Resource Registries

Closing Plenary Session

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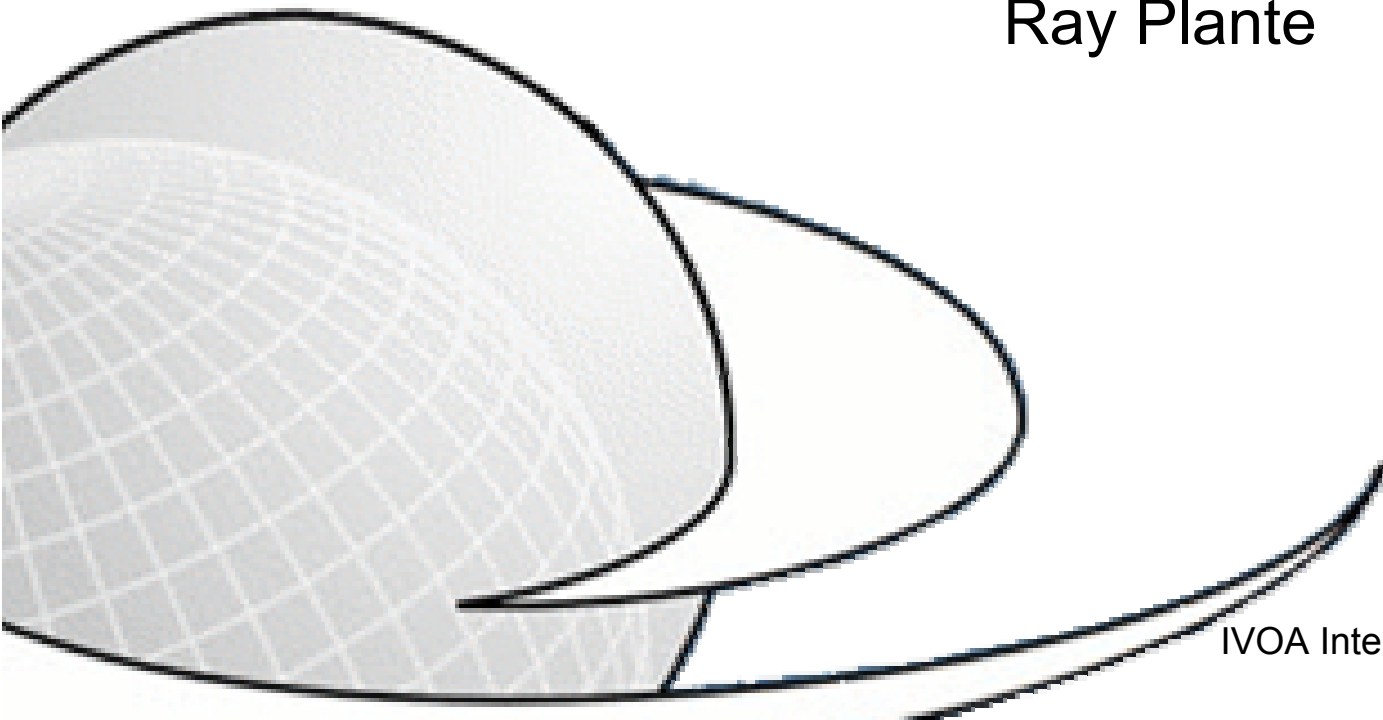
Upgrade Efforts

- We heard from the represented projects with about efforts to upgrade to v1.0
  - Overall, we are probably 50% done

- Various, easily resolved issues uncovered during upgrade effort
  - Schema tweaks,
  - when to return deleted/inactive records

- Adding support for VOSpace records
  - Report form Paul Harrison
  - "Standard" Resource for VOSPace: an emerging use case

    Background: In Victoria, we proposed to register resource records representing IVOA standards

    it was unclear then whether these would get used

    - VOSpace wants to use "IVORNs" (IVOA identifier + # + name) to identify capability properties
      - e.g. specific types of transfer protocols: ivo://ivoa.net/std/vospace#gridftp
    - "Standard" Resource describing VOSpace standard provides a place to publish these definitions
    - A mechanism for defining controlled vocabulary that is extensible without changing underlying schema

Roadmap

- Overview
  - We revised the schedule for upgrading registries to v1.0
  - Target completion by end of calendar year
  - Specs will go to PR after upgrade complete
    - Our upgraded registries will represent required implementations
    - We will have caught most issues by then

- Details
  - 11/1 Registry of Registries (RofR) deployed
    - When new registry is submitted, RofR will fully validate its harvesting interface and all records it exports
  - 11/15 Testing period begins
  - 12/4 Harvesting via new interface officially begins
  - 1/3 VOResource, Registry Interface go to PR, RFC begins
    - May stagger RFCs

- Items for IVOA Exec:
  - Pass Resource Metadata v1.10, Identifiers v1.11 to REC
  - After approval from Technical Working Group (Roy Williams)

Priorities after Upgrade

- Instituting Registry Curation Practices

Metadata quality continues to limit what can be done with registries

Plan:

1. Improved registration interfaces
2. Integrating automated VOResource, service validaters into registration process
3. Periodic re-validation of service compliance
4. Human inspection of resource metadata values
5. Use of validationLevel flag to rate quality of metadata

- Improved User Interfaces
  - A. Stebe: will try promising XForms technology for building input forms from schemas
    - Can provide dynamic, interactive experience to guide user through a quality registration process
  - US-VO: will unify registration process
    - Will deploy a general service for creating resource records
    - Can send to any registry for publishing
    - Can download for installation directly into self-documenting service
      - i.e., for getRegistration() method from the VO Standard Interface spec.

The Future of Registries

- Norman Gray: RDF-based Registry Mirror
  - Discussed what can be gained
    - RDF (Resource Description Framework): another model for describing resources
      - Loose network of objects and resources
      - A medium for reasoning with metadata
      - Benefit: extra "free" information beyond metadata values based on metadata relationships
    - Demonstration of ways to query registry
      - Able to take advantage of encoded relationships that is not possible now
        » All educational resources = College, High School, Elemenary, etc.
        » All data services=catalog services, data services
      - Can define new types of information based complex criteria
        » Find all resources important for supernova research
        » Registry or users can create these specialized types/queries
        » Queries are "sharable"

  - Reported that VOResource data model was a good "first-order logic" model to build RDF registry from

Future of Registries

- User-oriented client tools and libraries are now emerging
  - Interesting techniques for…
    - Searching: e.g. keyword search + constraints
      - "Find all SIA services with these keywords"
    - Iterating, extracting information
  - We should track what users are doing and consider feeding techniques back into revisions to standard.