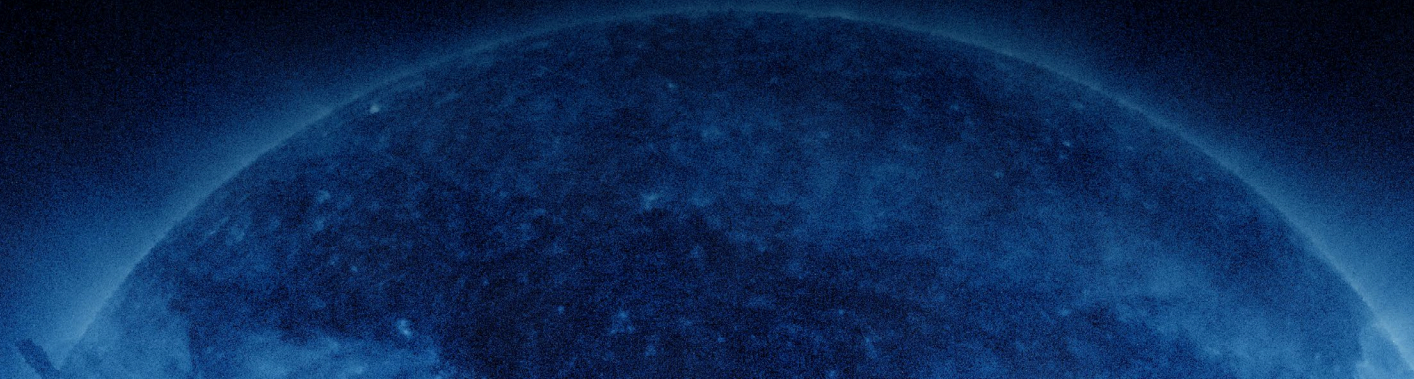


VSO 2.0 - What a new VSO means for the Heliophysics community

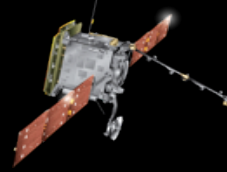
Alisdair Davey (adavey@nso.edu)
(Ashley sends their apologies!)

IDHEA Meeting, Oct 2024, Madrid, Spain



What is VSO?

