



EOSC-SIESTA

Project overview

Álvaro López García aloga@ifca.unican.es – <https://advancedcomputing.ifca.es>

IFCA, CSIC-UC



Funded by
the European Union



SIESTA in a nutshell

- HORIZON-INFRA-2023-EOSC-01-06 call
- 5M€, lump-sum scheme
- Duration: 1st Jan 2024 – 31st Dec 2026
- 12 partners (ES, IT, FR, SK, DK, SE, NL)
 - Academic and Research: CSIC, IISAS, INSERM, ISI, CNRS, ULE, SRU, NRU
 - Law: Javier de la Cueva
 - SMEs & Industry: Cendio, interWAY
 - Statistical offices: INE
- <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101131957>



Objectives

Deliver trusted cloud-based environments for the analysis of sensitive data, built in a reproducible way, and a set of services to ease the secure sharing through state-of-the-art anonymization techniques

1. Enhance the EOSC Exchange services with cloud-based trusted environments for the analysis of sensitive data in the EOSC demonstrating the feasibility of the FAIR principles over them
2. Study, explore and demonstrate the feasibility of FAIR management and processing of sensitive data, showcasing the benefits for society, science and research
3. Deliver tools for the secure anonymization or pseudonymisation of datasets, allowing rightholders to safely release sensitive data through the EOSC Exchange
4. Provide rightholders with best practices and methodologies for the release of sensitive data following FAIR principles
5. Extend the service offer and the capabilities being offered through the EOSC portal, coordinating with the operational and management activities carried out by the EOSC partnership and related projects

SIESTA Concept

- **Different access methods based on the data sensitivity:** from collaborative development environments (like JupyterHub) for low risk data, to access through security hardened remote desktop solutions with limited capabilities, strict network controls and VPN access for higher sensitivity levels.
- **Internal repositories** allow the installation of **software components and libraries only from trusted** sources that have been previously approved.
- **User-provided predefined software components that have been endorsed and approved**, allowing the **offload of user workflow tasks into the platform**, accessing sensitive data.
- **Assisted anonymization tools** for data ingestion and **risk-disclosure evaluation tools** for data stage out, allowing the improvement of the privacy levels of the shared data.
- A **tamper-proof** component for keeping track of all **relevant transactions**, providing auditing mechanisms.
- **Integrations with the EOSC Core and Exchange**, allowing for instance the inclusion of existing datasets, the generation and storage of anonymized or synthetic data in EOSC compliant repositories or the delivery of trusted and secure thematic data spaces into the EOSC.

SIESTA Concept

- Provide safe and trusted access to sensitive data
- Following tiered model for data sensitiveness
 1. **Fully open data.** No need to use a trusted research environment.
 2. **Very low risk.** Pseudonymised data with very low linking risk. Unlikely to cause harm.
 3. **Low risk.** Strongly pseudonymised datasets with some indirect identifiers.
 4. **Average risk.** Pseudonymised personal data and confidential organisations information.
 5. **High risk.** Weak or no de-identification and very sensitive commercial data.
 6. **Very high risk.** Very sensitive personal data or highly confidential government or commercial data.
- Initially Focus on categories to 2 to 5, with increased level of security, different entry methods, different restrictions
- Infrastructure as Code to ensure reproducibility of the compute environment

Tiered model (data sensitiveness) implications

- **Data sensitivity definition is not static**, it depends on the context and dynamically defined via policy tooling
 - E.g. depending on data rightholder, audience (who is going to use it),
- Different data sensitiveness (tiered model) coupled with **different access models**.
 - Provide different access levels: e.g. remote interactive sessions (levels 0-2), remote desktop (level 3), remote desktop with limited capabilities (level 4), execution of trusted code or SMPC (level 5)
- Other platform level security implications
 - e.g. SIESTA audit system has high sensitivity
- SIESTA aims to address these security aspects through an Infrastructure as Code
 - Map platform deployments to certified resource providers (SIESTA involves partners whose compute resources are certified with ISO27001:2017 and National Cybersecurity Schemes)



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Esquema Nacional de Seguridad

