

Addressing Big Data Issues in Scientific Data Infrastructure

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Abstract—Big Data are becoming a new technology focus both in science and in industry. This paper discusses the challenges that are imposed by Big Data on the modern and future Scientific Data Infrastructure (SDI). The paper discusses a nature and definition of Big Data that include such features as Volume, Velocity, Variety, Value and Veracity. The paper refers to different scientific communities to define requirements on data management, access control and security. The paper introduces the Scientific Data Lifecycle Management (SDLM) model that includes all the major stages and reflects specifics in data management in modern e-Science. The paper proposes the SDI generic architecture model that provides a basis for building interoperable data or project centric SDI using modern technologies and best practices. The paper explains how the proposed models SDLM and SDI can be naturally implemented using modern cloud based infrastructure services provisioning model and suggests the major infrastructure components for Big Data Infrastructure.

Keywords- *Big Data Science, Scientific Data Infrastructure (SDI), Scientific Data Lifecycle Management (SDLM), Cloud Infrastructure Service, Big Data Infrastructure.*

I. INTRODUCTION

Big Data technologies are becoming a current focus and a new “buzz-word” both in science and in industry. Emergence of Big Data or data centric technologies indicates the beginning of a new form of the continuous technology advancement that is characterized by overlapping technology waves related to different aspects of the human activity from production and consumption to collaboration and general social activity. In this context data intensive science plays key role.

Big Data are becoming related to almost all aspects of human activity from just recording events to research, design, production and digital services or products delivery, to the final consumer. Current technologies such as Cloud Computing and ubiquitous network connectivity provide a platform for automation of all processes in data collection, storing, processing and visualization.

Modern e-Science infrastructures allow targeting new large scale problems whose solution was not possible before, e.g. genome, climate, global warming. e-Science typically produces a huge amount of data that need to be supported by a new type of e-Infrastructure capable to store, distribute, process, preserve, and curate these data [1, 2]: we refer to this new infrastructures as Scientific Data e-Infrastructure (SDI).

In e-Science, the scientific data are complex multifaceted objects with the complex internal relations, they are becoming

an infrastructure of their own and need to be supported by corresponding physical or logical infrastructures to store, access and manage these data.

The emerging SDI should allow different groups of researchers to work on the same data sets, build their own (virtual) research and collaborative environments, safely store intermediate results, and later share the discovered results. New data provenance, security and access control mechanisms and tools will allow researchers to link their scientific results with the initial data (sets) and intermediate data to allow future re-use/re-purpose of data, e.g. with the improved research technique and tools.

This paper analyses new challenges imposed to modern e-Science infrastructures by the emerging Big Data technologies; it proposes a general approach and architecture solutions that constitute a new Scientific Data Lifecycle Management (SDLM) model and the generic SDI architecture model that provides a basis for heterogeneous SDI components interoperability and integration, in particular based on cloud infrastructure technologies.

This paper is primarily focused on SDI, however provides analysis of the big data nature in both e-Science and industry, analyses their commonalities and difference, discussing also possible cross-fertilisation between two domains.

This paper continues the authors’ work on defining the Big Data infrastructure for e-Science initially presented in the paper [3] and significantly extends it with new results and wider scope to investigate relations between Big Data technologies in e-Science and industry. With long tradition of working with constantly increasing volume of data, modern science can offer industry the scientific analysis methods, while industry can bring Big Data technologies and tools to wider public.

The paper is organised as follows. Section II looks into Big Data definition and Big Data nature in industry and science analysing also the main drivers for the Big Data technology development. Section II gives an overview of the main research communities and summarizes requirement to future SDI. Section IV discusses challenges to data management in Big Data Science, including SDLM discussion. Section V introduces the proposed e-SDI architecture model that is intended to answer the future big data challenges and requirements. Section VI discusses SDI implementation using cloud technologies. Section VII discusses security and trust related issues in handling data and summarises specific requirements to access control infrastructure for modern and future SDI.

