**DRAFT: Routine Deprecation and Deletion of Services in the VAO registry**

**T. McGlynn, T. Dower, G. Greene 2011**

This memo describes the procedure under which services may marked as deleted or deprecated in the VAO registry in response to the VAO’s automated service validation. Data providers may also delete services themselves, though the standard registry interfaces, but this is not addressed here.

**Definitions.**

Deletion: A resource is considered to be deleted from the registry when standard registry queries no longer return this resource. This is implemented by setting the field TBD to TBD for the registry. The VAO registry does not actually delete the resource from the registry. Deletion is typically done at the resource level, but individual services of a resource may be deleted without deleting other resources.

Deprecation: A service or resource is considered to be deprecated when it is marked as being non-compliant with appropriate VO standards. This is normally done by setting the TBD field. This field is set by default to 2. A deprecated service has a value of 1.

**Selection of processes to be deleted or deprecated.**

The VAO Operations Monitor (currently M. Preciado) will monthly prepare a list of resources and services to be deleted or deprecated and a list of currently deprecated services to be undeprecated.

The list of deleted services will include all VO services for which the validation for at least two consecutive months has indicated that not information is being returned from the resource. If all of the services associated with a resource are on the deleted list, then the resource itself shall be placed on the deletion list.

The list of deprecated services shall include all VO services which failed validation during the past month. Services which fail validation for certain specified reasons may be excluded from this list. The excluded causes are TBD. [This is intended to allow us to permit inconsequential errors.] Once the list of services to be deprecated is compiled, each service will be revalidated and any service that passes validation will be excluded from the list.

The list of services to be undeprecated shall include all deprecated VO services which have passed validation (subject to the same inclusions as the prior list).

**Review Process.**

The Operations Monitor shall post these lists of services before the first Operations telecon of each month on the VAO Wiki in a location TBD and these lists shall be reviewed in that telecon. At the telecom the operations team may choose to alter any of these lists.

After the telecom the operations monitor shall send a notice to the responsible parties for each service to be deleted or deprecated noting the impending action and why it is taking place. This would normally be a link to the appropriate page in the VAO validation service. E.g.,

 Dear xxx:

 We have noted that the service, xxx, [fails validation/does not appear to respond] and we anticipate [lowering the compliance flag for this service/marking this services as delete] in the VAO registry on …. See <http://TBD> for information on how we check services and guidance on how you might address standards compliance issues. If you have any question please contact monitor@usvao.org.

 Regards,

 Operations Lead

Affected parties shall be given one week to respond to these messages.

**Modifying the entries.**

The list of services to be undeprecated shall be sent to the VAO registry manager (currently T. Dower) in a format TBD immediately after the operations telecom in which the this list was reviewed. The manager shall ingest the list and mark the appropriate records as undeprecated.

The list of services to be deleted and deprecated shall be sent to the VAO registry manager one week after the notifications of the impending actions is sent out. The operations monitor shall discuss any responses to these notifications with the operations lead (currently T. McGlynn) and make appropriate modifications to the list before sending the lists. Once the registry manager receives the list they shall update the registry.