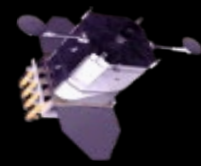
Solar Orbiter



IRIS



SDO

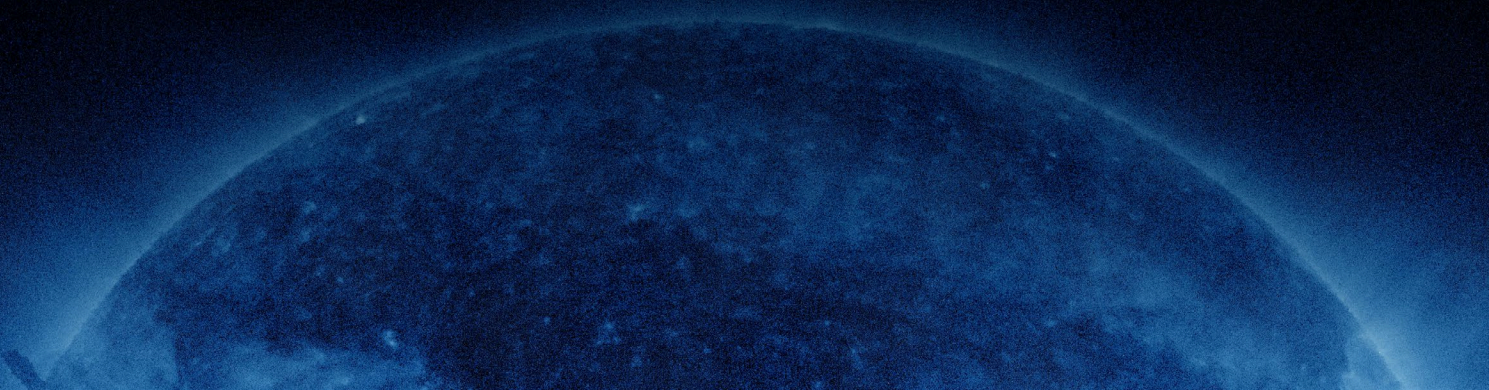


- The Virtual Solar Observatory (VSO) is a well-established (2002) community resource that provides homogenous discovery and access to distributed Solar and Heliophysics data.
- VSO supports 25 active data providers, supporting 51 sources (satellites, rocket / balloon flights, ground-based observatories etc.) with data from 114 different instruments. Data goes back to 1869.
- VSO provides packages in the standard SolarSoft (IDL based) analysis environment and the same access to data from within SunPy (Python based). The same API is available for other languages.
 - Historically seen that used for C, Perl, Java and JavaScript.
- VSO provides a check on the quality of available data and metadata, data validation, and standards, open source and open data evangelization (SOLARNET, TOPS, FAIR etc.)



Why have we been around so long?

- A wise man once said “First, serve your community.”
 - Our quintessential “Small Box” approach.
 - Small team.
 - VSO includes “we know what you meant” technology!
- We’re part of the analysis systems (SolarSoft / SunPy).
- We’ve become glue / furniture!
- Nepalese food.



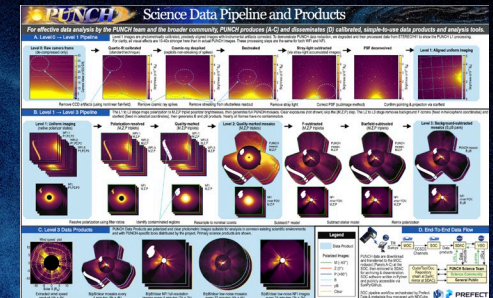
Why it's time for VSO 2.0



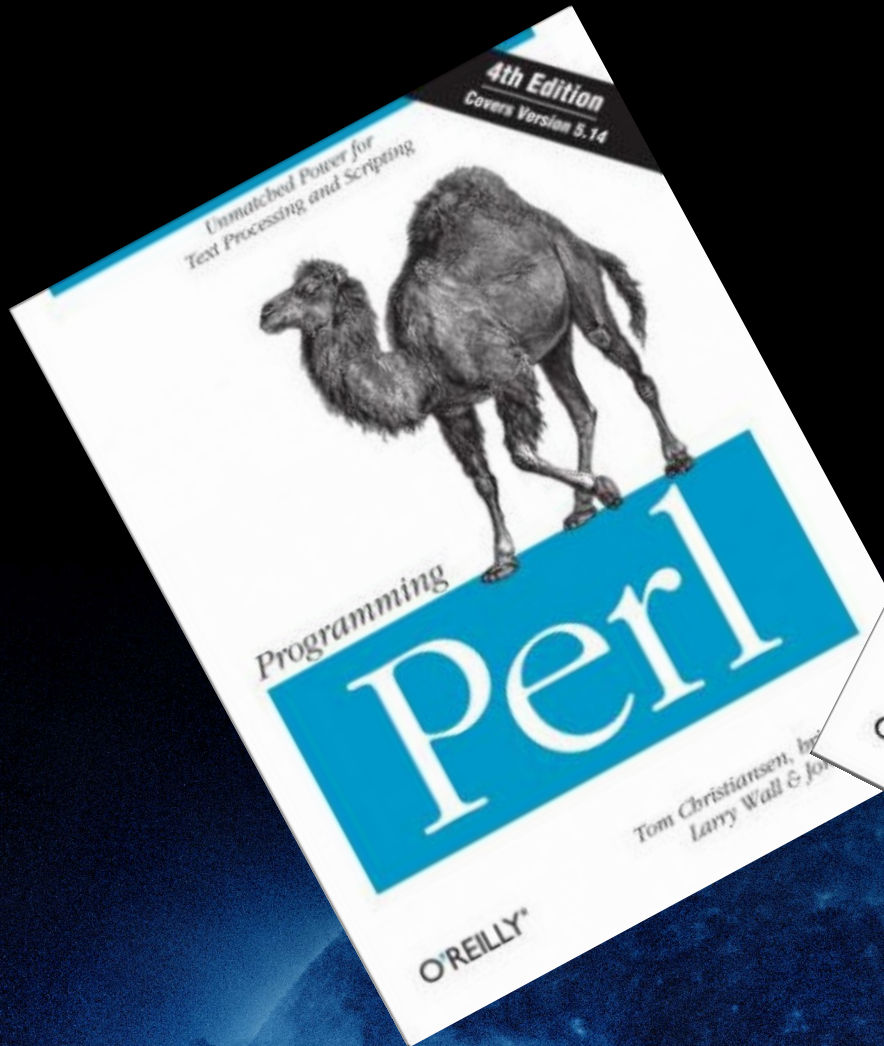
- VSO was first introduced in 2002. The base VSO code, including the core, registry, user interface and most data providers have been written in Perl.