II. BIG DATA DEFINITION AND ANALYSIS

A. *Big Data Nature in e-Science and Industry*

Science has been traditionally dealing with challenges to handle large volume of data in complex scientific research experiments. Scientific research typically includes collection of data in passive observation or active experiments which aim to verify one or another scientific hypothesis. Scientific research and discovery methods typically are based on the initial hypothesis and a model which can be refined based on the collected data. The refined model may lead to a new more advanced and precise experiment and/or the previous data re-evaluation. Another distinctive feature of the modern scientific research is that it suggests wide cooperation between researchers to challenge complex problems and run complex scientific instruments. In industry, private companies will not share data or expertise. When dealing with data, companies will intend always keep control over their information assets. They may use shared third party facilities, like clouds, but special measures need to be taken to ensure data protection, including data sanitization. It might be also a case that companies can use shared facilities only for proof of concept and do production data processing at private facilities. In this respect, we need to accept that science and industry can't be done in the same way, and consequently this will be reflected in a way how they can interact and how the Big Data infrastructure and tools can be built.

With the digital technologies proliferation into all aspects of business activities and emerging Big Data technologies the industry is entering a new playground when it needs to use scientific methods to benefit from the possibility to collect and mine data for desirable information, such as market prediction, customer behavior predictions, social groups activity predictions, etc.

A number of discussions and blog articles [4, 5, 6] suggest that the Big Data technologies need to adopt scientific discovery methods that include iterative model improvement and collection of improved data, re-use of collected data with improved model.

We can quote here a blog article by Mike Gualtieri from Forrester [7, 8, 9]:“Firms increasingly realize that [big data] must use predictive and descriptive analytics to find nonobvious information to discover value in the data. Advanced analytics uses advanced statistical, data mining and machine learning algorithms to dig deeper to find patterns that you can't see using traditional BI (*Business Intelligence*) tools, simple queries, or rules.”

B. *5 Vs of Big Data*

Despite the “Big Data” became a new buzz-word, there is no consistent definition for Big Data, nor detailed analysis of this new emerging technology. Most discussions are going now in blogosphere in which however the most significant features and incentives of the Big Data are identified and became commonly accepted. In this section we will attempt to summarise available definitions and propose a consolidated view on the generic Big Data features that would help us to define requirements to supporting Big Data infrastructure and in particular Scientific Data Infrastructure.

As a starting point, we can refer to the simple definition given in [10]: “Big Data: a massive volume of both structured and unstructured data that is so large that it's difficult to process using traditional database and software techniques.”

Related definition of the data-intensive science is given in the book “The Fourth Paradigm: Data-Intensive Scientific Discovery” by the computer scientist Jim Gray [11]: “The techniques and technologies for such data-intensive science are so different that it is worth distinguishing data-intensive science from computational science as a new, fourth paradigm for scientific exploration.”

In a number of discussion, blogposts and articles Big Data are attributed to have such characteristics as Volume, Velocity, and Variety called “3 Vs of Big Data”. Based on our analysis and concurring with some other articles [5, 6, 12] we intend to propose wider definition of Big Data as 5 Vs: Volume, Velocity, Variety and additionally Value and Veracity.

Figure 1 below illustrates the features related to 5 Vs which we analyse below.

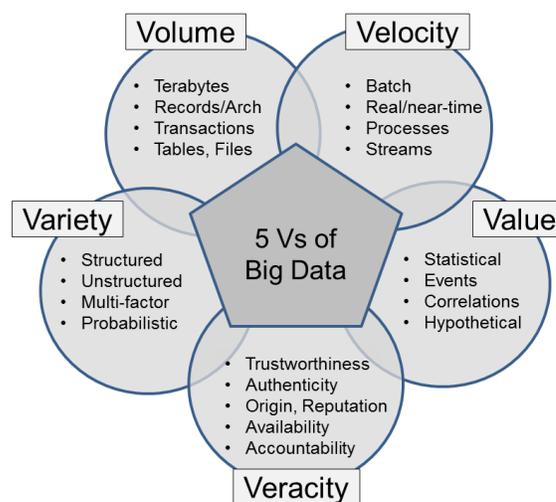


Figure 1. 5 Vs of Big Data

1) *Volume*

Volume is the most important and distinctive feature of Big Data which impose additional and specific requirements to all traditional technologies and tools currently used.

In e-Science, growth of data amount is caused by advancements in both scientific instruments and SDI. In many areas the trend is actually to include data collections from all observed events, activities and sensors what became possible and is important for social activities and social sciences.

Big Data volume includes such features as size, scale, amount, dimension for tera- and exascale data recording either data rich processes, or collected from many transactions and stored in individual files or databases – all needs to be accessible, searchable, processed and manageable.

