



Research Data Centre (FDZ)  
of the German Federal  
Employment Agency (BA)  
at the Institute for  
Employment Research (IAB)

# The Research-Data-Centre in Research-Data-Centre Approach: A First Step Towards Decentralised International Data Sharing

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# Agenda

1. Motivation
2. Situation in Germany
3. Idea of RDC-in-RDC
4. Technical Implementation
5. Stage of Work - Outlook

# 1. Motivation

- Growing demand for high quality micro data
- Portfolio of strategies applied in order to provide micro data access: approved researchers, approved projects, safe settings (RDCs, enclaves), etc.
- Ideal way of data access: remote data access
  - Decentralised way of data access
  - Minimisation of transaction costs

# 1. Motivation

- Remote data access (examples):
  - National Opinion Research Center (NORC)
  - Australian Bureau of Statistics (RADL)
  - Statistics Denmark
  - Statistics Netherlands (OnSite@Home)
  - Statistics Sweden (MONA)
  - Statistics Canada (RTRA)
  - Office of National Statistics/UK Data Archive: VML and SDS
  - National Institute for Statistics and Economic Studies (INSEE)/The French Data Archive (CASD)
    - Eurostat: ESSnet Project on decentralized Access to EU Microdata
- No remote data access: Germany

# 1. Motivation

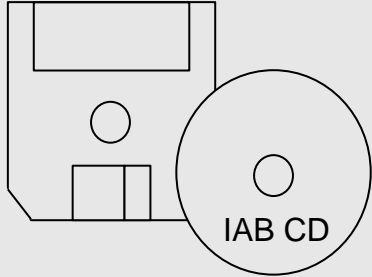
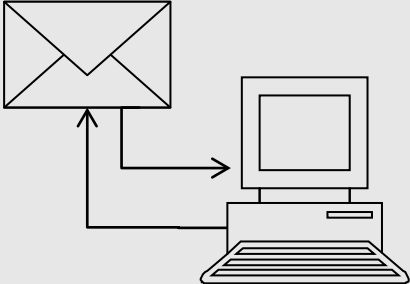
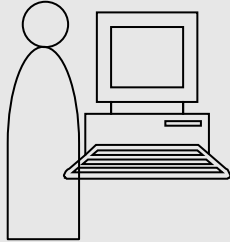
- **But:** Most of the existing remote access systems are restricted to national borders ⇒ no international micro data sharing  
Exception: Australia – New Zealand, The Netherlands, ESSnet
  - Argument: Enforcement of (national) confidentiality rules and contractual penalties beyond national borders
- ⇒ **RDC-in-RDC approach:**
- First step to establish a decentralised way of data access in Germany
  - Blueprint for international data sharing

## 2. Situation in Germany

- 1990s: „Set the data free“
- 2001: KVI recommended the foundation of RDCs to public producers of micro data in Germany
- 2011: around 20 RDCs in Germany
- 2004: RDC (FDZ) of the German Federal Employment Agency (BA) at the Institute for Employment Research (IAB) was founded in Nuremberg, Germany
- Data available at FDZ:
  - Admin data based on social security notifications and internal procedures of the BA
  - Survey data

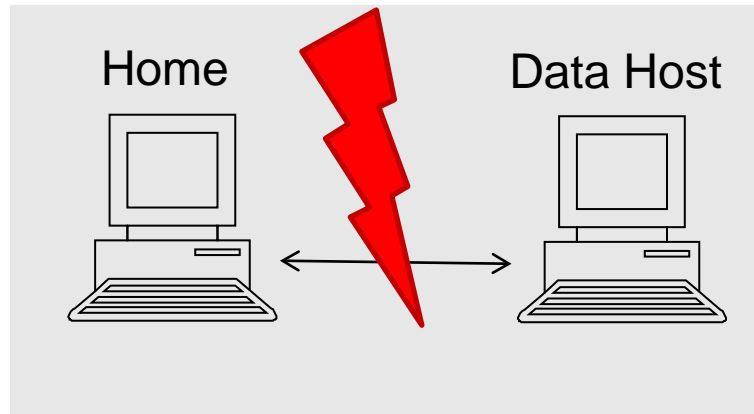
## 2. Situation in Germany

- Ways of data access at the FDZ:

