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Research Data Management: The Security Imperatives

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Research data management (or RDM) is a growing phenomenon, and is largely concerned with the creation, organization, storage, safeguarding, and dissemination of data related to research works. One of the key components of RDM activity is safeguarding the data, which undoubtedly includes security of the data. However, research data security is hardly discussed in the literature resulting to huge gap in assuring its security properties. Unarguably, research data comes in various forms and formats, and of different intrinsic value. It means that the sensitivity of research data may vary from research thematic area or environment, and may contain significant sensitive data that can necessitate some degree of security. This requires understanding of security requirements to proportionately safeguard research data. In this presentation, data security is examined in the context of research data especially confidentiality, integrity, authenticity, availability, non-repudiation and trustworthiness attributes. A framework is proposed on how researchers and research data management operators can preserve research data security proportionally.

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