Two examples from e-Science give also different characters of data and also different processing requirements, such as:

Large Hadron Collider (LHC) produces in average 5 PB data a month that are generated in a number of short collisions

that make them unique events, The collected data are filtered, stored and extensively searched for single events that may confirm a scientific hypothesis.

LOFAR (Low Frequency Array) is a radio telescope that collects about 5 PB every hour, however the data are processed by correlator and only correlated data are stored.

In industry, global services providers such as Google, Facebook, Twitter are producing, analyzing and storing data in huge amount as their regular activity/production services. Although some of their tools and processes are proprietary, they actually prove the feasibility of solving Big Data problems at the global scale and significantly push the development of the Open Source Big Data tools.

2) *Velocity*

Big Data are often generated at high speed, including also data generated by arrays of sensors or multiple events, and need to be processed in real-time, near real-time or in batch, or as streams (like in case of visualisation).

As an example, LHC ATLAS detector [<http://atlas.ch/>] uses about 80 readout channels and collects up to 1PB of unfiltered data in second which are reduced to approx. 100MB per second. This should record up to 40 million collision events per second.

Industry can also provide numerous examples when data registration, processing or visualization impose similar challenges.

3) *Variety*

Variety deals with the complexity of big data and information and semantic models behind these data. This is resulted in data collected as structured, unstructured, semi-structured, and a mixed data. Data variety imposes new requirements to data storage and database design which should dynamic adaptation to the data format, in particular scaling up and down.

Data variety will in particular increase when biological, human and societal systems will become a subject of closer research and monitoring. An example of the latter is urban environment that requires operating, monitoring and evolving of numerous processes, individuals and associations.

Adopting data technologies in traditionally non-computer oriented areas such as psychology and behavior research, history, archeology will generate especially rich data sets.

4) *Value*

Value is an important feature of the data which is defined by the added-value that the collected data can bring to the intended process, activity or predictive analysis/hypothesis. Data value will depend on the events or processes they represent such as stochastic, probabilistic, regular or random. Depending on this the requirements may be imposed to collect all data, store for longer period (for some possible event of interest), etc. In this respect data value is closely related to the data volume and variety.

5) *Veracity*

Veracity dimension of Big Data includes two aspects: data consistency (or certainty) what can be defined by their statistical reliability; and data trustworthiness that is defined

by a number of factors including data origin, collection and processing methods, including trusted infrastructure and facility.

Big Data veracity ensures that the data used are trusted, authentic and protected from unauthorised access and modification. The data must be secured during the whole their lifecycle from collection from trusted sources to processing on trusted compute facilities and storage on protected and trusted storage facilities.

The following aspects define and need to be addressed to ensure data veracity:

- Integrity of data and linked data (e.g., for complex hierarchical data, distributed data)
- Data authenticity and (trusted) origin
- Identification of both data and source
- Computer and storage platform trustworthiness
- Availability and timeliness
- Accountability and Reputation

Data veracity relies entirely on the security infrastructure deployed and available from the Big Data infrastructure.

III. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS TO BIG DATA E-SCIENCE INFRASTRUCTURE

A. *Paradigm change in Big Data e-Science*

Big Data Science is becoming a new technology driver and requires re-thinking a number of infrastructure components, solutions and processes to address the following general challenges [2, 3]:

- Exponential growth of data volume produced by different research instruments and/or collected from sensors
- Need to consolidate e-Infrastructures as persistent research platforms to ensure research continuity and cross-disciplinary collaboration, deliver/offer persistent services, with adequate governance model.

The recent advancements in the general ICT and big data technologies facilitate the paradigm change in modern e-Science that is characterized by the following features:

- Automation of all e-Science processes including data collection, storing, classification, indexing and other components of the general data curation and provenance.
- Transformation of all processes, events and products into digital form by means of multi-dimensional multi-faceted measurements, monitoring and control; digitising existing artifacts and other content.
- Possibility to re-use the initial and published research data with possible data re-purposing for secondary research
- Global data availability and access over the network for cooperative group of researchers, including wide public access to scientific data.
- Existence of necessary infrastructure components and management tools that allow fast infrastructures and services composition, adaptation and provisioning on demand for specific research projects and tasks.
- Advanced security and access control technologies that ensure secure operation of the complex research infrastructures and scientific instruments and allow creating trusted secure environment for cooperating groups and individual researchers

The future SDI should support the whole data lifecycle and explore the benefit of the data storage/preservation, aggregation and provenance in a large scale and during long/unlimited period of time. Important is that this infrastructure must ensure data security (integrity, confidentiality, availability, and accountability), and data ownership protection. With current needs to process big data that require powerful computation, there should be a possibility to enforce data/dataset policy that they can be processed on trusted systems and/or complying other requirements. Researchers must trust the SDI to process their data on SDI facilities and be ensured that their stored research data are protected from non-authorized access. Privacy issues are also arising from distributed remote character of SDI that can span multiple countries with different local policies. This should be provided by the Access Control and Accounting Infrastructure (ACAI) which is an important component of SDI [13, 14].