Off-Site Use		On-Site Use
		
CD or Download (Scientific Use File)	Remote Execution	Guest Stay
Factually anonymous	Weakly anonymous	

### 3. Situation in Germany

- Due to legal restrictions: **no** remote data access



- Guest stays are costly and time consuming
- Remote data execution: researcher has to program at random
- Step towards remote data access: **RDC-in-RDC approach**

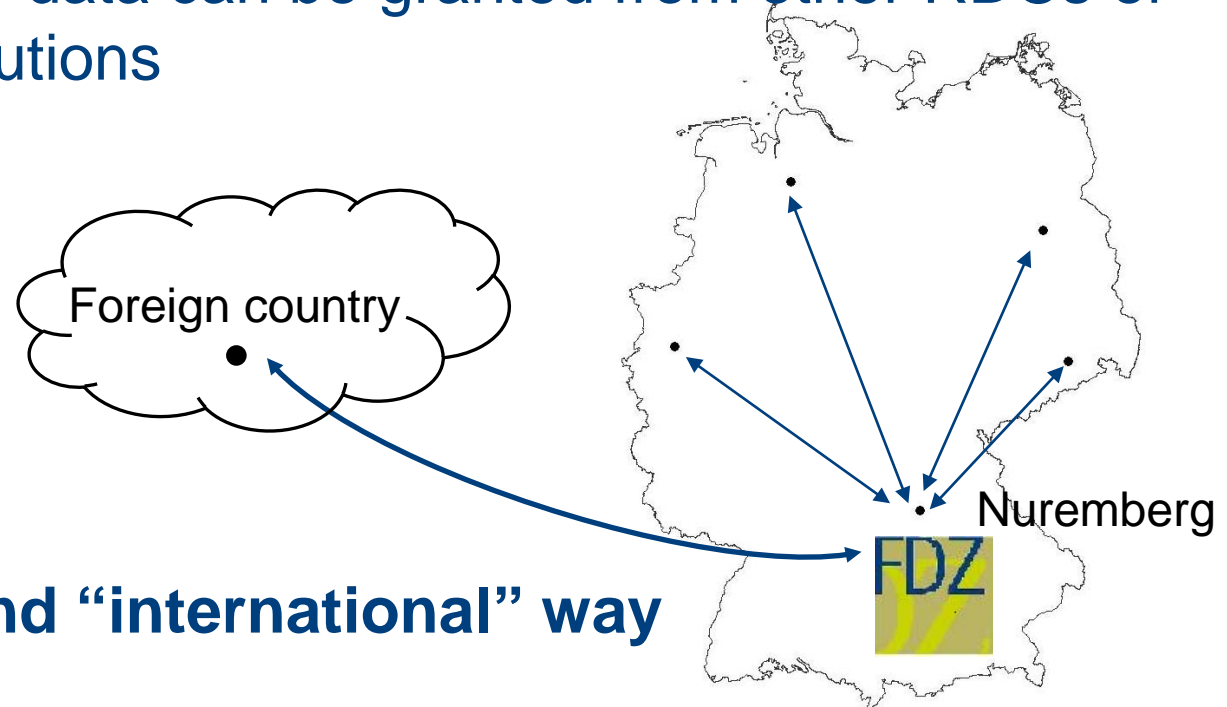


### 3. Idea of RDC-in-RDC

- Comparable standards in nearly all RDCs over the world
- Access to BA/IAB data can be granted from other RDCs or comparable institutions

