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Project : Visualizing a Personal Social Network of Email Archives For Re-Finding

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What?

- To uncover people's social connections in ways that current email clients hide it
- To facilitate re-finding email using the context of a personal social network

Why?

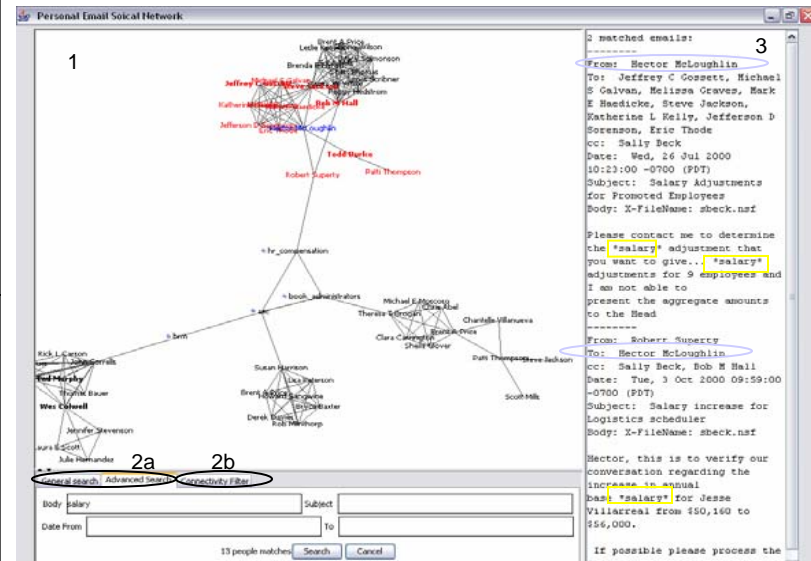
- Email overload: Current email clients make little use of the social connections in people's social life
- People tend to use small, local steps and context search cues, especially time and other people's names to re-find information in email archives

How?

- Derive a social network from a personal email archive based exclusively on email traffic
- Visualize the social network to reveal the closeness of correspondents and the similarity of email folders
- Integrate search with the context of social network to shorten the steps in building a re-finding chain.

Results so far:

- Implemented the **VisPEAM** (Visualization for Personal Email Archive Management) with Prefuse
- Loaded a single person's email archive from Enron data
- Plan to apply this tool to a discussion forum to visualize the online community



VisPEAM on Sally's email archive: 1) view panel; 2) control panel with 2a) search filter with search for 'salary' and 2b) connectivity filter; 3) result panel shown two matched emails for the selected correspondent 'Hector McLoughlin'.