**DeGAUSS Supplemental information**

|  |
| --- |
| **What is DeGAUSS and why does the PAC3 registry want to use it?** |
| The DeGAUSS tool is a decentralized geocoding tool that was developed at the University of Cincinnati. It uses a container software called Docker and allows each member institution of PAC3to extract information pertaining to socioeconomic disparities on each of their patients in the registry in a HIPAA-compliant manner. The tool allows centers to extract various variables that are referred to as “images” from national databases including the US Census and American Community Survey including deprivation index, distance to hospital from home, and air pollution. This allows hospitals to safely share demographic variables on multihospital registry projects without sharing any PHI such as a zip code. You can read more about DeGAUSS on their homepage [here](https://degauss.org/index.html). You can read more about DeGAUSS images, which contain the actual demographic variables, [here](https://degauss.org/available_images.html). |
| **Can I watch a presentation or demo about DeGAUSS to better understand where it will fit in the framework of our registry work?** |
| Yes! Dr. Cole Brokamp, the creator of this tool, presented at the Spring 2021 PAC3 Conference which you can see [here](https://cchmc.sharepoint.com/%3Av%3A/r/sites/pac3/Style%20Library/Conferences/Spring%202021%20Virtual%20Conference/Conference%20Recordings/PAC3_Path%203-%20Network%20Wide%20QI%20Project%20Announcement.mp4?csf=1&web=1&e=TKUqtg). His presentation starts at 7:32. Erika Rasnick introduced DeGAUSS and how to run it in this [VIDEO](https://dallaschildrens.sharepoint.com/%3Av%3A/r/teams/PAC-3/Shared%20Documents/Registry/DeGAUSS/DeGAUSS%20Presentation%2026Jan2022.mp4?csf=1&web=1&e=fKmwHg). |
| **Our heart center IS person isn’t familiar with DeGAUSS. What information can we give them?** |
| The software containers created for DeGAUSS are hosted in an online repository and Docker is used to download and run these; not unlike an R or python installation that utilizes packages from an online repository like CRAN. (For more information on Docker, see page 3)Citations from publications are available on the website: <https://degauss.org/>DeGAUSS is open-source federally funded software, and you can view the GNU General Public License here: [https://github.com/degauss-org/geocoder/blob/master/LICENSE](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__github.com_degauss-2Dorg_geocoder_blob_master_LICENSE&d=DwMGaQ&c=occRtaWYtfl4zUTjOCYfRw&r=7_F7v_hPdDmka3l9TiHQMeMcyeFUYP0X64ViOK3IA7Q&m=-Dg7bZcNaK9dSLV2oBZlxP7gFvVLp9TJ4Ipt-IsHOrfZPoHYPdeIYItkxQp2p5jh&s=JHDnIb0fprv9D5lZHD1KX9bSKf_GGJWaJN46-ujfQdI&e=)This means that you cannot buy a license or purchase support for the software. The creator, Cole Brokamp, and his team are very responsive to all questions. |
| **Who else has used the DeGAUSS tool?** |
| Columbia University, Vanderbilt University, Cincinnati Children’s, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Boston Children’s Hospital, Harvard University, Weill Cornell Medicine, Mayo Clinic, Northwestern University and many more. Check out other users here at the bottom of the page. <https://degauss.org/index.html> |

|  |
| --- |
| **How does the patient information get protected?** |
| All data entered is never exposed to a third party or the internet. There is a build in fail-safe in the Health Equity module when uploading data to prevent any PHI to be delivered to the data registry. These items are identified by the headings on each .csv file. |
| **My department approved the use of Docker and it’s been downloaded on my computer and I’m ready to go! How do I use DeGAUSS?** |
| Read carefully about how to geocode [here](https://degauss.org/pac3.html). Again, rules for Mac versus PC users will be a bit different. You can also view a video of the PAC3 data manager running this tool using the geocoder image and the deprivation index image [here](https://cchmc.sharepoint.com/%3Av%3A/r/sites/pac3/AnalyticsReports/DeGAUSS/DeGauss%20Image%20Tutorial.mp4?csf=1&web=1&e=lh3ywh). You can also access the video directly on Sharepoint by clicking on “Registry” on the left-hand side of the screen when you sign in and then click on the “DeGAUSS” folder. Note that when you use the DeGAUSS tool, you **MUST** run your baseline spreadsheet with the patient IDs (the same as PAC3/PC4 patient IDs) and patient addresses through the geocoder image first to get census tract information before running it through the other images that have actual demographic information such as dep\_index, drivetime, etc. The video demonstrates this. |

**Docker Supplemental information**

|  |
| --- |
| **I received an email saying the grace period for Docker is ending and we will have to start paying for it. Will this affect our ability to use DeGAUSS?** |
| No. The charges are referring to for-profit organizations that want to create their own containers and host them using Docker Hub. The “Docker Desktop" software that you will be using to analyze data will always be free and open source. The charges are for the extra enterprise features that they are now advertising. You can get this free version by going to https://degauss.org/using\_degauss.html and clicking on either “macOS” or “Windows” link in the first paragraph. |
| **Is Docker paid for by PAC3 for participating centers?** |
| See above. |
| **I installed Docker and get a notification that says, “Docker Desktop – Access denied. You must be in the docker-users group.” How to I proceed?** |
| It may be that you have to be added to your hospital’s user list, which will be done through your IT/IS department. |
| **Where will the Docker software be stored?** |
| The Docker software is downloaded to the work computer of everyone in your department that will be using the software. Most of the time, it will be a PAC3 data champion and/or a data analyst or data manager within your department. Docker works on all operating systems, but please note that directions for how to install the software and how to run DeGAUSS differ for Mac and PC users. Directions on how to install Docker are [here](https://degauss.org/using_degauss.html). |
| **Where can IT inquire about documentation and security for the Docker software to approve its use?** |
| Please contact the Docker customer support web page [here](https://www.docker.com/company/contact). If you scroll down to “Support & Documentation” and click on “Docker Docs” that page might have the documentation your IT is looking for. Otherwise, click on “Contact Support.” |