

# PARTAGE:

## The French R&E community on-premise pooled collaborative email solution

In collaboration with various Universities and research centres, RENATER (the French Research and Education Network) has introduced an Email Collaborative Suite, called PARTAGE.

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RENATER hosts and operates PARTAGE as collaborative SaaS (Software as a Service) complying with the French Government data security recommendations, including GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation). PARTAGE is a web-based suite where users can benefit from several other services, including Anti-Spam, videoconferencing by RENATER, and FileSender, and it is available both in desktop and mobile mode through standard protocols (imap, smtp, CalDav, WebDav, ActiveSync, XMPP, etc.). PARTAGE means "to share" in French. The name is inspired by one of the service's pillars: putting the community and its needs at the very centre of PARTAGE.

The collaborative suite addresses the community's needs through the following three areas:

1. Day-to-day activities, such as keeping the platform available 24/7, preparing newcomers with scalable infrastructure, and releasing the developments pushed by the community. One example is the integration in the Online Office Suite, based on Libre Office.
2. The users who help to define the future developments or even share their own open-source codes through RENATER qualifying and integrating processes.

3. The extended community who runs similar incentives which can integrate with PARTAGE. For example, FileSender operated by RENATER can be directly drawn from PARTAGE."

Add-ons are possible through the open-source solution Zimbra and its web-based implementation with a plugin system called Zimlet. It allowed us to create a collaborative platform which includes instant messaging and videoconferencing. The platform's main functionalities are also useable both on desktops and mobile phones.



Moreover, PARTAGE has the advantage of being an outsourced platform with the administrative flexibility of an internalised one. First of all, each institution keeps its own domain name, RENATER does not provide nor impose a common "edu" domain. Then, the institution's administrators can easily connect their systems through the solution's APIs or use the dedicated interface allowing direct management and control over their environment.

The second pillar is about the constant challenge of maintaining the service availability versus the security and scalability, neither of which obviously can be compromised on. 40% growth for the last three years; more than 99.9% availability for 2020.

The worldwide growing concerns of data sovereignty have led RENATER to early on make the choice to host and operate all its infrastructures in France. Data ownership has become more and more relevant with the growth of the major commercial platforms. Therefore, it is compliant with GDPR and aims to preserve scientific and technical heritage.

In summary, PARTAGE is the premise of a growing collaborative email platform that could lead to much more to come.

To read more about PARTAGE visit <https://partage.renater.fr/> or contact the team at [offre-partage@renater.fr](mailto:offre-partage@renater.fr)

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