

[Learn By Doing](#)

A Lifelong Learner Shares Thoughts About Education

- [front page](#)
- [archives](#)
- [about](#)
- [RSS](#)



• Categories

- [Administrivia](#)
- [Adobe](#)
- [Art](#)
- [CheatSheets](#)
- [Choices](#)
- [College](#)
- [Computer Science](#)
- [Content](#)
- [Creative Commons](#)
- [Design](#)
- [Gaming](#)
- [iPod](#)
- [Jobs](#)
- [Literacy](#)
- [Moodle](#)
- [OpenCourseWare](#)
- [OpenSource](#)
- [Podcast](#)
- [QOD](#)
- [Rememberall](#)
- [Resources](#)
- [Robots](#)
- [Software](#)
- [Squeak](#)
- [Teaching](#)
- [Templates](#)
- [Tidbits](#)
- [Tips & Tricks](#)
- [Uncategorized](#)
- [Web 2.0](#)
- [webdesign](#)
- [Widgets](#)
- [Wikipedia](#)

• Archives

- [September 2008](#)
- [August 2008](#)
- [June 2008](#)
- [May 2008](#)
- [March 2008](#)
- [February 2008](#)
- [January 2008](#)
- [December 2007](#)
- [November 2007](#)
- [October 2007](#)
- [September 2007](#)

- [August 2007](#)

• Admin

- [Log in](#)
- [WordPress](#)
- [XHTML](#)

← [Video Mash-Up “What Do Teachers Really Make? Taylor Mali... - Cellfish.com](#) →

The Best Tools for Visualization

March 25th, 2008 · [No Comments](#)

The Best Tools for Visualization

Written by [Sarah Perez](#) / March 13, 2008 9:25 AM

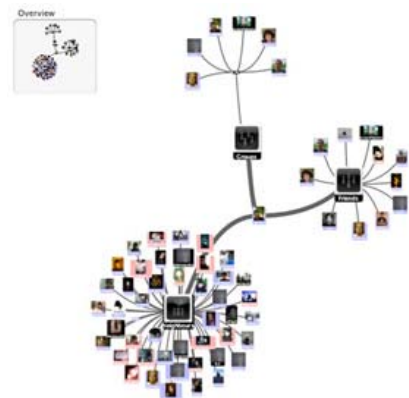


Visualization

is a technique to graphically represent sets of data. When data is large or abstract, visualization can help make the data easier to read or understand. There are visualization tools for search, music, networks, online communities, and almost anything else you can think of. Whether you want a desktop application or a web-based tool, there are many specific tools available on the web that let you visualize all kinds of data. Here are some of the best:

Visualize Social Networks

Last.Forward: Thanks to Last.fm’s [new widget gallery](#), you can now explore a wide selection of extras to extend your Last.fm experience. The gallery hosts widgets for your desktop, for the web, for social networks, and much more. One of the better tools in the gallery, [last.forward](#), is open source software that lets you map out any last.fm user and their connections. The [web site](#) for the software appears to be in German, but the “[Download](#)” button still works. And once it was downloaded and installed, I had no trouble using it myself.



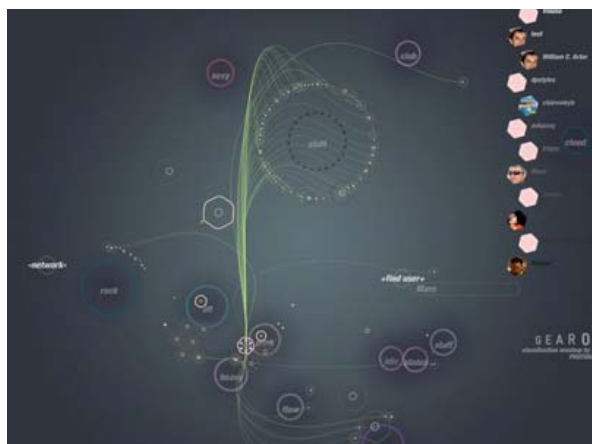
Last Forward

Friends Sociomap: [Friends Sociomap](#) is another Last.fm tools that generates a map of the music compatibility between you and your Last.fm friends.

