

# Applications Messaging



- First task of Apps **Working Group** is to consider an Applications Messaging Standard
- motivated by
  - the success of PLASTIC
  - general desire for interoperability between apps
- What is it?
  - Making Astronomy tools work together

# PLASTIC experience

- Tools send each other simple messages
  - load a VOTable
  - load an image of given sky location
  - highlight a subset of points ...
- Simple operations, but significant increase in interoperability
  - no need for explicitly write/read files to desktop
  - makes multiple tools interactive
- Tools concentrate on their core functionality
  - interoperate for extra capabilities

## ... moreover

- Simple interoperability is stimulating innovation
  - multiple tools working together in ways we haven't really seen before
  - allows developers to act on VO concepts
- Probably possible with other technology but something about PLASTIC 'clicks'
  - Developers say *'easy to implement'*
  - Astronomers say *'it just works'*

# Apps Messaging Workplan

apps: Applications Messaging Standard - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

http://www.ivoa.net/forum/apps/0701/0156.htm

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## Draft Work-plan and Time-line.

1. Investigate the scope of an Applications messaging IVOA standard.
  - 1.1 Open mailing list discussion on messaging between VO apps in general.
    - *capture major concepts*
    - identify interested parties (Feb 2007)
  - 1.2 Prepare a short note on "Applications messaging for VO tools"
    - *define the scope of an Applications Messaging IVOA standard*
    - outline the major issues involved, and put the current possibilities into the context of short and longer term goals. (end-Feb 2007)
  - 1.3 Draft mission plan for standard development (Mar 2007)
2. IVOA Apps Applications Messaging Team

http://www.ivoa.net/forum/apps/0701/0156.htm

# progress

- Intense mailing list debates (100's of posts)
- covered wider scope envisaged for applications messaging, details of messaging infrastructures, delivery, semantics, message containers and content
- limitations and technical issues of PLASTIC

- Two classes of messages:
  - i) PLASTIC style messages which deal with high level data objects like images and tables which can be sent with a loosely defined message as in 'here is an image'.
  - ii) Messages which require a more precise description, such as commanding other tools to execute a parametrized task.

- Ideas for a general framework have been proposed, involving:
  - Separate **message container** and **message content model** elements
- much debate about the immediate approach
- overlap with GWS territory noted

# Consensus approach

- Cleaned-up & improved PLASTIC-like protocol on short time-scale, and recognition of other messaging needs.
- Working name: SAMP
- Longer term plans for general messaging being mapped out – see mailing list



# This meeting

- 2 Applications messaging sessions

## Applications Messaging Standard Sessions

Topic	Time
<b>Applications 4. Wed 16, 8:30-10:00 (parallel VOQL2)</b>	
Introduction - Mark ALLEN	8:30-8:40
State of play and plan for discussion - John TAYLOR & Mike FITZPATRICK	8:40-9:10
Discussion points for SAMP - JT & MF, moderated by MA & MT	9:10-10:20
Plan for Apps 5 session	10:20-10:30
<b>Applications 5. Thurs 17, 16:00-17:30 (parallel DAL5)</b>	
SAMP continued	16:00-17:00
Plan for documents and implementations	17:00-17:30

- Focus on practical decisions to be made for SAMP
- No re-run of mailing list debates!
- Formulate a plan for writing standards documents and implementations with timeline of 2-3 months after meeting