



Research Data Centre (FDZ)
of the German Federal
Employment Agency (BA)
at the Institute for
Employment Research (IAB)

New Solutions for Transnational Access and the Need for Proper Data Documentation

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David Schiller, IAB

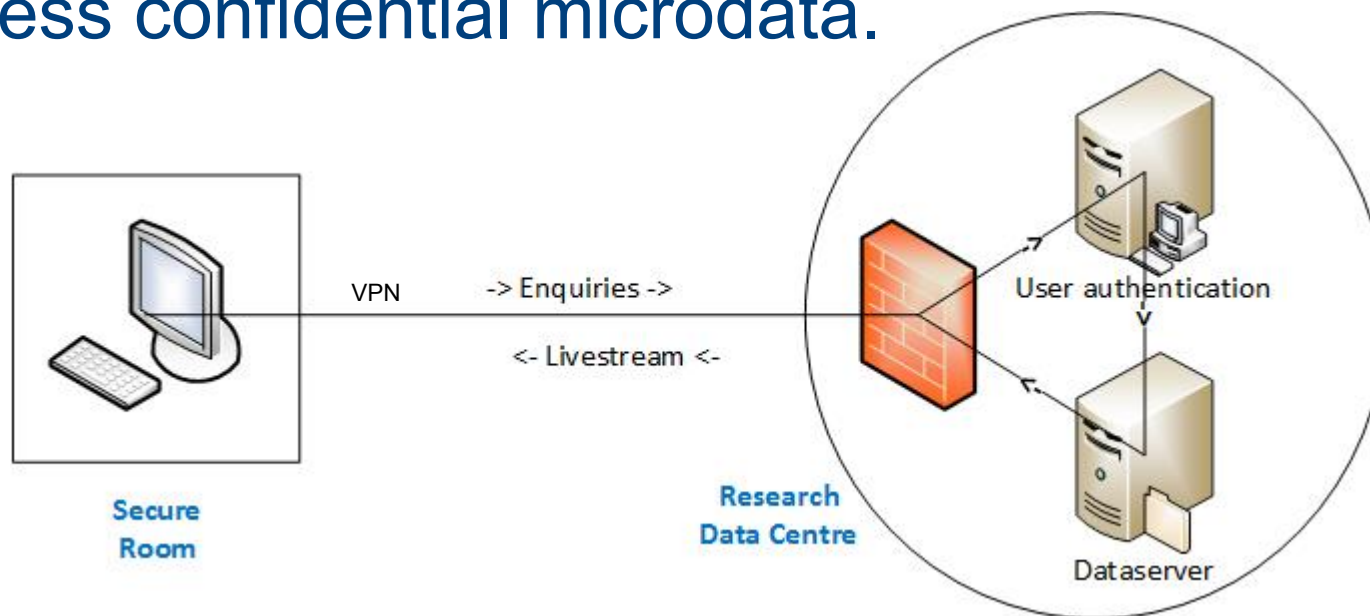
Ingo Barkow, DIPF

Outline

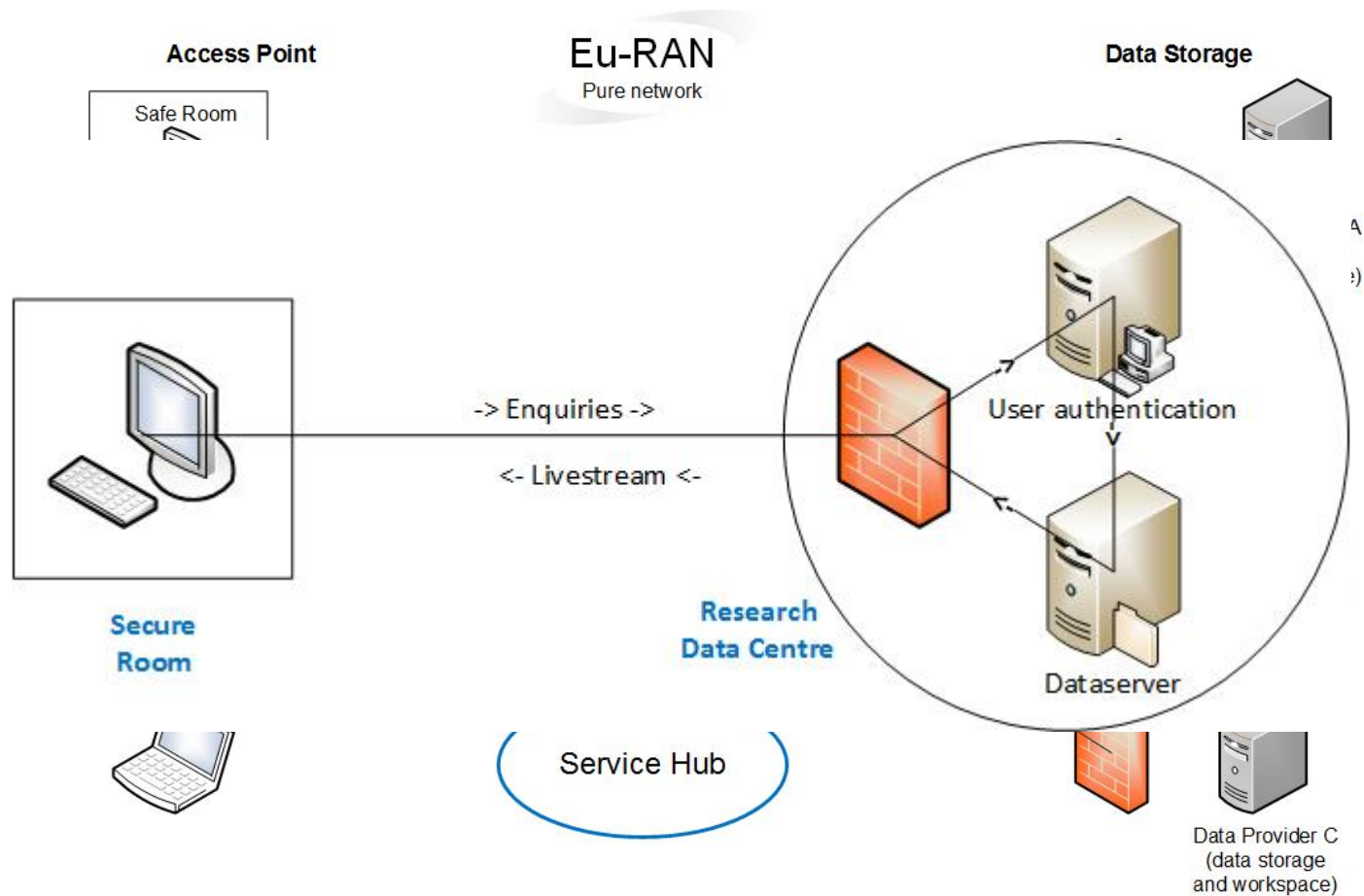
- Examples for Transnational Access (TNA) innovations
 - Safe Centre approach
 - European Remote Access Network (proposed)
- Data Documentation Challenges for TNA
- Solutions
- Summary

Safe Centre approach

- Secured Remote Desktop solution with physically and organisationally secured access devices.
- Resulting in a completely secured environment to access confidential microdata.



European Remote Access Network (Eu-RAN)



European Remote Access Network (Eu-RAN)

- There is one European Research Area (ERA) but
- many country specific differences regarding:
 - Content related issues (e.g. educational, labour market system)
 - Data access issues (e.g. accreditation process, disclosure control)
 - Data Documentation standards (language, coverage, used standard)
- High obstacle for starting transnational research projects; even more for comparative research

Challenges for Data Documentation

- Central point for data documentation
- Complete documentation for a international audience (language)
- Documentation available when searching for data (unrestricted) and when working with data (restricted)
- Standard for data documentation regarding:
 - Usability for researcher (know where to find what)
 - Usability for machines (machine-readable)

Documentation needs - content

- What data sources are available?
 - Description on “study” level (not only survey data)
- What is the content and quality on variable level?
 - What exactly is measured and how good is this done
- What is the accreditation procedure?
 - Simple online form or proposal and scientific board; what is the expected duration of the procedure?
- What are the access ways to work with data?
 - Download file, travel to data holder, use remote access

