

# The VINCI Program

An Introduction to Services, Tools, and Sources of Information

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VA Informatics &  
Computing  
Infrastructure



# About VINCI

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- Established in 2008 at the Salt Lake City VAMC to improve data access and security, provide analytical tools, and research support
- VINCI is a FREE high-performance computing environment that serves research and business intelligence communities
- VINCI provides mission-critical services to some research and business-intelligence groups
- VINCI Concierge Support and Services
- Original contributor to the VHA Data Portal

<http://vaww.vhadataportal.med.va.gov/Home.aspx>



# What VINCI IS & IS Not

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## ■ IS

- Computing Workspace (CPU, RAM, storage)
- Workspace software (commercial and custom)
- Materializing & hosting data sets
- A place to do data intensive Clinical Science Research

## ■ IS Not

- Does not own data (Not a data steward)
- Does not approve data access (DART)
- Does not do data analysis (soon)
- Does not provide software outside VINCI Workspace

# VINCI Central

<http://vaww.vinci.med.va.gov>

The screenshot shows the VINCI Central website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the VINCI Central logo and menu items: About, Using VINCI, Data, Guides, Support, and VINCI Workspace. On the left side, there is a sidebar with sections for Applications (Data Access Request Tracker) and Shortcuts (My Collaboration Sites, VINCI Workspace, VHA Data Portal, HSR&D, ViReC, HSRData-L Listserv). The main content area features a 'Home' header with the VINCI logo and a mission statement: 'VA Informatics and Computing Infrastructure. The mission of VINCI is to improve the healthcare of Veterans by providing researchers access to integrated national data sets and tools for analysis in a secure, high-performance computing environment. The vision of VINCI is to become VA researchers' preferred data source and data-processing environment.' Below this, there are four main action buttons: 'Learn About VINCI' (with a question mark icon), 'I Want to Use VINCI' (with a plus icon), 'I Am a Current User' (with a checkmark icon), and 'Launch the VINCI Workspace' (with a refresh icon). Each button has associated sub-links. A 'Did you know?' box on the right states: 'VINCI has 3,690 VINCI Workspace users and 1,583 project folders in the VINCI Workspace.' At the bottom, there is an 'Announcements' section with a notice about an HSR&D Cyberseminar on everything VINCI on Thursday 9/4 at 3PM ET. The footer includes 'Contact Us | Site Map'.

VINCI Central

About Using VINCI Data Guides Support VINCI Workspace

Home

**VINCI**

**VA Informatics and Computing Infrastructure**

The mission of VINCI is to improve the healthcare of Veterans by providing researchers access to integrated national data sets and tools for analysis in a secure, high-performance computing environment. The vision of VINCI is to become VA researchers' preferred data source and data-processing environment.

**Learn About VINCI**  
About VINCI Workspace Software Available Data

**I Want to Use VINCI**  
Click here to request access to the VINCI Workspace

**I Am a Current User**  
Support Training VINCI Guides SAS Guides FAQs

**Launch the VINCI Workspace**  
Click here to **UPLOAD** files to your VINCI Workspace project folder  
Click here to **DOWNLOAD** files from your VINCI Workspace project folder

**Did you know?**  
VINCI has 3,690 VINCI Workspace users and 1,583 project folders in the VINCI Workspace.

**Announcements**  
(3 of 3) **HSR&D Cyberseminar on everything VINCI Thursday 9/4 at 3PM ET**  
VINCI will be presenting information on everything VINCI. Topics will cover the VINCI Central web site, the VINCI Workspace, and the VINCI SAS/Grid. Additionally, we will present VINCI Concierge services which provide support, education, and outreach related to VINCI, the VINCI Workspace, DART, data needs, project needs, study setup, training, and data access. Click this announcement to register.

Contact Us | Site Map

# VINCI Central

- Information on
  - Everything VINCI
  - VINCI Workspace
  - Data available from VINCI
  - VINCI Concierge (Support & Study Assistance)
- User Guides for the VINCI Workspace, SAS/Grid, DART, and others
- Access to Workspace and applications
- Workspace file upload and download utilities (with audit)



