Secure Research Environment (SRE)

Research grants and contracts often require that certain types of research data be stored and accessed in a secure fashion. The Secure Research Environment (SRE) is a secure computing and storage resource offered to campus research units. It is designed to handle the needs of researchers working with data that requires a high level of data protection. Access to the environment is restricted, and the environment itself is segmented into distinct areas giving each research team their own, protected space to work in. Currently, only Windows virtual machines are supported. Linux systems will be supported in the future. Benefits of using UCI’s Secure Research Environment include:

- By default, research virtual machines have no direct access to the campus network or internet (see diagram):
  - All access to research virtual machines is provided through an RDP gateway
  - All data is securely transferred in/out through an intermediate server (MOVEIt)
  - Limited campus or internet access can be accommodated on a case-by-case basis depending on data involved and research grant or contract requirements
- All user logins require two-factor authentication.
- All transmission of data into and out of the environment is encrypted.
- All data at rest is encrypted.
- A dedicated SRE firewall and Active Directory Domain further provide security isolation.
- Full NIST 800-171 compliance is expected in 2020.

Free Security Services

The Office of Information Technology (OIT) will consult with you at no cost to help keep your data secure and compliant with the security requirements of your research project. We will partner with you to assess the level of security your research will require and help you find methods to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements.

OIT can provide valuable guidance, planning and budgeting for the IT aspects of your research funding proposal by providing security and compliance assessment services, defining technical requirements, making recommendations, providing service pricing, and implementing solutions and services.

Fee-Based Services

OIT offers fee-based services in support of campus research including servers, storage, data backups, co-location of equipment in the OIT Data Center, high performance computing, and more.

For more information, please visit https://www.oit.uci.edu/research-services/