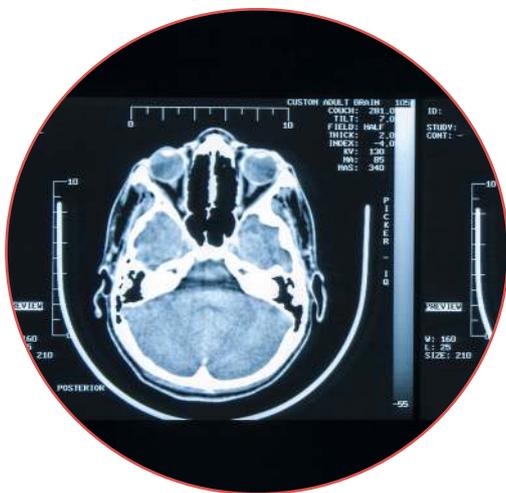


Case Study /

MRC National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR)

MRC National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) implements Arkivum/100 to comply with regulations and free up expensive primary storage.

NIMR is one of the world's leading medical research institutes, dedicated to studying important questions about the life processes that are relevant to all aspects of health. The Institute is the largest supported by the Medical Research Council (MRC), a national organisation funded by the British taxpayer that promotes research into all areas of medical and related science to improve the health of the British public.



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Clive Lunny, Head of Computing and Telecommunications at NIMR

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The Need

The amount of data that needs to be stored by NIMR is increasing rapidly - due in part to scientists using new data-intensive technologies.

As Clive Lunny, Head of Computing and Telecommunications at NIMR, explains, “Some of the research areas at NIMR, such as Immunology, wouldn't traditionally have had a requirement for large amounts of storage; however the recent advances in technology, such as the introduction of next generation sequencers and imaging systems which generate huge amounts of data, has dramatically changed this. Likewise, new developments in imaging systems have led to an explosion in the need to handle and store very large files”.

MRC regulations require that data generated through MRC funded research is managed and curated effectively throughout its entire life-cycle, including the archive phase. The length of time that research data need to

be retained for is dependant on the area of science:

- For 'basic research' this is a minimum of 10 years after the study has been completed.
- For clinical research undertaken in MRC research units, the MRC regulations expect research data to be retained for 20 years after the study has been completed.

To date, NIMR have been archiving such data using their Isilon primary storage; this is expensive, especially when the costs of on-going support and maintenance are considered.

Number of years after a research study has been completed that data must be retained.

20

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The Solution

To address their archiving needs, NIMR looked at on-site tape solutions and cloud/managed service solutions, as well as options to increase their primary and disaster recovery related storage.

After careful consideration of all the factors, and working with trusted advisor S3, Arkivum/100™ was selected as the best fit for their data archiving needs. There were many reasons cited for the selection, including the service level data integrity guarantee provided by Arkivum.

Number of copies of each archived file that Arkivum/100 stores and manages.



The Arkivum /100 managed service retains and manages three copies of archived data, in geographically separate UK locations, including one in offline escrow.

S3 conducted a proof of concept using Arkivum/100 as part of the selection process to ensure that the service would integrate with the complex systems already in place at NIMR. Clive Lunny further commented, "Arkivum/100 ticked all the boxes, and the installation and testing process of the service was simple." He also added "Arkivum's services team provided a consistently excellent service throughout this process".

The benefits

Using Arkivum/100 means that NIMR will be making significant savings just from the archiving of an initial 10% of their data that is currently on primary storage. Since NIMR have begun to identify more data that needs to be archived, the cost benefits will increase significantly.

Arkivum's end-to-end management of archive data aids NIMR's compliance with MRC regulations, as well as removing the support and maintenance costs associated with primary storage.

"An added benefit from the user's perspective" said Clive Lunny, "is that NIMR scientists can easily access their research data even when it is in the archive".



An added benefit from the user's perspective is that NIMR scientists can easily access their research data even when it is in the archive.

Clive Lunny, Head of Computing and Telecommunications at NIMR



About S3

Solid State Solutions (S3) was formed in 1988 as a Value Added Integrator of Data Storage and Storage Management Systems. Since then we have developed and evolved during a period of accelerated technological advancement to become specialists in identifying and providing bespoke data storage solutions across rapidly changing business landscapes.

Our success and longevity can be attributed to our attention to detail and our pledge to focus on our client's core business needs. Clients are diverse and range from SME's to Blue Chip companies however all are able to rely upon our expertise to access, manage and protect their business critical information.



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Why Arkivum?

Every bit archived.

Arkivum is the leading provider of assured long-term and large-scale data archiving solutions to higher education and biomedical institutions in the UK. The company provides the only system on the market to guarantee 100% data integrity irrespective of the retention period by storing multiple data copies in disparate UK data centre locations in addition to an offline escrow copy.

Arkivum uses proven storage technology and open standards to deliver fast, efficient and secure online data access. Strong links with the University of Southampton IT Innovation Centre ensure that Arkivum has direct access to state-of-the-art research in digital preservation

Arkivum is certified and regularly audited to ISO27001 and the Arkivum service is connected to the UK Janet and N3 networks.