Applications Messaging

- First task of Apps Working Group is to consider an Applications Messaging Standard

- motivated by
  - the success of PLASTIC
  - general desire for interoperability between apps

- What is it?
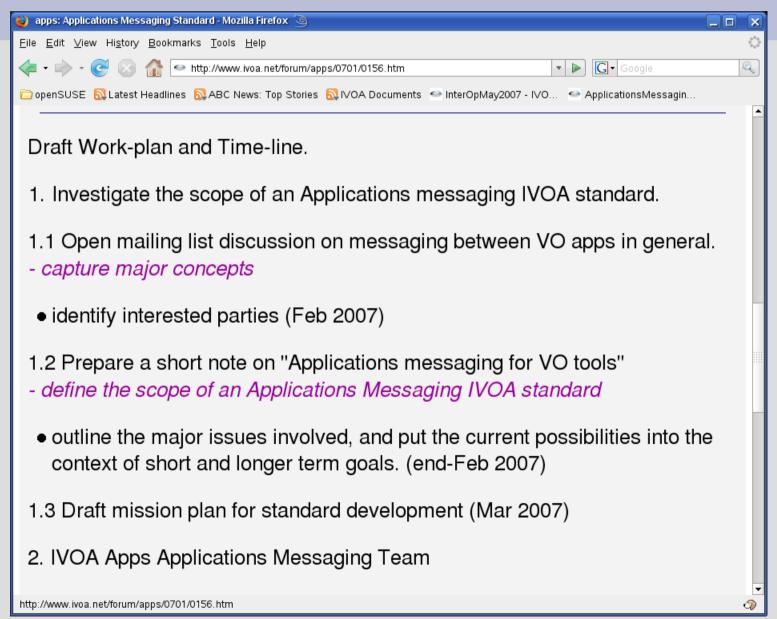 - Making Astronomy tools work together

PLASTIC experience

- Tools send each other simple messages
  - load a VOTable
  - load an image of given sky location
  - highlight a subset of points ...

- Simple operations, but significant increase in interoperability
  - no need for explicitly write/read files to desktop
  - makes multiple tools interactive

- Tools concentrate on their core functionality
  - interoperate for extra capabilities

... **moreover**

- Simple interoperability is stimulating innovation
  - multiple tools working together in ways we haven't really seen before
  - allows developers to act on VO concepts

- Probably possible with other technology but something about PLASTIC 'clicks'

  - Developers say *'easy to implement'*
  - Astronomers say *'it just works'*

Apps Messaging Workplan

progress

- Intense mailing list debates (100's of posts)

- covered wider scope envisaged for applications messaging, details of messaging infrastructures, delivery, semantics, message containers and content

- limitations and technical issues of PLASTIC

- Two classes of messages:

i) PLASTIC style messages which deal with high level data objects like images and tables which can be sent with a loosely defined message as in 'here is an image'.

ii) Messages which require a more precise description, such as commanding other tools to execute a parametrized task.

- Ideas for a general framework have been proposed, involving:

  - Separate message container and message content model elements

- much debate about the immediate approach

- overlap with GWS territory noted

Consensus approach

- Cleaned-up & improved PLASTIC-like protocol on short time-scale, and recognition of other messaging needs.

- Working name: SAMP

- Longer term plans for general messaging being mapped out – see mailing list

This meeting

- 2 Applications messaging sessions

Applications Messaging Standard Sessions

Topic	Time
Applications 4. Wed 16, 8:30-10:00 (*parallel VOQL2*)	
Introduction - Mark ALLEN	8:30-8:40
State of play and plan for discussion - John TAYLOR & Mike FITZPATRICK	8:40-9:10
Discussion points for SAMP - JT & MF, moderated by MA & MT	9:10-10:20
Plan for Apps 5 session	10:20-10:30
Applications 5. Thurs 17, 16:00-17:30 (*parallel DAL5*)	
SAMP continued	16:00-17:00
Plan for documents and implementations	17:00-17:30

- Focus on practical decisions to be made for SAMP

- No re-run of mailing list debates!

- Formulate a plan for writing standards documents and implementations with timeline of 2-3 months after meeting