# VINCI Workspace

<https://vhacdwrdat.vha.med.va.gov/RDWeb>

The screenshot displays the VINCI Workspace web interface. At the top left is the VINCI logo with the text "VA Informatics and Computing Infrastructure". To the right, it says "Welcome to VINCI Workspace" and "Standard and Development Workspaces". Below this is an "Announcements" section with a link to a seminar. A navigation bar includes "Standard Workspace", "Development Workspace", "Request a Workspace", and "Help". An "Important Instructions" section provides login details. The main area is a grid of application icons, including file managers, Adobe Reader, ArcMap, Explorer, GATE GUI, GuardianEdge, JMP Pro, MATLAB, Microsoft Access, Excel, InfoPath Designer, InfoPath Filler, OneNote, PowerPoint, Word, Firefox, MySQL Query Browser, Notepad++, NVivo 8, Protégé, R, RStudio, SAS 9.3, SAS 9.4, SAS Enterprise Guide, SAS Grid Enterprise Miner, SAS Universal Viewer, SAS XML Mapper, SPSS Modeler, SPSS Statistics, SQL Server Management Studio, StataMP, and StatTransfer.



# VINCI Workspace

- Comes in two variations
  - Standard Workspace
  - Development Workspace
- **Standard Workspace**
  - Standardized environment
  - Abundant resources
  - Software restrictions
  - No Administrator privileges
- **Development Workspace**
  - Special purpose usage (custom coding, use of non-standard software)
  - Administrator privileges



