Message Exchange for Social Care and Health (MESH)

NHS Digital

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Information and technology
for better health and care

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What is MESH?

- MESH is a secure application-to-application messaging service
- Message Exchange for Social Care and Health
- NHS Digital developed and managed service
- Functional replacement for DTS
- Use of robust, secure and modern Spine Core infrastructure
- Available on N3 and Internet

Key facts about MESH

- 15+ million messages exchanged every month
- 6500 active accounts
- 9000+ organisations
- NHS Digital Service
- Use of robust, secure and modern Spine infrastructure
- Expanded uses to new areas
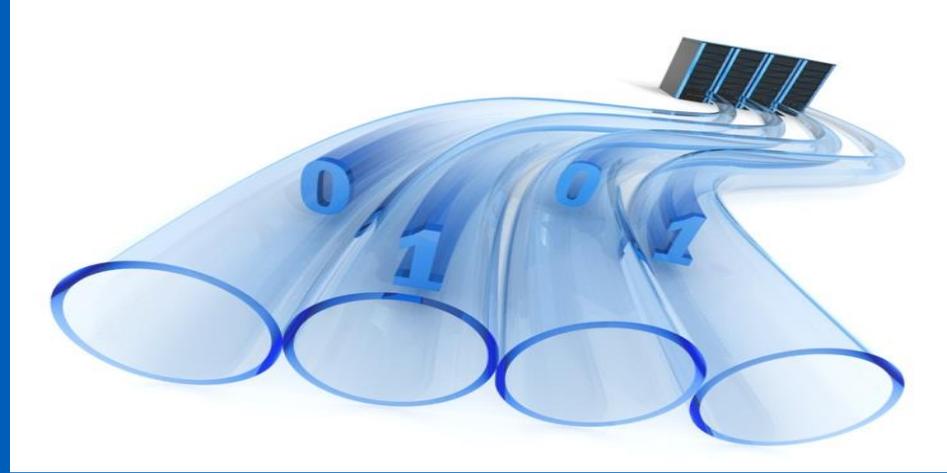
How does MESH work?

- Messages comprises
  - Control (.ctl) file – addressing information
  - Attachment (.dat) file – renamed attachment
- Maximum file size up to 100MB
- MESH client controls delivery
  - Polls MESH mailbox
- Simple delivery mechanism
  - Out folder for sending
  - In folder for receiving
- Delivery/non-delivery reports generated

MESH – How it works
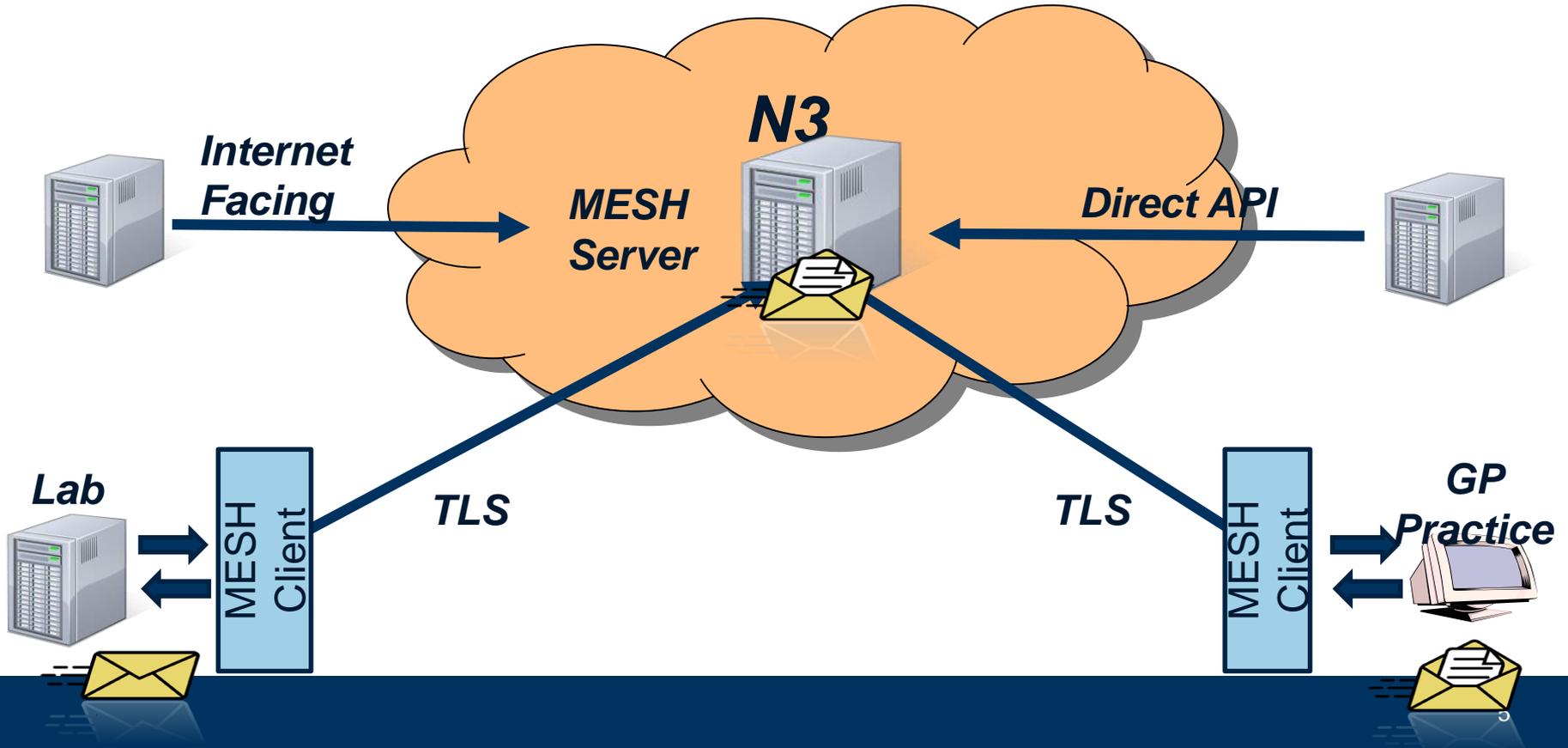
Introducing the MESH client

- Java based client (JVM 1.7)
- SSL mutual authentication using Java Keystore
- Supported on Windows server and client, Linux, Solaris, SCO, AIX, HP-UX
- Wizard-based installation
- Automatic Updates
- Command-line support
- Can be run as a Windows service

MESH Server API

- New feature with MESH
- HTTP based API
- Enables suppliers to integrate directly with MESH
- Replaces MESH/DTS client
- Specification available

MOLES

- **M**ESH **O**n**L**ine **E**nquiry **S**ervice (MOLES)
- Functional replacement for DTS Registration and Tracking Service (RATS)
- Smartcards required to access the service
- User/organisation administration
- Message Tracking, Trading Partner Report, Mailbox Lookup, API

MESH Roadmap

- MESH client support for larger files using file chunking (20Gb)

- MESH Endpoint Lookup to support eDischarge
  - Web interface to find MESH mailbox
  - RESTful API interface available
  - Initially ODS Code and WorkflowId (message type)
  - Expanding to NHS Number and D.O.B

- Demographics Query/Response – replacement for DBS

MESH User Interface

Summary

- Simple interface for sending/receive messages
- Live now – handles 15m+ message per month
- Different client solutions available
- 24x7 support
- Planned roadmap of product develop

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https://www.digital.nhs.uk/messaging-exchange-social-care-health

Questions