

The VINCI Workspace

About, Access, and Usage

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About

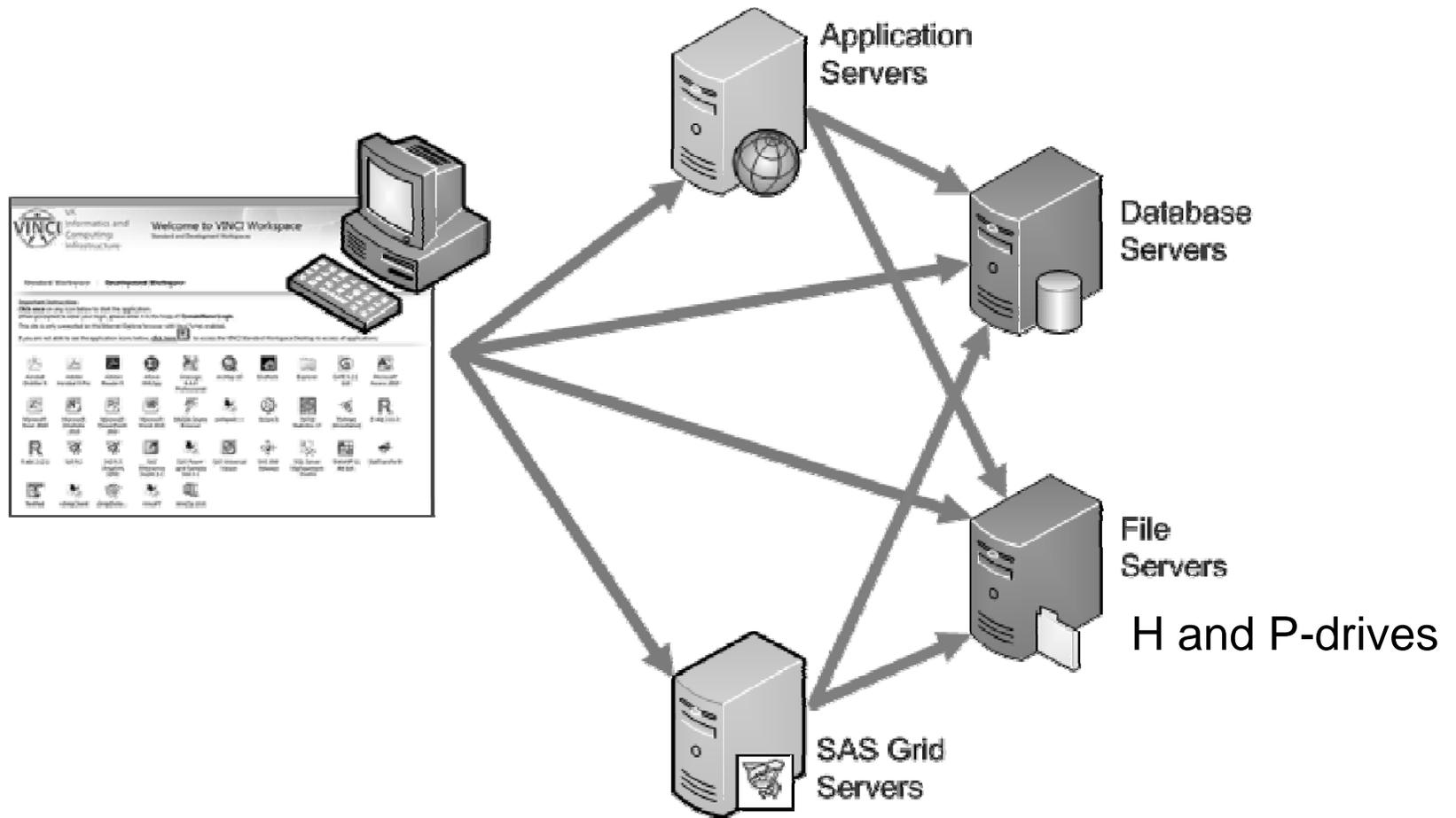
- Comes in two variations
 - Standard Workspace
 - Development Workspace
- Standard Workspace
 - No administrator privileges
 - No code development
 - Software restrictions
- Development Workspace
 - Special purpose usage
 - Administrator privileges