B. Research communities and specific SDI requirements

A short overview of some research infrastructures and communities, in particular the ones defined for the Europe Research Area (ERA) [3] allows us to analyse specific requirement for future SDIs to address Big Data challenges.

Existing studies of European e-Infrastructures analyze the scientific communities practices and requirements; examples are those undertaken by the SIENA Project [15], EIROforum Federated Identity Management Workshop [14], European Grid Infrastructure (EGI) Strategy Report [16], UK Future Internet Strategy Group Report [17].

The High Energy Physics community represents a large number of researchers, unique expensive instruments, huge amount of data that are generated and need to be processed continuously. This community has already the operational Worldwide Large Hadron Collider Grid (WLCG) [18] infrastructure to manage and access data, protect their integrity and support the whole scientific data lifecycle. WLCG development was an important step in the evolution of European e-Infrastructures that currently serves multiple scientific communities in Europe and internationally. The EGI cooperation [16] manages European and worldwide infrastructure for HEP and other communities.

Material science, analytical and low energy physics (proton, neutron, laser facilities) is characterized by short projects, experiments and consequently highly dynamic user community. It requires highly dynamic supporting infrastructure and advanced data management infrastructure to allow wide data access and distributed processing.

Environmental and Earth science community and projects target regional/national and global problems. They collect huge amount of data from land, sea, air and space and require ever increasing amount of storage and computing power. This SDI requires reliable fine-grained access control to huge data sets, enforcement of regional issues, policy based data filtering (data may contain national security related information), while tracking data use and keeping data integrity.

Biological and Medical Sciences (also defined as Life sciences) have a general focus on health, drug development, new species identification, new instruments development. They generate massive amount of data and new demand for computing power, storage capacity, and network performance for distributed processes, data sharing and collaboration.

Biomedical data (healthcare, clinical case data) are privacy sensitive data and must be handled according to the European policy on Personal Data processing [19].

Social Science and Humanities communities and projects are characterized by multi-lateral and often global collaborations between researchers from all over the world that need to be engaged into collaborative groups/communities and supported by collaborative infrastructure to share data, discovery/research results and cooperatively evaluate results. The current trend to digitize all currently collected physical artifacts will create in the near future a huge amount of data that must be widely and openly accessible.

C. General SDI Requirements

From the overview we just gave we can extract the following general infrastructure requirements to SDI for emerging Big Data Science:

- Support long running experiments and large data volumes generated at high speed
- Data integrity, confidentiality, accountability
- Support for long running experiments and large data volumes generated at high speed
- Multi-tier inter-linked data distribution and replication
- On-demand infrastructure provisioning to support data sets and scientific workflows, mobility of data-centric scientific applications
- Support of virtual scientists communities, addressing dynamic user groups creation and management, federated identity management
- Trusted environment for data storage and processing
- Support for data integrity, confidentiality, accountability
- Policy binding to data to protect privacy, confidentiality and IPR

IV. DATA MANAGEMENT IN BIG DATA SCIENCE

Emergence of computer aided research methods is transforming the way research is done and scientific data are used. The following types of scientific data are defined [13]:

- Raw data collected from observation and from experiment (according to an initial research model)
- Structured data and datasets that went through data filtering and processing (supporting some particular formal model)
- Published data that supports one or another scientific hypothesis, research result or statement
- Data linked to publications to support the wide research consolidation, integration, and openness.

Once the data is published, it is essential to allow other scientists to be able to validate and reproduce the data that they are interested in, and possibly contribute with new results. Capturing information about the processes involved in transformation from raw data up until the generation of published data becomes an important aspect of scientific data management. Scientific data provenance becomes an issue that also needs to be taken into consideration by SDI providers [20].