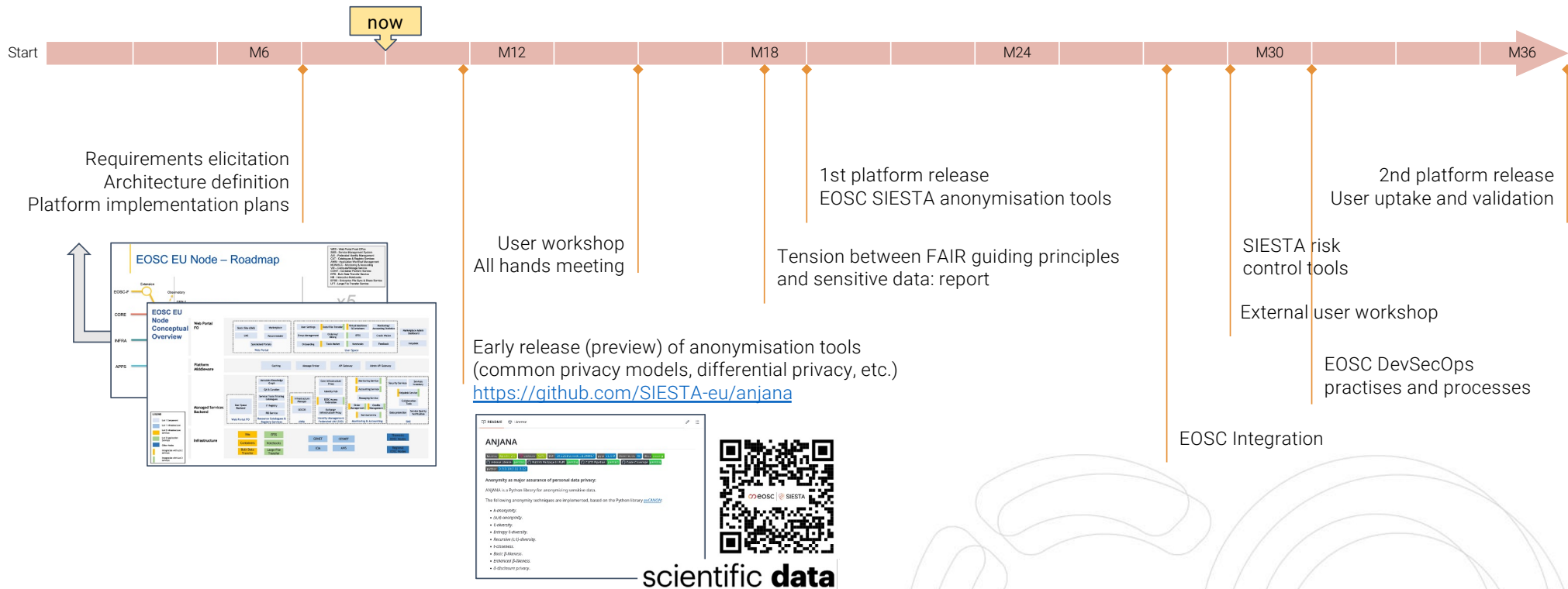
SIESTA implementation and co-design

Five complementary cases:

1. **Epidemiology**: (CSIC, INSERM, ISI) development of an ecosystem with data collected by the SIESTA team from different sources (population, mobility, surveillance, etc.), plus data from collaborative surveillance systems, and with the addition of last generation models able to study propagation patterns of generic infectious diseases.
2. **Medical imaging**: (SRU, NRU, CNRS) development of (neuro)imaging data analysis pipelines integrated with the EOSC platform that allow expert and non-expert users to carry out analyses on public and non-public neuroimaging (fMRI, EEG, MEG) datasets including demographic, health and questionnaire (tabular) data as covariates.
3. **Energy**: (-) secured Renewable Energy Community (REC) information hub, able to guarantee a trusted, privacy-compliant, seamless and even cross-border access, reuse and valorization of technical information associated with energy consumption, production and storage.
4. **Text anonymization on sensitive data**: (ULE) tools that allow anonymizing documents or any information containing text, with special focus on personal data and also on information related to locations, organisations, addresses, emails, finance or any information that could lead to identifying a person or organisation.
5. **Demography**: (CSIC, INE) tools to improve the anonymization of the data to be shared, the creation of designed populations whose data can be shared without privacy concerns and systems to analyse in a reproducible FAIR way the data without the need of a direct access.



