



Understanding the EUBOX Service

Towards a trusted 'Dropbox4Science'

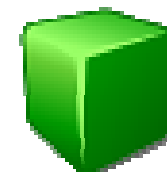
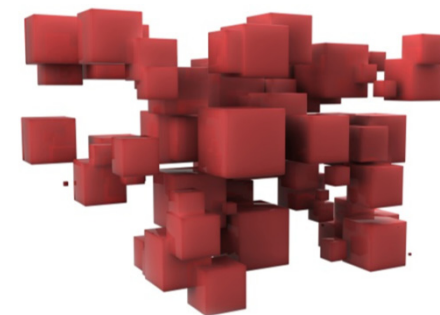
Morris Riedel et al.

Juelich Supercomputing Centre

Track 1 – EUDAT Services

EUDAT 2nd Conference

28.10. – 29.10.2013, Barcelona



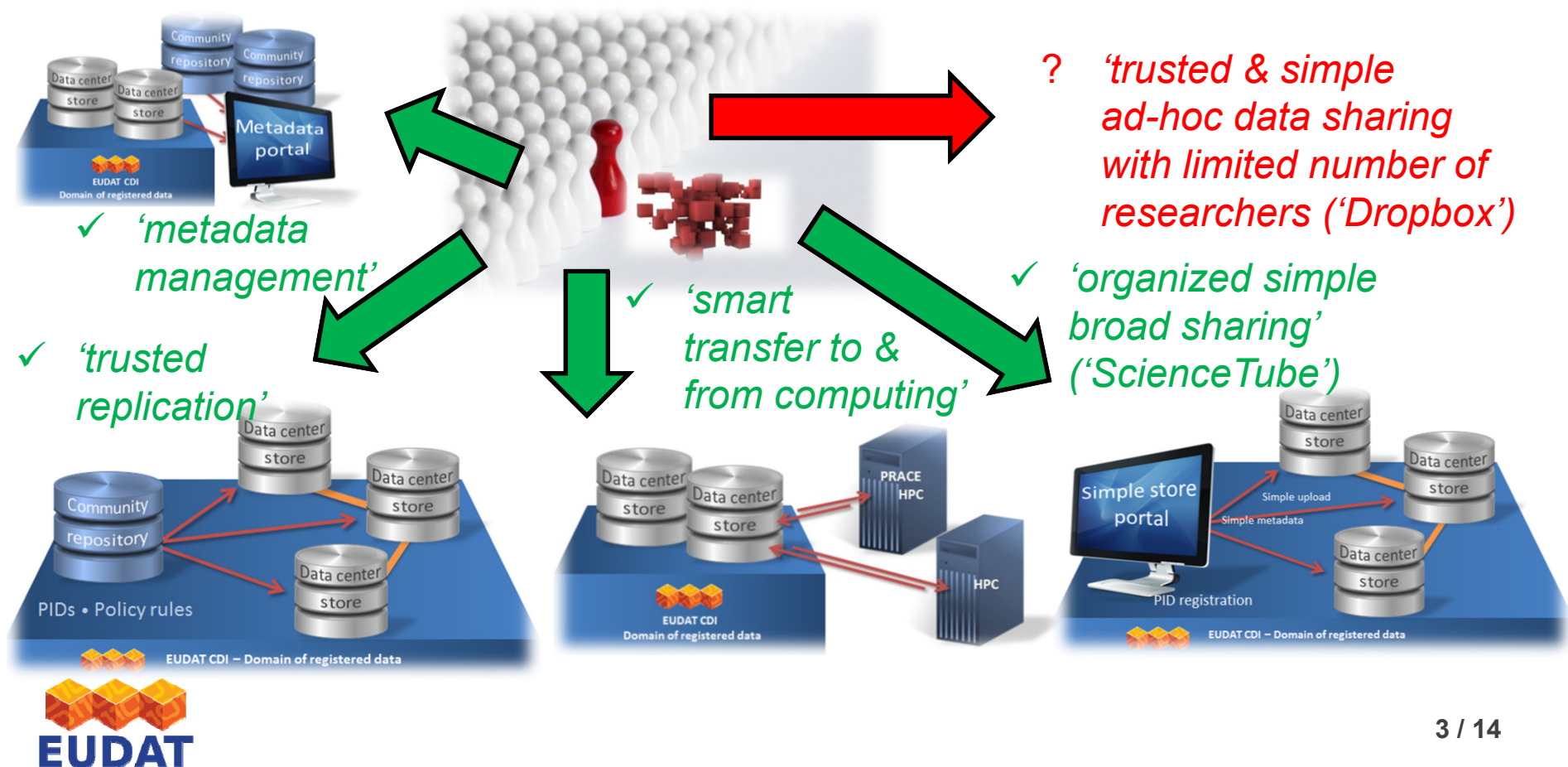
Outline

- Motivation & Goals
- Identified Use Cases
- Analysed Requirements
- Comparison to SimpleStore
- Experimental Setups
- Summary



Motivation (1)

- Establish 'trusted user experiences' like a 'dropbox 4 science'



Motivation (2)

- Enables easy and ad-hoc (temporary) sharing of research data
 - Circulate data among a couple of research colleagues
 - Access also for non EUDAT
 - Synchronization of data
- Offers a seamless transition to the 'EUDAT registered domain' of data
 - Publicly usable open locations
