The VLBI Data Interchange Format: 13 Years On

This data management plan covers the period of 2022-06 to 2023-06.

Survey data looking at adoption rate, usage, and common technical and governance issues regarding the VDIF data format—the format standard created to allow inter-organisational data correlation and Very Long Baseline Interferometry (VLBI) for applications including geodesy, astrometry, astronomy, and space domain awareness (spacecraft and debris tracking).

Responses include information from key VLBI operators (typically research institutions) about when they adopted the VDIF format, what issues they have faced with producing their own VDIF data and incorporating VDIF data from other institutions, as well as a sample of VDIF-formatted data they have produced.

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Special Considerations for Data

Personal or potentially identifiable content

Survey will request that each respondent provide a contact email address, in case there is issue with their data sample upload that needs to be followed up on. It can be assumed that email addresses could be used to infer the identity of individual respondents, but:

a) they are not regarded as sensitive or highly personal information,
b) the survey responses they are associated with only contain information about their organisation and not them as an individual, and
c) they will not otherwise be used in the study and will not be used to identify respondents.

All data collected in this study will be accessible only to the project team, and—once collected by an online survey platform—will be kept in the University of Tasmania's recommended secure data storage.

Data Services (Incomplete/live datasets)

The following data services will be utilised as appropriate to store incomplete datasets. Dataset management will be consistent with the University of Tasmania's Management of Research Data Procedure which is consistent with the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research.

UTAS OneDrive

Update DataService.ExportDescription with the text that should appear in the PDF export.

Data Publishing (Complete/finalised datasets)

The following data services will be utilised as appropriate to store complete datasets. Dataset management will be consistent with the University of Tasmania's Management of Research Data Procedure which is consistent with the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research.

Name	URL	Management Options
UTAS Research Data Portal	rdp.utas.edu.au	Publish or Archive

Archived Datasets

Archived datasets will be permanently archived through the the University of Tasmania's Research Data Portal. Metadata (RIF-CS) will be used to describe each dataset/s and will be stored with the data file/s across multiple sites within Tasmania and on a variety of media including magnetic tapes. The University has a current capacity to store 8 petabytes of data and is scalable to a 10-fold increase.

Data from this project will not be made publicly available

Data collected contains information regarding professional practices and IT infrastructure in international research organisations that frequently collaborate with defence agencies, so the data could potentially be used alongside other information sources to do harm to the organisation (though the chances are minuscule). This might be something that could be worked around, but the nature of the data as regards to evolving hardware systems also means it will remain relevant and valid for a very short amount of time, so the measures needed to make it able to be shared would not be justified by the value it could present for future study.

Relevant information from the survey will be published in a form that is suitable for sharing, so future work that follows on from this study can use that rather than the raw data.