

DS3 workshop: summary

Report to VOTech kick-off meeting

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notes

SSO: Shibboleth & PERMIS

- Shibboleth:
 - Does it let us chain resources?
 - Does it support the VO idea of community?
 - How well does it support group membership?
 - Can we require service providers to run it? Do we need to?
 - Does the anonymizing function break things?
- PERMIS:
 - How well can it represent VO permissions?
 - If we use Shibboleth, must we use PERMIS?
 - Is it worth having PERMIS without Shibboleth?

SSO: other issues

- Relationship of VOTech work to IVOA discussions.
 - Expect IVOA to set the standard
 - Should VOTech propose a complete standard to IVOA? (IVOA has an SSO draft already)
- Gateways
 - Look at a gateway to translate full SSO to local username-password system => easier for service providers
- Investigate KQML as attribute-passing mechanism

Interoperability

- How to get higher-order functions in e.g. queries?
 - Open question
 - General feeling that “broker” services needed “above” DSA layer

Agents (1)

- Take-up in astronomy?
 - Mainly for robotic telescopes
 - Other uses planned, not proven yet
- Main benefit to VOtech?
 - Autonomy of programmes/processed
 - => increased flexibility, robustness
- Do we need agents embedded in data centres?
 - Probably not.
 - Initially prefer agents in broker layer; need not be provided by D/C operators
- Do agent P2P techniques disrupt client-server model current in VO?
 - Probably not.
 - Disruption could be combined to broker layer
 - Hierarchy of services might be a problem for agents

Agents: recommendations

- Develop cost-benefit analysis for use of agents
 - What can we do better with agents (quantify?)
 - Development costs
 - Disruption costs
- Concentrate on agents as advisers and brokers
- Special case: check costs of connecting VO to telescopes via existing eSTAR
 - Possible cheap, quick win

CEA: options

1. Straight to IVOA
 - AstroGrid proposes to IVOA
 - IVOA standardizes
 - VOTech adopts IVOA standard
2. VOTech to IVOA
 - AstroGrid proposes to VOTech
 - VOTech develops
 - VOTech proposes to IVOA
3. VOTech local standard
 - Use inside VOTech-affiliated projects
 - Other arrangements for rest of IVOA

CEA: recommendations

- AVO January-2005 demo includes CEA
 - Wait for demo
 - Decide whether VOTech likes CEA after demo
- Workflow is separate from CEA
 - Promote CEA separately (quicker debate)

Archive architecture

- Layered architecture is a good thing
 - Get DCA to promote this?
 - Assume layered architecture in DS3 experiments/prototypes?
 - DS3 products will mainly be in translation layer.

Grid involvement

- How do we embrace the grid?
 - Open question
 - Minimal cost seems to be few staff-months for 1st application
 - Grids are getting easier. Wait for developments?
- Recommendation: no grid *research* in VOTech
 - We don't develop new grid techniques
 - We *may* use existing grid techniques