CSIRO Australia

Deploying CASDA VO Tools



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CSIRO Astronomy & Space Science

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CASDA is a core component in the Australian Square Kilometre Array Pathfinder (ASKAP) system. It is essentially the primary point for storing, managing, sharing and using processed ASKAP data products.

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# Introduction

CASDA VO Tools is a highly customizable application developed to serve astronomy data via Virtual Observatory [1] protocols [2]. Currently Simple Cone Search (SCS) [3] and Table Access (TAP) [4] protocols are supported.

Each protocol has its own endpoint in VO Tools, that is, a URL where the service can be accessed by a client application.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Endpoint | URL |
| SCS | <VO tools base URL>/scs |
| TAP | <VO tools base URL>/tap |
| SIA2 | <VO tools base URL>/sia2 |
| Datalink | <VO tools base URL>/datalink |

Each endpoint has its own configuration parameters and database tables (and/or views) that it provides access to.

To enable access to a database table via TAP, include it in the list of tables in the TAP endpoint configuration. Then you can search these tables using ADQL queries via the TAP protocol at URLs like <VO tools base URL>/tap.

To enable access to a database table via SCS, include it in the list of tables in the SCS endpoint configuration. Then you can search these tables using SCS protocol at URLs like <VO tools base URL>/scs/<table name>, where <table name> is the name of the table to search.

Some VO clients implement cone search on top of TAP. That is, if the table columns storing RA and Dec values have the corresponding UCDs [5,6] that identify them as coordinate columns, TAP clients can recognise them as coordinates and use them in cone search.

This document provides simple step-by-step instructions for the installation of CASDA VO Tools. A basic familiarity with VO concepts is required.

# System requirements

CASDA VO Tools is a cross-platform application. It should run on any computer that has the required software installed on it. There are no special requirements for memory and disk space.

CASDA VO Tools is implemented in Java as a Web application and requires a Java servlet container, such as Apache Tomcat or Jetty, to run. Another important requirement is that the data is stored in a PostgreSQL [7] database. The reason for this is that Astronomical Data Query Language (ADQL) [8] parser and an extension for processing spherical data types (pgSphere [9]) are available for PostgreSQL, and CASDA VO Tools uses these for its implementation of TAP queries and cone search.

For downloading and deploying CASDA VO Tools war file, the following software is required:

* Apache Tomcat version 7 or later [10], or another Java servlet container;
* Java 8 or later JDK [11];
* PostgreSQL 9.4 or later [7];
* pgSphere 1.1 or later [9];

The required software packages can be downloaded using URLs provided in the references section and installed by following the steps outlined in their documentation or in tutorials that can be found on the Web.

NOTE: It is not necessary to have CASDA VO Tools and PostgreSQL with pgSphere on the same computer. CASDA VO Tools will work as long as it can access the database via JDBC.

For building CASDA VO Tools from source code, in addition to the software listed above, Java JDK (not JRE) is required. Your computer must also be connected to the Internet because the build process will have to download a considerable number of dependencies.

# Installing CASDA VO Tools

## Installing using the war file and Tomcat

1. Download VO Tools war file from [12].
2. Drop it to your Tomcat server webapps directory.
3. If your Tomcat is configured to detect and install web applications automatically, it will detect the CASDA VO Tools war file and automatically unpack it into a new web application directory.
4. If Tomcat does not unpack war files automatically, do the following (assuming that Tomcat is installed to /opt/tomcat8/ and CASDA VO Tools war file is casda\_vo\_tools.war):

