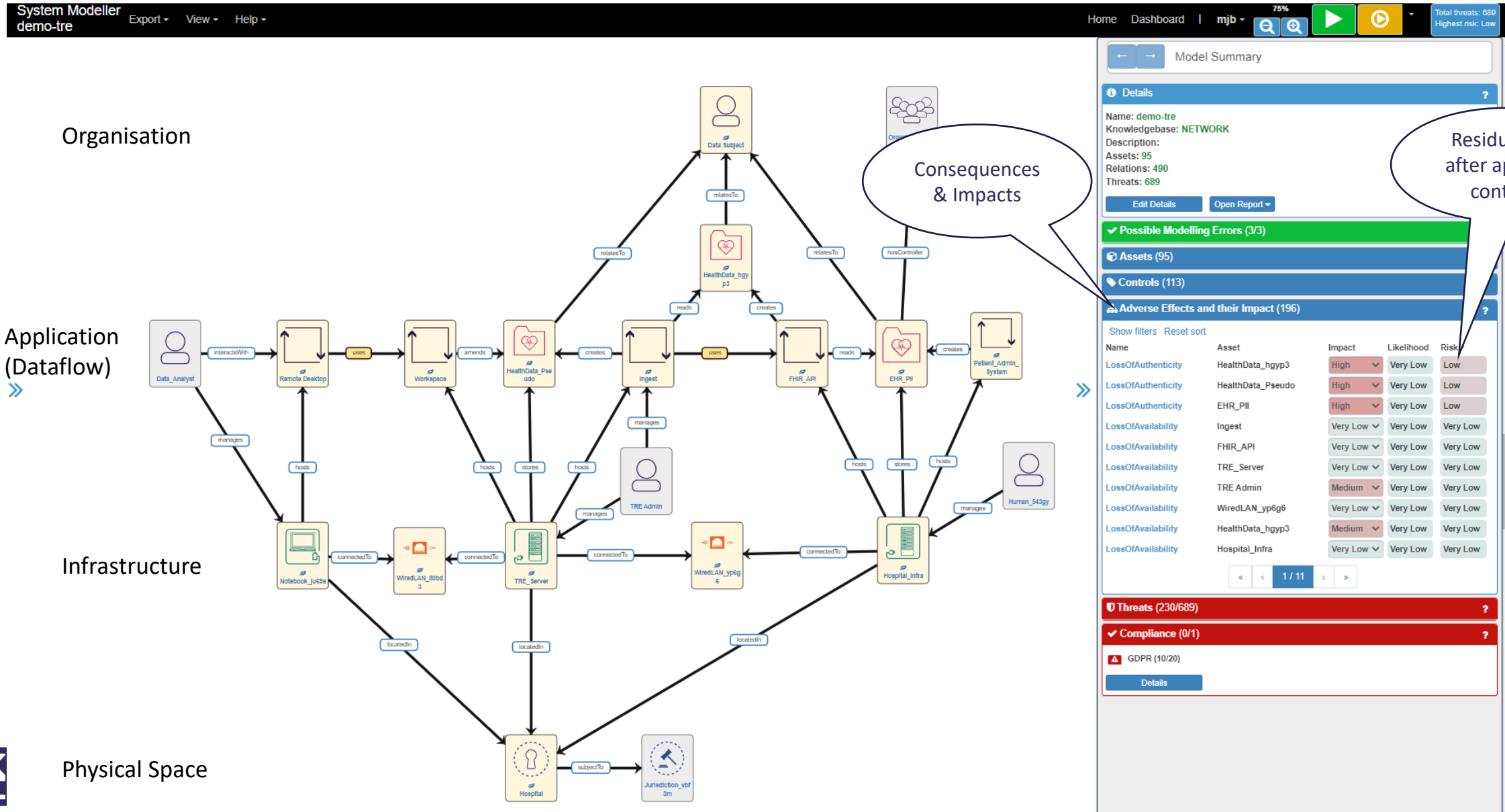
Tier 1	Sum of risk levels = 0 or 1
Tier 2	Sum of risk levels = 2 or 3
Tier 3	Sum of risk levels > 3

Overall risk tier for project mapped to decisions. For example:

- Tier 1 = Fast track approval
- Tier 2 = Increased monitoring of project
- Tier 3 = Rejection

