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VODataService 1.3 PR: A Reading Guide

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What's VODataService?

VOResource (base) defines the basic *vr:Resource* type; that's abstract enough to also cover *vr:Organisation*, *vr:Authority*, or *vstd:Standard*, etc.

On top of that, VODataService defines Resource types suitable for data collections, things with tables (most importantly, *vs:CatalogService*, and things that speak HTTP (*vs:ParamHTTP*)).

On top of that SimpleDALRegExt, TAPRegExt, VOEvent, ... define how to register services of concrete types.

Whatever we do in VODataService impacts almost all user-visible records

(and incdentally, VOSI tables, too).

What's This Talk?

It would be great if *you* could review VODataService 1.3, too.

Don't read the whole thing: Most of it has not changed (significantly). Just read what's changed.

In this talk, I'll tell you where that is. Page numbers are for the PDF in PR-2026-09-21.

New Use Cases: p. 6

This is a preview of what's going to come:

- Find services serving time series
- Find a resource that has sources in M51 down to 27 mag in V
- Plan a cross-service query
- UI Induction (provide hints on what you can enter into query fields)
- Find resources by the sort of dataset they serve
- Separate theory from observation
- I have found a table containing interesting data. How do I query it?

Are these plausible and well explained?

Help! Which Resource Type? p. 13f

VODataService 1.2 introduced a few new resource classes. It's not entriely trivial to figure those out, an so 1.3 comes with a bit of interpretative text.

Does it help you?

dataSource and productTypeServed: p. 14f

To say what sort of data product you push out and whether you're doing "theory" or observations, there's two new metadata items on DataResource.

Does this work for you? In particular, this introduces the vocabulary http://www.ivoa.net/rdf/data-source. Have a long look at it and see if you can improve it. Once VODataService 1.3 is REC, it'll be hard to change that fundamentally.

Table Statistics: p. 29f

You can now give min, max, the fill factor, and three percentiles for columns and params derived from them.

Is there anything else you'd like to see? Is "2σ" the right choice? What about the definitions of discrete statistics? Is the fill factor sensibly defined and important enough?

CapabilityForTable: p. 38

A late-comer: Capabilities like cone search, SSAP, or HATS need to say which table they are for in multi-table resources. The new capability (base) type vs:CapabilityForTable lets them do that.

Is that well explained? I'm not asking whether there's some other scheme, because we've tried a few before and failed to find one.

New That You've Listened...

...you probably wonder if you can already use this.

In other words: how do we map this into RegTAP?

There's a provisional mapping mentioned on the RFC page. I'd love to work with you on improving it.