FAQ

How has Spin evolved since the original formation of the *Shared Pathology Informatics Network?*

Spin has evolved into a general framework for constructing federated networks of data sources. Spin's core feature is data-agnostic support for broadcasting queries and aggregating results, allowing collections of data sources to be treated as a single conceptual unit.

The Spin framework provides a plugin architecture to support specific types and sources of data.

Do Spin networks use a peer-to-peer (P2P) topology or a hub-spoke topology?

Spin can support many network topologies, including peer-to-peer and hub-and-spoke. The same Spin node can be configured to participate at different points in different topologies simultaneously.

P2P models are often deployed when there are a limited number of institutions. A fully-meshed P2P topology has the advantage that no single institution is the "hub". This is beneficial for political reasons, and avoids a hub being a single point of failure. The downside is that more complex configuration is required.

Hub-and-spoke networks are commonly used when there are a larger number of institutions where each one trusts the others. Hub-and-spoke networks are simpler to configure, but create single points of failure - the hubs.

See Video Presentation by David Ortiz

Does Spin support searches for coded clinical data, free text medical notes, or other?

Spin has evolved from a pathology-specific utility to a generalized framework for query federation. Spin is data-agnostic, and consequently is not intended to support specific data types by default. However, applications written using Spin support querying for specific data types. For example: Coded clinical data can be searched using the SHRINE system, including Demographics, Diagnoses(ICD9),Medications(RxNorm) and Lab values. Medical free text can be searched using PSL and the Scrubber.

See Developer Guide by Clint Gilbert