

IVOA Assessment

Propositions for actions

Open questions

(May 17th, 2007)

General IVOA presentation on Web site

- Urgent action FG+BR+others?
 - Revisit ‘About IVOA’
 - A concise mission statement (cf Guidelines for participation)
 - Links to
 - Architecture/Roadmap documents
 - Guidelines for participation
 - Additional writing also probably needed to describe the present status in understandable form, including transition to operations

Proceeding towards our goals

- Part of the answer is in the hand of the projects: commit time from individuals – funding needed
- Dealing with problems at Exec level
 - **Reinforce the role and structure of TCG:**
 - Appoint a vice-chair (Action = Exec)
 - Actions on the chair/vice-chair:
 - Revisit the TCG charter (WG/IG coordination, detection management of cross-WG actions, detection/management of problems, alert the Exec if needed,...)
 - Define the management and products: share of work between the chair and vice-chair, regular meetings/telecons, yearly Roadmap in May, updated after the fall interop, ...
 - **Write a charter for the Exec: FG + DDY**

Including the fact that the Exec has to act when critical problems are not solved at WG/TCG level

IVOA Exec communication

- **Web site update: FG + BR+ ?**
 - Create an Exec web Page
 - Add the Exec chair in the list of contact person, + a list of national points of contacts (one per project), in the ‘Contact’ page
 - Set up a public ‘question to the Exec’ Web page
 - Meeting minutes too difficult to find
- **At Interops**
 - Information from the Chair at all Interop, with sufficient time for discussion (‘town house’ meeting)
 - Exec + TCG + WG/IG vice-chairs meeting
- **‘News from the IVOA Exec’ in an informal form**
 - after each Exec meeting
 - between the Interops, summarizing achievements and highlighting priorities

IVOA Exec (2)

- Composition
 - Agreed to keep the present composition and consensus rule
 - Up to the IVOA chair to call for consensus to be built inside a project when there is divergence among the project representatives in IVOA Exec

WGs/IGs (1)

- Internal structuring
 - Ensure regular rotation of chairs
rules already set, apply them
 - Write a charter of WG chair role: MO + others
Chairs have to have enough time for their activities, be pro-active and involve teams in the standard definition, monitor implementations, identify and monitor cross-WG topics, distribute information
 - In each WG: define the role of the chair and co-chair; possibility to appoint a secretary; define who identifies and follows the cross-WG topics ; distribute information about the roles

WGs/IGs (2)

- Communication/collaboration between WGs
 - TCG
 - Create task force/tiger team/focussed teams such as “TEG” when required with proper WG representation

WGs/IGs (3)

- Possible new WGs:
 - Sun & solar system IG being studied
 - Evolution of IG Data CP
 - Many WG/IG (rotation of chairs) are now in transition phase: no major change in the WG structure now
- ? Linked to the evolution of the general strategy of IVOA:
 - Support to data centres
 - Support to science users (documentation, user-friendly support)
 - Entry point to tools and search engines for scientists

WGs/IGs (4)

- Begin to use the IAU WG since some standards need or will need soon to be formalized

Standardization procedures

- Speed up the procedures at WG/TCG/Exec levels.
Chairs/TCG/Exec in charge
- Present definition of ‘interoperable implementation’ for PR > R, which leaves room for some interpretation, is AGREED
- Clarify the need for ‘reference implementation’
- Validation services
- Major revisions not too often

Interop meetings

- Locate them more often where most of the community is
- Fall Interop : controversy
 - not enough time in 2-3 days
 - Just before ADASS, or in November?
 - Very useful to have it linked with ADASS
 - Proposal: workshop for data centres after ADASS
- **New people to organize Interops**
- In practice
 - Distribute the draft agenda earlier so that comments from the community can be gathered (not only from WG chairs)
 - Workshops, hackathons

Small project meetings

- What is the objective?
- Proposal: a meeting where all projects (small and big) present what they are doing every 2 years at Fall

Communication (1)

- Within IVOA
 - Cf above about Exec communication
 - “IVOA News” but who does it? Which target?
- **AGREED** that no Science Advisory Committee at IVOA level at this stage

Communication (2)

- Three communities
 - VO developers
 - Data centres which implement the VO framework
 - Science community
- Critical to improve communication towards the data centres/'hardware' astronomy projects and the science community (and feedback from implementation and science usage).
 - One task of the VO projects
 - Is that also an IVOA task?
 - If yes at which level does IVOA intervene?

Communication (3)

Comments from the assessment

- An excellent remark about the fact that WE know the difference between IVOA and the national project, but that this confuses the layman astronomer
- Section for VO newcomers (how to get involved; what can I do with VO – tutorials, events; How can I use it – list of tools, docs)
- Presence in conferences
- Use ADASS
- Widely distributed newsletter?
- Outreach for the general public, amateur astronomers?
- Road shows to be presented in labs rather than demo booths?

Communication (4)

- Improve communication with the Grid community
- How to be more pro-active to promote the VO in the less developed world, to which it is of critical importance?