Documentation needs - technic

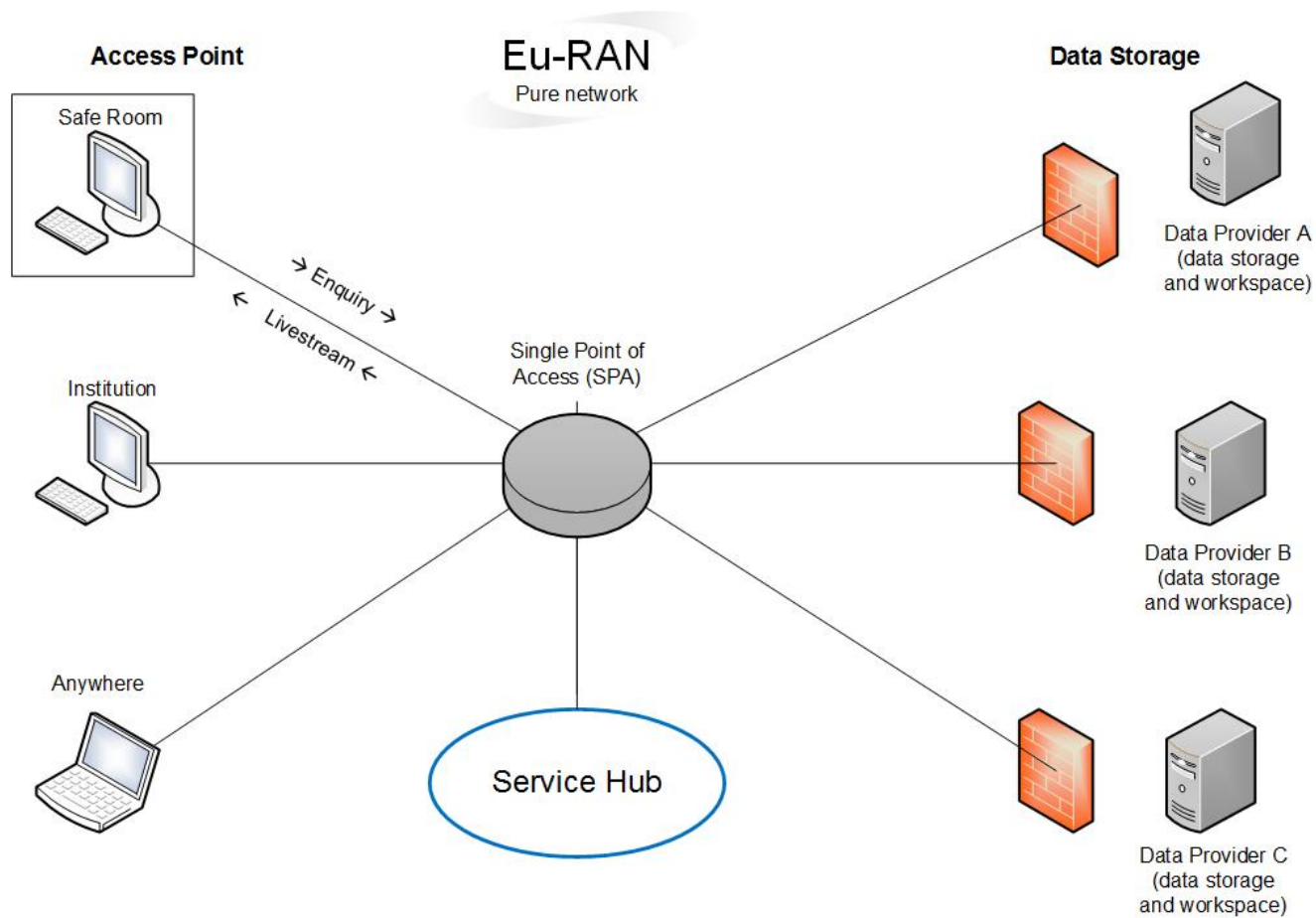
- Data Documentation standard
 - Frontend (for user) and backend for software and interfaces

- Harvesting mechanism for data documentation
 - Easy way to collect information from all partners
 - Data Documentation standard for exchange

