

What's New?



VisuaLinks®

Version 4.0

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This document is produced by Visual Analytics Inc.
20010 Fisher Avenue
2nd Floor
Poolesville, MD 20837
1-877-407-4VAI (4824)
www.visualanalytics.com

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This product includes software developed by the Apache Software Foundation (<http://www.apache.org>).

System Requirements

The following configurations list the minimum system requirements for optimal VisuaLinks performance.

When running the VisuaLinks Client as an installed application:

Visual Clarity Server	VisuaLinks Client
Single Pentium 4 Xeon 2 GHz or higher	Pentium III/800 MHz (minimum) Pentium 4/1.5 GHz or higher (recommended)
1GB RAM (minimum) 2GB RAM (Recommended)	512MB RAM (minimum) 1GB RAM (recommended)
200 MB of available hard drive space	150 MB of available hard drive space
Java Runtime Environment (JRE) 1.4.2	Java Runtime Environment (JRE) 1.4.2
Database drivers (ODBC, JDBC, or native Java drivers)	Minimum 1024 x 768 monitor resolution

When running the VisuaLinks Client as an applet:

Visual Clarity Server	VisuaLinks Client
Single Pentium 4 Xeon 2 GHz or higher	Pentium III/800 MHz (minimum) Pentium 4/1.5 GHz or higher (recommended)
1GB RAM (minimum) 2GB RAM (Recommended) †	512MB RAM (minimum) 1GB RAM (recommended)
200 MB of available hard drive space <i>150 MB of available hard drive space on the machine where your web server resides (for the VisuaLinks Client application installation)</i>	Available hard disk space, on each machine that will run the VisuaLinks Client, to store data and associated files
Network Card	Network Card
Java Runtime Environment (JRE) 1.4.2	Java Plug-in
Windows 2000 Server/ Advanced Server with: Internet Information Services (IIS) 5.0, or Tomcat (included with the VisuaLinks software)	Netscape 4.71 (or higher) ~or~ Internet Explorer 5.5 (or higher)
Database drivers (ODBC, JDBC, or native Java drivers)	Minimum 1024 x 768 monitor resolution

Note 1: Increasing your system's memory will help improve the overall response and volume of data that can be loaded on both VisuaLinks and DIG, client and server.

Note 2: VisuaLinks requires Sun Microsystems Java version 1.4.2. The Java Runtime Environment (JRE) is provided with the software. When using the VisuaLinks Applet, each machine that will run the VisuaLinks Client through a web browser must have the Java Plug-in installed.

New Features

Packaging

VisuaLinks 4.0 introduces the Standard, Professional and Enterprise editions. These packages are designed to provide flexibility in choosing the VisuaLinks solution that best meets the needs of individual organizations.

- **VisuaLinks Standard** is aimed at those users needing only basic search capabilities. This package is designed for organizations that wish to provide for simple search and drill-down capabilities without the need for high-end system resources.
- **VisuaLinks Professional** is designed for organizations requiring basic to intermediate analytical features. This package enables the most commonly used visual analysis capabilities allowing users to execute a number of specialized queries to extract targeted information and perform a variety of analysis functions on the results. This package also enables the most popular layout and plotting services including geographic mapping, annotations and several data layout algorithms.
- **VisuaLinks Enterprise** is designed for organizations requiring strategic and/or tactical analysis capabilities. This package enables all VisuaLinks services, including a number of additional query services, numerous data transformation and cleansing tools, query scheduling and notifications as well as the ability to access third-party add-ons such as LAS and ESRI mapping. VisuaLinks Enterprise offers the most comprehensive set of analysis tools available in the marketplace today.

VisuaLinks Administration Application

VisuaLinks 4.0 includes a stand-alone administrative application. This application can be installed on the same machine as the Visual Clarity Server or any other machine that can connect to the server machine. The Administration application further strengthens VisuaLinks security removing any possibility that unauthorized users could access administrative features.

VisuaLinks Modeling Application

The VisuaLinks Modeler is now its own application that can be installed and run separately from the VisuaLinks Client. This allows you to model data right on the server machine - or any other machine that can connect to the server - without launching a VisuaLinks Client.

Services API

The VisuaLinks Services API lets experienced Java developers access the VisuaLinks Services from within custom applications. The API provides the classes required to log on to the Visual Clarity Server, execute services requests and return results. The VisuaLinks Services API is an optional module available with the purchase of the Enterprise edition of VisuaLinks 4.0.

