

Firefox Plastic Add-On

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Use case

- I'm using a web browser
 - I find some interesting file
 - A VO portal gives links to datasets
- How do I load these into my favourite VO application ?

Existing solutions

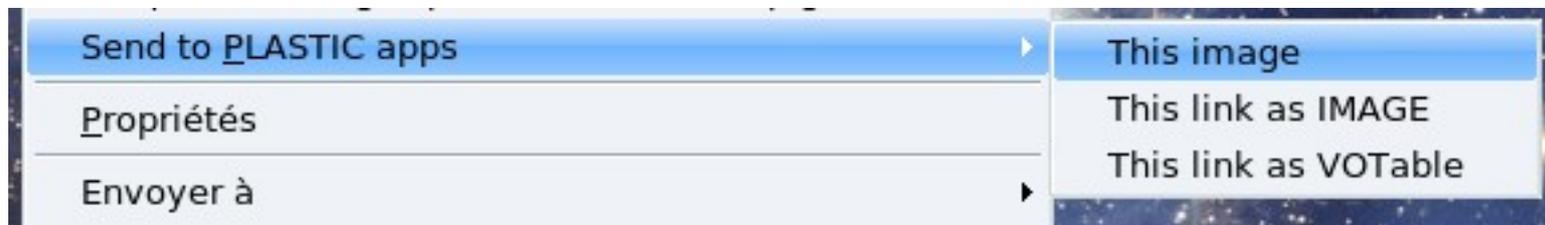
- Save and reopen
 - Browser: Click > Save as > Browse to dir
 - VO app: File > Open > Browse to dir
- Rely on a Content-Type
 - Not always properly set by servers
 - Helper applications ambiguous
 - Open with > Browse to binary app
 - Might launch a new instance of app

What about PLASTIC?

- PLASTIC-enabled Java control applet
 - Zolotukhin & Chilingarian (ADASS-XVII)
 - Need:
 - applet integration on server side
 - java support in browser & security
 - Example: <http://galmer.obspm.fr/>

Plastic add-on for Firefox

- Create an extension for Firefox
- Right-click in browser can:
 - send current image to VO apps
 - send target link (FITS, VOTable) to VO apps
- <http://astro.u-strasbg.fr/~derriere/PLASTIC/>
- <https://addons.mozilla.org/fr/firefox/developers/details/6783>



How it works (+demo)

- Written in JS and XUL
 - uses native XML-RPC js library in Firefox
 - issue with firefox 3 beta
 - easily upgradable to SAMP?
- Detect if a hub is running
 - get URI to talk to the hub
- Register browser to the hub
 - get back registered Id
- Send msg + target URL to apps
- Unregister