Standard Workspace

- Windows Server 2008 Enterprise R2 x64 SP2 Operating System
- 4 shared logical processors
- Shared 16 GB RAM (can request more)
- 2 GB H-drive personal drive (can request more)
- 50 GB P-driver project folder (can request more)
- Limited Internet access for programs only
- Tape and disk backup

Workspace Architecture



Data Storage Options

- H-Drive
 - 2 GB limit
 - For personal file storage only
 - NOT for storing study data
- P-Drive Project Folders
 - Intended for storage of shared project files
 - Access is controlled and limited to study staff
 - Specifically intended for study data storage
- Databases
 - Microsoft SQL server by default
 - Can provide MySQL when necessary
 - DSS (Includes NDE)

Software

- Over 50 programs available by request
 - Commercial, Open Source, Freeware, Shareware, & Government programs
 - Utility, Productivity, Programming, & Analysis
- Custom Software
 - V3NLP (beta level)
 - V3NLP Interface, Modules, Framework
 - Annotation (alpha level)
 - Knowtator, eHOST
 - Annotation Admin
 - Chart Reader
- SAS Grid



VINCI File Transfer Utility

- Workspace utility for copying files out
- Can transfer out
 - Aggregate data
 - Documents - papers, analysis, presentations
- Cannot transfer identifiable data out
 - Never any PHI, PII, or SI; even if you brought it in and own it
- Audit Process
 - Copies of transferred files are archived
 - Copied files are audited for for PHI, PII, and SI

VINCI Central

- Outside the Gateway (<http://vaww.vinci.med.va.gov>)
- Information on:
 - VINCI and how to use VINCI
 - Data and data access
 - User documentation
 - Support and training
 - Frequently asked questions
- Access to VINCI Workspace
- Announcements



Demonstration

VA Informatics and Computing Infrastructure - VINCI Central

Welcome Trautman, Timothy N. | My Site | My Links

VINCI Central

VA Informatics and Computing Infrastructure

Home | Using VINCI | VINCI Workspace | Data | Data Access | Software Tools | Library | SAS Grid | GIS | FAQ | Support | Training | Site Actions

- Administration
 - Operations
 - DART
 - Software Request
 - Customer Tracker
 - Study Registration
- Studies
 - Instate New Study
 - ADE Alerts
 - Adi Gundlapalli, MD, PhD
 - Annotation - DeID
 - Automated Data Acquisition for Heart Failure
 - BI_ORD_Trautman 201102002D
 - Brian Sauer, PhD
 - Charlene Weir, PhD, RN
 - Chart Reader
 - CHIR - Annotation
 - CHIR - Challenge

Learn About VINCI

Overview | **VINCI Workspace** | Software | Data Access | CDW/VINCI Data

I Want to Use VINCI

Fill-out the VHA Privacy Data Access Agreement with CDW & VINCI checked; signed by supervisor; send to VINCI@va.gov.

I Am a Current User

Support | Training | VINCI Guides | SAS Guides | FAQs

Launch the VINCI Workspace

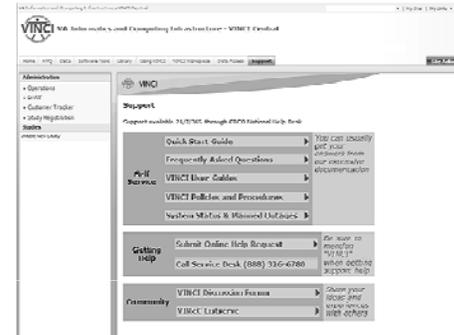
For users, please consult the Workspace User Guide for VINCI workspace access.

Announcements

VINCI: Cyberseminar on VINCI Workspace Access and Usage 5/14/2012 1:34 PM
by Trautman, Timothy N.
VINCI will be presenting a cyberseminar on "Demonstration of standard access and usage of the VINCI Workspace" on June 5th at 1pm ET. We will discuss accessing VINCI Central, applying for VINCI Workspace access, how to access the VINCI Workspace...

Support

- VINCI Central
 - Support page
- VINCI Service Desk
 - Manned by VINCI Staff
 - Normal working hours
 - (801) 588-5212
 - VINCI@va.gov
- CDCO National Service Desk
 - After hours
 - (888) 326-6780



6/5/2012	1:00pm	Demonstration of standard access and usage of the VINCI workspace	VA Informatics and Computing Infrastructure	Trautman, Tim
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Questions Asked by Attendees:

VINCI Central: vaww.vinci.med.va.gov

NDS: vaww4.va.gov/NDS

CDW: vaww.dwh.cdw.portal.va.gov

VINCI Research Program Manager – Tori Barrett (victoria.barrett@va.gov; 801-588-5262)

Q: Is it possible to load Stata ADO files to handle CPT and ICD9 codes into VINCI?