Services

The VisuaLinks 4.0 release includes enhancements to many of the existing services and introduces a number of advanced services. These new services include:



The **Matcher** service is a replacement for the previous Name Matcher, Duplicate Detector and Cross Database Query services. This single service provides all of the matching algorithms needed to find potentially duplicated data as well as any other type of value matching you might need.



The **Documents** service is a text analysis service that provides text clustering, categorization and word counting capabilities. Text clustering analyzes text-based fields and ranks them in terms of relativity. Categorization analyzes text-based fields for their potential fit within pre-determined categories. Word counting analyzes text-based fields counting unique words within the field and reporting the overall occurrences of each word.



The **Draw Query** service lets you define association searches. This unique service searches for objects containing one or more values that are connected to another object that contains one or more values. This query lets you specify that the objects must be directly connected, can be indirectly connected by a certain number of links, or indirectly connected with at least a specific number of links.



The **Geo Query** service searches for geospatial data based on latitude/longitude, ZIP code, specific address, or latitude/longitude area. The Geo Query can search any object with these values types. It also allows you to search for only the values specified or search for a distance range of the values specified.



The **Maps** service includes the standard VisuaLinks Mapping feature along with built-in support for ESRI GIS mapping capabilities.

Re-query

The Re-query tool lets you select one or more values in a search results list and run a new query to return only items matching those values.

Main Toolbar

This release re-introduces the Main Toolbar, which contains quick access to the VisuaLinks services.

Following is an example of the toolbar displayed in the VisuaLinks Enterprise edition.



All toolbar displays can be customized by individual users.

VCR Style Playback

The Data VCR cycles through the unique values in a particular field highlighting those objects in the View that contain the individual value, while dimming those that do not. You can manually cycle through the values or have the Data VCR automatically play through the values. This is a very useful tool for quickly spotting differences between the currently loaded objects.

Sounds

VisuaLinks now lets you use sounds to help alert you to interface changes. VisuaLinks comes with default sounds for a wide number of actions. You can customize the sounds used as well as specify whether sounds should be played at all.

Stop Word and Phrase Lists

VisuaLinks now provide configurable Stop Word and Stop Phrase lists for all services to which they apply. Similar to the current Alias and Exclude lists, the new Stop Word and Stop Phrase lists can be defaulted at the server level and/or customized by individual users.

Functions

The VisuaLinks Functions feature lets you calculate statistics from values in your currently loaded data. The Functions tool generates a variety of statistics – from averages and sums to counts and link lists.

Changes



Query



Advanced Query Services

The previous Database Query service has been broken up into two separate services:

- The **Query** service replaces the previous Basic Query portion of the Database Query.
- The **Advanced Query** service is an enhanced version of the previous Advanced query portion of the Database Query.



Alerts E-mail Notification

Alerts can now notify individual of results found via e-mail.



Frequency Placement

The previous Parallel Coordinates placement is now referred to as the Frequency placement.

Settings

The Settings windows have been divided and re-designed to make settings easier to find and understand:

- **Global** settings include such items as Beacon colors and display settings, View border size, zoom speed and merged object handling.
- **Node** settings include overall object settings such as size, state bar color and image draw. Node settings also include object-specific settings such as label, color, shape and image representation.
- **Association** settings include overall link settings such as visibility, arrow heads and multiple association draw. Association settings also include association-specific settings such as label, line thickness and color.
- **User Interface and Environment** settings include user preferences such as the default directory used to store session files, table colors and grid displays, and sound preferences.

Results Handling

Results of queries are now loaded into a table in the left side (View area) of the interface making viewing the results easier. Details about the query and results are displayed in the Query Results side tab.