Privacy and Security Risk Modelling – Example TRE system model

689 Threats



GDPR Compliance Explorer

System Modeller
demo-tre

Export View Help

Home Dashboard mjb 75%
Total threats: 689
Highest risk: Low

Compliance Explorer

Personal data

"HealthData_Pseudo" has no data controller: under the GDPR, a data controller (a person or in most cases, an organisation) who alone or jointly with others, determines the purposes and means of the processing of personal data, and has certain responsibilities defined by Article 24. Data "HealthData_Pseudo" relates to the data subject "Data Subject" and is subject to the GDPR, so there should be a controller. Add an organisation or user if not already included, and a hasController relationship from "HealthData_Pseudo" to its data controller.

GDPR (10/20)

Description: GDPR compliance threats.

Compliant: false

Show filters Reset sort

Compliance Threat

Personal data "HealthData_Pseudo" has no data controller (a275)

Personal data "HealthData_Pseudo" has no data controller (faf6)

Personal data "HealthData_Pseudo" has no data controller (c426)

Personal data "HealthData_hgyp3" has no data controller (2a7c)

Personal data "HealthData_hgyp3" has no data controller (9d88)

Personal data "EHR_PII" should be stored in a suitable location (1d2d)

Personal data "HealthData_Pseudo" should be stored in a suitable location (b245)

Condition for consent for processing of personal data "EHR_PII" related to "Data Subject" (ab8a)

Condition for consent for processing of personal data "HealthData_Pseudo" related to "Data Subject" (5283)

Condition for consent for processing of personal data "HealthData_hgyp3" related to "Data Subject" (51b0)

Personal data "EHR_PII" related to "Data Subject" should be processed in a suitable location (6f00)

Personal data "EHR_PII" related to "Data Subject" should be processed in a suitable location (ad9b)

Personal data "HealthData_Pseudo" related to "Data Subject" should be processed in a suitable location (bc91)

Personal data "HealthData_Pseudo" related to "Data Subject" should be processed in a suitable location (7108)

Personal data "HealthData_hgyp3" related to "Data Subject" should be processed in a suitable location (7108)

Asset

HealthData_Pseudo

HealthData_Pseudo

HealthData_Pseudo

HealthData_hgyp3

HealthData_hgyp3

Hospital_Infra

TRE_Server

Data Subject

Data Subject

Data Subject

FHIR_API

Patient_Admin_System

Ingest

Workspace

Diagram

Organisation_qd

HealthData_Pseudo

HealthData_hgyp3

EHR_PII

Patient_Admin_System

FHIR_API

Ingest

Workspace

Hospital_Infra

Human_54gy

Hospital

Jurisdiction_vof

relatedTo

hasController

reads

creates

hosts

stores

connectedTo

locatedIn

subjectTo

Model Summary

Details

Name: demo-tre

Knowledgebase: NETWORK

Description:

Assets: 95

Relations: 490

Threats: 689

Edit Details

Open Report

Possible Modelling Errors (3/3)

Assets (95)

Controls (113)

Adverse Effects and their Impact (196)

Show filters Reset sort

Name	Asset	Impact	Likelihood	Risk
LossOfAuthenticity	HealthData_hgyp3	High	Very Low	Low
LossOfAuthenticity	HealthData_Pseudo	High	Very Low	Low
LossOfAuthenticity	EHR_PII	High	Very Low	Low
LossOfAvailability	Ingest	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low
LossOfAvailability	FHIR_API	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low
LossOfAvailability	TRE_Server	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low
LossOfAvailability	TRE Admin	Medium	Very Low	Very Low
LossOfAvailability	WiredLAN_yp6g6	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low
LossOfAvailability	HealthData_hgyp3	Medium	Very Low	Very Low
LossOfAvailability	Hospital_Infra	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low

Threats (230/689)

Compliance (0/1)

GDPR (10/20)

Details

Conclusions

- Privacy requirements for safe federations and use cases analysed
 - D1 report to be published end-May
- Approach codesigned with stakeholder engagement through Advisory Board and the public Privacy Risk Assessment Forum
- Risk Tiers framework outlined and aligned with security and privacy risk modelling tools
- Extensions to privacy domain knowledge for system modelling based on privacy requirements started
- Plans for open community of privacy and security domain experts supported by open methodologies and tools



Thank you for listening