#$> mkdir /opt/tomcat8/webapps/casda\_vo\_tools

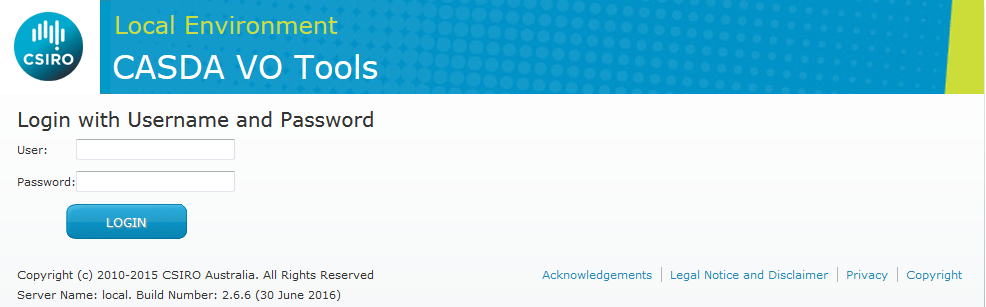
#$> mv vo\_tools.war /opt/tomcat8/webapps/casda\_vo\_tools/

#$> cd /opt/tomcat8/webapps/casda\_vo\_tools/

#$> jar –xvf vo\_tools.war

Then restart Tomcat.

Start your browser and point it to http://<your-tomcat-address-and-port>/casda\_vo\_tools/configure/home. You should see a web page that looks like Picture 1.



Picture 1. CASDA VO Tools Login page

If you see this, it means that VO Tools is installed and running.

## Building and installing CASDA VO Tools using source code

1. Download CASDA VO Tools source code archive from [12].
2. Drop it to a directory on your hard drive, e.g. /temp.
3. Do the following:

#$> cd /temp

#$> tar -xzf casda\_vo\_tools-src.tar.gz

#$> cd /casda\_vo\_tools/

#$> ./gradlew build

If the build is successful, it will create CASDA VO Tools war file in build/libs subdirectory. Use it to install CASDA VO Tools as described in section 3.1.

## Application log files

By default, CASDA VO Tools is configured to write out log files to logs/casda\_vo\_tools.log relative to the web container’s working directory (i.e. the current directory of the container process).

A custom logging configuration can be provided at config/CasdaVoTools-log4j2.xml under the web container’s working directory. This should use the log4j 2 XML syntax.

# Configuring CASDA VO Tools

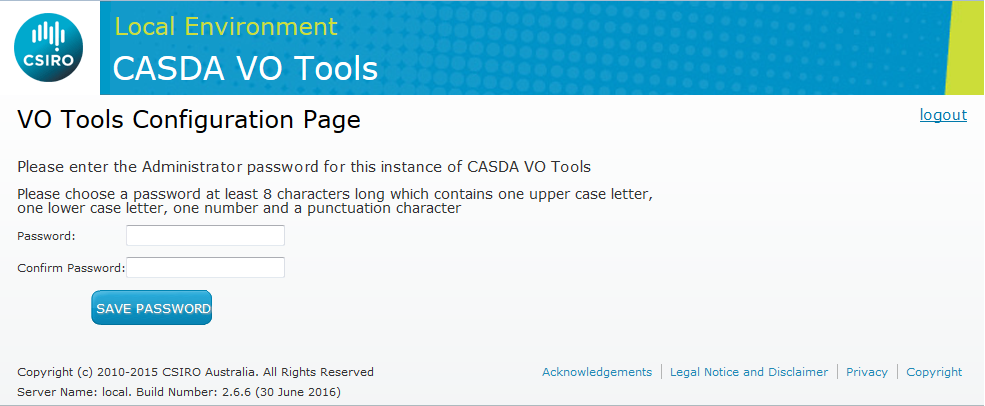
To change the configuration the administrator must be logged in. navigating to http://<your-tomcat-address-and-port>/casda\_vo\_tools/configure/home will bring the administrator to the login screen (as shown in picture 1 above.)