Details Popup

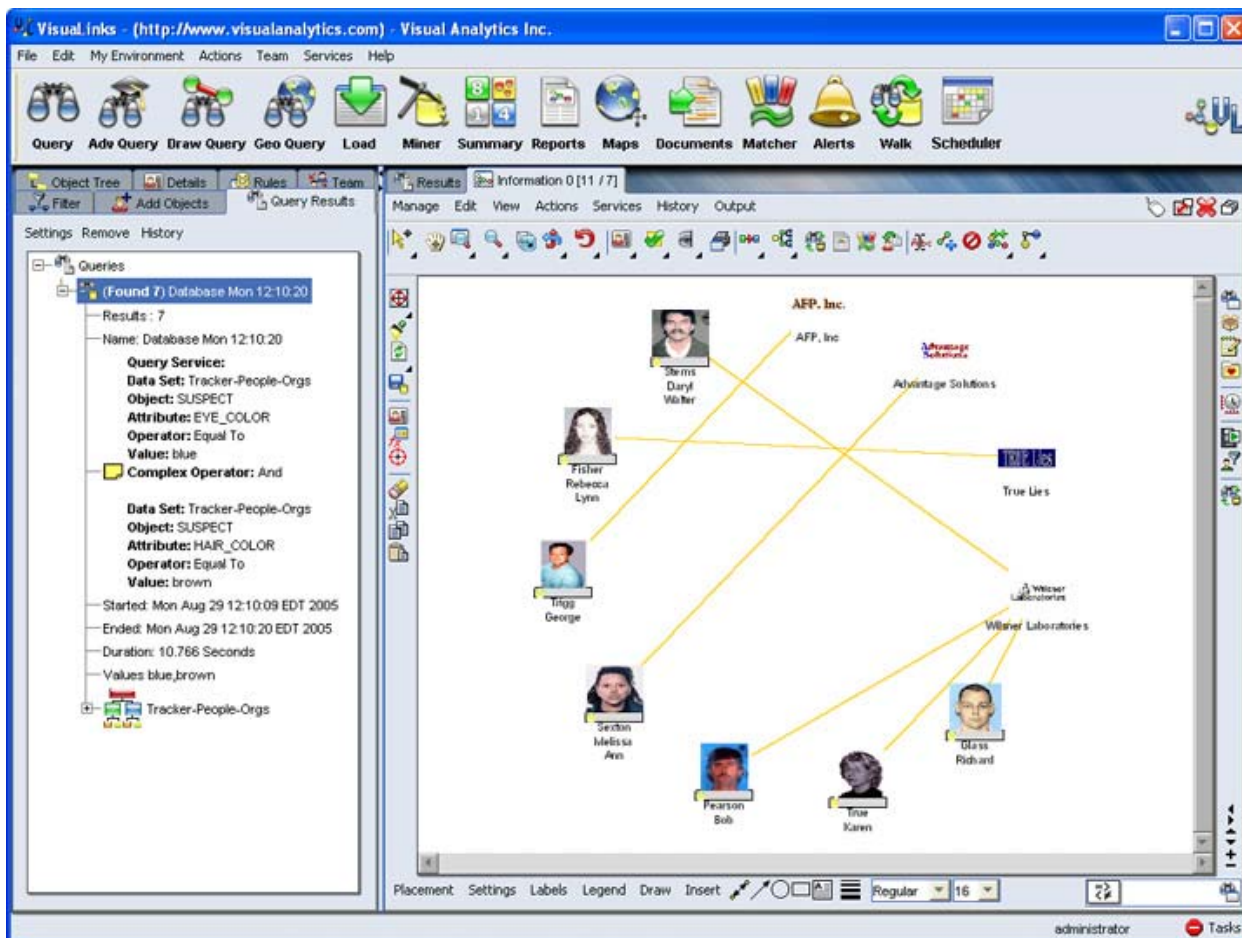
The Details tool now includes an option to popup a window displaying objects details whenever the cursor is hovered over an object in the View.

Mapping Query

The VisuaLinks Mapping tool now allows you to invoke a Geo Query based on a location selected on a displayed map.

Client Interface

The VisuaLinks Client interface has been redesigned to incorporate user feedback and ease-of-use improvements.



■ Toolbars

- A Main Toolbar has been re-introduced to provide quick access to all services.
- The View toolbar has been changed to include fewer icons.
- A new toolbar has been added to the right of the View to provide quick access to View services such as the View Query.
- Toolbars can be individually shown/hidden and each toolbar can display icon text.

■ Icons

Many icons have been redesigned for quicker and easier recognition.

■ Menus

Menus and menu commands have been restructured to provide quicker access to features and functions.

Menus have been added to service request windows to organize the various options available for each individual service.

■ Side Tabs

Functionality has been added to the Side Tabs allowing you to move them, individually, to virtually any spot within the interface.



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