



**United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
Statistical Division**

UNECE Big Data Project: Innovative Working Methods



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How to work together for minimum cost and maximum benefit?

Web conferencing

❖ Flexibility



- ❖ Free for participants - Join meetings from office, home, airport, ...
- ❖ Screen sharing

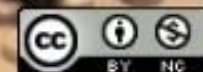
Sprints



UNECE



Created by Håkan Forss @hakanforss <http://hakanforss.wordpress.com>



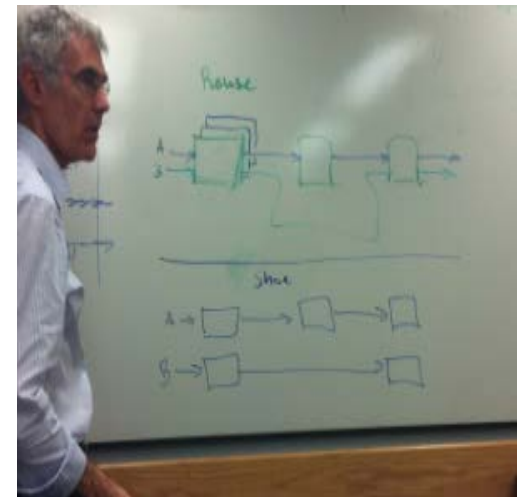
Sprint – Ottawa April 2013



- ❖ 15 people
- ❖ 10 organisations
- ❖ 5 days



- ❖ Result: The first draft of the Common Statistical Production Architecture



Virtual sprints

- 2 hours per day
- 1 week
- Off-line work
- Shared output



Wikis

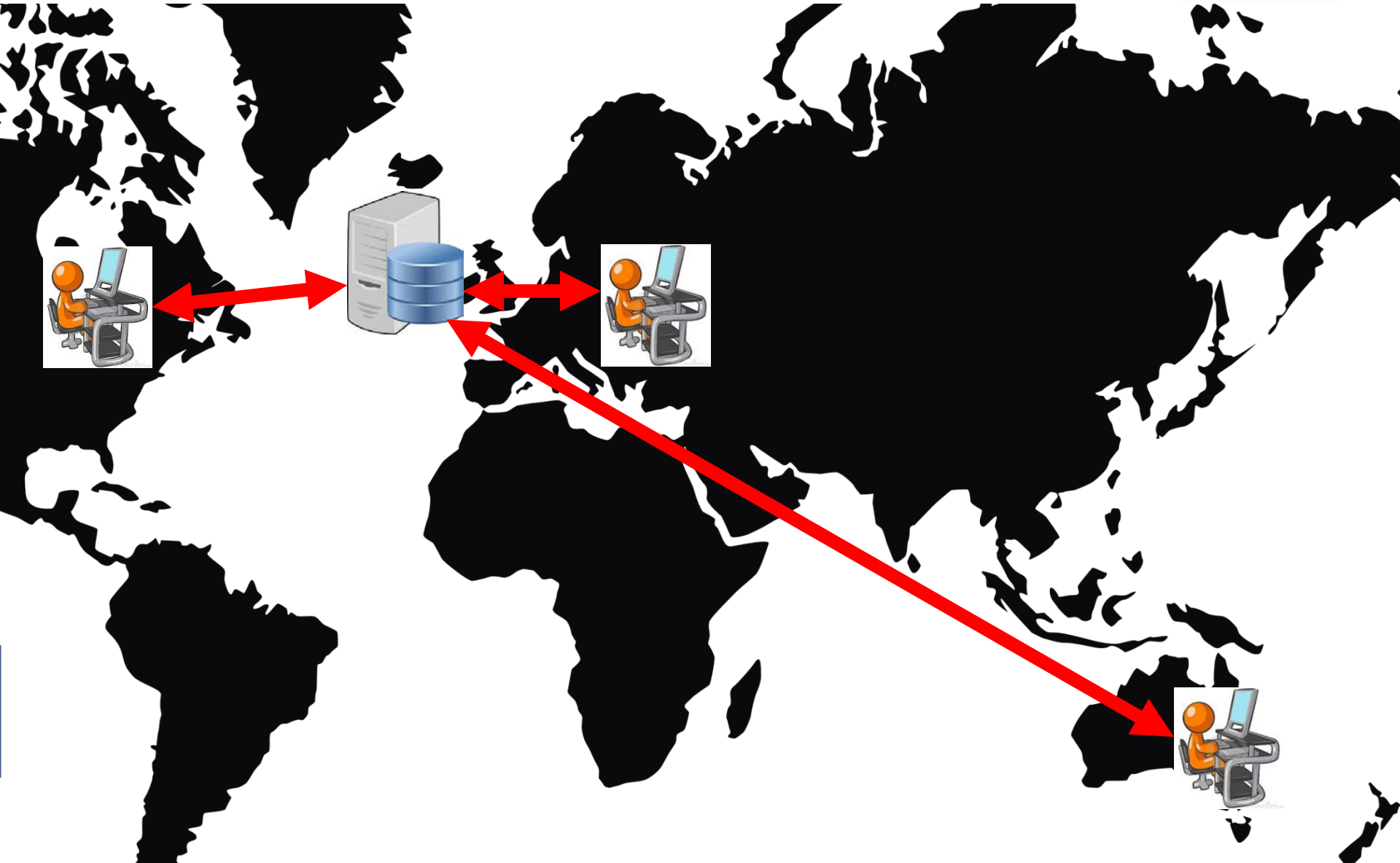
- ❖ Central working area and store
- ❖ Good for joint drafting of papers
- ❖ Accessible anywhere with a web connection

Sandbox

- ❖ Irish Centre for High-end Computing is hosting a Big Data ‘sandbox’ containing datasets and tools



“Play is the highest form of research” – Einstein



Sandbox: Aims

- ❖ Is remote access and processing a feasible approach for producing statistics from big data?
- ❖ Which statistical methods can we use with Big Data?
- ❖ Which Big Data software is most useful for statistical organisations?
- ❖ What are the potential uses, advantages and disadvantages of Big Data?
- ❖ Can we build an international collaboration community on the use of Big Data?



The future?

- ❖ Increased opportunities for virtual collaboration
- ❖ Global and regional projects and networks
- ❖ Cost is not a barrier to participation

- ❖ Shared infrastructures for data processing
 - Regional hubs?
 - But - confidentiality issues to be resolved!
- ❖ International partnerships to access and use international data sources