When logging in for the first time, login using the following credentials:

User name: voadmin

Password: password

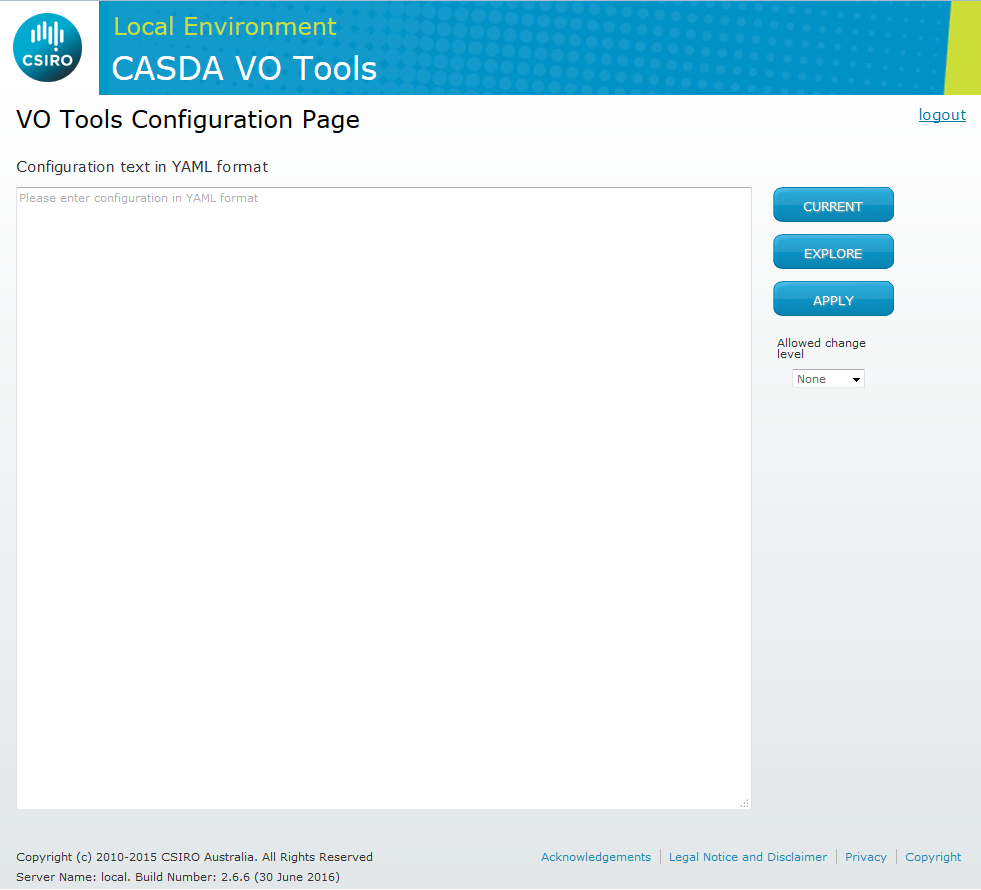
After this initial login the admin will immediately be asked to enter and confirm a new password. This password must be at least 8 characters long and include one each of the following; an uppercase letter, a lower case letter, a number, a punctuation character.



Picture 2. New password page.

This password will now be the administration password. To reset the password the administrator must enter the current working directory of the web application and delete the file <application root>/config/authz.

Once this is done the administrator will be taken to the Configuration page as shown below



Picture 3. Configuration page.

The configuration page has three large buttons:

* **CURRENT** – shows your current configuration in YAML format in the configuration window on the left.
* **EXPLORE** – reads configuration from the text window, identifies database tables mentioned in it, reads their structure, and shows complete configuration in the configuration window. It replaces missing values with placeholders looking like "<Please provide value>".
* **APPLY** – takes the submitted configuration and applies it. To do it, CASDA VO Tools connects to the database defined in the configuration and reads its structure. If this structure is different from the submitted configuration, CASDA VO Tools will try to change the structure, subject to permitted actions (see below). It also updates the configuration parameters stored in the database and stores the submitted configuration as current.

The configuration page also has a dropdown list that allows you to define the level of database changes that are permitted when applying a configuration:

* **None** - no changes to database structure are permitted.
* **Update** – permits small updates that will not cause information loss or require reindexing. Example: automatic creation of TAP metadata tables (see below).
* **Reindex** – permits updates that might require rebuilding an index. They must be performed with care because rebuilding an index can take very long time on a large database. Example: adding an index or indexed column.
* **Drop** – permits updates that may result in information loss, such as dropping columns.

