Service Level Agreement

Service: Secure Research Computing Environment

Version: 20190701

Valid: 07/01/2019 - 07/01/2025

Service Details:

Description

The Secure Research Computing Environment (SRCE) is a cloud-based research infrastructure program. It is designed to be used by researchers who need to meet a compliance standard in order to work with highly sensitive data. Originally designed to the NIST 800-171 standard, SRCE provides custom-sized servers (Windows and/or Linux terminal systems) as well as secure data upload and download infrastructure (enhanced SFTP). The environment has received a 3rd-party attestation affirming that the logging, monitoring and network security components meet or exceed the NIST 800-171 standard, making it suitable for the storage of Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI).

SRCE is a tightly controlled environment requiring users to adopt security practices and interact with authentication systems beyond what is standard on campus. This environment is specifically designed for secure data handling and is best suited for general purpose research that requires an infrastructure that meets a stringent security standard like NIST 800-171.

Features & Benefits

1. Attestation of NIST 800-171 compliance for all SRCE infrastructure
2. Pay-as-you-go pricing model
3. Elastic infrastructure (grow or shrink on-demand)
4. Managed back-ups and disaster recovery
5. Managed environmental security
6. Low technical overhead
7. Linux and Windows computing environments supported

Availability

24/7

Agreement:

Scope
This is the Standard Service Level agreement for services provided by Information and Educational Technology (IET) to the campus. Services covered by this agreement are subject to established rates, costs, measures of performance and availability.

**Terms of Reference**

Terms and specific meanings used within this document are defined in the table below.

**Term**  
**Meaning**
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Customer  
The organization, group, or individual who is subscribing to the IET Service. Standard Services  
Any IET service published within and offered to campus via the IT Service Catalog at URL link: itcatalog.ucdavis.edu  
Non-standard Service  
An IET service that does not have established rates/costs and must be agreed-to with Customers on a case-by-case basis. Non-standard services are *not* available within the IT Service Catalog. Service Manager  
The Service Manager is a role performed by a person who has overall accountability for managing a service. This includes:

- Operational management and support to deliver the benefits of the service
- Ensuring services meet the business need and are delivered in accordance with service agreement

Service Owner  
A member of the IET leadership team who has oversight of IET services

**Cost Recovery**

IET requires costs to be paid directly by the Customer through various methods and mechanisms or they are paid centrally by the Customer. In cases where costs must be paid by the Customer, established campus rates will be used.

- Changes to established campus rates will be applied following a **30 day** notice per campus policy.
- IET hourly labor rates are reviewed annually under campus rate guidelines, and may be changed during the course of the year. Customers are notified 30 days ahead of any rate changes.

As a cost recovery operation, IET will provide cost estimates but makes no guarantees on providing services at a fixed price or fixed total cost to Customers for any long-term agreements. Pursuant to UC policy, IET cannot offer any rates lower than those offered to other campus units.

**IET Service Assurance**

IET assures service performance, availability, capacity, and the information security of the service(s) covered in this agreement.

**Information Security**

IET information security management practices, policies and regulatory compliance requirements are aimed at assuring the confidentiality, integrity and availability of Customer information.

The UC Davis Cyber-safety Policy, UC Davis Security Standards Policy ([PPM Section 310-22](https://www.ucdavis.edu/departments/it/services/policies/)), is adopted by the campus and IET to define the responsibilities and key practices for assuring the security of UC Davis computing systems and electronic data.
Capacity

IET systems are monitored to optimize the use of resources and to control costs. Where services are hosted by external service providers (outsourced), agreements are in place to monitor capacity and performance.

Availability Exclusions (Force majeure)

A loss of availability from causes which are beyond the control of IET is excluded from the availability warranty. This includes but is not limited to, acts from natural events such as earthquakes, storms, natural flooding, and wild fires. Also excluded are police actions, interruptions due to protest events, labor disputes, war, pandemic, terrorism, riots, and/or inability to obtain energy.

Each party must provide prompt notice of service disruptions. Services will resume as soon as possible. Either party will take all reasonable steps to remove the causes of unavailability and resume services as soon as reasonably possible.

IET will provide the availability status of major services on the IET status page. The status page is located at http://status.ucdavis.edu/

Change Management

Managed campus-wide systems, applications and services may be subject to the formal IET Change Management process. Changes to services may be required by system maintenance needs, corrective actions to resolve incidents, or service improvement projects. Changes may require adherence to change management policies including formal authorizations, approvals, peer reviews, risk assessments and lead times for notifying Customers and scheduling changes.

IET notifies Customers about planned technology systems are changes that may have a risk of directly or indirectly impacting IET services.

Responsibilities Between Parties

Information and Educational Technology

Information and Educational Technology shall be responsible for ensuring that reasonable skill, care and diligence are exercised in carrying out the services properly and efficiently in accordance with this service level agreement.

Data and Information

Transnational data and information supplied by the Customer or its clients are owned by the Customer. IET serves as custodian of these data and will take measures to house, backup and protect the data for the Customer, consistent with the services, and as appropriate.

General Customer Responsibilities

Customer agrees to use and pay for the services in accordance with the terms of this agreement and in compliance with any overarching UC Davis policies.

Customer agrees to take appropriate steps to ensure compliance with The UC Davis Cyber-safety Policy and UC Davis Security Standards Policy (PPM Section 310-22).
Customer agrees not to engage in actions or activities that circumvent, compromise, or introduce risks to the policy, standards or the controls established to ensure cyber security compliance.

Customer is responsible for costs which result from improper use of the services and which cause damage or loss to IET or its Customers.

**Cancelations**

Unless otherwise specified in the IT Service Catalog, Customers who opt-in for one or more standard services may cancel services with a 90-day notice of cancellation, in writing. Cancellation requests may be withdrawn during the period of notice by mutual consent of the Service Manager and the Customer.

A shorter cancellation period is permitted by mutual consent of the Service Manager and Customer. IET will continue to provide services until the end of the notice period or until such time as a new starting date is agreed-to.

The Customer remains responsible for obligations and any charges for the services provided until the end of the notice period or until such time as a new starting date or alternative arrangements have been agreed-to with the Service Manager.

**Escalation**

If the Customer is dissatisfied with any aspect of the services provided by IET or the Customer wishes to cancel services, the following escalation procedure will be used to reach a resolution:

**Escalating Issues and Concerns**

**Step 1:** The Customer will contact the Service Manager to discuss the issue.

**Step 2:** If the Customer is not satisfied with the resolution of the issue with the Service Manager, the Service Owner should be contacted to discuss the issue.