Fidg't: [Fidg't](#)

is a desktop application that gives you a way to view your networks tagging habits. You can see what kind of music your network is into, or what kind of pictures they are taking. The Fidg't Visualizer allows you to play around with your network. To use Fidg't, you interface with the Visualizer through Flickr and LastFM tags, using any tag to create what

they call a “Magnet.” Once a Tag Magnet is created, members of the network will gravitate towards it if they have photos or music with that same Tag. You can also search through the network for certain users, and see their recent photos and music. The Fiddg’t interface is beautiful, too.



Fiddg't

The Digg Tools:



Digg.com has some of the best web-based visualization tools on the net, so they’re a must for any visualization list.

Pics: Digg Pics is

the latest tool that tracks the activity of images on the site with images that slide in from the left as people submit them and digg them.

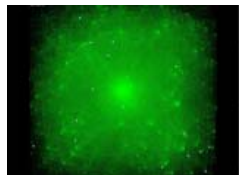
Arc: Digg Arc displays stories, topics, and containers wrapped around a sphere. The more diggs, the thicker the arcs.

BigSpy: Digg BigSpy places stories at the top of the screen as they are digg. Bigger stories have more diggs.

Stack:

Digg Stack shows diggs in real time, with diggs falling from the top of the screen. As stories get more diggs, they’re shown in brighter colors.

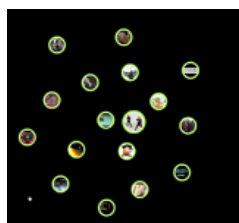
- **Swarm:** Digg Swarm draws circles for stories as they’re digg. Diggers swarm around stories which makes them grow and get brighter.



One more: [Digg Radar](#).

Although this is an unofficial visual aid, Digg Radar is worth a look too. With Digg Radar, you wait and watch for buttons to appear on the map which indicate that a person has Dugg a story. Hover over the button to see their username. Click it to see details about the story, with links to the Digg page or directly to the article.

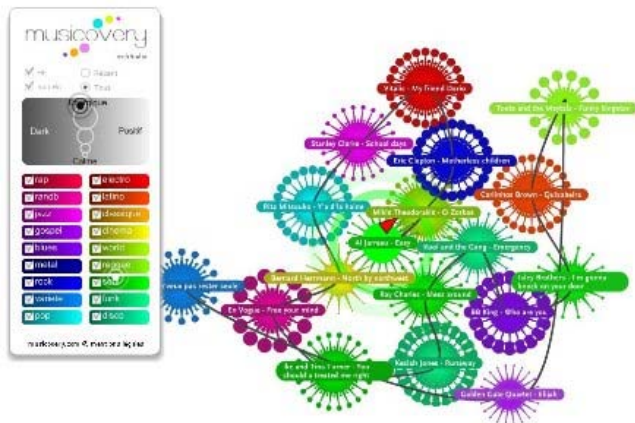
YouTube:



You can discover related videos using [YouTube’s](#) visualizations. To use this feature, go to a YouTube video, click on the full-screen button, and then click on the small button that shows a network. You’ll see a lot of video balloons appear and the configuration will change when you hover over a button.

Visualize Music

- [Liveplasma](#) and [Musicoverly](#) let you discover new music.
- [Tuneglue](#) music map is a “relationship explorer,” similar to LivePlasma. Using data from Amazon and Last.fm, Tuneglue explores relationships between musical artists.
- [Moody](#) lets you tag your music collection with colors. They also have a [color-coded web player](#). ([our coverage](#))
- [The Echo Nest](#) is an audio analysis tool which takes an mp3 file, breaks it up into little segments, and gives pitch, loudness, and high-level timbral descriptions of each one of those segments. The program maps a subset of this audio data onto a visual scale and creates [video playback](#) of the song. ([more](#))
- An [interactive harmony model](#) of music which geometrically describes relationships in harmony. The model can be a visualization tool for songwriters or students of music.
- [Musiclens](#) gives music recommendations and presents your current mood and musical taste as a diagram.
- [Shape Of Song](#): What does music look like?
- [Musicmap](#): connections are represented as connected lines; they create a web.



