



## Remote access to confidential data for research : the French experience and the development of transnational access

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### Abstract

Researchers' needs to access highly detailed and sensitive data are now increasingly recognized. Over the last ten years, the legal and regulatory frameworks underwent a set of important changes in many countries as well as at EU level in order to ease access to these data for research purposes while protecting confidentiality. Mode of access is key in this process and has to well balance high security and researchers' needs. When set up in 2008, CASD in France opted without further delay to a remote access system that enables the researchers to manipulate the data. The solution designed and fully controlled by CASD is an integrated system, fairly easy to deploy and accessible only through dedicated access equipment (the SD-Box) and biometric authentication. This integration enables end-to-end control of security, offering both greater security for the data provider and ease for the user who is thus relieved of having to depend on the security of their work environment. Likewise, CASD architecture facilitates the recommended security certifications, because each component of the chain is fully mastered, in particular ISO 27 0001 and RGPD certifications, without any consequence for the user. This high security level is combined with great ease of work for the user until the final drafting of the articles inside the secure bubble of the project. Thanks to its highly secure remote access, CASD was able to house a vast range of data sources available at finest level of detail with matching possibilities. Remote access also facilitates access across borders. IDAN (International Data Access network) is an initiative that gathers 6 research data centres from 4 countries aiming to create a concrete operational international framework via reciprocal provision of Safe Room Remote Desktop Access facilitating researchers' access to confidential microdata from these countries. While several countries are still hesitating on how to ensure secure access to confidential data, the presentation highlight the potential of remote access for future developments in the use of data and its impact for research and public policies evaluation.

**Keywords:** secure remote access ; confidential data; transnational access; privacy protection