SafePod Network

Introduction to the SafePod Network
Introduction

• SafePod Network aims and objectives

• How it all works

• Developments
SafePod Network introduction

The SafePod Network (SPN) is a major research innovation in the UK that provides researchers with standardised safe settings (SafePods) for data that requires secure access for research.

SPN is part of the Administrative Data Research UK programme.

HISTORICAL DATA ACCESS IN THE UK

Main barriers for data access were:

- Lack of availability - Few safe settings in the UK.
- Limitations – researcher time, cost and distance for travel.
- Fragmented – one to one model.
- Infrastructure – limited to Data Centres that could build their own safe settings.
SafePod Network introduction

MAIN SPN OBJECTIVES

1. To overcome historical barriers by creating standardised safe settings and policies for data access across the UK.

2. To enable access to multiple Data Centres data from the same safe setting.

3. To provide equitable access to data for researchers across the UK.

4. To improve and widen the sharing of Data Centre data for public benefit research.

5. By achieving 1-4 = To significantly improve the quantity and diversity of public benefit research.
What is a SafePod?

A SafePod is a small prefabricated standardised room that provides the security and controls that are necessary for remote access to sensitive data.
SafePod features

- Researcher area for data analysis
- Secure cupboard for storage of SPN equipment
- CCTV monitoring
- Door access control system
- Emergency and fire alarms
- Wheelchair accessibility
- Pleasant working environment
- Height adjustable desk
- 2 large screen monitors
- 2 researchers can use
- Personal locker
- Telephone
What is the purpose of a SafePod?

To provide a safe setting from which researchers can locally access data held by different Data Centres for public benefit research.
Dataset provision

The following Data Centres have joined the SPN:

• UK Data Service
• Office for National Statistics
• SAIL Databank
• ADR UK (linked data created through the programme)
• Scottish Government
• National Records of Scotland
• Health and Social Care Northern Ireland
• Leeds Institute for Data Analytics

The SPN is open for other Data Centres to join.

Major advantage: All SafePods are the same. Accredit one SafePod to accredit all SafePods in the network.
No data is held inside a SafePod

1. SafePod Computer (contains a Data Centre menu)
2. VPN connection to SafePod cloud
3. Connection to external Data Centres
SafePod Network security principles

SAFE RESEARCHER
SAFE ACCESS
SAFE DATA
SAFE ANALYSIS

STANDARDISED SPN POLICIES
SafePod locations

• 23 SafePods live and available for booking across the UK.

• Further SafePod at the University of St Andrews.

• Visit www.safepodnetwork.ac.uk for more information about each SafePod.
SafePod Coordinators

• Local team responsible for the security and operation of their SafePod.
• Employees at a SafePod Organisation.
• Background checked and trained (every three years).
• SafePod booking management.
• On call if needed.
• Over 180 SafePod Coordinators across the UK.
• Awards scheme available to recognise time and commitment to the SPN.
How the SafePod Network works

1. **Researcher**
2. **Join SPN**
3. **Book a SafePod**
4. **Use a SafePod**

- **Data Centre**
- **Join SPN**
- **Approve booking and set access conditions**
- **Data provision (remote)**

**Approved project in place between researcher and Data Centre**

Local SafePod Coordinator management
Data Centre access conditions

A Data Centre sets all access conditions to a SafePod for their bookings.

E.g. who can enter, date, what can be taken inside, mobile phone use, CCTV.

This flexibility enables a Data Centre to have their own ready made safe settings platform without the investment, time, cost and resource to create and manage one.
Additional uses for SafePods

SafePod can be used for organisation or local confidential projects
SAFEPOD NETWORK WEBSITE
www.safepodnetwork.ac.uk

• Researcher registrations
• SafePod bookings
• SafePod management
• Data Centre booking approval and security assurances
• Statistics
Making a SafePod booking

- Register
- Pass training questionnaire.
- Select SafePod.
- Select Data Centre.
- Select date(s).
- Provide project title and number (if applicable).
- Sent to Data Centre for approval.
Making a **SafePod booking: select date(s)**

2. Select booking dates and times

Click on the calendar to make a booking. Click the booking again to delete the booking. You can make single or multiple bookings.

**26 September - 02 October 2022**

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<th>Thursday 29</th>
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On the day of a SafePod booking

• Go to location (as detailed in confirmation email).
• Met by a SafePod Coordinator.
• Identification check.
• SafePod induction (if not had one before).
• Go ahead and use a SafePod to connect to a Data Centre.
WELCOME TO THE SAFEPOD NETWORK

BEFORE YOU START

- Please make sure that the main light is switched on when you are inside the SafePod. It switches on the occupancy light on the outside of the SafePod.
- You are advised to complete a Display Screen Equipment Assessment before you start work.
- Remember to take regular breaks from the SafePod.

DATA CENTRE MENU

Please click on the Data Centre you wish to connect with from the menu below.

- Office for National Statistics
- UK Data Service
- SAIL Databank
- SPACe

HELP AND ASSISTANCE

For further help and assistance contact the SafePod network on 0131 440 2013 or email safepodnetwork@ed.ac.uk
Programmes and software

All programmes and software are held individually by Data Centres in their Remote Desktop Environments.

No data or software is held inside a SafePod.
Urgent or critical research

• For long or continuous use of a SafePod.
• Apply to SafePod Network with details of your project.
• Application reviewed and outcome advised.
Data Centre assurances

• View information about SafePods and Coordinators.
• Booking security reports.
• Incident management procedure.
• Set their own access conditions.
• CCTV system.
SafePod CCTV system

CCTV monitored by the SafePod Network. Incidents reported to the Data Centre.
Statistics

• 500 registered researchers (growing).
• 180 SafePod Coordinators.
• 7 Data Centres (Public Health Scotland expected to join shortly).
• Approximately 350 SafePod bookings a quarter.
Development: SafePoint

- A new standardised system to support secure data access from an approved room.
- SafePoint has similar security controls to a SafePod.
- Low cost and scalable to allow an approved organisation to have a data access point.

Application call for a SafePoint available in summer 2024.
Development: Trusted Research Environment for secure data deposit and access

Secure data deposit
Secure data connection
Secure data access

Ready made solution for secure data deposit and access across the UK
Development: International project

Explore an international collaboration for data access and research from SafePods
Impacts so far

- SafePods provide researchers with local access to data.
- Access to multiple different Data Centres from the same SafePod.
- Encourages research.
- Widens access to data across the UK.
- Partnership with LIDA – ready made solution for data deposit and access
Funder acknowledgement
Contact

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Twitter: @safepodnetwork.
Mailing list: Join via SPN website.
Thank you for listening. Are there any questions?