Roadmap



Agile project development (Personas, Epics, user stories, requirements) towards first platform prototype

Foster platform and tools usage and use case uptake
 Good practices and guidelines
 Dissemination and KPI maximization, KER (re)definition

Initial high level architecture

EOSC-SIESTA follows the [C4 model](#) and notation for its architecture definition

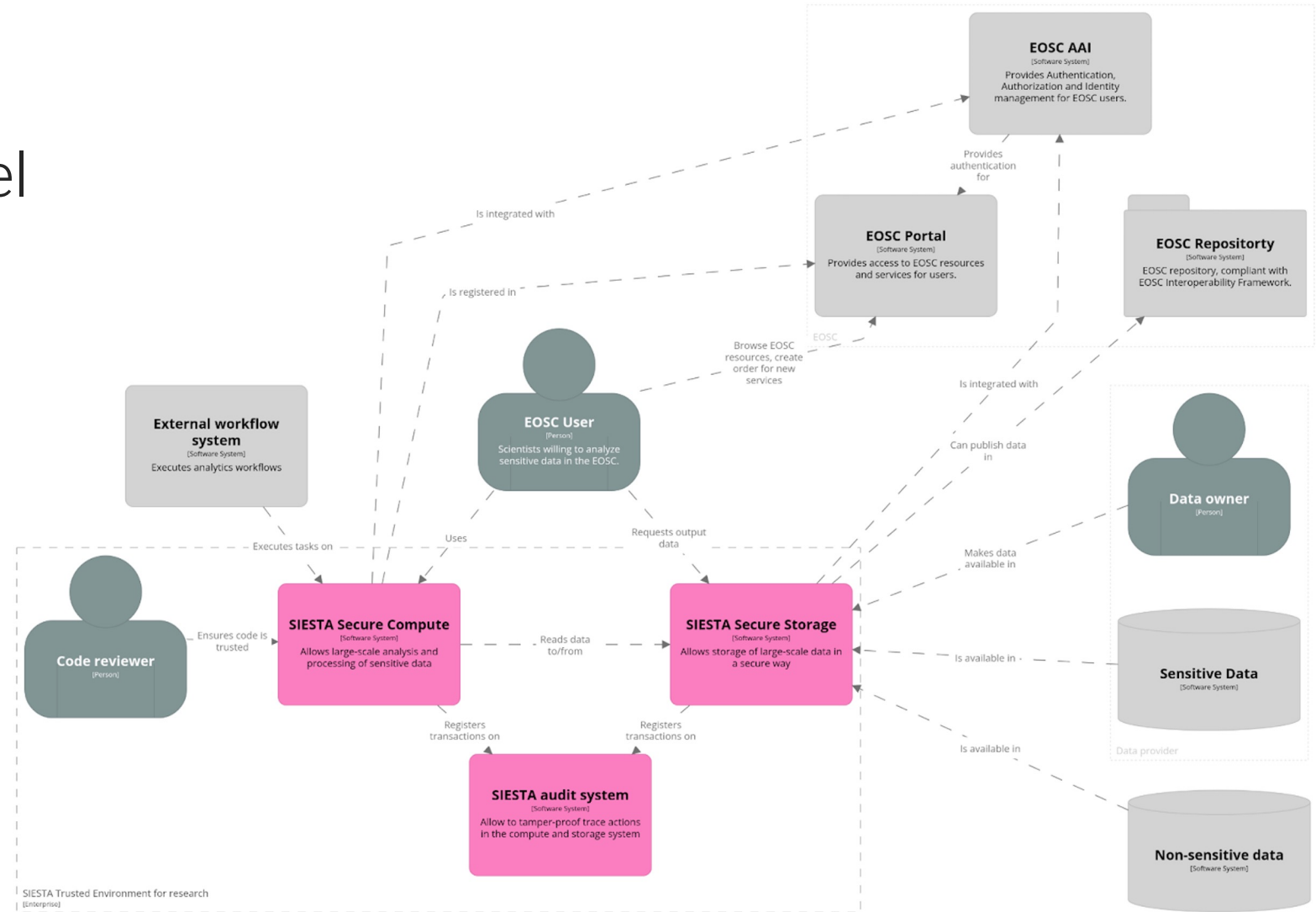
Code and static diagrams:

<https://zenodo.org/records/13347733>



Online diagrams:

<https://structurizr.com/share/94201/c50c8b32-ebb1-4963-a4f0-51193eee0fba>



[System Landscape] SIESTA Trusted Environment for research
 Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at 1:00 PM Central European Standard Time

