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

Armor Defense is the vendor that The Milken Institute School of Public Health at The George Washington University has chosen as a central application and storage platform for research information that should be used to store data that is subject to regulatory or compliance requirements, including but not limited to:

HIPAA (Health Information Portability and Accountability Act)

FISMA (Federal Information Security Management Act)

Personal Information Protection Act of Illinois

Other restrictions on data handling as required by research grants and projects

It provides a safe and highly secure environment for storing computational data. By purchasing space from Armor Defense, faculty researchers, post-doctoral researchers, and designated staff are able to:

- Store computational research data safely
- Share research data in a secure collaborative environment
- Collaborate with outside institutions
- Use standard research applications on powerful servers that are optimized for computing data

If you have research data that falls under any of the above, or have questions about if your data is subject to regulatory or compliance requirements, please feel free to reach out to the Research Compliance Officer , Robert Donnally - rdonnall@gwu.edu, in the GWU Office of Research Integrity and Compliance.

What Armor Defense Replaces

The Milken Institute SPH IT Department highly recommends using Armor Defense as a replacement for any standalone computer or server hosting regulated data as well as directly attached hard drives such as USB and Firewire hard drives.

Armor Defense offers researchers a highly secure platform to store and analyze regulated data sets.   It 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. Security and HIPAA Controls on the Armor Defense platform include:

DDoS Mitigation	Web Application Firewall	IP Reputation filtering
SSL VPN	Managed Anti-Virus	Vulnerability Scanning
Hardened Operating Systems	OS Patching/updating	Time synchronization
Rogue wireless scanning	Physical security	Change Control
Formal Risk Assessment	Incident Response	Data Backup
Maintain Maintenance Records	Access Control	Security Audits
Secure Data Deletion	Vormetric Data Encryption	Business Associate Agreement
VM level Firewall (server specific)	Log Management and Monitoring	Encryption in transit (SSL Certificate)

Performance

Performance will vary on the number of connected users and their activities. Any issues with performance can be reported to the SPH helpdesk system - help.sphhs.gwu.edu.

Backup of the data stored in Armor Defense is done on regular basis with backups stored for 6 months

Faculty researchers, post-doctoral researchers, and designated staff can purchase accounts on Armor Defense. Accounts are active for as long as it is needed and can be removed within 48 hours upon request. Each account comes with the following:

Access to Software Applications which may include:

- Stata/MP 14
- SAS 9.4
- R and R Studio,
- MS Office Suite
- ArcGIS

All software packages are the latest version and will be upgraded within 60 days of when the new releases are publicly available. If funded, special requests can be considered for addition to the system.

Archiving Options:

In order to provide storage space for everyone, the SPH IT department can work with you to evaluate options such as a DVD or external hard drive archival copy for grant projects that have ended. Please contact them if you are interested.

Support:

All components of the system are supported by the Milken Institute SPH IT department. New account requests are fulfilled within two business days. Storage quota increase requests will be reviewed and processed on a timely basis.

Pricing Guide:

The cost for Armor varies by project size. For custom pricing options and quotes for proposals please contact Regina Scriven at rscriven@email.gwu.edu.

How to Request an Account in Armor Defense:

For more details and information on how to setup an Armor account, please reach out to the GWSPH IT Director, Regina Scriven – rscriven@gwu.edu. After you have worked with the GWSPH IT department to properly size your Armor workspace and your funding has been approved by the Milken Institute SPH Research department, you (and your team, if applicable) will be given access to the Armor environment.

In the official email welcome, you will be asked to submit a help desk request to activate your account. The Milken Institute SPH IT will then contact you to schedule a face to face appointment to train you on how to access Armor Defense and to install any desktop software that you may need as part of your account.