Secured Research Platform for Data Collection, Data Analysis and Data Storage

The Milken Institute School of Public Health (Milken Institute SPH) has established a relationship with the cloud vendor Armor Defense to support a highly secure infrastructure to fulfill the research needs of our faculty, research staff and their students as it relates to high-speed data analysis, data storage, and collaborative data sharing. Armor Defense has customized a service for our Milken Institute SPH researchers and highly secured centrally managed, cloud-based data storage service. This system supports research and applied research instruction of the Milken Institute SPH faculty and their graduate students and post-docs. Researchers may use the system to work with both small and large-scale research datasets, and collaborate more effectively on research with colleagues and students across schools and departments. It also allows for inter institutional collaboration in which researchers are able to collaborate and share access to data across the world.

Armor Defense is certified against the HITRUST Common Security Framework (CSF) to address HIPAA compliance requirements. The Health Information Trust Alliance (HITRUST), in collaboration with healthcare, business, technology and information security leaders, has established the HITRUST CSF, a certifiable framework that can be used by any and all organizations that create, access, store or exchange personal health and financial information. Armor inherently meets the FIPS 140-2 standard.

The SPH currently provides financial support to maintain the contract with Armor. However, as we grow and our demands for this type of storage increase we must continually evaluate our faculty needs. For PIs who need this type of storage, it is important to be cognizant of the cost of these services during the proposal preparation stage. When funders permit dollars for these types of expenses please plan accordingly and contact the GWSPH IT Director. Because each project requires customized pricing, adequate time should be given when sending requests for pricing to the GWSPH IT Director. For more information click here.

As of this date, whenever possible, the services provided by Armor Defense will be borne by each project and its Principal Investigator. Any needs for Armor Defense that cannot be covered by internal or external funding sources or for projects that began prior to the issuance of this policy need to be submitted to the Associate Dean of Research for review.