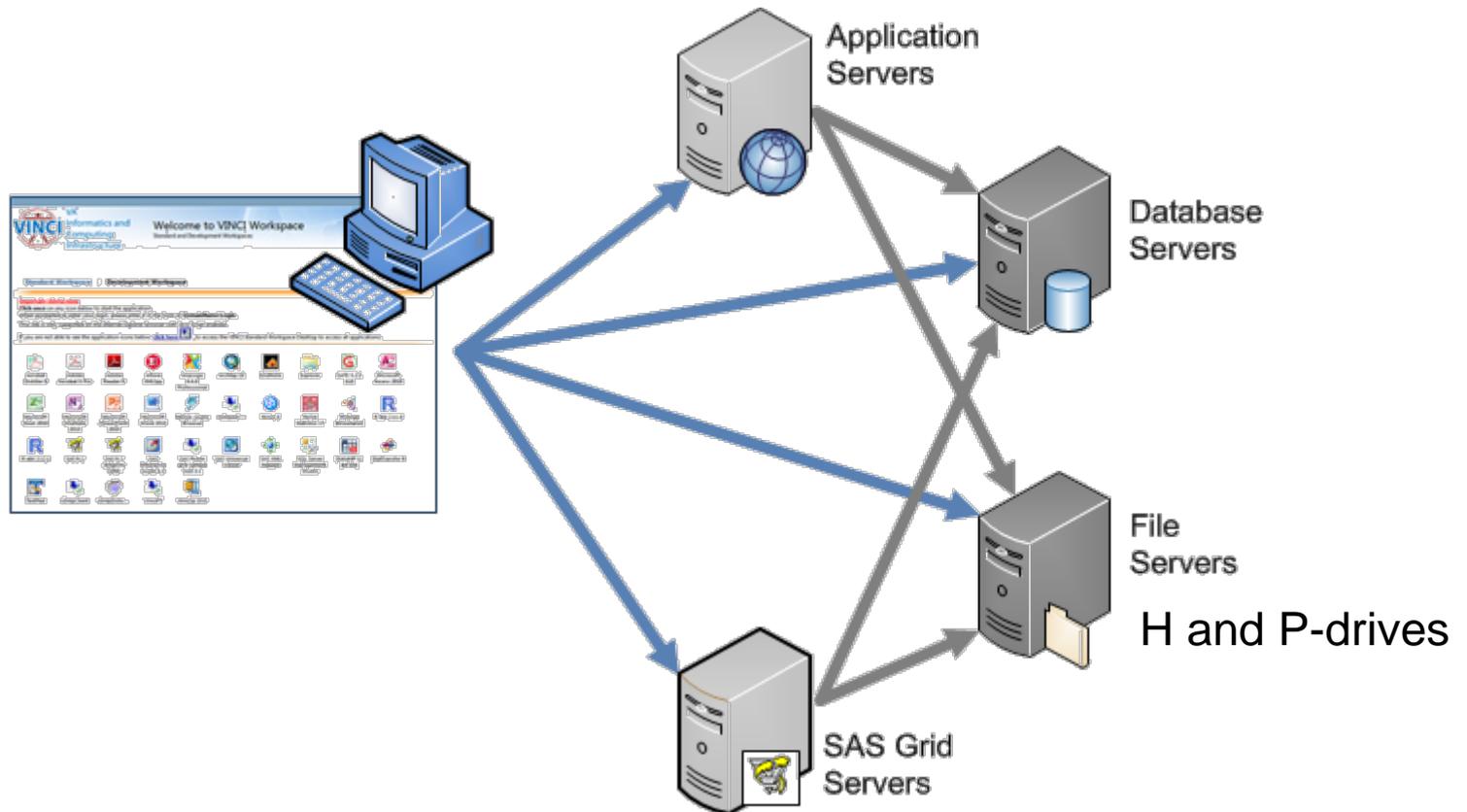
# Standard VINCI Workspace

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- Windows Server 2008 Enterprise R2 x64 SP2 Operating System (Undergoing upgrade to 2012)
- No Administrative permissions
- Fixed software package
- 4 shared logical processors
- Shared 16 GB RAM (can request more)
- 10 GB H-drive personal folder (can request more)
- 100 GB P-drive project data folder (can request more)
- Tape and disk backup



# Standard Workspace Architecture



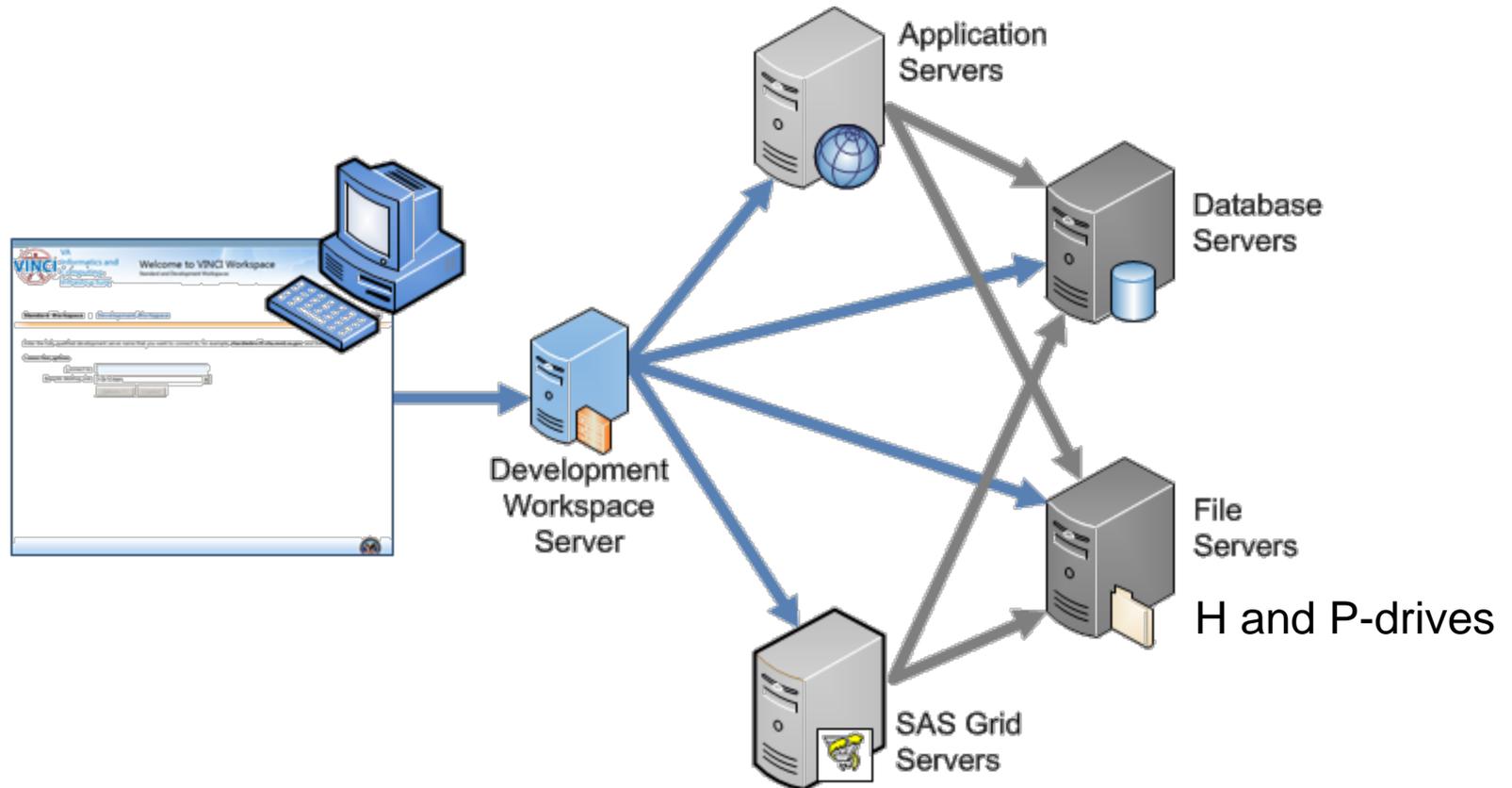
# Development VINCI Workspace

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- Windows Server 2008 Enterprise R2 x64 SP2 Operating System (Undergoing upgrade to 2012)
- Administrative permissions
- Install additional software yourself (S-drive)
- 1 logical processors (can request more)
- 4 GB RAM (can request more)
- 10 GB H-drive personal folder (can request more)
- 100 GB P-drive project data folder (can request more)
- Tape and disk backup