The default VO Tools configuration connects it to a reference database. This database contains just enough data to demonstrate that VO Tools works and delivers services as expected. You can use your browser and/or VO clients to connect to TAP and CSC services with base URLs http://<your-tomcat-address-and-port>/casda\_vo\_tools/tap and http://<your-tomcat-address-and-port>/casda\_vo\_tools/scs.

To switch VO Tools to your own database:

1. Click on the CURRENT button. You will see the current configuration, looking approximately like this:
2. Replace the connection.url, connection.username and connection.password with your database access parameters.

!Configuration

endPoints:

TAP:

options: !Map

tap.job.name.prefix: casda\_vo\_req\_

tap.data.access.url: http://localhost:8080//tap/jobResults/

tap.max.running.jobs: 4

tap.max.records: 20000

<… other TAP options …>

tables:

- ivoa.obscore

- casda.catalogue

SCS:

options: !Map

scs.output.format.mime: text/xml

scs.outputFormat.alias: votable

scs.max.radius: 10

<… other SCS options …>

tables:

- ivoa.obscore

options: !Map

application.base.url: http://localhost:8080/

application.message: Unconfigured install of CASDA VO Tools

log.timezone: UTC

connection.url: jdbc:postgresql://votoolsdemo.csiro.au:5432/casda

connection.username: R/OGuest

connection.password: guestpass

connection.driverClassName: org.postgresql.Driver

auth.trusted.ip: 127.0.0.1

datalink.async.service.url: <http://localhost:8080/data_access/async/>

datalink.async.service.name: [Scripted](http://localhost:8080/data_access/async/) file access via web

<… other general options …>

schemas:

ivoa: !au.csiro.casda.votools.config.SchemaConfig {}

tables:

ivoa.obscore: {},

casda.catalogue: {}

1. Remove the tables and schemas branches (below general options).
2. Replace ivoa.obscore in TAP and SCS tables lists with your own tables’ names. You can have as many of tables listed as you wish.
3. The TAP protocol requires support of special TAP metadata tables that describe all of the tables that clients can access via TAP, including the metadata tables themselves. For more information, see Section 2.6 of [4]. CASDA VO Tools automatically checks for the existence of these tables and their conformance to the TAP specification and CASDA VO Tools version. If these tables do not exist or do not conform to the current CASDA VO Tools requirements, CASDA VO Tools will try to create or update them. If CASDA VO Tools does not have permissions to do it, an error message will be shown. The minimal level of permissions required to update the metadata tables is UPDATE, but, if some fields need to be removed, DROP permission is required.

**If you are installing CASDA VO Tools first time**, the system will have to create the TAP metadata tables. It creates these tables automatically in the schema specified by the [default.db.schema](#_default.db.schema) parameter. To do this, it requires the Update permitted change level selected. So, if you are installing CASDA VO Tools first time, select Update in the permitted change level select control to allow creation of the TAP metadata tables.

**If you are upgrading CASDA VO Tools**, the system checks compatibility of the existing TAP tables with the version of CASDA VO Tools you are upgrading to. It may need the Drop change level permitted if it needs to drop obsolete columns in the TAP metadata tables.

After selecting required permissions level, click on the EXPLORE button and correct configuration errors if necessary.

The system will try to read the structure of the tables that you listed in the configuration. It will then present a complete configuration with tables structure defined and placeholders for missing parameters.

1. Fill in the parameters. See the [Configuration Parameters](#_VO_Tools_configuration) section for an explanation of their meaning.
2. If you have made any changes in the configuration, select Update as permitted change level.
3. Click on the APPLY button. If you see an error message in the configuration window, something has gone wrong and you need to address the problem. You can return to the configuration by clicking on the browser’s Back button, and correct the configuration. If, after clicking on APPLY, you still see the configuration text, congratulations! Your configuration has been accepted and CASDA VO Tools should work as you’ve configured it now.

