



A Standards-Based Approach to using Astronomical Data in the Classroom with Microsoft's WorldWide Telescope

Background

The Virtual Observatory (VO) is an international effort to bring large-scale electronic integration of astronomy data, tools, and services to the global community. The Virtual Astronomical Observatory (VAO) is the U.S. NSF- and NASA-funded VO effort. The VAO EPO program has a large formal education component that is committed to bringing standards-based materials to the classroom. The resource presented in this workshop, Microsoft's WorldWide Telescope (WWT), is a powerful VO tool. Our EPO team is developing a standards-based pilot lesson that utilizes WWT's capabilities to teach the STEM subjects using inquiry-based learning.

Is this workshop for me?

If you are a high school or community college science educator, this workshop offers a novel new tool which allows for STEM-based subjects to be taught using real astronomical data from Earth's most powerful telescopes.

What are the workshop objectives?

To learn how to use Microsoft's WWT to teach STEM-based subjects that are aligned with state and national education standards. To create a partnership between the VAO EPO team and educators for further professional development opportunities using WWT and other STEM-based classroom computer tools.

Where

Austin Convention Center
500 E. Cesar Chavez Street
Austin, TX 78701

When

January 8, 2012
Noon – 2pm local time

Fee

\$35 that must be paid when you register. If you attend the workshop, your fee will be reimbursed after the workshop. You must have a copy of your registration confirmation from the American Astronomical Society to get reimbursed.

Registration

To register for the workshop, please fill out the American Astronomical Society form at the URL below.

http://aas.org/files/219th_Workshop_Form.pdf

On the form, be sure to check the workshop name, listed as “**Science Tools for Data-Intensive Astronomy¹**.” Registration deadline is December 20, 2011. Mail the registration form as instructed, and also send an email with the following information to Dan McCallister (MCCALLIS@STSCI.EDU):

- Name
- Grade level(s) taught
- School
- City, State
- Contact Number (home phone or cell)
- Email

Contact Info

For questions email Dan McCallister at MCCALLIS@STSCI.EDU

Preparation

NOTE: There is no preparation required for this workshop. It is not required for you to bring a laptop to the workshop. We will provide materials.

If you would like to explore WWT before the workshop, you can find it here:

<http://www.worldwidetelescope.org/Home.aspx>

WWT is free. If you have a PC, download the Windows Client to get access to all of the features. If you have a Mac, or if you have a PC and want to try the web-based version, click on “Run Web Client”. The web client does require that you have Silverlight downloaded on your machine, and will do so for you if you give it permission. The “About” and “Experience It” tabs at the top of the webpage give explanations of WWT. You can also run tours (bottom of web page) that explain how WWT can be used in the classroom, such as the “Educator’s Tour.”