Performing Simple Interactions

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Taverna has the ability to take data from the workflow and pop up webpages asking the user for additional input while the workflow is running.

This simple Tutorial will show a few of the possible Interactions.

The interaction services can be found under available services/ Interactions.
The “ask” service will pop up window displaying a message and a Textbox the user can fill in to return his answer.

- Add an “ask” service to a new workflow
- Add a constant value to the “message port” with the value “What is your name?”
- Add a constant value to the “title port” with the value “Name asking window”
The “choose” service will pop up window displaying a message and a list of options the user can choose from.

- Add an “choose” service to the workflow
- Add a constant value to the “message port” with the value “Which Title shall I use?”
- Add a constant value to the “title port” with the value “Title asking window”
Add a constant value to the “selectionValues” port with the value “Mr”

Now create another constant value service with the value “Mrs”

Connect the “Mrs” constant to the same “selectionValues” port

Notice how Taverna adds a merge between the two constants and the “selectionValues” port

You can click on this merge(circle) to see or change the order of the constants.

Add more title if you like.
CHOOSE
Tell

- The “tell” service will pop up window displays a message
- Add an “tell” service to a new workflow
- Add a constant value to the “title port” with the value “Result window”
- Add a “Concatenate_two_strings” service
  - Hint: Local Services / Text
- Connect the choose to String1
- Connect the ask to String2
- Add an output to the tell service.
Full workflow
Running the workflow

- Run the workflow
- Find in the Title and Name windows
  - They may open at the same time in different tabs.
- Answer the questions
- A Result window will appear with your title and name
- Before selecting OK or Cancel go back to Taverna and look at the results view
- Notice the workflow has NOT finished.
  - There is still a Running displayed and Tell is still a light colour
- This shows that interactions will block workflows so be careful especially in very long running workflows
Finish the workflow

- If you select “Cancel” in any of the Interactions including the Results/Tell an Error will be passed to the next service.
- Try this by pressing Cancel in the page showing your name and title.
- Notice how the workflow finished but the output is an exception.
This was a very basic overview of the Interaction Services.

Where the value are known before the workflow starts to run Text constants or input ports will always be better.

But if the values comes from a previous service, then interactions are very useful.

For example to pick from a list of results from another service.