# VO Tools configuration parameters

## General options

These options define the environment in which the application is deployed.

### application.base.url

The base URL of the CASDA VO Tools application. Example: http://localhost:8080/casda\_vo\_tools

### application.message

The message displayed by CASDA VO Tools UI controller on its home page. Example: Unconfigured install of CASDA VO Tools

### auth.trusted.ip

The comma separated list of trusted IP addresses. The application reads user information from headers of requests coming from trusted hosts.

### auth.trusted.userId

The comma separated list of trusted user idents. The application reads user information from headers of requests coming from trusted users. This allows certain users to bypass restrictions on unreleased data.

*Note: these user identifiers must still originate from trusted IPs, see above property.*

### build.environment

The name of the environment this application is running on, for display in the footer of pages.

### connection.driverClassName

The name of the class implementing used JDBC driver. For PostgreSQL, it is org.postgresql.Driver.

### connection.password

The password to use for the database connection.

### connection.url

The JDBC URL of the database. Example: jdbc:postgresql://votoolsdemo.csiro.au:5432/casda

### connection.username

The user name to use for the database connection.

### default.db.schema

The name of the database schema where TAP metadata tables reside**.** CASDA VO Tools checks for existence of TAP tables in this schema and automatically creates them if required. If they exists, it checks for their compliance to the current version of VO Tools and automatically updates them if required.

### log.timezone

The time zone to use in CASDA VO Tools logs. Default: UTC

### logo.url

The URL of the image to be displayed in the header of the pages.

### stylesheet.information

The address of the css file to use to style the pages of this application.

## SCS options

These options define the Simple Cone Service and its behaviour. The values specified will be provided to users of the service via the SCS capabilities endpoint.

### scs.max.radius

The maximum accepted value of search radius, degrees. Queries requesting a large radius than this value will be rejected. Default: 10

### scs.max.records

The maximum number of results records to return per request. Default: 20000

### scs.outputFormat.alias

The alias of the output format of results generated by the SCS service. Note that only votable results are supported, regardless of the alias provided. Default: votable

### scs.outputFormat.mime

The MIME type of the output format of results generated by the SCS service. Default: text/xml

### scs.test.catalog

The table name to use in test query in the capabilities document. Default: obscore

### scs.test.dec

The Dec value to use in test query in the capabilities document. Default: -30.45

### scs.test.extras

The extra parameters to use in test query in the capabilities document.

### scs.test.ra

The RA value to use in test query in the capabilities document. Default: 180

### scs.test.verbose

The verbosity level to use in test query in the capabilities document. Default: 1

## TAP options

These options define the Table Access Protocol service and its behaviour. This includes defining the different job limits for asynchronous and synchronous requests.

### tap.async.timeout

The timeout value for TAP database queries in asynchronous jobs, in seconds. Default: 3

### tap.asyncBaseUrl

The base URL for asynchronous TAP requests. Default: /tap

### tap.asyncDescription

The description string for asynchronous UWS [13] service created by CASDA VO Tools. Default: UWS for CASDA

### tap.asyncJobListName

The name for asynchronous jobs list. Default: async

### tap.dataAccessUrl

The base URL for accessing results generated by TAP. Example: http://localhost:8080/tap/jobResults/

### tap.executionDuration.default

The duration (in seconds) set by default to a job, when none is specified.

### tap.executionDuration.hard

The duration (in seconds) set by default to a job, when none is specified.

### tap.jobNamePrefix

The prefix used for TAP job names. Default: casda\_vo\_req\_

### tap.language.description

The description of supported TAP query language. Should be: ADQL 2.0

### tap.language.name

The name of supported TAP query language. Should be: ADQL

### tap.language.version

The version of supported TAP query language. Should be: 2.0

### tap.max.records

The default maximum number of results records to serve per a request. Default: 20000

### tap.maxRunningJobs

The maximum number of running jobs (must be > 0 to have a queue).

