



RDS

www.rds.edu.au

Quarterly Newsletter

NCRIS

National Research
Infrastructure for Australia
An Australian Government Initiative

Welcome to the RDS newsletter,

2016 has been an exciting and hugely productive year for RDS. We are deeply engaged in the NCRIS Roadmap process, defining the future path for national collaborative research infrastructure investment and delivery, and have worked strongly on improving the researcher experience through increased alignment with and leveraging of the skills and strengths of our sister projects; ANDS and Nectar.

Given an uncertain funding environment and future the project is delivering, through its network of delivery nodes, high value outcomes for a wide range of research communities. This includes:

- \$1.6m for the Omics Flagship project (in alliance with BioPlatforms Australia) which will provide cloud-based data services and tools for Australian Life Science Researchers to combine, analyse and interpret genomic (DNA), transcriptomic (RNA), proteomic (proteins) and metabolomic (small molecules) data
- An additional \$2m to fund activities building on the work completed in the existing RDS research community.
- The Moving Big Data flagship activity is now in flight and focusses on driving further progress towards effective national research resource collaboration to provide researchers with improved tools and services.

With the successful completion of all of our A1 projects and the delivery of those high impact services to their communities, our community-based project activities have progressed to a transitional stage where we can prepare and position them to provide predictable and enduring activity to their user groups, independent of the range of outcomes possible for the RDS project through the NCRIS Roadmap process.

Almost 50PB of large scale storage resources have been allocated and are in use across the research sector, spanning tertiary institutions and industry partners, citizen science initiatives, and national collaborative infrastructures. These core resources are being flexibly built into the internal and external facing operations of the delivery nodes to provide a wide and feature-rich range of services on a national scale.

2016 has been a transformative year for the project with flexibility and predictability combined with efficiency and accountability as our core drivers. We are positioned well for a range of Roadmap outcomes with strong projects driven by well managed project teams.

The project office would like to thank the node community for their efforts during the year and we look forward to a very interesting and productive 2017,

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Research community projects complete

RDS is rapidly changing the way researchers collect and interact with their data by enabling the development of data services through partner node operators. All nine of the research community projects that were initiated in early 2015 have completed their milestones and provide significant benefits to the following range of priority research communities:

- Earth Systems
- Life Sciences (Genomics)
- Medical and Health
- Image Characterisation
- Astronomy
- Cultures and community
- Terrestrial systems
- Marine
- Geoscience
- Geophysics

Continued development for eight of the nine communities will take place in 2017 with supporting node operators being provided with funds from RDS for transitional activity. This funding will enable node operators to leverage project outcomes from completed projects and further advance data services available to these communities.

For research community details, visit the [RDS website](#).

What's new with the Node Operators

QCIF: RDS project sees UQ get closer to global data sharing

The University of Queensland is a step closer to participating in massive global data movement operations, thanks to a RDS supported project between UQ's Research Computing Centre, the Queensland Brain Institute and the University of California San Diego.

The project team has successfully trialed migrating data between UQ and UCSD using UQ's new data fabric MeDiCI (Metropolitan Data Storage Infrastructure).



[Read more](#)

NCI: Speeding up the research process with virtual desktops

The [Virtual Desktop Infrastructure](#) (VDI) at NCI is simplifying the research process for many data reliant projects across the country. Researchers are able to use these new virtual desktops to access all of the data stored at NCI without having to transfer it to their personal computers.



[Read more](#)

VicNode: RDS Omics Data Platform V0.1

The RDS Omics team is extremely happy to announce the first Demonstration release v0.1 of the Omics Data Platform. The RDS Omics project is an RDS-funded flagship project to provide cloud-based data services and tools for Australian Life Science Researchers to combine, analyse and interpret genomic (DNA), transcriptomic (RNA), proteomic (proteins) and metabolomic (small molecules) data.



[Read more](#)

QCIF: How well does your organisation publish and consume open data?

QCIF has collaborated with the [Open Data Institute Queensland](#) to provide country-level reporting in the international platform [Open Data Pathway](#).

The Open Data Pathway is a self-assessment tool that assesses how well an organisation publishes and consumes open data, compared to global benchmarks, and identifies actions for improvement. The tool uses a questionnaire based on the [Open Data Maturity Model](#).



NCI: New Data Catalogue website released

Users of NCI's large data collections are now better served with the launch of a dedicated data catalogue portal, covering the entirety of NCI's collections. The new website provides an easily searchable list of data collections featuring data such as satellite imagery, modelling outputs and land-based measurements.



[View the website](#)

VicNode: Omics project delivers 2 training workshops

Brisbane: QCIF, QFAB and RCC ran the first Australian workshop using RDS Omics training tutorials on Monday 22 November. The Bacterial Genome Assembly and Annotation workshop was held at Griffith University, Southbank campus and attended by 20 life sciences researchers.

[Read more](#)



Perth: VLSCI and UWA ran a 2 day Bioinformatics Workshop on The Genomics Virtual Laboratory and An Introduction to Microbial Genomics on the 22nd and 23rd of November. This is the second workshop held in Australia using newly generated tutorials for the Omics Platform.