Another aspect to take into consideration is to guarantee reusability of published data within the scientific community. Understanding semantic of the published data becomes an important issue to allow for reusability, and this had been traditionally been done manually. However, as we anticipate unprecedented scale of published data that will be generated in

Big Data Science, attaching clear data semantic becomes a necessary condition for efficient reuse of published data. Learning from best practices in semantic web community on how to provide a reusable published data, will be one of consideration that will be addressed by SDI.

Big data are typically distributed both on the collection side and on the processing/access side: data need to be collected (sometimes in a time sensitive way or with other environmental attributes), distributed and/or replicated. Linking distributed data is one of the problems to be addressed by SDI.

The European Commission’s initiative to support Open Access to scientific data from publicly funded projects suggests introduction of the following mechanisms to allow linking publications and data [21, 22]:

- PID - persistent data ID
- ORCID – Open Researcher and Contributor Identifier [23].

The required new approach to data management and handling in e-Science is reflected in the Scientific Data Lifecycle Management (SDLM) model (see Figure 2) we as a result of analysis of the existing practices in different scientific communities. Our proposed model is compliant with the data lifecycle study results presented in [24].

The generic scientific data lifecycle includes a number of consequent stages: research project or experiment planning; data collection; data processing; publishing research results; discussion, feedback; archiving (or discarding).

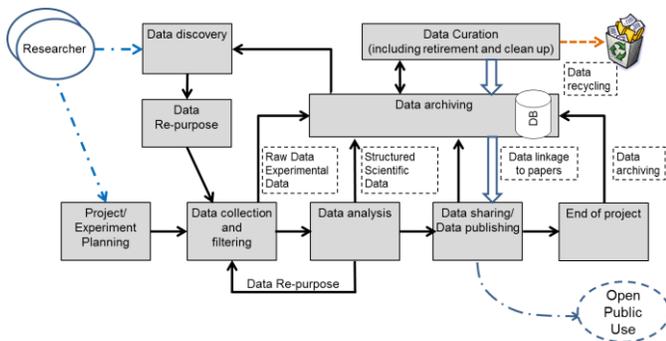


Figure 2. Scientific Data Lifecycle Management in e-Science

New SDLM requires data storage and preservation at all stages what should allow data re-use/re-purposing and secondary research on the processed data and published results. However, this is possible only if the full data identification, cross-reference and linkage are implemented in SDI. Data integrity, access control and accountability must be supported during the whole data during lifecycle. Data curation is an important component of the discussed SDLM and must also be done in a secure and trustworthy way.

Support data security and access control to scientific data during their lifecycle: data acquisition (experimental data), initial data filtering, specialist processing; research data storage and secondary data mining, data and research information archiving.

V. PROPOSED SDI ARCHITECTURE MODEL

We also propose the SDI Architecture for e-Science (e-SDI) as illustrated in Figure 3. This model contains the following layers:

Layer D1: Network infrastructure layer represented by the general purpose Internet infrastructure and dedicated network infrastructure

Layer D2: Datacenters and computing resources/facilities

Layer D3: Infrastructure virtualisation layer that is represented by the Cloud/Grid infrastructure services and middleware supporting specialised scientific platforms deployment and operation

Layer D4: (Shared) Scientific platforms and instruments specific for different research areas

Layer D5: Federation and Policy layer that includes federation infrastructure components, including policy and collaborative user groups support functionality.

Layer D6: Scientific applications and user portals/clients

Note: “D” prefix denotes relation to data infrastructure.

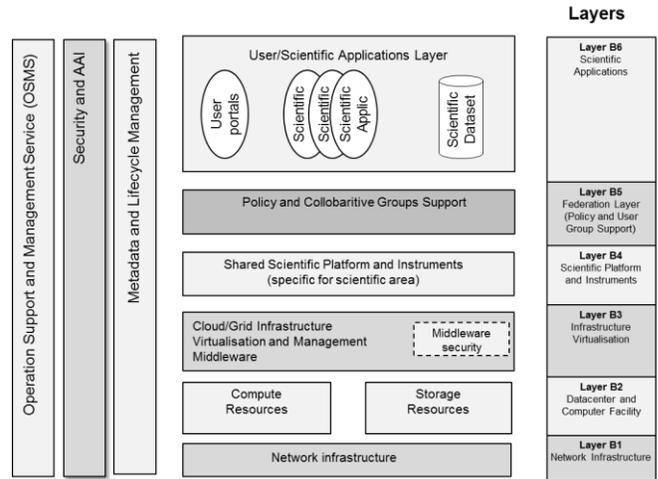


Figure 3. The proposed SDI architecture model

We define also the three cross-layer planes: Operational Support and Management System; Security plane; and Metadata and Lifecycle Management. •