 - Stored only optionally for a long-term period

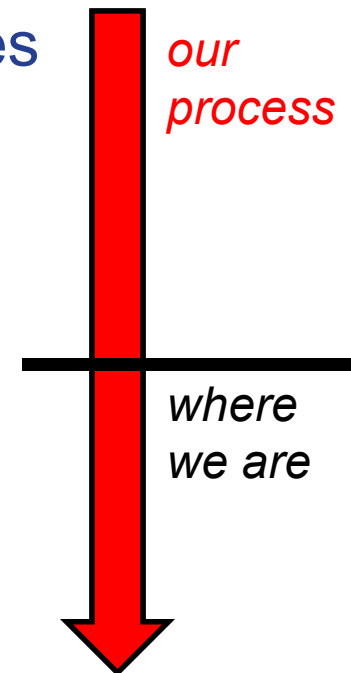


*'Design Phase:
Figure not
confirmed yet'*



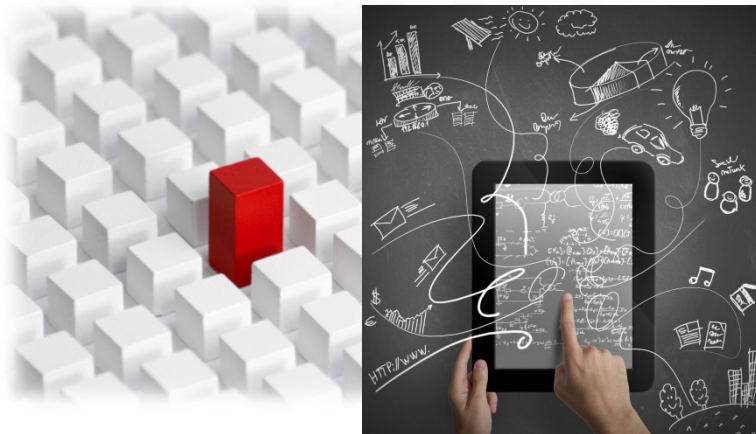
Goals of the 'EUBOX Task Force'

- Exploring solutions towards an EUDAT EUBOX service
 - Major goal 'User experience is key to the acceptance of the service'
- ✓ Documenting use cases from user communities
 - ✓ Identify derived requirements and constraints
- Analysing various existing programs
 - Gather lessons learned from (test) deployments
 - Comparison matrix with required product features
- Choosing technology/technologies
 - Recommendations that fit user communities best



Selected Community Requirements

- ‘Some research organizations do not allow dropbox’ (e.g. German research organization Max Planck)
 - Trust issues, but an alternative must be as mature as dropbox