CPT and ICD9 code tables in CDW/VINCI can be accessed from Stata by using the ODBC connection to SQL Server option in Stata. The Stata ado files are automatically loaded command files.

Q: will stata be updated to stata12?

We have a request in Acquisitions for maintenance of our STATA license. The update to the newest version will be included in that purchase. Once an order is in Acquisitions we can only wait for it to be processed so I do not know when to expect the new version.

Q: With a request, is the monthly enrollment file included in the CDW data?

If you are referring to enrollment data from VBA, no those files are not in CDW. If you'd like to clarify what data you need, please send an email to vinci@va.gov or call Tori Barrett at 801-588-5262.

Q: Will there be any generic shared space for colleagues to share code across projects where not all people are on each project?

Code files can be downloaded from a project file and exchanged with others who may upload the code to their VINCI folders. Files cannot be moved among Project folders.

Q: Will the VINCI workbench be funded indefinitely so we can rely on this resource for the foreseeable future?

VINCI is currently funded by the Office of Information and Technology (OIT) and HSR&D. There is no guarantee of funding in the future, but it is reasonable to assume that the services of VINCI will remain available because of the enhanced security and the efficiency of centralized resources.

Q: Will SAS be upgraded to 9.3?

Yes. We maintain our software licenses and many/most maintenance/renewals include upgrades to the most recent version. Installation of SAS 9.3 is awaiting some hardware modifications.

Q: What's the process to setup a workspace not related to an IRB approved study. In other words, a workspace used to do preliminary work related to proposed studies.

One may have a VINCI Workspace at any time. The requirement is a signed and authorized (by the supervisor) VHA Privacy and Data Access Agreement for each person needing to access the space. That form is available on VINCI Central or the NDS website.

Q: What, exactly, do I type in to access software in the 'Username' box? I am located in VISN 11

If you are referring to the Software Needs Assessment, click on the icon to lookup the username for the correct person and the application will then fill the "Username" box. If you are questioning some other process, please send an email to VINCI@va.gov.

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Q: I get the error message 'Server Execution Failed' when I try to access Windows Explorer in the standard workspace. How can I fix this?

Send VINCI an email at VINCI@va.gov and a Help Desk ticket will be opened for you.

Q: What is the minimum resolution of aggregate data? (VISN/facility/timeframe)

We use the term “aggregate” to describe results or compiled data – for example, a file can contain dates, normally considered PHI, if they are in a table such as X patients with birthdays on January 25, 1903. But a file with dates in a linear order derived from a specific, traceable file could be considered PHI.

The description of aggregate data is intended to refer to data with no PHI/PII.

Q: What if any support does VINCI offer for projects in the proposal development or prep to research phase or during the process of obtaining IRB and related approvals?

VINCI/CDW data management staff and the VINCI Research Program Manager, Tori Barrett, can discuss available data in CDW and other potential sources of data. NDS provides approval for access to CDW data that are for preparatory to research.

Q: Does VINCI offer any support tools to support/facilitate survey research?

Survey research may not be appropriate for VINCI if the study requires downloading of information to contact Veterans. VINCI provides workspace (CPU, RAM, back-up, storage) for any project.

Q: The icons don't show up on my workspace, and when i click the icon to get onto the server, not all of the programs shown on your workspace are available--even ones I've requested. Do you know how to fix this?

There is a link to an alternative access route on the VINCI Welcome landing page.

If you are not able to see the application icons below, [click here](#)  to access the VINCI Standard Workspace Desktop to access all applications.

Send VINCI an email at VINCI@va.gov and a Help Desk ticket will be opened for you.

Q: Thanks for the presentation. What are the advantages/disadvantages of VINCI compared to accessing data via the Austin mainframe?

The data on the mainframe are accessed through a JDBC connection that is often slow and unreliable. Research data sets will be materialized for you based on your approval from NDS. This is the policy determined by the CDW. It is likely that views onto the DSS data in SQL format will be made available from CDW once access to these data on the mainframe is ended after September 2012. More information about access to the DSS files will be forthcoming from NDS.