The dynamic character of SDI and its support of distributed multi-faceted communities are guaranteed by the dedicated layers: D3 – Infrastructure Virtualisation layer that typically uses modern cloud technologies; and D5 – Federation and policy layer that incorporates related federated infrastructure management and access technologies [13, 25, 26]. Introducing the Federation and Policy layer reflects current practice in building and managing complex SDIs (and also enterprise infrastructures) and allows independently managed infrastructures to share resources and support the inter-organisational cooperation.

Network infrastructure is presented as a separate lower layer in e-SDI. Network aspects in Big Data are becoming even more important than it was e.g. with Computer Grids and clouds. Although the dilemma of moving data to computing facilities or vice versa moving computing to data location can be solved in some particular cases, processing highly distributed data on MPP (Massively Parallel Processing) infrastructures will require a special design of the internal MPP network infrastructure. The authors refer to their long time research on high speed optical networking and experience of building optical network infrastructure for e-Science [27, 28].

VI. CLOUD BASED INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES FOR SDI

Figure 4 illustrates the typical e-Science or enterprise collaborative infrastructure that is created on demand and includes enterprise proprietary and cloud based computing and storage resources, instruments, control and monitoring system, visualization system, and users represented by user clients and typically residing in real or virtual campuses.

The main goal of the enterprise or scientific infrastructure is to support the enterprise or scientific workflow and operational procedures related to processes monitoring and data processing. Cloud technologies simplify the building of such infrastructure and provision it on-demand. Figure 3 illustrates how an example enterprise or scientific workflow can be mapped to cloud based services and later on deployed and operated as an instant inter-cloud infrastructure. It contains cloud infrastructure segments IaaS (VR3-VR5) and PaaS (VR6, VR7), separate virtualised resources or services (VR1, VR2), two interacting campuses A and B, and interconnecting them network infrastructure that in many cases may need to use dedicated network links for guaranteed performance.

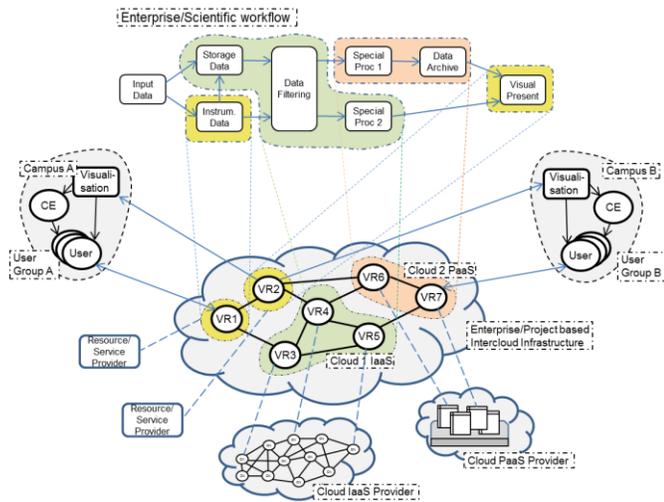


Figure 4. From scientific workflow to cloud based infrastructure.

Efficient operation of such infrastructure will require both overall infrastructure management and individual services and infrastructure segments to interact between themselves. This task is typically out of scope of the existing cloud service provider models but will be required to support perceived benefits of the future e-SDI. These topics are a subject of another research we did on the InterCloud Architecture Framework [29, 30].

Besides the general cloud base infrastructure services (storage, compute, infrastructure/VM management) the following specific applications and services will be required to support Big Data and other data centric applications [31]:

- Cluster services
- Hadoop related services and tools
- Specialist data analytics tools (logs, events, data mining, etc.)
- Databases/Servers SQL, NoSQL
- MPP (Massively Parallel Processing) databases
- Big Data Management tools

- Registries, indexing/search, semantics, namespaces
- Security infrastructure (access control, policy enforcement, confidentiality, trust, availability, privacy)
- Collaborative environment (groups management)

Big Data analytics tools are currently offered by the major cloud services providers such as: Amazon Elastic MapReduce and Dynamo [32], Microsoft Azure HDInsight [33], IBM Big Data Analytics [34]. Scalable Hadoop and data analytics tools services are offered by few companies that position themselves as Big Data companies such as Cloudera, [35] and few others [36].