### tap.outputFormat.alias

The alias to output format of results generated by the TAP service. Default: votable

### tap.outputFormat.mime

The MIME type of output format of results generated by the TAP service. Default: text/xml

### tap.outputLimit.hard

The upper limit to the number of record to serve per request. Default: 20000

### tap.retentionPeriod.default

The default retention period for TAP asynchronous job results, seconds. Default: 432000

### tap.retentionPeriod.hard

The maximum retention period for TAP asynchronous job results, seconds. Default: 432000

### tap.sync.timeout

The timeout value for TAP database queries in synchronous jobs, in seconds. Default: 2

### tap.votable.xsl

The full URL of the XSL stylesheet used to style VOTable responses. Can be empty, None or a URL. Empty will default to the server’s votable.xsl, the text None will cause the stylesheet to be supressed and any other value will be used as the URL of the stylesheet. Default: Empty

## TAP metadata options

These options define extra metadata which is sent back as parameters on each TAP query. They allow you to further describe your service.

### metadata.contactPerson

Who to contact about this service and description of this parameter separated by ‘|’. Example: CASDA Support &lt;atnf-datasup@csiro.au&gt;|Who to contact about this service

### metadata.copyright

The data license and description of this parameter separated by ‘|’. Example: Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International Licence|CASDA's Data license

### metadata.furtherInformation

The link to further information on the data and usage of the service and description of this parameter separated by ‘|’. Example: http://www.atnf.csiro.au/projects/askap/index.html|Link to further information on the data and usage of the service

### metadata.identifier

The unique resource registry identifier and description of this parameter separated by ‘|’. Example: ivo://org.gavo.dc/tap|Unique resource registry identifier

### metadata.instrument

The instrument from which data originated and description of this parameter separated by ‘|’. Example: ASKAP|Instrument from which data originated

### metadata.server

The URL of the CASDA VO endpoint used and description of this parameter separated by ‘|’. Example: http://localhost:8080/casda\_vo\_tools/tap|URL of the CASDA VO endpoint used

### metadata.servicePublisher

The publisher for the TAP service and description of this parameter separated by ‘|’. Example: The CASDA team|Publisher for the TAP service

### metadata.serviceShortName

The short name of the CASDA service and description of this parameter separated by ‘|’. Example: CASDA TAP|Short name of the CASDA service

### metadata.serviceTitle

The TAP service title and description of this parameter separated by ‘|’. Example: CSIRO ASKAP Science Data Archive TAP service|TAP service title

## Datalink options

These options define the Datalink service and its behaviour. This includes defining where the link point, how they are described and what limits are placed on them. These properties allow the configuration of the aforementioned behaviours for both synchronous and asynchronous downloading.

### datalink.async.service.name

The description of the asynchronous web download link.

### datalink.async.service.name.internal

The description of the asynchronous download to an internal account. This needs only be specified where an alternate link is used for higher volume downloads. In CASDA we have a much higher download limit for requests which use a service within the Pawsey Supercomputing Centre.

### datalink.async.service.url

The URL for the asynchronous web download. E.g. <http://localhost:8080/data_access/data/async>

*Note: Leave blank to hide this service from the datalink response.*

### datalink.base.url

The base URL of the application providing the Datalink service. E.g. http://localhost:8080/

### datalink.cutout.service.name

The description of scripted cut-out service

### datalink.cutout.ui.service.name

The description of the link for the cut-out service user interface

### datalink.cutout.ui.url

The URL for the simple cut-out user interface. The request token will be appended to this url and could either be as a parameter or as part of the URL. E.g. <http://localhost:8080/cutoutui?id=> or [http://localhost:8080 /cutoutui/](http://localhost:8080%20/cutoutui/)

*Note: Leave blank to hide this service from the datalink response.*

### datalink.cutout.url

The base URL for the asynchronous cut-out service. E.g. <http://localhost:8080/cutoutui?id>=

*Note: Leave blank to hide this service from the datalink response.*

### datalink.download.limit.http

A download limit (in gigabytes) which can be placed on the synchronous web requests. Any files which are greater than this limit will result in the synchronous web request being removed from the links page and replaced by a message explaining why this option is unavailable.

