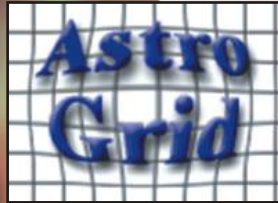


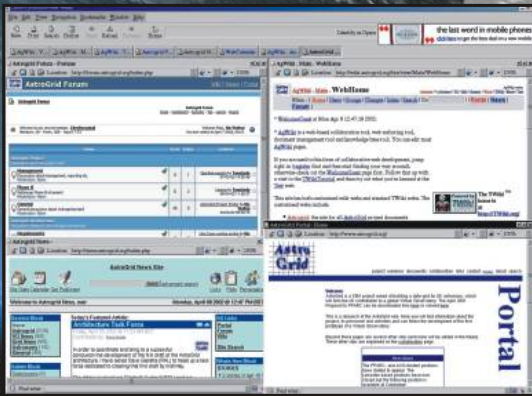
ASTRO GRID



AstroGrid is the UK's contribution towards the Virtual Observatory vision. It is a £3.7M PPARC funded project involving a consortium of seven UK universities and labs, running through 2001-2004, and involving around 25 scientists and developers. It is an integral part of the UK e-Science programme, with close links to grid programmes in particle physics and bio-informatics, and is an early adopter of the OGSA (grid services) approach. The AstroGrid consortium is a partner within the European AVO project, with lead responsibility in grid technology. (Roughly 20% of the work programmes of AstroGrid and AVO are shared). AstroGrid was one of the three founder members of the International Virtual Observatory Alliance (IVOA).

The aim of AstroGrid is to make doing astronomy faster, more effective, and more economic by standardising data access interfaces and the data analysis process, freeing the astronomer from many mundane tasks. AstroGrid will allow users to interrogate multiple data centres in a seamless and transparent way, giving data centres a standard framework for publishing services using their data. This is made possible by standardisation of data and metadata, by standardisation of data exchange methods, by the use of Service Registries and by the creation of workflow tools. The vision is not one of a fixed specific software package, but rather one of a framework which enables **data centres** to provide competing and co-operating data services, and which enables **software providers** to offer a variety of compatible analysis and visualisation tools and user interfaces. However AstroGrid is also a **consortium of data centres** and so expects to pool key resources and databases in a grid-like manner to make a complete working implementation.





AstroGrid Project Web Pages:
Portal, News, Forum, Wiki



AstroGrid System Design
customisable user portal



AstroGrid Architecture: component
model

Status:

In late 2002 we published our Phase A Report on our web pages. (AstroGrid pioneered an open collaborative web page style which is now being adopted in many other e-science projects). We collaborated with AVO to produce early demonstration software, in particular ACE, which extracts source catalogues from remote image data. In Jan 2003 we started a Phase B construction phase, with formal quarterly iterations and working software releases at each iteration. The first two iterations have built functionality in the AstroGrid Registry, the AstroGrid Portal, and the MySpace system (pooled virtual user storage allocation), along with a demonstration of remote visualisation using grid services. AstroGrid aims to have a complete working system by December 2004. A follow-on project (AstroGrid-2) has been proposed which will focus on data-mining algorithms, visualisation, and automated resource discovery (use of ontology, semantic web, and intelligent agents).

Project Leader:

Andy Lawrence, University of Edinburgh,
al@roe.ac.uk, +44-(0)131-662-9736

Project Scientist:

Nic Walton, University of Cambridge,
naw@ast.cam.ac.uk, +44-(0)1223-33-7503

Project Manager:

Tony Linde, University of Leicester,
ael@star.le.ac.uk, +44(0)1116-223-1292

Static Info Pages: <http://www.astrogrid.org>
AstroGrid News: <http://news.astrogrid.org>
AstroGrid Forum: <http://forum.astrogrid.org>
Collaborative Pages: <http://wiki.astrogrid.org>

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