

# 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