

## Data security for the NitroEurope C1-C2-C3 database

We are working towards accessibility of all NitroEurope data to anyone who wants it. That is what we agreed in our Data Policy. However, it is happening gradually. Some NitroEurope PIs won't want any of their data made available just yet if they are still writing papers etc, while other PIs will want to release only some of their data to non-NEU scientists right away, and release other data later.

We have implemented a new procedure to facilitate this gradual access to data by non-NEU scientists, and to avoid excessive email notifications.

Its main features are:

- 1/ PIs can ask for the option to receive automatic emails to be switched "on" or "off", thus agreeing to, or avoiding, email notification when someone downloads data. We will make this a "self-service" option.
- 2/In addition, PIs can log onto the database and check who has downloaded their data.
- 3/When a non-NEU user first creates and runs a report to download data, the data is not automatically displayed on the screen, and it won't be downloadable (as is normal for NEU database users). Instead, the non-NEU user will be given on-screen instructions and an email link to the data owner to request that data. If the non-NEU user decides to click these links, the PI for each site selected for the report will receive automatic email notification that this user has requested data.

The PI must respond to this request (scientists in the UK must respond within 20 working days).

The PI can select from a range of options, specific for that user. These options will range from "allow this user access to all of my data at all times", through "allow this user access to this particular dataset, but no other data", to "do not allow this user access to any of my data right now because....". Thus the PI has total control over who (outside the NEU community) accesses which data, and when. In April 2013 all restrictions will be lifted and data will be freely accessible to all.

The database development team are monitoring the performance of this strategy, and will make changes as the need arises. Please let us know how well it works for you.

Thank you!

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Select "Reports"

1

Select "New Report"

2

-Give the report a name.  
-Ignore everything else on this screen for now.  
-Press the green "save" button at the bottom right hand side

3

These are the names of database forms. The names correspond to an NEU component and type of data. A downloadable guide to form and field names will be available soon. Click "+" next to a form, to reveal the "worksheets"

4

The "worksheet" names correspond to those of the original uploaded EXCEL data template. The names or descriptions indicate the type of data stored there. Click "+" to reveal all the data fields within a worksheet.

5

Some data fields have another "+" to click for "attributes", (eg stdev). Check the boxes next to field names and attributes that you want to download. Press the green "save" button at the bottom right hand side

6

Form filters – if you want, you can select ranges of data for data fields. Ignore the "frequency" option for now. Press the green "save" button.

7

Report Details screen showing report name, type, frequency, and grouping options.

8

**RUN THE REPORT**  
Select a date range. Select sites or ecosystems (press CTRL for multi-select) . Press "run report" below.

9

Your report is ready to save ("done") or run ("run report"). Click the appropriate button at the bottom of the screen

10

**WHY:** bother to use the NEU database to get the data I need?

**BECAUSE:**

- i) you get easy access to NEU data across activities and sites, when you know how
- ii) site managers should not have to keep emailing out submitted data sets



To modify a report - Click "Edit"

Then click "edit" here to change report details, report fields and/or report filters (not shown).

Editing Report Details - you can:

- Select "report" or "graph"
- Select "frequency" to summarise data
- Select "Group by" to aggregate data
- Opt to display site data side by side
- Display field descriptions
- Make your report visible to everyone

Editing Report Fields - you can:

- add or delete fields or attributes,
- select fields from different worksheets and forms.

Editing Filters- you can:

- select value ranges (A),
- choose "average, max, min, sum" of data values, IF you selected "Frequency" in report details (B),
- change the colour of graph lines (C)

Example of Report output:  
Frequency = 1 hour  
Grouping = 1 day  
3 sites selected, one has no data uploaded  
Horizontal display of the sites selected

Graph of same report (3 sites)  
Date ranges can be changed on-screen (A)  
Click and select area to zoom in (B)

Graph of long time series first displays data at the beginning of the date range. Scroll the small bar (A) to see more data. Use "reset" (B) or "zoom" (C) to see entire dataset overview.

Graph: only 1 data field, plot for >1 sites, showing zooming

"Switch to pin mode" (A) : copy a section of data (B) and move it to compare with another section (C)

Graph: only 1 site can be selected if several data fields are reported.

Click "Print" to download a pdf file of the data.

Any questions, problems or suggestions? Contact [neudata@ceh.ac.uk](mailto:neudata@ceh.ac.uk)

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