Arizona Secure Research Environment (ASRE) and Honest Broker Services

The Arizona Secure Research Environment (ASRE) is a HIPAA-compliant, secure computing environment designed for sensitive or regulated work. ASRE implements security controls that will help you meet regulatory requirements or security standards for your research projects and data management needs.

ASRE Services Overview

ASRE provides a customizable, HIPAA-compliant computing environment based on secure, isolated virtual machines with dedicated storage capacity that ensures researchers can store and analyze sensitive research data in a private environment that meets regulatory standards. Currently, ASRE offers:

- A secure Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA) Moderate data center
- A computing environment featuring multi-level security that supports HIPAA and future Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC) Level 2 "Advanced" compliance as the standard is accepted
- Hardware supporting redundancy and disaster recovery (secondary location safeguards)
- Resilient and redundant environments, including a separate Disaster Recovery (DR) facility
- Information security services that include workload sensitive patching, scanning, and defect troubleshooting
- Windows Server licensing included at no cost for all ASRE tenants.
- Additional software and licenses available tenants include SAS, SPSS, and Enterprise Research Enterprise Data Capture (REDCap).
- Data management services that include data destruction certificates, HIPAA long-term storage
- Google Cloud Platform (GCP) services covered under ASRE
- Facility Data Use Agreements for Medicare/Medicaid (CMS), AZDHS, and more
- A dedicated team of professional IT support staff with expertise in architecture and security including HIPAA Privacy and Security Officers
- Safe and accessible Secure Windows Virtual Servers that makes ASRE easy to use

Honest Broker

ASU Knowledge Enterprise acts as the Honest Broker, a trusted intermediary to host data on behalf of third parties, for Arizona Department of Health (ADHS) data. Our team of health data professionals receive and manage requests, including securing approval from ADHS and preparing and supplying data to the researcher. Features include:
- Single point of contact for researchers and ADHS
- Professional Health Research Data Manager support
- Complete audit trail provided by a common request system that assigns requests to ADHS personnel for approval
- Common data preparation process that produces consistent dataset products
- Access to ASRE and Google Cloud Services

Benefits

Taking advantage of the ASRE and Honest Broker services gives researchers a convenient and accessible approach to managing their secure research and regulated data needs, while also providing a cost effective solution.

- **Save money** by leveraging the ASRE HIPAA environment which reduces the need to work under a Covered Entity (CE).
- **Save time** by leveraging our team of dedicated professionals to create System Security Plans (SSPs) and perform HIPAA security reviews.
- **Reduce effort** by leveraging our team to reduce your system administration costs.

Success Stories

- ASRE resources were utilized by an ASU researcher to produce models, statistics, and public information from COVID-19 HIPAA data.
- ADHS and Point and Click COVID-19 data sets were distributed for research purposes utilizing Honest Broker services.
- Data management services were leveraged to combine multiple restricted datasets for NIH reports and to link multiple de-identified datasets.

How to Access ASRE

Users must first complete ASU HIPAA training before access to ASRE will be granted and this training must be renewed annually. Requesting access to ASRE is as simple as emailing asre-support@asu.edu.

Contact

Consulting services are available from our data management, systems architecture, and security professionals. Email asre-support@asu.edu to request a consultation.