



# IVOA VOQL

---

Closing Plenary Session  
Beijing Interop meeting  
May 2007

# Sessions Held



## ■ Four Sessions:

---

- VOQL1: On ADQL Document
- VOQL2: on Utype “escaping” for discovery usage
- VOQL3-DAL3: on Table Access Problems
- VOQL4-DAL4: on Asynchronicity



## VOQL Technical Experts Group(VOQL-TEG)

---

- Based on Registry Tiger Team very positive experience
- Contains one member from each of the institutions mostly involved in VOQL issues
- Reduced group of technical experts to work on:
  - VOQL and TAP Specifications
  - Helper tools whenever needed
  - Reference implementations for the specifications
  - Community support



# VOQL-TEG Members

---

- Alex Szalay (NVO)
  - Francois Ochsenbein (CDS)
  - Pat Dowler (CVO)
  - Kona Andrews (Astrogrid)
  - Yuji Shirasaki (JVO)
  - Aurelien Stebe (ESA-VO)
- Coordination: P. Osuna (IVOA)



# VOQL-1 On ADQL

---

- Review of new refurbished doc by I. Ortiz
- Questions to clarify what is the difference between ADQL and SQL92. Mainly, Region is. Quite crucial.
- Server-dependent functionality (e.g.:TOP): should they be there?
- Region:
  - Very nice “virtual” presence: Alex Szalay on Skype video-conf to give his view
  - Two different views of Region:
    - User Defined Function like (A. Szalay)
    - Operator like (P. Dowler)
  - Just preliminary discussions but hope to agree on a way forward for September



# VOQL-2 On Utype “escaping”

- Nice open session, with loads of clarifications and inputs
- Only discussed how to “escape” Utypes (or should they be called UFIs now?), i.e.: if a UFI appears in a select statement, how does my sw know that it is a Utype
- Side questions:
  - Clarification on what the difference is between the Language (ADQL), the protocol (TAP) and the eventual Services making use of both (e.g., a possible CrossMatch service)
  - Care of Associations must be taken in the models, and in where they are put and how do we name them
  - An ADQL (or SQL-like language) implies (implicitly) some sort of uniqueness in columns. Include in ADQL doc “obvious-like” things like this if necessary
  - Include in the Doc verbal explanation on what the ADQL is for, what it is not for, and give some examples



# VOQL-DAL On TAP

---

- DAL view presented by Doug Tody
  - Server profile operations
  - Basic and Asynch query operations
  - Metadata access
    - Uniform interface for both data and metadata
    - Specialised operations
- VOQL view presented by A. Stebe
  - Simple and Complete queries
  - Allow for ADQL, UtypeADQL, pure SQL (care!)
  - Asynch queries with UWS
  - Metadata access (with VOSI)

# VOQL-DAL on Asynch and Metadata



- Session initiated with discussion on parameter=value interface for TAP.
  - Agreement: not needed.
- Asynch in TAP: presentation from G. Rixon (OBO K. Andrews) on UWS for Asynch in TAP
  - Question on UWS and DAL: they are not incompatible
- Presentation by F. Ochsenbein on Metadata
  - INFORMATION\_SCHEMA an option, but probably not the best one
  - VOTable return operations, with tables that contain table names, and column names, etc. Another option
- Above points, all under discussion within the VOQL-TEG





# Roadmap

---

- Build-up of the ADQL draft. Stable document including region for Sep 07
- First TAP draft in Sep 07
- Maybe some work on a Service (Crossmatch) to be presented in London (is it Cambridge?)