- in Germany
- and **abroad.**

⇒ **Decentralised and “international” way  
of data access**

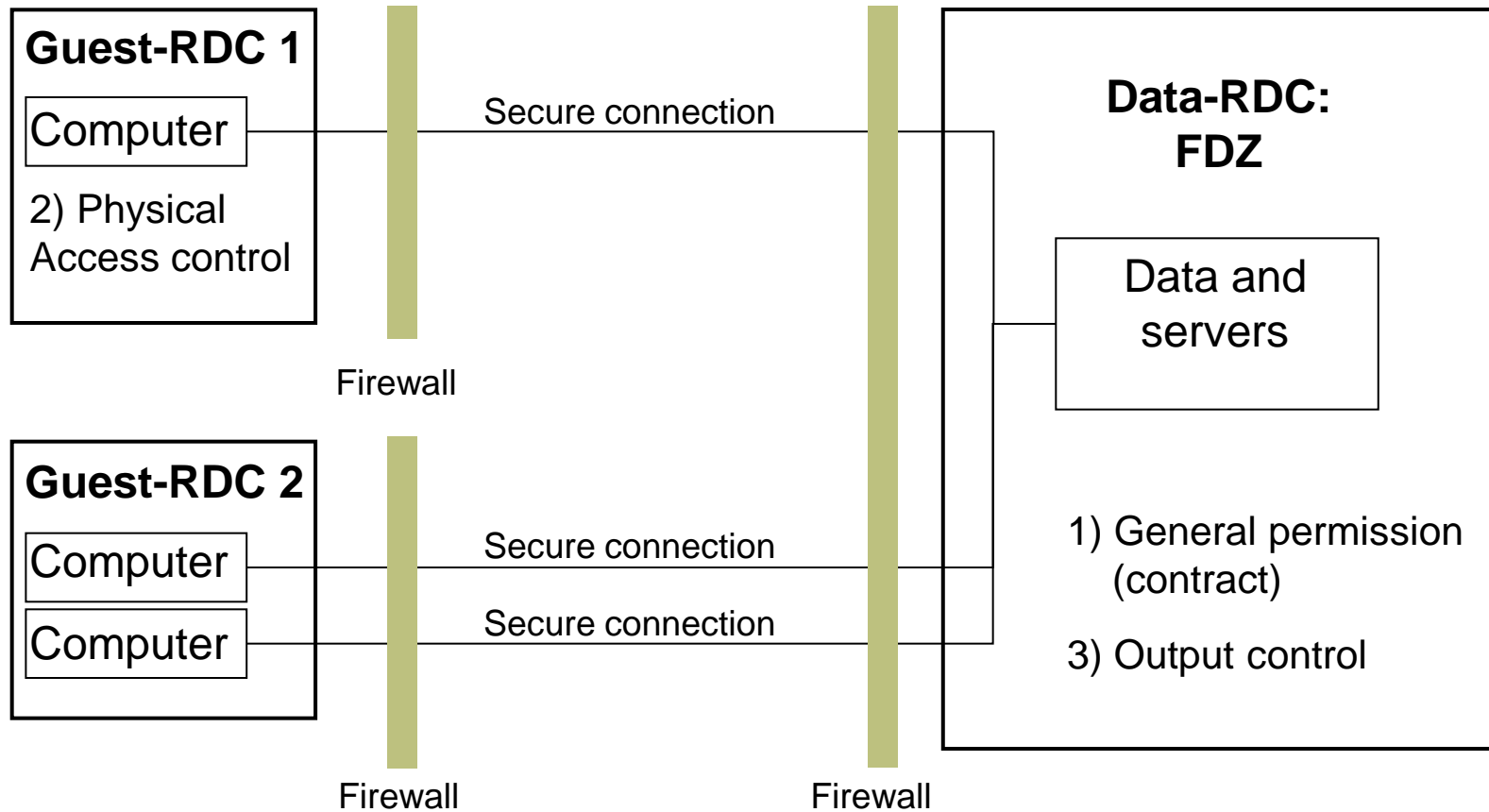


### 3. Idea of RDC-in-RDC

- Locations:

