



IVOA Status

Fabio Pasian

Chair , International Virtual Observatory Alliance

IVOA Interoperability Workshop, Victoria, 17-21 May 2010



IVOA goals

- An alliance of projects to:
 1. Develop interoperability standards
 2. Enhance communication
 3. Foster collaboration
 4. Cultivate VO awareness and usage by the astronomical community
 5. Coordinate (+ prioritise and validate) the implementation of standards, tools and services



5. Coordinate development

- The IVOA is about enabling astronomical research → science requirements to be kept up front
- Creation of a “Standing Committee on Science Priorities” (CSP) approved by Exec
 - ToR: CSP collects from the community use cases and preposes to Exec priorities in development of standards → liaison with TCG



TCG coordination

- Need to have for RECs more **explanatory material**, and a **sense of context** - how they fit into IVOA, and how they should be used.
- (Re-)definition of a top-view IVOA architecture
 - interdependencies among standards
 - inconsistencies in documents, implementers' feedback, keeping track of validation
 - holes in the structure, duplications
 - topics of interest to more than a WG
- TCG face-to-face meeting (May 14-15)



2. Enhance communication

- IVOA pages being redesigned, with the top level routing people in four directions:
 - interested astronomers
 - those who want to deploy against standards
 - internal work
 - general-interest visitors
- First internal draft



IVOA Web pages

IVOA.net - Windows Internet Explorer
http://www.cacr.caltech.edu/~sarah/websites/ivoa/

Google

Effettua la ricerca

Condividi

Sidewiki

Fabio...

IvoaRepMin - ...

VOdka - Virtu...

Information D...

Gmail - Secon...

IVOA.net

Pagina

Strumenti

About Members Deployers Astronomers

INTERNATIONAL VIRTUAL OBSERVATORY ALLIANCE

The Virtual Observatory (VO) is the vision that astronomical datasets and other resources should work as a seamless whole. Many projects and data centres worldwide are working towards this goal. The International Virtual Observatory Alliance (IVOA) is an organisation that debates and agrees the technical standards that are needed to make the VO possible. It also acts as a focus for VO aspirations, a framework for discussing and sharing VO ideas and technology, and body for promoting and publicising the VO.

If you want to learn more about the IVOA as an organisation, check out the "[About](#)" section.

If you want to learn more about the VO from a user's point of view, including how to get at VO tools and services, read the "[Astronomers](#)" section.

If you want to learn how to publish VO services, or write VO-compatible software, start by reading the "[Deployers/Developers](#)" section.

Internal IVOA discussions are publicly viewable in the "[Members](#)" section.



For Astronomers

Getting Started, Using the VO. Links to VO portals. Links to VO Tools, IVOA Newsletter




For Developers/Deployers

VO Concepts, the VO standards Landscape, Deployment Cookbook, current technical standards, related Software



For Members

IVOA Twiki, Mailing Lists, Working Groups, Executive Committee, Calendar, Documents in Progress.



Latest VO News

VO Calendar

Contact Us

http://www.cacr.caltech.edu/~sarah/websites/ivoa/about/

Internet | Modalità protetta: disattivata

100%

16:33 sabato 15/05/2010

IVOA.net - Windows... 10 Windows Mail Presentations fpasian_IVOA-status... Microsoft PowerPoi...



4. VO awareness

- Disseminating VO awareness:
 - User Workshops (possibly on one specific subject)
 - “Hands-On” Schools on VO tools, VO-days, ...
- Educating “new generations of astronomers”:
 - Fostering research projects for high school (14-18 yrs old) and undergraduates, using data extracted from the VO and (simplified) VO tools
- Astro-Informaticians (workshop in Pasadena 16-19 June)
 - A new breed of astronomers with strong computer background (or vice-versa)



An example: VO-days in Tour

- 12 sites visited (+ videocon with La Palma)
- 272 registered ($> \frac{1}{4}$ of INAF research staff), 244 attended, 176 filled the Evaluation Form
- About 70% had heard about VO and its tools
- **Success!**
 - Requests for more specific tutorials on tools and how to publish own data in VO
 - Plan to have a wrap up, with participants bringing own scientific case





An example: VO-days in Tour

4 use cases:

Use Case 1: Confirmation of a Supernova candidate

Use Case 2: Searching for data available for M51

Use Case 3: Photometric redshifts with DaME

Use Case 4: Data extraction from multidimensional dataset

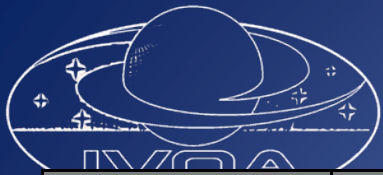
	no	poor	enough	interest	v.interest	% good
Case 1		1	17	81	62	89 %
Case 2		3	18	78	72	88 %
Case 3	1	4	21	60	77	84 %
Case 4	3	5	19	56	71	82 %





3. Foster Collaboration

- Several national projects are building up and have shown interest to join IVOA
- NOVA (Nuevo Observatorio Virtual Argentino) presented to the Ministry of Science and Technology a request for recognition which is going through its final approval steps



Changing funding scenario

Project		2007		2010		end
		funding	FTE	funding	FTE	
ArVO	▶	35 K\$	5	66 K\$	6	yearly?
AstroGrid	▼				ops. guaranteed	2009
BRAVO	▲	10 K\$	5	80K\$	10	2012
CVO	▲	400 K\$	4	800 k\$	7	
China VO	▲	75 K\$	10 (3 staff)	400 K\$	10→12 (4→5 staff)	yearly?
ESA	▼		6		2.5 (+ publishing)	
ESO	▼		6.5 (3 EuroVO)		4.5 (2 EuroVO)	
Euro-VO	▼					2011
France-VO	▶		~ 15		~ 15	yearly?
GAVO	▶	240 K€	4	265 K€	4	2011
JVO	▼	56 M¥	6	32 M¥	6	
NVO → VAO	▲	2.5 M\$ (peak)	15 (peak)	5.5 M\$ (average, assigned)	25 (average, estim.)	2015
RVO	▶	24 K€	5 (permanent)	30 K€	5 (permanent)	yearly
SVO	▲	380 K€	5	475 K€	10	2011
VObs.it	▼	315 K€ 125 INAF + 190 Euro-VO	12.7 (7.7 permanent)	270 K€ 145 INAF + 125 EU	11.4 (6.4 permanent)	yearly



Issues (1/2)

- Need to guarantee a “robust and enduring path to ensure that science driven developments will continue” → sustainability
- IVOA has no funds of its own
 - sustainability can be achieved only through and within national projects
- National projects → initiatives
 - buffering effect
 - permanent staff to guarantee continuity



Issues (2/2)

- IVOA has no funds of its own
 - nobody can force projects to follow IVOA priorities
- Need to keep a balance between IVOA priorities and projects' needs
 - no “Deus-ex-machina” solution
 - this should be solved **within Exec** (consensus)



FP's mantra

**The success of any
individual VO project
relies on the success
of the whole IVOA**



Thanks to:

The Program Organizing Committee

(Séverin Gaudet, Nic Walton)

The Local Organizing Committee

You all, for your attention