# Development Workspace Architecture



# Analytic Software & Collaboration

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- VINCI provides, STATA, R, SAS, SPSS, MatLab, NLP, and other software
- The VINCI Workspace and shared Project Folders allow for national collaboration in a research group
- Can be accessed from outside the VA through CAG and Rescue - Handy for University collaborators
- VINCI does data security for you



# VINCI SAS/Grid

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- Load Balancing and Parallel Processing
- Support for large SAS Community
- Reuse of existing SAS Programs
- Small learning curve
- Availability/Automatic Failover
- Less downtime = more research
- Easy Administration
- Several Consultants available for help and support to users
- Currently have SAS v9.3 and v9.4

# SAS Enterprise Guide

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- Standard for coding and Grid Access
- Enhanced and automatic features
- Easy to Configure and Use
- Wizards for any function
- Able to develop SQL Pass-Through Queries (recommended for the DB)
- Currently have v5.1 and v6.1

# VINCI PoII #1

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Select all that apply:

- I have not used the VINCI Workspace
- I have used the VINCI Workspace
- I have used the VINCI SAS/Grid
- I want to use the VINCI Workspace
- I want to use the VINCI SAS/Grid

# VINCI Data

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- VINCI has a CDW live data server for research use
- VINCI has a static CDW data server with FY12 and FY13 snapshot copies of CDW production data
- VINCI serves CDW production, Raw, TIU, DSS, MedSAS and Vital Status data to research users
- VINCI has CDW data descriptions on VINCI Central
- Import your own data into the Workspace

# VINCI Concierge

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- Support for VINCI (Technical and other)
- Training and Education
- Help with data access and DART (Data Access Request Tracker)
- Data Needs Assessment
- Project Needs Assessment
- Study setup
- Feasibility (simple ICD-9 counts)
- VINCI Happy Hour open Q&A forum every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed. of the month from 3-4pm ET

# VINCI Services

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- *Coming soon to VINCI! Fee-based services*
- Clinical Trial Recruitment
- Annotation and Chart Review
- Natural Language Processing (NLP)
- Analytics and Data Services
- Application Development

# VINCI PoII #2

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Select all that apply:

- I am interested in IRB Research
- I am interested in Operations research
- I am a Researcher (IRB or Ops)
- I assist with Research (IRB or Ops)

# Become a VINCI User

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- Currently there are 3,713 users; 1,322 research folders; and 263 operations folders
- We are an approved, secure, central analytic platform for performing IRB research and supporting clinical operations activities

# Become a VINCI User

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## ■ For IRB Research

- New project for NDS-approved data access, use Data Access Request Tracker (DART)

<http://vaww.vhadataportal.med.va.gov/DataAccess/DARTRequestProcess.aspx>

## ■ For Operations

- New project for NDS-approved data access, get NDS Healthcare Operations approval first

<http://vaww.vhadataportal.med.va.gov/DataAccess/HealthcareOperationsRequestProcess.aspx>

- Second, use CDW Project Request Form following *Request a VINCI Workspace for Operations* guide

[http://vaww.vinci.med.va.gov/vincicentral/documents/Request\\_a\\_VINCI\\_Workspace\\_for\\_Operations.pdf](http://vaww.vinci.med.va.gov/vincicentral/documents/Request_a_VINCI_Workspace_for_Operations.pdf)

- Have own data already? Contact [VINCI@va.gov](mailto:VINCI@va.gov)



# Resources

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- VINCI Central: <http://vaww.vinci.med.va.gov>
- VHA Data Portal  
<http://vaww.vhadataportal.med.va.gov>
- VIREC <http://vaww.virec.research.va.gov>
- CDW <https://vaww.dwh.cdw.portal.va.gov>
- HSRData-L Listserv  
<http://vaww.virec.research.va.gov/Support/HSRData-L.htm>

# Questions?

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[VINCI@va.gov](mailto:VINCI@va.gov)