Maybe the take-away is that we are modernizing VSO because we want VSO to be sustainable, and to be maintainable most probably by the next generation!

- Lack of separation between data related and display parts.
- Our current data model makes it difficult to unambiguously categorize the data products from new missions such as PUNCH or new ground-based observatories such as DKIST.
- VSO web site is ancient! We'd really like to take advantage of over 20 years of development in web application technology!



Farewell to camels and llamas!



Redesigning VSO - Technical

- Moving to use Python as the main implementation language
 - Have worked closely with SunPy community over the last few years.
 - Already have data providers written in Python.

- Moving to use git as the version control system

- Model

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- Moving

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- Implement

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- Redesign of VSO website using modern frameworks.

- *While maintaining Current VSO functionality.*

The screenshot displays the OpenAPI JSON interface for a FastAPI application. At the top, it shows 'FastAPI 0.1.0 OAS 3.1' and the URL 'openapi.json'. Below this, there is a section for 'default' endpoints, which includes four GET requests: a root endpoint, an endpoint for a specific item, and two endpoints for listing providers and sources. The bottom section, titled 'Schemas', lists several data models: HTTPValidationError, Provider, Source, ValidationError, listAllProviders, and listAllSources, each with an 'Expand all' link and the type 'object'.

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design of

VSO is adopting a Model-View-Controller (MVC) approach

MVC is a software design pattern that separates an application's logic into three layers.

- **Model**

Contains the data and data-related logic that the user interacts with, such as databases, schemas, and interfaces.

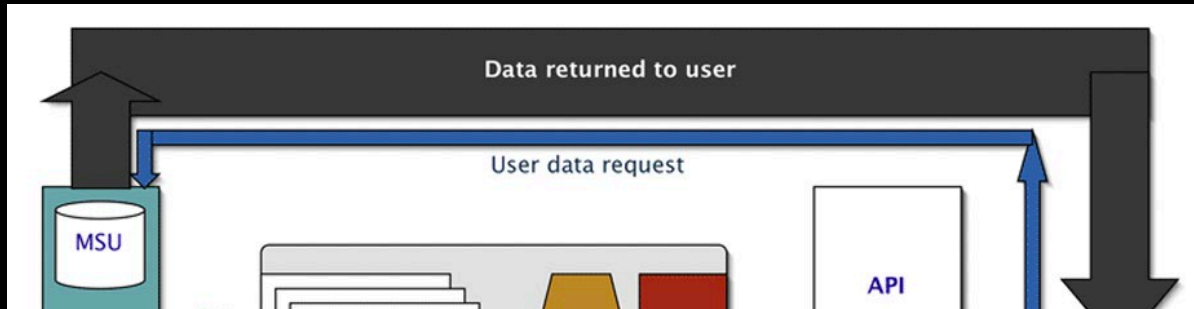
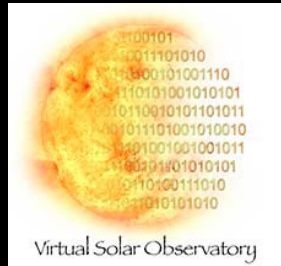
- **View**

Provides the user interface (UI) that allows users to interact with the application and its data.