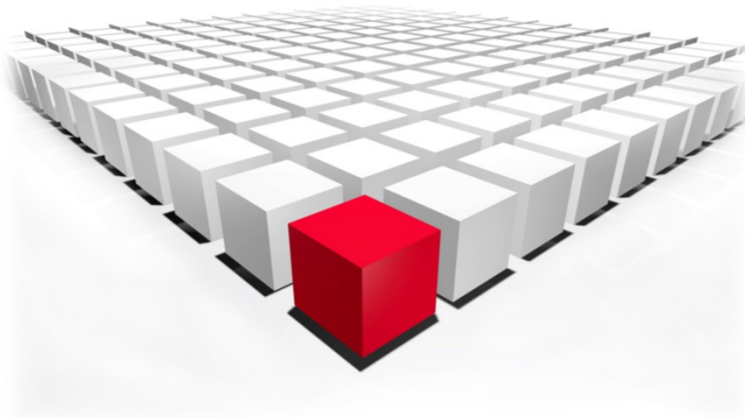


- ‘Simple, secure, and sound’
 - Usable also with mobile devices
- ‘Trusted Access & Sharing’
 - Bi-directional data synchronization



Selected Service Provider Requirements

- 'load balancing meaning distributed instances can be load balanced across centers'
- 'scalable meaning additional nodes with backend storage can be added after time'



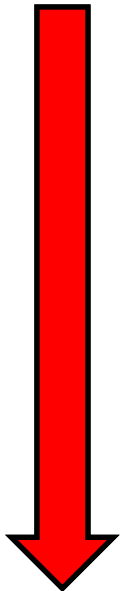
- 'we need to be able to make a EUDAT or even user community branding of the visible service elements'

Selected Use Case



■ Earth Plate Observatory System (EPOS)

