



# **NSDS Attributes and Functions:**

## **Facilitated Discussion**

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# Vision for a National Secure Data Service: Attributes and Functions

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## ***Structural requirement***

- Legally recognized entity with hardware, software, and administrative infrastructure and capacity

## ***Required organizational attributes***

- Transparency and trust
- Accessibility
- Independence
- Legal responsibility to acquire, protect, and link data
- Scalable functionality
- Sustainability
- Oversight and accountability
- Intergovernmental support

## ***Required functional capabilities***

- Coordinating function (across governmental and non-governmental entities)
- Communicating function (value and use of data in government)
- R&D Function (data privacy, linkage technology)
- Data concierge/librarian function

# What are User Stories and Requirements?

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## User Story

- A short simple description of an NSDS feature from the perspective of the feature's users

## Requirements

- A service, function, or feature that the NSDS needs to achieve its vision

## Discussing User Stories and NSDS Requirements: Intergovernmental Support

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*“Sub-national data are critical when assessing the outcomes achieved by federal programs. The NSDS would need the ability to coordinate across governmental boundaries, bringing in state and local governments as research partners for federal agencies.”*

What would beneficial features look like to a state, local, or tribal government user in support of intergovernmental coordination?

## Discussing User Stories and NSDS Requirements: R&D Function

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*“Innovation in this (privacy-preserving linkages) area, however, has been fragmented, illustrating both the need and promise for an NSDS that coordinates efforts and expedites research and development...Once the NSDS is established, it will support experiments and competitions aimed at developing new methods that increase secure access to data.”*

What are the requirements for a successful R&D function within the NSDS?

## Discussing User Stories and NSDS Requirements: Coordinating Function

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*“A particular area of focus will include identifying the best means for the NSDS to support a primary coordinating function with a research function. This will address how to coordinate across federal, state, and local entities while facilitating and promoting research and advances.”*

What are the requirements for a successful coordinating function within the NSDS?

## Discussing User Stories and NSDS Requirements: Independence

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*“To be successful, the NSDS must set strategic priorities and operate apart from political influence, while still coordinating closely with federal agencies.”*

What does “independence” mean in the context of the NSDS, and what requirements might the NSDS need beyond those codified for statistical agencies in Section 3563 of the Evidence Act?

## Discussing User Stories and NSDS Requirements: Other Attributes and Functions

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What are the requirements for a successful **communications** function within the NSDS?

What would an external user be looking for in **accessibility** features of the NSDS?

What legal requirements beyond those in CIPSEA, if any, are needed to support the NSDS's **responsibility to acquire, protect, and link data**?