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SCIENCE INSTITUTE

VOTable – Issue Review and Planning

Tom Donaldson

IVOA Interoperability Meeting

November, 2020



VOTable Standard

VOTable is a format for interchange of tabular data

- First version approved in 2003
- Heavily used
 - Results in DAL protocols
 - Reading (and often writing) supported by many many applications
 - ▶ Astropy includes native mapping to/from Astropy Table

Latest version is 1.4, released October, 2019

- <https://www.ivoa.net/documents/VOTable/20191021/>
 - (latest version always at <https://www.ivoa.net/documents/VOTable>)
- To support TIMESYS element
- Several issues/discussions were deferred to expedite TIMESYS support



Maintained in Github

As of v1.4:

- VOTable was converted to an ivoatex document
- Is maintained in github at <https://github.com/ivoa-std/VOTable>

Resources

- ivoatex – <https://github.com/ivoa-std/ivoatex#the-ivoatex-document-preparation-system>
- Initial github process presentation (Groningen, 2019) - https://wiki.ivoa.net/internal/IVOA/InterOpOct2019GitHub/IVOA_Github.pdf
- Hands-on exercise at May 2020 interop
 - Presentation and notes - <https://wiki.ivoa.net/twiki/bin/view/IVOA/InterOpMay2020Apps#DocLifeCycle>
 - Recording - <https://www.cadc-ccda.hia-ihp.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/files/vault/pdowler/ivoa/virtual2020a/session-13-apps-votable-git.mp4>



Issues are Tracked in Github

13 current open issues: <https://github.com/ivoa-std/VOTable/issues>

ivoa-std / VOTable
generated from ivoa-std/doc-template

Unwatch 8 Star 2 Fork 12

Code Issues 13 Pull requests Actions Projects Wiki Security Insights

Filters is:issue is:open Labels 9 Milestones 2 **New issue**

13 Open ✓ 5 Closed Author Label Projects Milestones Assignee Sort

- parameter for content-type**
#26 opened on Jun 28 by pdowler
- mechanism to include a list or set of values in a string column**
#25 opened on Jun 28 by pdowler 3
- Update example in section 3.7**
#24 opened on May 15 by tom دونالدسون
- Make COOSYS and TIMESYS more consistent**
#23 opened on May 14 by tom دونالدسون v2.0
- Add definitions for legal COOSYS "system" values**
#22 opened on May 14 by tom دونالدسون 1



Issue Review – New Features

Requires Major Rev (*)	Issue #	Title
No	16	COOSYS should have "reposition" attribute
Maybe	15 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mention MIME type parameter 'content'• parameter for content-type
No	25	mechanism to include a list or set of values in a string column
Maybe	20	Consider allowing multiple values in a single "ref"

* - Minor revisions should not break existing clients!



Issue Review – Fixes and Housekeeping

Requires Major Rev	Issue #	Title
No	24	Update example in section 3.7
Yes	23	Make COOSYS and TIMESYS more consistent
No	22	Add definitions for legal COOSYS "system" values.
No	21	Clarifications on decimal years representations
No	19	Change recommendation on schema version reference.
No	18	Remove confusing paragraph in section 4.6
No	17	Remove mention of UType in section 1.4
No	10	role_diagram modified (by 'make')



Are there other issues? (yes)

Nagging operational issues not mentioned on github?

- ***Submit the issue!***

Grand ideas (e.g., VODML mapping proposal, JSON support, remove multi-table support)?

- ***Submit the issue!***

Submitting an issue brings it up for discussion and makes it easy to track (and not forget)

- Simpler discussions can be completed in github
- For more complex discussions
 - Telecons
 - E-mail list (*)

* - The relationship between github and e-mail discussions will be evolving. To ensure a broad audience, it would be nice to have notifications of github discussions appear on the e-mail list.



Next VOTable Version

Major or Minor revision?

- 7 housekeeping issues, and at least 2 new features, can be addressed with a minor rev.
- Of the 3 current issues that may require a major revision, none seem critical enough.

So next version should be minor (v1.5).

When?

- Changes can happen any time via the github process.
- We could set a target date for an official v1.5 Working Draft
 - Then just include any changes merged prior to that date
 - Setting a date may encourage work on at least the simpler issues
- May not be worth the overhead if only one small change makes it in
 - **But** by having more frequent releases, we can resist the urge to wait for every possible change



Moving Forward – All Participation Encouraged and Welcome!

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- E-mail list (apps@ivoa.net) at <http://mail.ivoa.net/mailman/listinfo/apps>
- Github notifications (many options available)
 - <https://docs.github.com/en/free-pro-team@latest/github/managing-subscriptions-and-notifications-on-github/configuring-notifications>
- Slack (ivoa.slack.com): #applications , #github-help

File issues you know of or encounter

Submit pull requests

- To fix issues
- Propose other concrete changes
 - (Useful to precede complex pull requests with some discussion)

Reach out for help with **github**, **ivoatex** (Slack, e-mail list, github comment)