one
process
of many

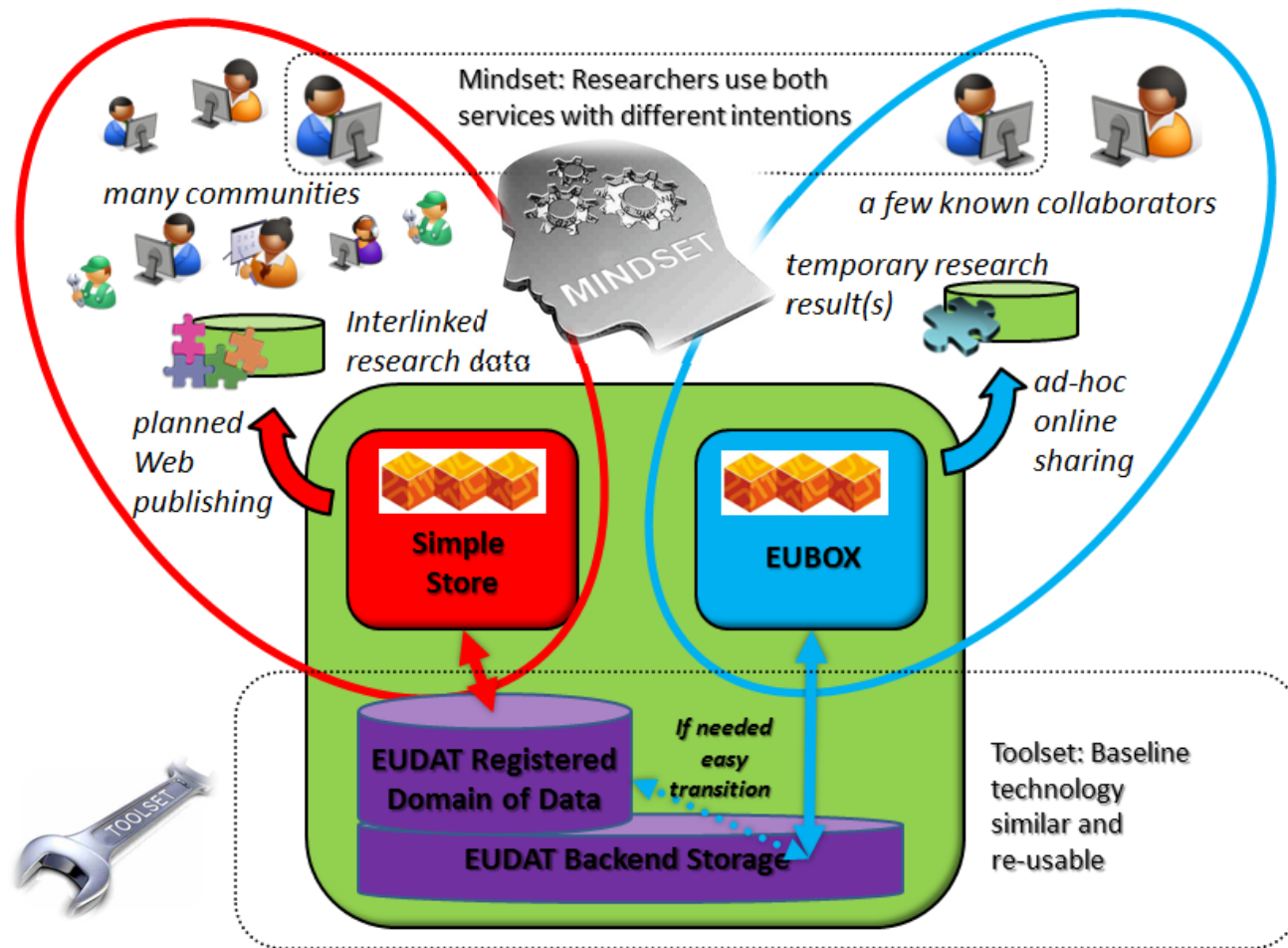


1. INGV center records data (seismic, GPS, etc.)
 2. Real-time seismological data is gathered in different data centers (e.g., Rome, Ancona, Grottaminarda,...)
 3. Data gathering for different parts of the Italian peninsula in parallel
 4. The data acquired by the different data centers are basically different
 5. But there is some 'seismic station redundancy' among data centers
 6. The archive is centralised in Rome@INGV and the data gathered in the other centers must be replicated here for the long-term
 7. For one common/overlap area where all the data are stored temporarily for a buffer of say 1 to 10 days it would enable to make all the quality checks before final archiving with all the data handy
- Temporary storing Research data for quality checks (e.g. ingest gap data)
 - After (manual) checks the research data can be stored permanently



With thanks to Alberto Michelini (INGV, EPOS community)

Comparisons to SimpleStore Service





Candidate Technologies & Evaluations (1)

requirements	powerfolder	owncloud
size quota	manageable per user; depends on requirements	per user
version tracking	5 versions-forever (requirements/storage dependant)	x http://owncloud.org/features/
user management	local/ldap/ssl radius, shibboleth self-registration/self-service/optional policy enforcement via scripts	local, ldap, openid
sharing allowed	with other users/as a link/through some social network	with other users, global, global with password, global with end-date
file encryption	AES encrypted transfers between servers and clients on LAN and WAN	x (not recommended)
license	https://www.powerfolder.com/products/products-overview.html https://wiki.powerfolder.com/display/PFS/Licensing commercial product, R&E discount, per user based licensing model	AGPL(owncloud.org) ?(owncloud.com)
website	https://www.powerfolder.com	www.owncloud.[org com]