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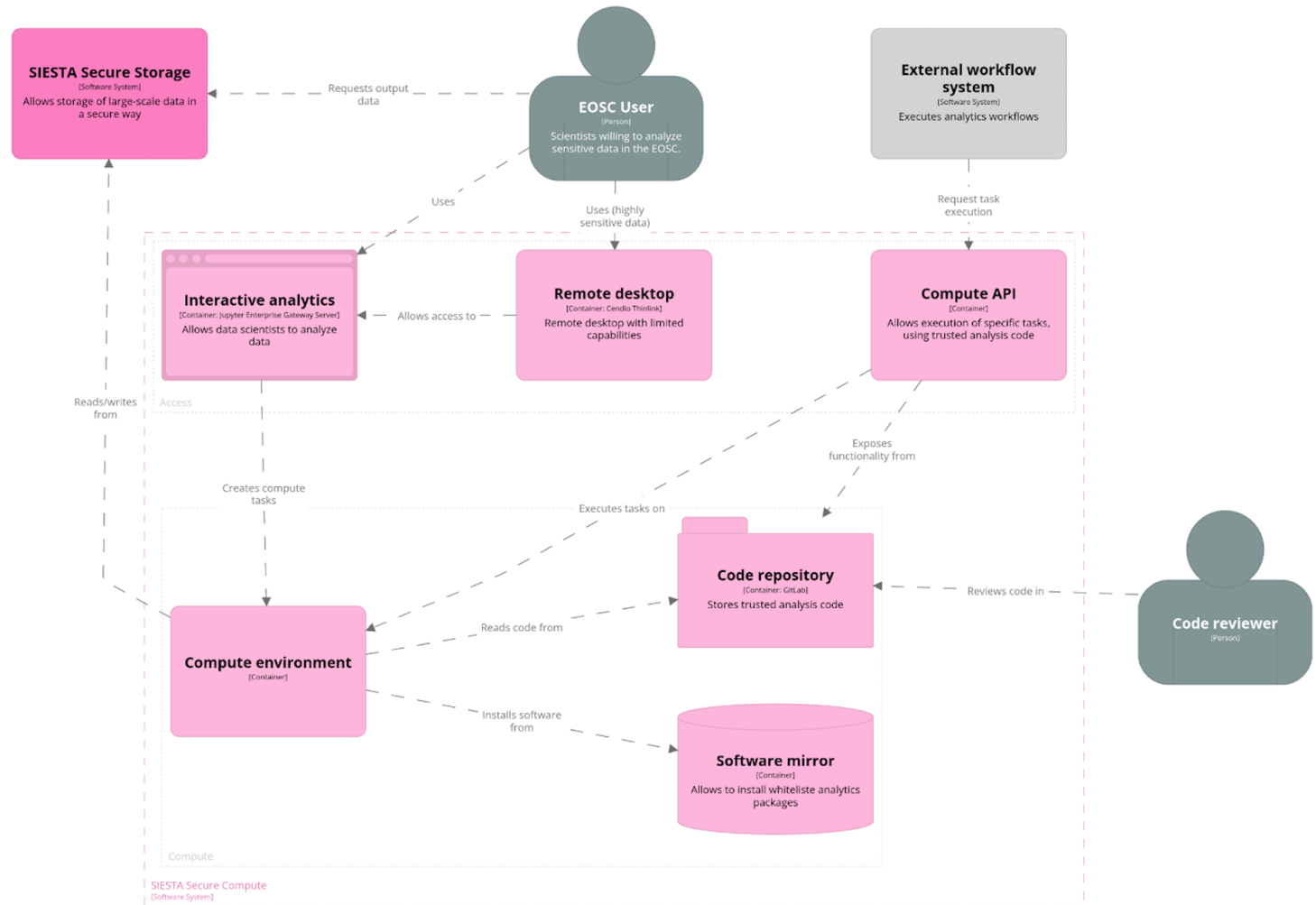
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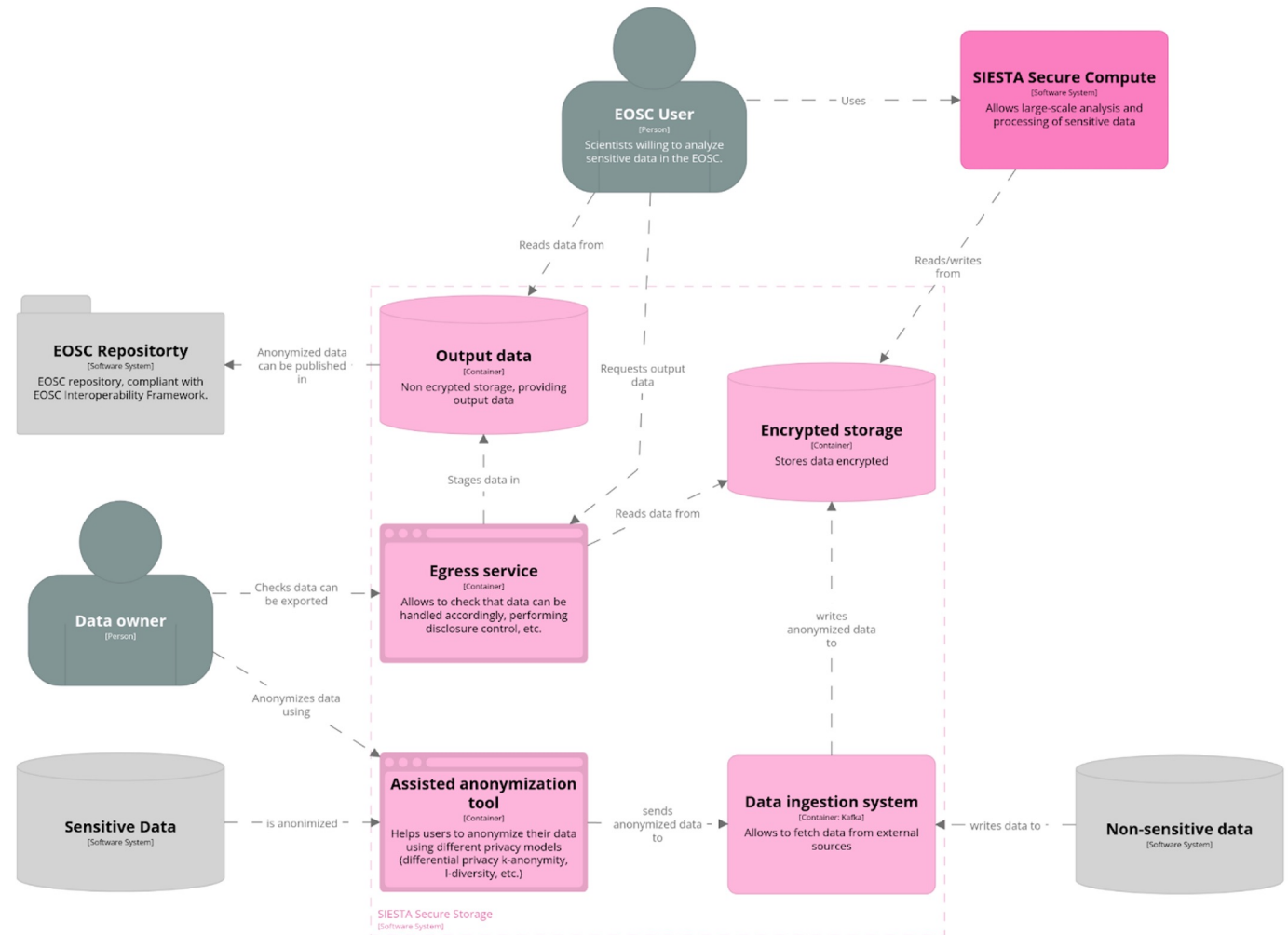
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Exploring collaborations

INFRAEOSC and beyond

- Ongoing collaboration with sister projects EOSC-ENTRUST and TITAN
 - EOSC Symposium unconference session
 “Open as possible, restricted as necessary; EOSC sensitive data exchange”
<https://indico.cern.ch/event/1408259/timetable/#b-563302-unconference-open-as>
- Identified potential synergies in INFRAEOSC context
 - AI4EOSC
 - Leveraging AI4EOSC federated learning platform to develop AI/ML models over sensitive data
 - Close collaborations with Flower.ai: Code contributions, participation in pilot programmes, MONAI FL and NVIDIA FLARE: Model compatibility
 - RAISE
 - (exploring) work together on analysis of sensitive data, synthetic and exemplary datasets, etc.
- Potential further collaborations outside EOSC:
 - University of Cantabria:
 - Ad-hoc privacy preserving algorithms (homomorphic encryption, SMPC)
 - EUCAIM (Cancer Image Federation) project funded by DIGITAL:
 - Synergies to be explored: de-identification, distributed analysis of sensitive data,..)



Project coordination:

- siesta-po@listas.csic.es

Thank you for your attention



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