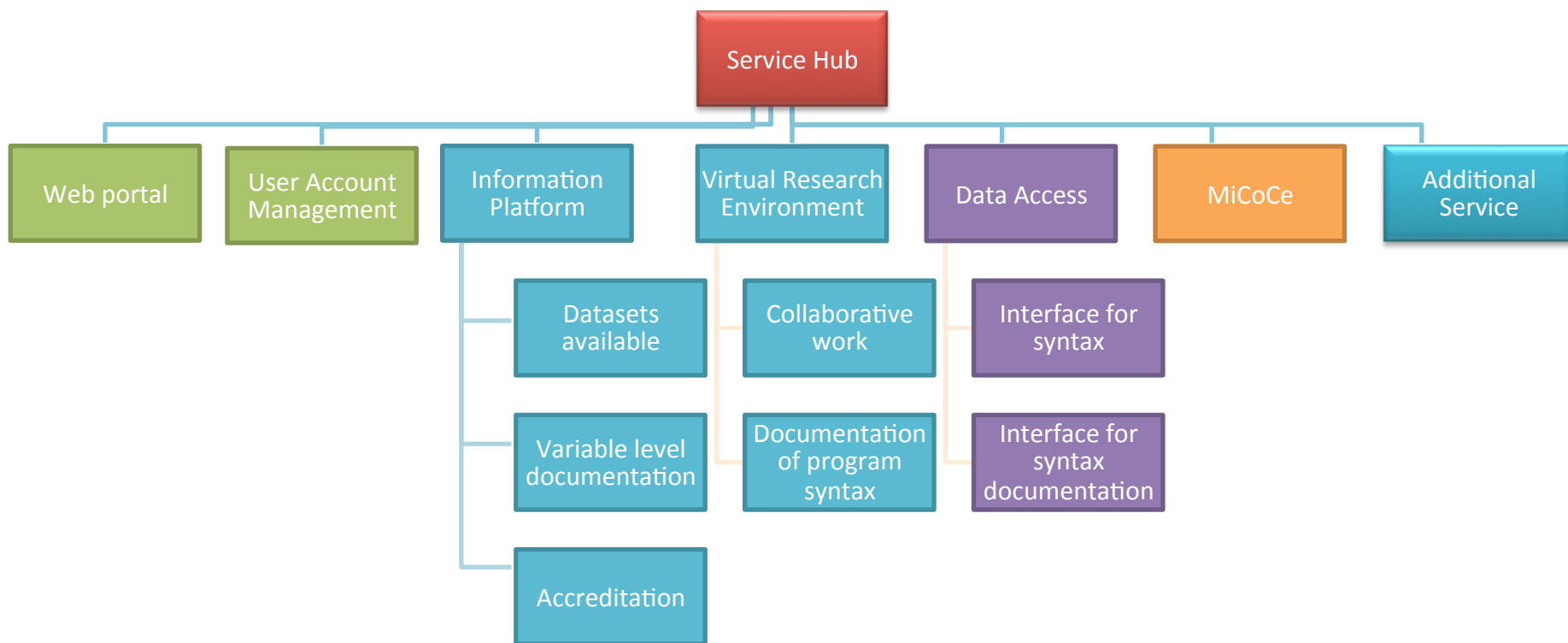
Documentation needs - technic

- Data documentation available in restricted and non-restricted virtual research environments
 - For finding right data before project
 - For understanding details about data during projects
- Archiving and long-time preservation
 - Support on a technical level to ensure the preservation of complete project documentations
 - Enable the possibility to reproduce and build on conducted research

European Remote Access Network (Eu-RAN)



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Data without Boundaries (DwB) project

- DwB aims on making transnational access in Europe easier.
- Runtime 2011 to 2015, www.dwbproject.org



DwB
Data without Boundaries

European Research Area Consortium (ERIC)

- COUNCIL REGULATION (EU) No 1261/2013
- Gives **official structures**,
- by creating a **legal entity**, and
- is open to **third party countries** as well (not only EU member states and associated countries).

Summary

- Transnational access to microdata should be easier. Especially for Europe but also beyond.
- This has to go hand in hand with useful data documentations (need to have the project live cycle in mind).
- Only joint approaches and projects (access and documentation) will deliver usable solutions.



Thank you for your attention

david.schiller@iab.de

barkow@dipf.de

<http://fdz.iab.de>

<http://www.dipf.de>