[Read More](#)

Call for volunteers for ResBaz 2017

The dates for next year's Brisbane Research Bazaar (ResBaz) have been announced, 7-9 February, and its organisers are calling for volunteers.



Brisbane ResBaz 2017 will be held at The University of Queensland, St Lucia.

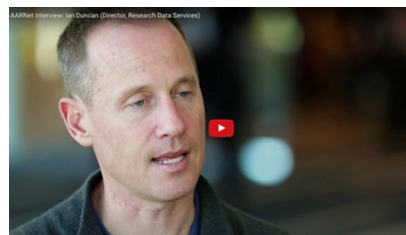
ResBaz is a worldwide festival promoting the digital literacy emerging at the centre of modern research.

[Read more](#)

Infrastructure Providers Bulletin Board

What's next for the eResearch IT infrastructure ecosystem?

While there is some uncertainty around how the eResearch environment will look going forward, there is no uncertainty about how critical national ICT infrastructure supporting research is. This infrastructure consists of entities such as AARNet, AAF, ANDS, NeCTAR and RDS working together to provide services that support the eResearch sector, underpin research impact and excellence, and drive economic, environmental, health and social benefits for Australia. AARNet interviewed [Ian Duncan, RDS](#)



[Director](#) about the role RDS plays and some of the new projects in the pipeline involving other infrastructure partners, including AARNet.

[Watch the short \(3.30 minute\) video](#)

ANDS wraps up 23 (research data) Things - but still available online

Throughout 2016, the Australian National Data Service (ANDS) has been running 23 (research data) Things - a self-guided learning program for anybody who wants to find out more about research data.



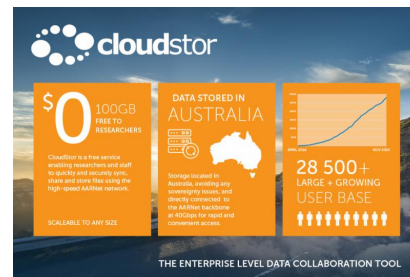
ANDS has now published a short summary report about the various successes of '23T' within the research community, including the impact it has had for individuals and institutions, as well as plans for 2017. You can read the report on the [ANDS website](#).

23 (research data) Things will still remain online for anybody who wants to progress through the 'Things' now at their own pace.

CloudStor as the "data pump" for ARDS

At the Digital Infrastructures for Research Conference in Poland, AARNet's Guido Aben talked about the potential for CloudStor to function as the building block for the data movement core of the proposed Australian Research Data System; the "data pump", capable of ingesting as well as egressing data through regular file transfers, as well as sync&share.

[Read more](#)



New features for CloudStor FileSender: end-to-end encryption and more

AARNet has upgraded the CloudStor backend and improved the CloudStor FileSender functionality, making sharing files and collaboration easier for researchers. Improvements include a more reliable and robust interface and finer grained controls, much more detail in reporting and an audit log for senders. And, there's another new feature: full end-to-end encryption for FileSender.



[Read More](#)

RDS Project Updates

DLCF set for impact

Following an extensive consultation period including meetings in Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Perth, and Adelaide, the Data Lifecycle Framework (www.dlc.edu.au) has defined a clear focus for phase one of the initiative. As a result of the consultations with Australian university librarian, eResearch, and computing infrastructure groups, the DLCF has started work on developing a national Resource & Activity Persistent iDentifier (RAPiD) and a cross-organisational Group iD service (G.iD).

The RAPiD will provide a unique and persistent research resource and activity identifier; a consistent label which can be applied across research stages, infrastructures, and organisations, while the G.iD will enable faster and simpler collaboration across institutions, allowing groups of researchers to access and share resources.

The 5 partner organisations in the DLCF initiative (RDS, Nectar, ANDS, AARNet, and AAF) would like to thank the participants in the many discussions, meetings, and scoping activities which have resulted in what we anticipate being an high-impact and valuable service for researchers, research infrastructure providers, and research institutions.

For more information, visit the [DLCF website](#)

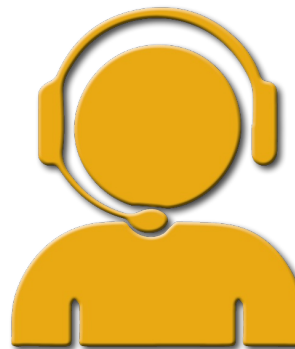


eResearch Help Desk burn though tickets

The national eResearch help desk (eHelp) resolved 106 tickets in the month of November, with 117 tickets being logged. The support desk provides researchers with guidance for using nationally funded Nectar Research Cloud and RDS infrastructure services.

To give our outstanding staff a break over the Christmas period, the Nectar/RDS Helpdesk will be closed from 6pm AEDT Thursday 23rd December 2016 until 9am AEDT Tuesday 3rd January 2017.

The help desk is accessible through <https://support.ehelp.edu.au>



For further information regarding newsletter content, please contact author/moderator [Asher Vennell](#)

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About RDS

RDS is a federally funded project, for which UQ is the lead agent.

The Research Data Services (RDS) Project is an initiative of the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS).

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