

VOTECH

top-level review

- objectives
- structure
- performance
- highlights

Objectives

What is VOTECH ?

- FP6 project
- Design Study implemented as an SSA
- Federation of VO technology groups
- Part of Euro-VO
- First implementation of the VOTC

Data Infrastructure for Astronomy

- What do we need ?
- Content
 - data, structured databases
- Physical infrastructure
 - network, people, storage, CPU
- Software infrastructure
 - standards, glue-software
- Science tools
- Working services

Euro-VO

- Three organisations to make this happen
 - VO Facility Centre (VOFC)
 - Data Centre Alliance (DCA)
 - VO Technology Centre (VOTC)
envisioned as a federation of projects
- VOTECH : first realisation of VOTC concept
 - merges AstroGrid, CDS, ESO, INAF work
 - adds European glue
 - ESA-VO informally added

Top Level Objective

- to complete all technical preparatory work necessary for the construction of the European Virtual Observatory.

Detailed objectives

- To assess new technologies and study the feasibility of their incorporation in Euro-VO
- To create designs of new infrastructure components based on those new technologies
- To create designs of science user tools and datamining services
- To develop trial versions of new infrastructure components, tools, and datamining services and to test them
- To decide what new interoperability standards are required, and to contribute to those standards with international partners through the International Virtual Observatory Alliance (IVOA)
- To liaise with the larger Euro-VO structure, gaining refreshed versions of science functionality and architecture, and feeding back component test results, designs, and trial components for demonstration suites.
- To liaise with computer science, IT industry, and related applications projects in order to mesh with larger standards and to save work wherever possible

Structure

Timing

- Proposal 2004 March
- Kick-off phase 2005 January
- Stage 1 start 2005 Apr
- Stage 7 start 2008 Apr
- Wrap-up phase 2008 Oct
- Close 2008 Dec

Partners

- Edinburgh (Lawrence, co-ordinator)
- Cambridge (McMahon)
- Leicester (Watson)
- CDS (CNRS and ULP) (Genova)
- INAF (Pasian)
- ESO (Quinn ==> Comeron)

- + informal partnership with ESA (Arviset)

Finance

- Total EC funding €3292K
- Informally matched by partner effort
- First year underspent compared to profile
- Current forecast slight underspend
- Plans being developed to complete spend

Governance and Management

- Board
partner reps + senior staff (PM, TM, PS)
authority on finance and policy
- Technical Advisory Panel (TAP)
Senior Staff + DS Leads + Board rep
authority on work plan and technical strategy
- Normally now have joint meetings

Work Structure

- DS1 : Consortium Management Administrator
Lead Lawrence (EDI)
Admin Williams (EDI)
PM Linde (LEI)
- DS2 : Technical Management
Lead Noddle (LEI)
PS Walton (CAM)
- DS3 : Infrastructure
Lead Noddle (LEI)
- DS4 : Tools
Lead Dolensky (ESO)
- DS5 : Resource Discovery
Lead Derriere (CDS)
- DS6 : Data Exploration
Lead Mann (EDI)

Work Planning

- Framework = Project Plan
- Six month cycles (Stages)
- Partners agree goals and tasks within Stage
- No partner micro-management
- Planning cycle :
 - DS teams debate by wiki/email
 - Full project DSRP meetings
 - DS leads make provisional plan
 - partners consider their commitments
 - TAP meeting agrees final plan
 - work gets done !

Performance

Top-level objective

- All prep-work for Euro-VO ?
- Excellent progress, but...
- is key question for rest of this week
- What does Euro-VO need ?

Detailed objectives

- Agree later : comments first...
- Assess New Tech
 - semantics hardest area
- Design and trial new components and tools
 - hard to assess purely VOTECH contribution...
- Contribute to interop standards
 - progress not in our control
- Liaise with rest of Euro-VO
 - is Euro-VO is working as intended ?
- Liaise with external CS, IT
 - trying to use industry standards ...

Deliverables and Milestones

- Summary documents available at website
- Each DS will discuss
- All deliverables so far accomplished
- Nearly all delivered on schedule

Highlights

Personal Pick

- Establishing European co-ordination
- Tools interoperability : PLASTIC, AR
- Tools integn : Aladin, Topcat, VOSpec
- Datamining integn : Weka, Visivo, Astroneural
- Grid integn : VOTechBroker
- Significant impact on international standards
 - esp. ADQL, VOSpace, TAP
- Pragmatic progress in resource discovery
 - UCDs, name recognition, tools eg VoExplorer, Reg.Tool

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