

Draft 22 April 2008

Policy on Inactive IVOA Members

It is clear that from time to time some members of the IVOA may, for various reasons, reduce their activity in VO projects and in their participation in the IVOA. Such decreases in activity may be temporary, and in such cases it is desirable to retain an association between such inactive members and the IVOA without the member having to reapply for IVOA membership once the member wishes to become active again. On the other hand, it is also cumbersome for the IVOA to retain membership status for members who have clearly lost their interest or ability to associate with the IVOA. Thus the following policy on Inactive Members is proposed.

Any member who ceases all participation in IVOA activities, including attendance at Interop meetings, Working Group and Interest Group participation, or participation in any other special meetings or activities of the IVOA for a period of 12 months or more shall be considered an inactive member.

If such inactivity is not accompanied by any communication between the member and the IVOA Chair, the Chair or designee of the Chair will attempt to contact the member in order to determine the member's intentions. Such attempts will be repeated at reasonable intervals for a period of 2 years, and if no contact is made after that time the member will be dropped from the membership list of the IVOA.

However, if contact is made with the inactive member, and if that member expresses an intention to resume active membership within a reasonable period as determined by the Chair, then that member shall remain in inactive status within the IVOA. Similarly, if any member contacts the Chair in advance and advises of their need to move to inactive status with an intention to resume active membership in the near future, then that member will move to inactive status in the IVOA. A review of inactive members and their progress toward resumption of active status will be carried out at least annually by the IVOA Chair.

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