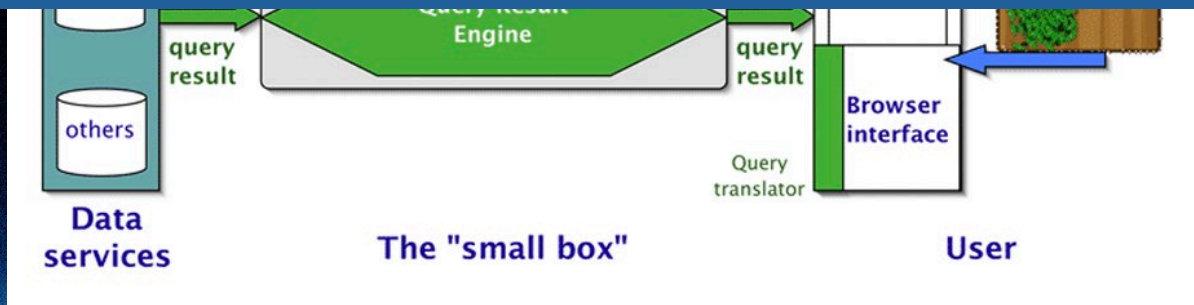
- **Controller**

Contains the application logic that facilitates communication between the model and view and handles user interaction from the view.

The end of the small box?



**No! But now it's a bunch of small(ish) boxes!
(Modular not monolithic design)**



VSO 2.0 – Features

- New data model.
- Internal and external access between functional elements via a series of REST APIs.
- A new registry which uses the new data model to expose everything that each data provider can support.
- New VSO web portal and unified functionality between the portal and programmatic interfaces.
 - Saved searches. Support for user customization. **Easier reproducibility!**
- Updated Data Providers.
- Full spatial, and sub-second time search / support.
- Improved “health” monitoring of data providers.
- Added protocol support.
- Automated statistical tracking of queries and downloads.
- Provide more responsive services. Better error handling and propagation. Unambiguously able to say why when there are no results.
- Greatly improved documentation. (Python notebooks etc.)
- Opportunities for people outside of the core VSO team to contribute.

PUNCH



VSO Data Model 2.0

- **New data model reflects a change in philosophy to return much more metadata to the user and enable more ways to search the data sources.**

- New data model more fully describes the holdings of data providers and defines everything that a particular data provider supports (particularly requested by SunPy folks)
- New definitions that allow us to unambiguously describe data products, including derivate data products. Necessary for new data products from DKIST or PUNCH.
 - HMI 720s – Line of site magnetograms which are produces every 720s from filtergrams taken in the last 1260s.
- All parts of the new data model definitions are accessible through RESTful Registry APIs.
- **Make available for community comment in November.**

4. VSO Search Parameters

- 4.1 Definition of Terms
- 4.2 Observing Time
 - 4.2.1 Observation Times
 - 4.2.2 Duration / Exposure
 - 4.2.3 Cadence
 - 4.2.4 Sample
 - 4.2.5 Near
 - 4.2.6 Latest
 - 4.2.7 Carrington Rotation Search
 - 4.2.8 Observing Program Search
 - 4.2.9 Observing Program Description
- 4.3 Target Location
 - 4.3.1 Observed Coordinates
 - 4.3.1.1 Helio-projective Cartesian (TAN projection)
 - 4.3.1.2 Carrington Coordinates
 - 4.3.1.3 Stonyhurst Coordinates
 - 4.3.2 Spatial Search
 - 4.3.2.1 Observation Box
 - 4.3.2.1.1 Helio-projective Cartesian (TAN projection)
 - 4.3.3 Extent Search
 - 4.3.4 Active Region