Q: For SAS, where will my 'libname' statement point?

Libname statements are Users defined. Libname my data 'c:\mydata\data';run; as an example. There are some generated libnames by SAS and you can see those in the SAS Explorer.

Q: Tori, when Austin-based MedSAS and DSS disappears, will CDW/NDE offer these datasets in a de-identified form?

There is no source of de-identified data in VHA. The MedSAS and DSS data will continue to be identifiable data and the data prior to 2012 for DSS and prior to 2013 for MedSAS will be available as SAS files. DSS data from 2005 – 2012 will be available in SQL tables. After 2012 only SQL files for DSS will be available. The format for the MedSAS data has not yet been decided.

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Q: How much time should I expect datasets to need for FTP upload?

Upload times vary by size of the file. Small files (<100 MB) take about 5 minutes. Files 2 GB take up to 3 hours. The time depends on the network – both the traffic on the network and your local connection scripts. We recommend you zip all files before upload and that helps.

Q: Are diagnoses data available for 'all' veterans (not just random sample)?

The CDW is built from a VistA feed, so all Veteran records are included in CDW for the domains available. Diagnoses are in CDW now.

Q: So we do not extract our own data? We request a data set from Vinci and then use SAS etc to run our analyses?

The rules determined by VHA Privacy Office and CDW Governance restrict researcher access to data. NDS is the data steward for CDW and once a request for data access is approved, the researcher is granted either a view onto a database or a data set materialized by the CDW data management group. A view allows one to extract their own data from the domains and dimensions for which they were approved. You may use the data in a VINCI workspace or on your local research server.

Q: I have clicked on the link on the VINCI workspace when no icons appear but it doesn't accept my password. I have even tried using my smart card. I have no idea what to do.

Send VINCI an email at VINCI@va.gov and a Help Desk ticket will be opened for you.

Q: what special code do I need for SAS to use it in Vinci

There are small modifications to you code that directs the job to the Grid. The instructions and code are available on VINCI Central under the SAS Grid tab.

Q: Many programs have add-ons that don't come with the base installation. For example statistical extensions for R and Stata. Can a user download and use these add-on programs?

There is a port opened to the Stata website, but as Stata is installed on a shared application server having updates in your project folder is not useful. The Systems Administration group updates Stata monthly. We can increase the frequency of updates as needed. R is also updated regularly, but we have instruction on VINCI Central (Library tab) on how to install R packages in your project folder.

Q: how do I get a list of the statistical programs

Please see the Software Tools tab on VINCI Central.

Q: Is Visual Studio available?

Microsoft Visual Studio 2008. Please see the Software Tools tab on VINCI Central.

Q: is there version control software available, e.g., toroisevsn, so that we can have version control of for example our sas programs?

Team Foundation Server (TFS) is provided for version control.

Q: is SPSS available? Not sure if I saw the program and not just a link to the site from the workplace.

SPSS is available. Currently we have 4 network-distributed licenses. A mega-use server version has been purchased and should be installed soon.

Q: Can you get us a specific list of all 50 programs available?

Please see the Software Tools tab on VINCI Central.

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Q: Is Business Objects available as a query tool to hit a SQL Server db

Business Objects software is not available, but one may build custom business objects.

Q: In the standard VINCI workspace can we open up a terminal window and run a python or other interpreted language script on a data file in our file system?

You will need a development workspace to run python.

Q: If the study subjects are decedents, are PHI, PII or SI?
HIPAA

Research on Decedents' Protected Health Information:

To use or disclose PHI of the deceased for research, covered entities are not required to obtain Authorizations from the personal representative or next of kin, a waiver or an alteration of the Authorization, or a data use agreement. However, the covered entity must obtain from the researcher who is seeking access to decedents' PHI (1) oral or written representations that the use and disclosure is sought solely for research on the PHI of decedents, (2) oral or written representations that the PHI for which use or disclosure is sought is necessary for the research purposes, and (3) documentation, at the request of the covered entity, of the death of the individuals whose PHI is sought by the researchers.

VHA Handbook 1200.12

e. Decedent's Data. VHA must protect the individually identifiable health information about a deceased individual. A decedent's individually identifiable health information may be used for research purposes without obtaining HIPAA authorization from the decedent's personal representative and without IRB or Privacy Board (PB) approval. NOTE: For further requirements including the representations that must be made and information on the use of decedent's data see VHA Handbook 1605.1.

