

Operational Identification of Software Components

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Operations IG
IVOA Interop
Online

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SoftID Note

History

- Discussions at Interops etc since 2018

Resources:

- [SoftID](#) wiki page
- Note \LaTeX : <https://github.com/msdemlei/softid>
- Formatted PDF: <http://docs.g-vo.org/softid.pdf>

Status:

- Ready for publication?



Operational Identification of Software Components in the Virtual Observatory

Version 1.0

IVOA Note 2021-01-15

Working group

Operations

This version

<http://www.ivoa.net/documents/softid/20210115>

Latest version

<http://www.ivoa.net/documents/softid>

Previous versions

This is the first public release

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Summary

VO software should use [HTTP headers](#) to identify itself where possible:

- Clients: [User-Agent](#) header in HTTP requests
- Services: [Server](#) header in HTTP responses

All usage is in accordance with [RFC 7231](#) (updated from [RFC 2616](#))

This can help with various operational tasks

Service Software

VO services can identify their VO software components:

Server: DaCHS/2.3.2 twistedWeb/18.9.0

- Uses:
 - ▷ Debugging, investigating surprising behaviour
 - ▷ Adding/dropping software-specific workarounds
 - ▷ ...

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```
% curl -I http://dc.g-vo.org/tap/capabilities
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```
% curl -I http://dc.g-vo.org/tap/capabilities
HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Server: DaCHS/2.3.2 twistedWeb/18.9.0
Date: Thu, 27 May 2021 12:25:14 GMT
Content-Type: text/xml
```

Client Software

1. Clients can identify their implementations:

User-Agent: TOPCAT/4.8 Java/1.8.0_181

- Uses:
 - ▷ Gather statistics
 - ▷ Understand user behaviour
 - ▷ ...

2. Non-science clients can declare their operational purpose using (IVOA-*) comment:

User-Agent: GloTS-harvester (IVOA-copy) DaCHS/2.3.2

- Categories:
 - ▷ (IVOA-test): validation, uptime monitoring, performance testing, ...
 - ▷ (IVOA-copy): mirroring, harvesting, ...
- Uses:
 - ▷ Exclude non-science queries from logs
 - ▷ Identify problematic operational query patterns
 - ▷ ...

Next Steps

Publish SoftID Note to <http://www.ivoa.net/documents/>

- Right after this meeting if no further discussion/objections

Please use these conventions!

- Service implementations: try to include component identity in `Server` headers
- VO clients: try to include client identity in `User-Agent` headers
- Operational clients: try to insert `(IVOA-*)` comments in `User-Agent` headers