### datalink.links.url

The Base URL for the datalink result page. E.g. http://localhost:8080/datalink/links

### datalink.sync.service.name

The description of the synchronous web download link.

### datalink.sync.service.name.internal

The description of the synchronous download to an internal account.

### datalink.sync.service.url

The URL for the synchronous web download. The request token will be appended to this URL and could either be as a parameter or as part of the URL. E.g. [http://localhost:8080/data/sync?id={id}](http://localhost:8080/data/sync?id=%7bid%7d) or [http://localhost:8080/data/sync/{id}](http://localhost:8080/data/sync/%7bid%7d)

*Note: Leave blank to hide this service from the datalink response.*

### datalink.sync.service.url.internal

The URL for the synchronous internal download. The request token will be appended to this url and could either be as a parameter or as part of the URL. E.g. [http://localhost:8080/data/async?id={id}](http://localhost:8080/data/async?id=%7bid%7d) or [http://localhost:8080/data/async/{id}](http://localhost:8080/data/async/%7bid%7d)

### siap.shared.sectret.key

The key for encrypting the request token, the request token contains details about the request and is added as a parameter in the URL for the data access service. This key must be present in the data access service to decrypt the request token.

## SSAP options

These options define the Simple Spectral Access Protocol service and its behaviour. This includes defining if the service is active, the service metadata document and record limits.

### ssap.table

The table or view to be used for SSAP queries. If this key is not present then the SSAP service will be inactive.

### ssap.outputLimit.hard

The upper limit of the client provided MAXREC parameter. This is the maximum number of records the client can request.

### ssap.max.records

The default number of records to be returned, when no MAXREC value is provided by the client.

### ssap.metadata.response

The optional name of the file holding the SSAP metadata response. If this file is not specified and the SSAP service is active a default metadata record will be returned.

## Schema options

A schema entry is required for each logical schema to be made available via TAP. These schema need not be related to database schema but are instead a way to group tables in a client interface such as TOPCAT.

### description

The brief description of the schema

### utype

The UTYPE [14] if the schema corresponds to a data model

## Table options

A table entry is required for each database table to be made available via TAP. Note that the name of the table is the actual fully qualified database table name. The table name and table schema name used when querying the table in TAP are defined by the tap.table.name and tap.schema.name options.

### description

The brief description of the table

### description.long

The long description of the table

### params

The additional parameters of the table

### release.required

Should unauthorised access to this table be restricted to released data, i.e. has a populated released\_date column. The value is 0 or 1.

### scs.enabled

Should this table be queryable using the Simple Cone Search service. The value is 0 or 1.

### tap.schema.name

Logical schema name used to access this table via TAP.

### tap.table.name

Logical table name used to access this table via TAP.

### utype

The UTYPE if the table corresponds to a data model. This is meant to express the role of the table in the context of an external data model [14].

## Column options

### column.order

The number of this column in the ordered set of columns of this table.

### description

The short description of the column

### indexed

1 if the column is indexed, else 0.

### principal

### 1 if this item is of main importance, and for instance is recommended in a select or should be shown in first priority in a query response, else 0.

### scs.verbosity

The lowest verbosity level (1, 2, 3) at which this column should be included in a cone search result. Set to 0 to hide the column from SCS.

### size

The size of this column, if not empty, in a database record, in bytes

### std

1 if this column is defined by some IVOA standard as opposed to a customized metadata defined by a specific service, else 0.

### ucd

The Unified Content Descriptor [5,6]

### unit

The units in which the column value is measured, if applicable

### utype

The UTYPE if the column corresponds to a data model. This is meant to express the role of the column in the context of an external data model [14].

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6. UCD Resolver. <http://dc.zah.uni-heidelberg.de/ucds/ui/ui/form>
7. PostgreSQL. <http://www.postgresql.org/>
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9. pgSphere. <http://pgsphere.projects.pgfoundry.org/>
10. Apache Tomcat. <http://tomcat.apache.org/>
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