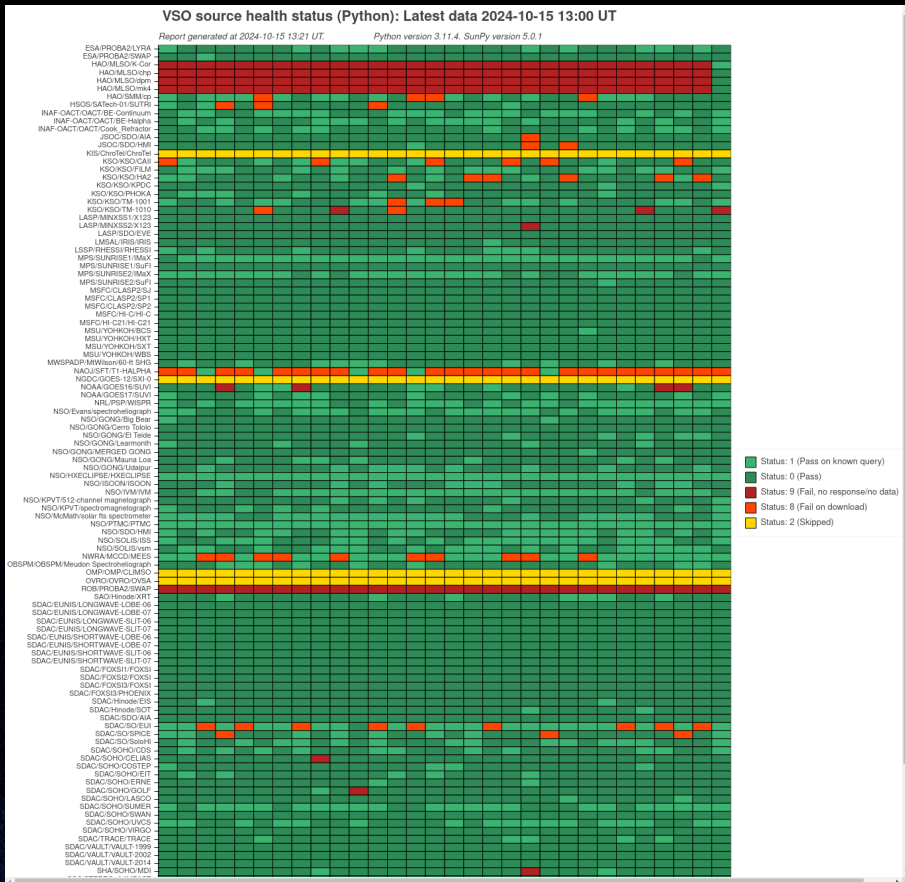
VSO Time / Instrument Search Form
Version 1.4

All Invs Provider All Invs	Source	Instrument	Date Range
FAC	FAC	LUNA	2010.03.00 -
		SNO	2010.06.00 -
		FCR	2010.06.00 -
		FCR	2010.06.00 -
HMC	HMC	FCR	1996.04.20 - 2013.09.02
		FCR	1996.04.20 - 2013.09.02
		FCR	1996.04.20 - 2013.09.02
		FCR	1996.04.20 - 2013.09.02
HSDS	HSDS	FCR	2002.05.00 - 2013.09.02
		FCR	2002.05.00 - 2013.09.02
		FCR	2002.05.00 - 2013.09.02
		FCR	2002.05.00 - 2013.09.02
JHSC	JHSC	FCR	2010.03.00 -
		FCR	2010.03.00 -
		FCR	2010.03.00 -
		FCR	2010.03.00 -
KBR	KBR	FCR	2010.03.00 -
		FCR	2010.03.00 -
		FCR	2010.03.00 -
		FCR	2010.03.00 -
LASP	LASP	FCR	2010.03.00 -
		FCR	2010.03.00 -
		FCR	2010.03.00 -
		FCR	2010.03.00 -