NOTE: If the investigator must access a data repository containing individually-identifiable information of living and deceased individuals to identify the deceased individuals and obtain their information, the protocol must then be reviewed by an IRB. The IRB may waive the requirement for informed consent or HIPAA authorization if the applicable criteria are met.

Q: If Standard Workspace not allow the coding, - why we need SAS/ other software?

SAS is run on an application server that will connect to your data files and your files/folders.

Q: I see N-Vivo is available for qualitative analysis. Will Atlas-ti be coming online or do I have to learn N-Vivo?

We have a request in Acquisitions for Atlas. Once an order is in Acquisitions we can only wait for it to be processed so I do not know when to expect the new software.

Q: How does one submit a SAS program in batch mode?

Instructions are on VINCI Central under the SAS Grid tab. VINCI also has a full-time SAS Administrator who will assist. Please send a message to VINCI@va.gov to request SAS support.

Q: How about a linking code? Does that count as PHI??

If you mean a code table that links data tables together (a crosswalk table), yes. As long as it doesn't include PHI data or keys, it's fine to download.

Q: Do you know when the microbiology data will be available on VINCI?

A derived microbiology database covering CY 2000 to present is available now. NDS is the steward for these data. Information about the database including a data dictionary and the results of validations is available from the VA Epicenter program that built the database. Please contact the VINCI Research Program

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Manager, Tori Barrett for further information. Information about the microbiology data will transition to VIREC soon.

Q: Can you help anonymize datasets for NOPHI file transfer? Specifically making timestamps relative?

CDW data management staff does not de-identify data. There is no source of de-identified data in VHA.

Q: Can you describe what the SAS grid provides?

SAS Grid runs across 80 nodes in our system, making jobs run 4 to 10 times faster than serial processing.

You can also view the two previous SAS Cyberseminars at <http://www.hsrp.research.va.gov/cyberseminars/catalog-archive.cfm>

Q: can users map to their T-drive directly from his/her workstation or needs to be logged in onto VINCI environment?

One needs to be logged in to the VINCI environment to access any of the drives.

Q: as for FTP protocol (file transferring) would Attachmate work rather than downloading a freeware software?

None of the VINCI staff have worked with Attachmate.

Q: Can one obtain a VINCI account/workspace before a specific project has been improved (so that I'd be READY when the project is ready to go)?

One may have a VINCI Workspace at any time. The requirement is a signed and authorized (by the supervisor) VHA Privacy and Data Access Agreement for each person needing to access the space. That form is available on VINCI Central or the NDS website.

Q: I don't quite understand how CDW differs from the data that has been stored at "Austin" the past 20+ years... Where the overlap, and what is unique to each?

The "Austin" data most researchers use are the DSS and MedSAS files. These data are available on CDW now and are exactly the same as what is on the Austin mainframe. But CDW also has a SQL database of the DSS data from 2005 to the present which has been integrated across VISNs and across years making it very easy to query. Some of the MedSAS files are also available in SQL from CDW. After September 2012, DSS will no longer post files to the mainframe. Those data will only be available from CDW in SQL format. The MedSAS data will continue to be available on the mainframe until at least September 2013. Final decisions regarding those data have not yet been made.

Q: Are we allowed to use FileZilla to upload PII data?

You may upload any data that you have permissions to use. But once on VINCI servers, any PHI may not be removed – even if you brought it in.

Q: Are OPC and PTF datasets accessible directly through VINCI?

CDW has PTF. If you mean Outpatient Clinic, these data are in the Outpatient Visit file in CDW; if you are referring to data collected from devices that support OPC data standards, no, these data are not available from CDW.

Q: can you access VINCI workspace from a non-VA terminal?

Once can use VPN to access the VA network. VINCI servers are accessible only from the VA network.

Q: Are CDW datasets only available through VINCI?

The data management staff that fulfill all CDW data requests (for use on VINCI, for use on a research server) happen to be VINCI staff.

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Q: About a month ago there was a shortage of licenses for Nvivo 8.0 for VINCI users. Is that still the case or is it available now?

We have a request in Acquisitions for additional license of Nvivo. Once an order is in Acquisitions we can only wait for it to be processed so I do not know when to expect the new licenses.