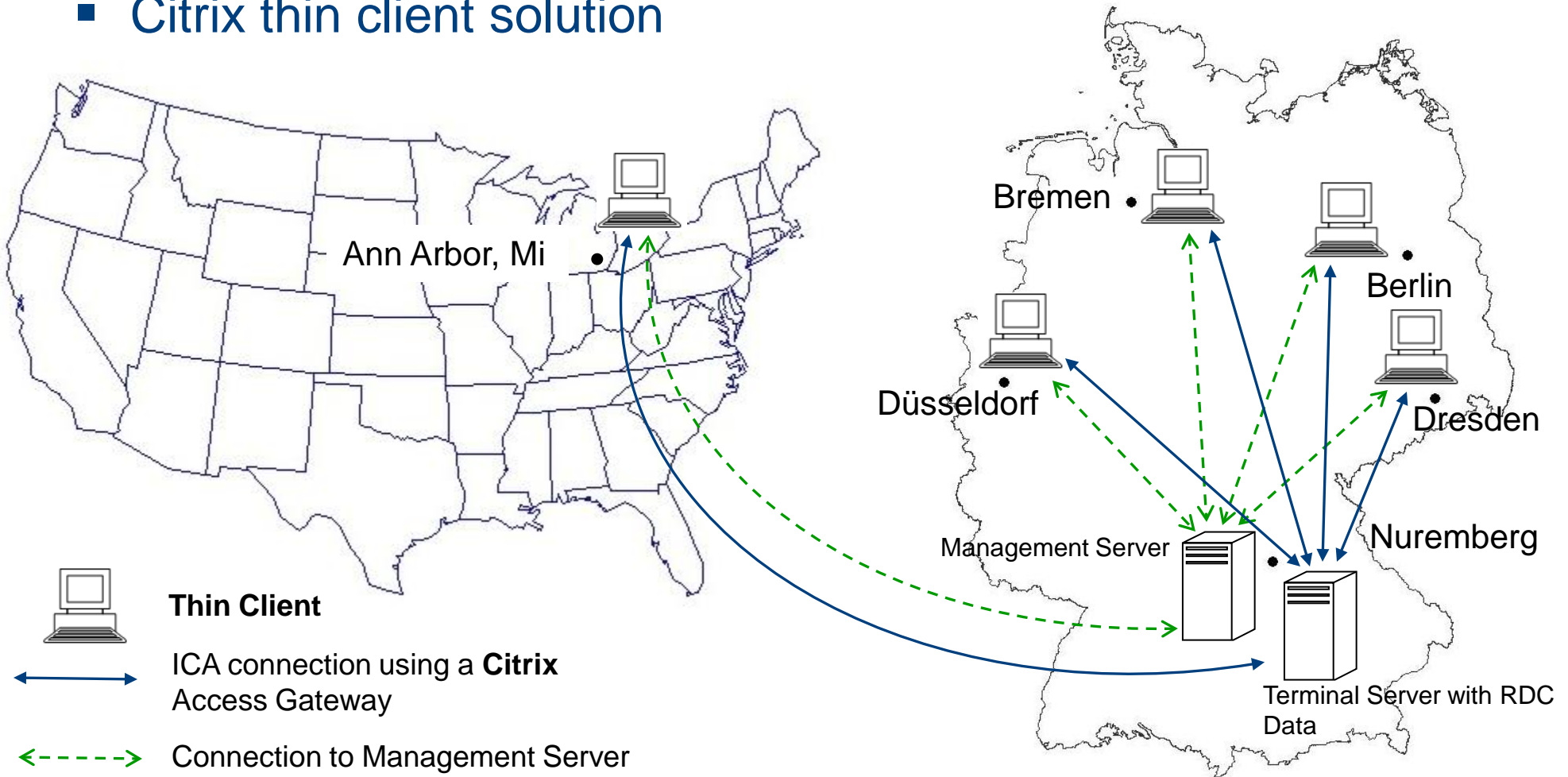
	Germany	USA
Hosting Institution	Statistical Offices of the Länder	Institute for Social Research (ISR) MiCDA enclave
Sites	Berlin Bremen, Düsseldorf Dresden	Ann Arbor, Mi
Physical Access Control	No additional on-site staff	Additional trained on-site staff is required

### 3. Idea of RDC-in-RDC



# 4. Technical Implementation

- Citrix thin client solution



## 4. Technical Implementation

- Advantages of a Citrix based solution:
  - Commercial and widely used: technical support will be available for the next years
  - Approved software which can be used „across borders“
  - Used by other RDCs (e.g. NORC, Statistics Netherlands) ⇒ standardisation
  - Researchers have to accustom to only one software

## 5. Stage of Work - Outlook

- Fund raising is completed:
  - Grant by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) for at least two years
- First evaluation after two years
- Currently finalising agreements with host institutions
- Installation of thin clients and Citrix connections is scheduled for May 2011
- After test operation at one site (Berlin) start of regular operation

## 5. Stage of Work - Outlook

- Future projects:
  - Further sites: Germany, Italy (Rome), UK (Colchester, University of Essex)
  - Hosting other German or foreign data at the FDZ – Data from France, Italy and the Netherlands

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