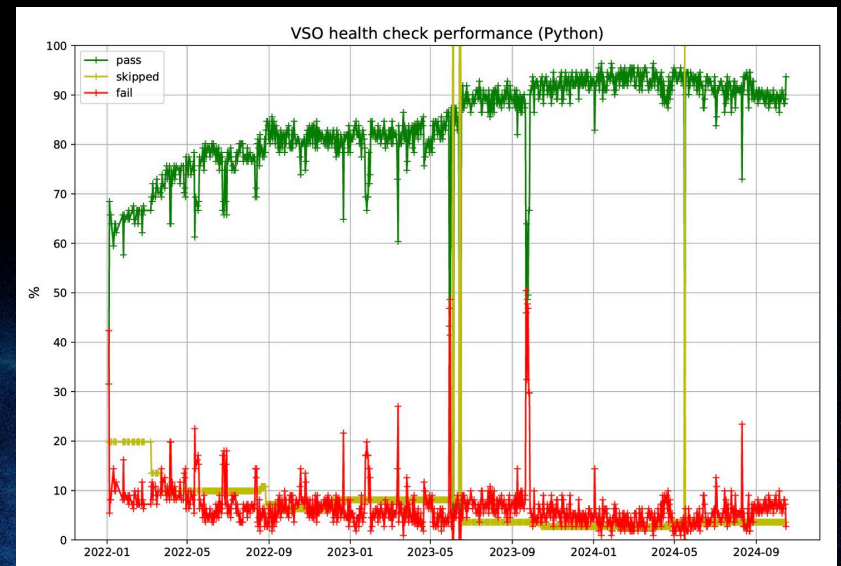
Data Providers

- Recode all current Perl data providers in Python.
- Upgrade all databases to sub-second time resolution.
- Re-parse data so we can easily expose more metadata up to and including providing FITS headers.
- Expose everything that a data provider can support.
 - Ability to specify per data provider keywords outside of the core keywords
- Improved data provider framework, speed up adding new ones. (There is ~30 in the queue!)
- **Maintain current data providers.**

Data Provider "Health" Reports



- Currently generated once per day.
- Move to more frequent checking of data provider status.
 - Eventually move to on demand checking of data providers.



Access Protocols – *TAP* Support

- Table Access Protocol (TAP)¹ specified by the International Virtual Observatory Alliance (IVOA)² defines a service protocol for accessing general table data.
- TAP+ is the ESAC Space Data Centre (ESDC)³ extension of the Table Access Protocol.
- VSO currently uses TAP+ for searching the ESA data provider, for PROBA2 data. We are in the process of adding access to SOAR, the Solar Orbiter Archive. Expand this development to access other instruments in the ESA Heliophysics Archive (Arnaud's talk). Interfacing with VESPA (ESN-TAP) is another target.
- **In addition to searching data providers using TAP protocols, VSO 2.0 will support querying of all of the data providers it serves via TAP protocols.**

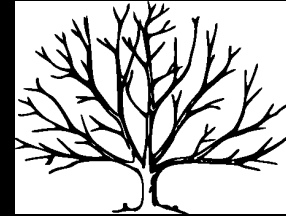
¹<https://www.ivoa.net/documents/TAP/>

²<https://www.ivoa.net>

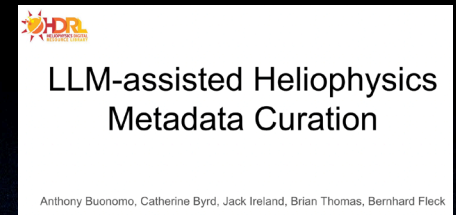
³<https://www.cosmos.esa.int/web/esdc/>



Other Projects



- Investigating new file formats such as Advanced Scientific Data Format (ASDF) to encapsulate all metadata (all FITS headers) in an observation set. (DKIST does this – VSO testing with AIA).
 - “I just want all the headers” – We will grant this wish!
- Integration with other projects such as “LLM-assisted Heliophysics Metadata Curation”, Data \Leftrightarrow Paper.
- Working with data in the cloud.



Summary



VIRTUAL SOLAR OBSERVATORY
S I N C E 2 0 0 2

- The VSO has been successfully serving the Solar and Heliophysics community for two decades.
- We are using that experience and the lessons we have learned, to upgrade the VSO to better serve the scientific needs of the community in the US, Europe, and around the world.
- We are also upgrading the VSO, so it continues to be sustainable, and to be maintainable.

“First, serve your community.”

BRING US YOUR
HELIOPHYSICS DATA,
YEARNING TO BE FREE!

VSO 2.0 Coming April-June 2025!!