Musiccovery

Last.fm music visual tools:

- [Last Graph](#): Create artist wave graphs from your musical history in PDF and SVG format.
- [Extra Stats](#): Colorful Stats and tag clouds.

Visualize the Internet



Opte

is a project that lets you graphically map the internet. The data represented and collected here serves a multitude of purposes: Modeling the Internet, analyzing wasted IP space, IP space distribution, detecting the result of natural disasters, weather, war, and aesthetics/art.

Akamai Technologies, who deliver 15-20% of

all web traffic offered up some interesting tools last year for viewing

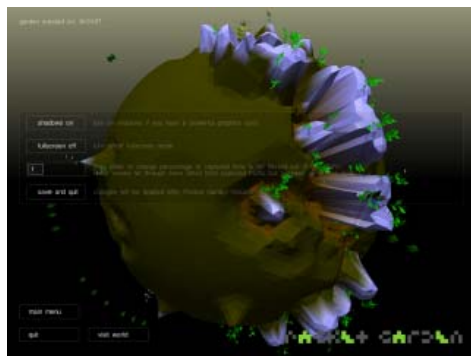
their traffic data. ([Our coverage](#)) From their flagship app, the [Real-time Web Monitor](#), which shows countries with

the most traffic to the [Network Performance Comparison](#) app, Akami's tools are an interesting way to see the web in

real time. In all, they offer 6 Flash-based apps to the public.

- Other internet traffic visualizations include the [Internet Health Report](#) and the [Internet Traffic Report](#).
- [MantaRay](#) displays the geographical placement of MBONE infrastructure (Multi-cast backbone) of the internet. [Otter](#) displays topological views of the (same) multicast infrastructure.
- [Packet Garden](#) is an app that watches your Internet traffic and builds a private world that you can later explore.
- [Mapnet](#) is a Java applet to visualize the topologies of backbones of major U.S. Internet Service Providers.
- [Websites as graphs](#).

An HTML DOM Visualizer Applet, which displays sites as graphs depending on the amount of links, tables, div tags, images, forms and other tags.



Packet Garden

Amazon

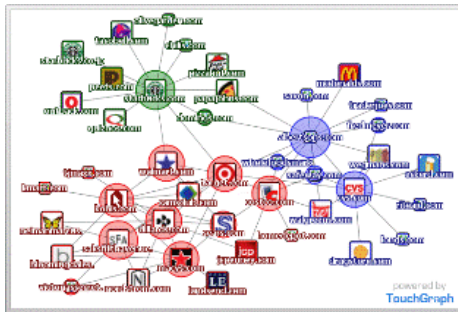
- [LivePlasma](#): music discovery (see also music section of this list)
- [Flowser](#) is another flash-based Amazon visualization for search.
- [BrowseGoods](#) is a visualization that lets you zoom and pan Amazon's catalog of products.
- [Tuneglue](#)
music map is a "relationship explorer," similar to LivePlasma. Using data from Amazon and Last.fm, Tuneglue explores relationships between musical artists. (see also music section of this list)
- [Coverpop](#) is more of an art project that lets you browse Amazon via a collage.
- [Amaztype](#),

in the form of a heatmap. Other heatmap sites include [Feng-GUI](#) and [FuseStats](#). [Summize](#) applies heatmaps to shopping via their search engine(our coverage [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)).

[Visualizing the Power Struggle in Wikipedia](#) displays the most popular articles and the most frequent search queries in the heatmap.

