IVOA VOQL

Working Group Report

Beijing Interop meeting

May 2007

From last Moscow Interop

- Separate current ADQL/SkyNode in the following three items:
  - VO Query Language (VOQL)
  - Table Access Protocol (TAP)
  - SkyNode (Full)
- VOQL Group to deal with VOQL specification *and* TAP specification (latter, together with DAL group)
- SkyNode specification to be dealt with separately
- Reduced group of technical experts to work on:
  - VOQL and TAP Specifications
  - Helper tools whenever needed
  - Reference implementations for the specifications
  - Community support

From last Moscow Interop (on TAP)

- Name not a big issue, but decided for TAP rather than STAP, as the the protocol should support "S"imple or "C"omplex access

- Will be defined within the VOQL-TEG with support from the DAL (through Doug Tody)

- Interest in having the TAP be able to:
  - Should correctly execute a VOQL query in the core syntax
  - Should make a best attempt to execute queries containing extended constructs which may contain vendor specific items
  - Should allow for services that understand only the String version of VOQL
  - i.e., should not mandate that a TAP service understand the XML verison of VOQL (although
  - Should include a GET interface to it
  - Without impeding Web interfaces to it

- But keep an eye on:
  - How to handle long running queries
  - What to do with the results (where do they go?)
  - How to support distributed querying

Activities done

- Separation of the three layers done:
    - The Language (ADQL)
    - The Protocol (TAP)
    - The Service (e.g., a Xmatch service)

    (see Executive Summary at IVOA ExecTM21

    http://www.ivoa.net/twiki/bin/view/IVOA/IvoaExecMeetingTM21)
- Refurbishment of ADQL Doc done. New document under discussion. Already circulated to community and available at:

    (http://www.ivoa.net/internal/IVOA/IvoaVOQL/ADQL-20070419.pdf)
- TAP Creation initiated. Two different perspectives under discussion:
    - From VOQL point of view
    - From DAL point of view

    Both will be discussed during this meeting

ADQL

- Complete separation of Language from access and service
- Neat BNF written. Nice dependency diagrams included
- Points still under discussion (first priority)
  - REGION construct (good options under the horizon)
  - User Defined Functions definitions
  - Usage of UTypes within ADQL
- Other points
  - Interval and Temporal data types
  - SELECT INTO
  - UPLOAD (language or service spec?)
  - Version numbering

Links

- VOQL-TEG Archived mails

  http://www.ivoa.net/forum/voql-teg/

- VOQL-TEG Meetings Minutes

  - Minutes of VOQL-TEG Meeting #1(24Oct2006)

  http://www.ivoa.net/forum/voql-teg/0610/0009.htm

  - Minutes of VOQL-TEG Meeting #2(21Nov2006)

  http://www.ivoa.net/forum/voql-teg/0611/0033.htm

  - Minutes of VOQL-TEG Meeting #3(6Feb2007)

  http://www.ivoa.net/forum/voql-teg/0702/0058.htm

  - Minutes of VOQL-TEG Meeting #4(13Mar2007)

  http://www.ivoa.net/forum/voql-teg/0703/0110.htm

  - Minutes of VOQL-TEG Meeting #5(27Apr2007)

  http://www.ivoa.net/forum/voql-teg/0704/0162.htm

- ADQL Doc

http://www.ivoa.net/internal/IVOA/IvoaVOQL/ADQL-20070419.pdf