

# NetworkWorkbench

A Workbench for Network Scientists

## BACKGROUND

The Network Workbench (NWB) project develops a large-scale network analysis, modeling, and visualization cyberinfrastructure for biomedical, social science, and physics research. Users of the NWB tool can perform network analysis, modeling, and visualization with the most effective algorithms and a wide variety of reference datasets.

## MENU DRIVEN INTERFACE

The NWB tool supports network/graph load, view, and save operations. Its diverse preprocessing, analysis, modeling, and visualization algorithms seamlessly interoperate via automatic data conversion behind the scenes. To guide users' choices, only algorithms that can be performed on the currently selected dataset (possibly after conversion) are selectable. All data entry forms provide default values, information on acceptable value ranges, instantaneous feedback if a value is out of range, and further help.

## WORKLOG TRACKING

Load, save, algorithms applied, algorithm parameters, and other operations are all logged sequentially. The log cites the original authors of the algorithm, the developers, the integrators, a reference, and the URL to the reference if available, as well as an URL to the algorithm description at the NWB community wiki. The log is displayed in the console window, and is saved to files. Error logs will be saved in separate files and can be sent in for bug reports.

## DATA MANAGEMENT

The current release of the NWB tool can load, process, and save various network file formats including NWB (\*.nwb), GraphML (\*.xml or \*.graphml), XGMML (\*.xml), Pajek (\*.net), Pajek (\*.mat), TreeML (\*.xml), and two-column edge lists (\*.edge). It also supports viewing and saving plain text files (\*.txt) generated by algorithms. Several data converters have been developed to conduct the transformation between diverse data formats. This facilitates the pipeline of data modeling, analysis, and visualization despite differences in dataset format and algorithm input format. For example, data in Pajek.net files can be transformed into the NWB file format first and then transformed into the Prefuse Graph object model to feed into several visualization algorithms.

## INVESTIGATORS

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## ALGORITHM INTEGRATION

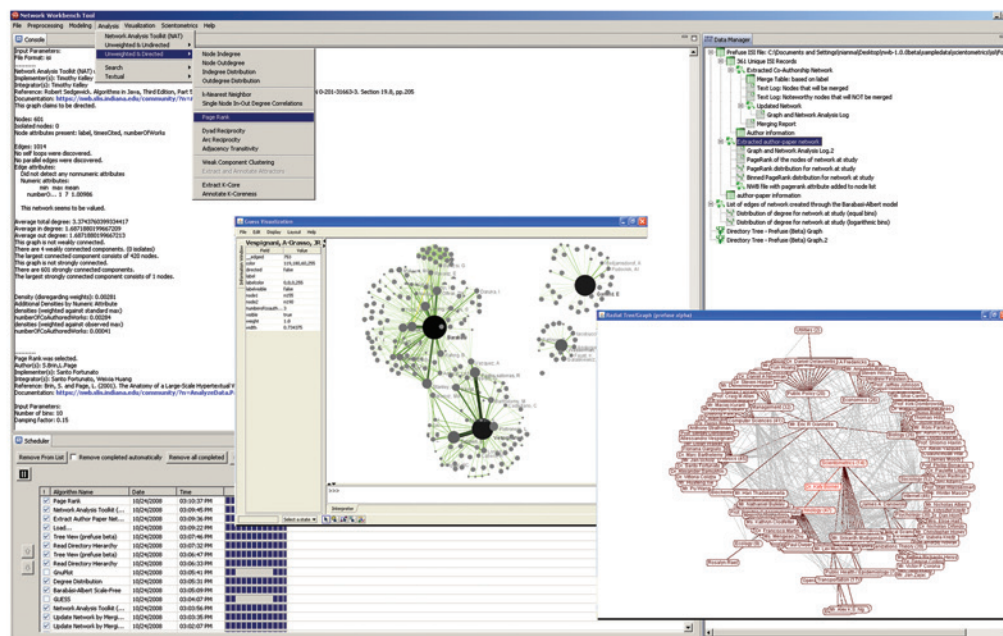
The NWB tool is an algorithm integration framework that supports the easy addition and dissemination of existing and newly created algorithms. The NWB tool uses the Cyberinfrastructure Shell (CIShell), an OSGI-based software architecture, to facilitate the easy plug and play of diverse algorithms. CIShell is written in Java but supports algorithms written in other programming languages, such as C/C++, Perl, and FORTRAN. In practice, a pre-compiled algorithm needs to be wrapped as a plug-in that implements basic interfaces defined in the CIShell Core APIs. To ease the integration of algorithms and datasets, Eclipse wizard-driven templates are provided that acquire information from the algorithm writer and generate the appropriate files and resources. Templates are available to integrate arbitrary file-based datasets, compiled executable code, Java libraries, and Java algorithms. The Java template requires only one method to be filled in – the execute method for the actual algorithm. Simple user interfaces can be created in template wizard – all user interface and framework integration code is generated automatically. Integration of executable binaries typically does not require writing even one line of new code. The NWB tool can integrate whole tools as well as algorithms. For instance, a Gnuplot plug-in has been integrated into Network Workbench to provide 2D and 3D plotting capabilities.

## VISUALIZATION

The NWB tool's visualization algorithms are drawn from a variety of visualization libraries and support many common layouts, such as Fruchterman-Reingold. Many of the visualization algorithms built on the prefuse beta library support mapping arbitrary node and edge metadata to colors, shapes, and sizes, and automatically generate a legend for the resulting visualization. Several of the visualization algorithms are able to scale to thousands of nodes. The Network Workbench tool also includes GUESS, a powerful and flexible network visualization tool.

## GET INVOLVED

Join Mailing Lists: <http://nwb.slis.indiana.edu/mailling.html>  
• [nwb-announce@googlegroups.com](mailto:nwb-announce@googlegroups.com) - News/Updates  
• [nwb-helpdesk@googlegroups.com](mailto:nwb-helpdesk@googlegroups.com) - Post Questions  
• [nwb-dev@googlegroups.com](mailto:nwb-dev@googlegroups.com) - Development Info



VISIT: <http://nwb.slis.indiana.edu>  
<https://nwb.slis.indiana.edu/community>  
<http://www.cishell.org>

DOWNLOAD: NWB Tool  
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