VII. SECURITY INFRASTRUCTURE FOR BIG DATA

A. Security and Trust in Cloud based Infrastructure

Ensuring data veracity in Big Data infrastructure and applications requires deeper analysis of all factors affecting data security and trustworthiness during their whole lifecycle. Figure 5 illustrates the main actors and their relations when processing data on remote system. User/customer and service provider are the two actors concerned with their own data/content security and each other system/platform trustworthiness: user wants to be sure that their data are secure when processed or stored on the remote system.

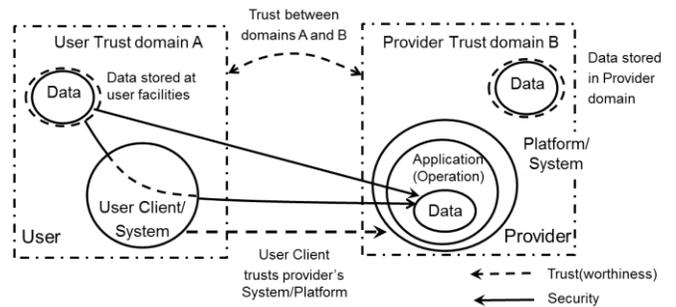


Figure 5. Security and Trust in Data Services and Infrastructure.

Figure 5 illustrates the complexity of trust and security relations even in a simple usecase of the direct user/provider interaction. In clouds data security and trust model needs to be extended to distributed, multi-domain and multi-provider environment.

In the general case of multi-provider and multi-tenant e-Science cooperative environment, the e-SDI security infrastructure should support on-demand created and dynamically configured user groups and associations, potentially re-using existing experience in managing Virtual Organisations (VO) and VO-based access control in Computer Grids [37, 38].

Data centric security models when used in generically distributed and also multi-provider e-SDI environment will require policy binding to data and fine grained data access policy that should allow flexible policy definition based on the semantic data model. Based on the authors' experience, the XACML (eXtensible Access Control Mark-up Language) policy language can provide a good basis for such functionality [39, 40]. However support of the data lifecycle and related provenance information will require additional research in policy definition and underlying trust management models.

B. General Requirements to Access Control Infrastructure

To support secure data processing, the future SDI should be supported by a corresponding Access Control and Accounting Infrastructure (ACAI) that would ensure normal infrastructure operation, assets and information protection, and allow user identification/authentication and policy enforcement in distributed multi-organisations environment.

Moving to Open Access [21] may require partial change of business practices of currently existing scientific information repositories and libraries, and consequently the future ACAI should allow such transition and fine grained access control and flexible policy definition and control.

Taking into account that future SDI should support the whole data lifecycle and explore the benefit of the data storage/preservation, aggregation and provenance in a large scale and during long/unlimited period of time, the future ACAI should also support all stages of the data lifecycle, including policy attachment to data to ensure persistency of the data policy enforcement during continuous online and offline processes.

The required ACAI should support the following features of the future SDI:

- Empower researchers (and make them trust) to do their data processing on shared facilities of large datacentres with guaranteed data and information security
- Motivate/ensure researchers to share/open their research environment to other researchers by providing tools for instantiation of customised pre-configured infrastructures to allow other researchers to work with existing or own data sets.
- Protect data policy, ownership, linkage (with other data sets and newly produced scientific/research data), when providing (long term) data archiving. (Data preservation technologies should themselves ensure data readability and accessibility with the changing technologies).

VIII. FUTURE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

The future research and development will include further Big Data definition initially presented in this paper. At this stage we tried to summarise and re-think some widely used definitions related to Big Data, further research will require more formal approach and taxonomy of the general Big Data use cases both in science and industry.

Although currently proposed SDLM definition have been accepted as the European Commission Study recommendation [13], we plan to move further definition of the related metadata, procedures and protocols to the Research Data Alliance (RDA) [41] community recently established to coordinate standardisation in the area of research data.

As a part of the general infrastructure research we will continue research on the infrastructure issues in Big Data targeting more detailed and technology oriented definition of SDI and related security infrastructure definition. Special attention will be given to defining the whole cycle of the provisioning SDI services on-demand, specifically tailored to support instant scientific workflows using cloud IaaS and PaaS platforms. This research will be also supported by development of the corresponding Cloud and InterCloud architecture

framework to support the Big Data e-Science processes and infrastructure operation.

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