Cross-cutting Interoperability in an Earth Science Collaboratory

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The Situation Today

Earth Science Stuff is (still) hard to use...
- data
- science tools / svcs
- analysis results
- knowledge about
  - data
  - tools
  - analysis methods
- find
- share
- reuse
- put together
  - data + data
  - data + tool
  - tool + tool
  - desktop + online svc
What Is An Earth Science Collaboratory?

- A rich data analysis environment with:
  - Access to a wide spectrum of Earth Science data
  - A diverse set of science analysis services and tools
  - A means to collaborate on data, tools and analysis
  - Supports sharing of data, tools, results and knowledge
Types of Interoperability

- Horizontal
- Vertical
- Procedural
- Meta

Diagram:
- Search Client
  - Common Protocol
  - Catalog A
  - Catalog B
  - Catalog C

Types of Interoperability

- Horizontal
- Vertical
- Procedural
- Meta

Diagram:
- Article
  - Analysis Results
  - Workflows
  - Tools/Svcs
    - standard formats
    - CF* Convention
  - Data

Data citations
Types of Interoperability

- Horizontal
- Vertical
- Procedural
- Metadata

Procedural Interoperability Challenge

Search

Subsetting

Catalog Services for the Web

Web Coverage Service

methane
temperature
water vapor
Types of Interoperability

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Procedure</th>
<th>Framework</th>
<th>Framework</th>
<th>Meta-Interop</th>
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<tr>
<td>Search</td>
<td>OGC Catalog Services for the Web</td>
<td>OpenSearch</td>
<td>Envelopment</td>
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<td>Access</td>
<td>OGC Web Coverage Service</td>
<td>Data Access</td>
<td>Gateways,</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Protocol</td>
<td>Profile</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>(OPeNDAP)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Analysis</td>
<td>CF/netCDF</td>
<td>GIS formats</td>
<td>Profile?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provenance</td>
<td>Open Provenance Model</td>
<td>Proof Markup</td>
<td>??</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Language</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Model-Data</td>
<td>&quot;Fusion&quot; Data regridding</td>
<td>Model resampling</td>
<td>??</td>
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ESC Interoperability Status

Some interoperability ↔ Little or no interoperability
Cross-Cutting Interoperability Strategies for Legacy Standards

<table>
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<th>Interoperability Addressed</th>
<th>Example</th>
<th>Achilles’ Heel</th>
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<td>Client plug-ins</td>
<td>Procedural: Search-access-analysis</td>
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<td>Omnivorous APIs</td>
<td>Meta: standard formats</td>
<td>netCDF-Java API, reads (some) HDF</td>
<td>Adoption</td>
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<td>Meta: OPeNDAP + OGC</td>
<td>OPeNDAP + WCS</td>
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<td>Multi-lingual Servers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Standards Convergence</td>
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<td>Scope, Cost</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot;Microformats&quot;</td>
<td>Vertical</td>
<td>Data citations, esp. w/DOI</td>
<td>Adoption, Identifiers</td>
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We need standards for higher levels in the information stack to enable cross-cutting interoperability

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<thead>
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<th></th>
<th>Article</th>
<th>Results</th>
<th>Workflow</th>
<th>Tool</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Article</td>
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<td>Results</td>
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<tr>
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<td>H, M</td>
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H = Horizontal Interoperability  
V = Vertical Interoperability  
M = Meta-Interoperability
Lessons for Standards Engineering?

- Go beyond horizontal interoperability: consider implications for vertical and procedural interoperability
- Incorporate both syntax AND semantics
- Leverage microformats
- Embrace the Open World Assumption