Visual Search Engines:

- Riya's [Like.com](#): first true visual search engine does visual search for shopping.
- [Searchme](#): upcoming visual search for the web
- [Xcavator](#):
A photo search engine which utilizes visual clues that you provide to identify and extract similar pictures from large groups of digital images.
- [ManagedQ](#): A visual search experiment with some built-in semantics. ([our coverage](#))
- [oSkope](#): Visual search engine for finding products that searches Amazon, Ebay, Flickr, Fotolia, Yahoo!Image Search and YouTube.
- [Quintura](#): visual search engine that uses clouds, tags, and highlighting.
- [Tafiti](#): Microsoft's experimental visual search engine running on Silverlight.
- [Retrievr](#) is an experimental service which lets you search and explore in a selection of [Flickr](#) images by drawing a rough sketch.
- [Mooter](#): Visual search engine that organizes results In clusters.
- [KartOO](#): visual web searc.
- [SearchCrystal](#)
is a search visualization tool that let you compare, remix and share results from sources on the web, whether sites, images, videos, blogs, news engines or RSS feeds. (see also [KoolTorch](#))
- [Spacetime](#): search Google, YouTube, RSS, eBay, Amazon, Yahoo!, Flickr and images all in one 3D space.
- [grokker](#): web search or enterprise search offering map views of data.
- [Burst Labs](#) suggests similar or connected items to your search queries in a bubble
- [UBrowser](#) renders interactive web pages onto geometry using OpenGL and an embedded instance of Gecko
- [walk2web](#) - enter a URL, then visually browse web sites linked from it
- [TouchGraph](#)'s [Amazon Browser](#), [Google Browser](#), and [LiveJournal Browser](#)



Touchgraph

News and RSS

- [Voyage](#) is an RSS-feader which displays the latest news in the "gravity area". News can be zoomed in and out. The navigation is possible with a timeline
- [Newsmap](#) is an application that visually reflects the constantly changing landscape of the [Google News](#) news aggregator.
- [Universe DayLife](#) displays events, connections and news as circles which gravitate around the topic they are related to.

Data

- [Swivel](#) create pie charts, diagrams and histograms.
- [Xtimeline](#) and [Circavie](#) let you create your own timelines
- [The prefuse visualization toolkit](#) - thebeta-version of a Java-based toolkit for programming of applications with integrated data visualization methods
- [Dataesthetics](#) Eric Blue on unusual Data Visualization methods.
- Smashing Magazine's [Diagram tool list](#)
- [America by the Numbers](#) (Time.com)



Tags: [Art](#) · [Rememberall](#) · [Resources](#)

0 responses so far ↓

- There are no comments yet...Kick things off by filling out the form below.

You must [log in](#) to post a comment.

• Search It!

To search, type and hit e

• Recent Entries

- [Social-networking sites viewed by admissions officers](#)9.21
- [The New Classics of Computer Science](#)9.7
- [Tinkering School](#)8.12
- [But I Did Everything Right!](#)8.11
- [20+ Free Web Design Ebooks And Guides](#)6.1
- [You Play a Game, Computers Get Smarter, AI Starts to Work](#)5.26
- [Useful Podcasts for Designers and Developers](#)5.26
- [Want to Remember Everything You'll Ever Learn? Surrender to This Algorithm](#)5.25
- ["What Do Teachers Really Make? Taylor Mali... - Cellfish.com](#)3.26
- [The Best Tools for Visualization](#)3.25
- [Visit the archives for more!](#)

• Bookmarks

- [ChaCha](#)
- [Cybertimes Navigator](#)
- [Google Directory CMS](#)
- [Instructables](#)
- [Last.fm](#)
- [OpenCourseWare Consortium Home](#)
- [TeacherXpress](#)
- [Worldmapper](#)
- [Writers Resources](#)

© 2006–2007 Learn By Doing — [Sitemap](#) — [Cutline](#) by [Chris Pearson](#)

Podcast Powered by [podPress \(v8.8\)](#)