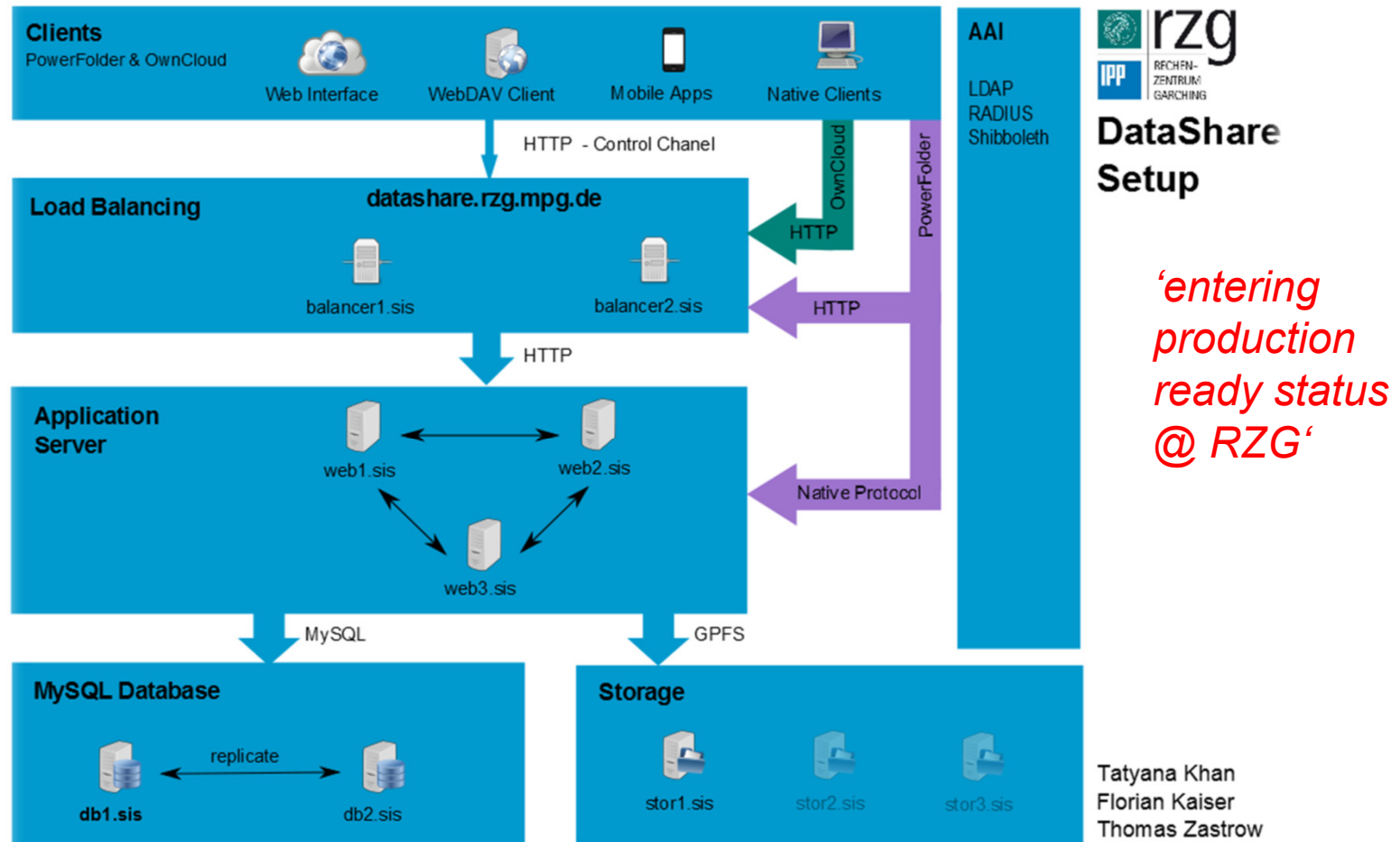
- General Evaluations (versions, license, etc.)
- Categories: deployment, access, reliability, additional



Candidate Technologies & Evaluations (2)

---deployment---		
service-container	ORACLE JDK/JRE only apache in case of clustering solutions as a web backend for load balancing solutions	apache2
persistence	sql server/mysql/system build in DB	mysql/sqlite
storage-backends	local storage or network storage, server nodes should share the same file system	filesystem, s3, swift, external WebDAV
--- access---		
webdav	x	x
browser	x (rudimentary)	x (HTML5 based, good usability)
desktop client	Windows, OS X, Linux	Windows, OSX, Linux
mobile client	Android, iOS, Windows Phone, Blackberry	Android (0,79 €), iOS (0,89 €) Windows phone, Blackberry: no dedicated ownCloud client, generic WebDAV clients available
--- reliability ---		
high availability	HA solution with loadbalancer	HA solution with loadbalancer
scalability	farming: compute capacity can dynamically be expanded by adding further server nodes	farming: compute capacity can dynamically be expanded by adding further server nodes
replication	data is stored at server side on a shared file system, can be replicated in the backend, e.g. optionally backed up on powerfolder.com cloud	filesystem: tape/replication s3, swift: by architecture
---additional---		calendars(caldav), supports visualization for different format
branding	preconfigured branded apps, installable from app stores	
technology	proprietary, peer to peer based protocol	server based (HTTP/WebDAV)

Experimental Setup Example





Summary

- Requirements for EUBOX service are good understood
 - Stable and mature technology → otherwise no alternative to Dropbox
 - Security is a key issue and the 'entry barrier' needs to be low
- Evaluation of candidate technologies takes some time
 - We have to limit the amount of technologies to expertise/partners
 - Expand current candidate technologies: e.g. openstack
- Entering validation phases for choosing technologies
 - E.g. get 'hundreds of small files' into the system ('measurements')
 - E.g. share a 'big data file' among colleagues in the system
 - Example use cases around document exchanges expected to work very well → but research data different



