

# Promises and Perils of Porting Software Visualization Tools to the Web

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**Marco D'Ambros**

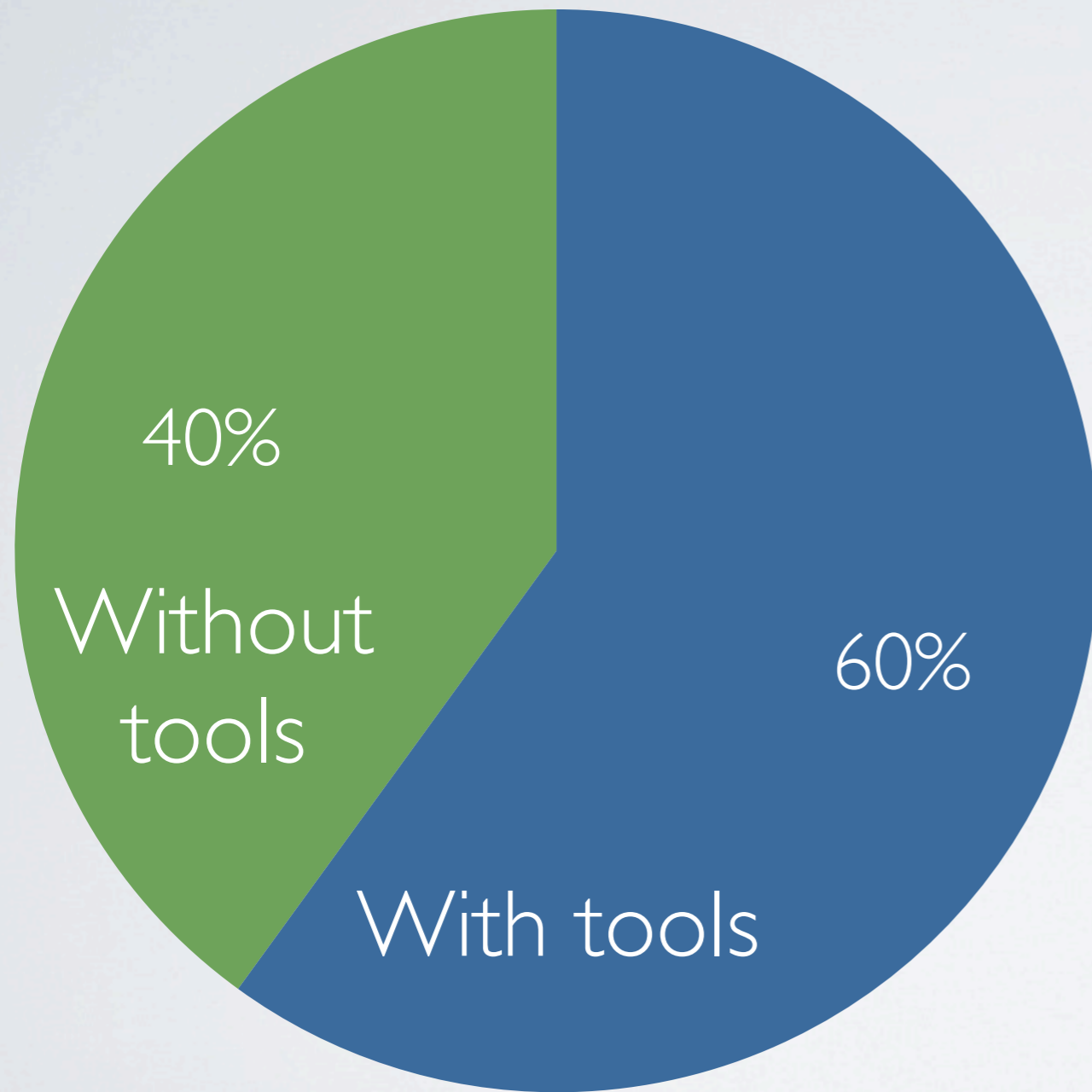
Michele Lanza

Mircea Lungu

Romain Robbes

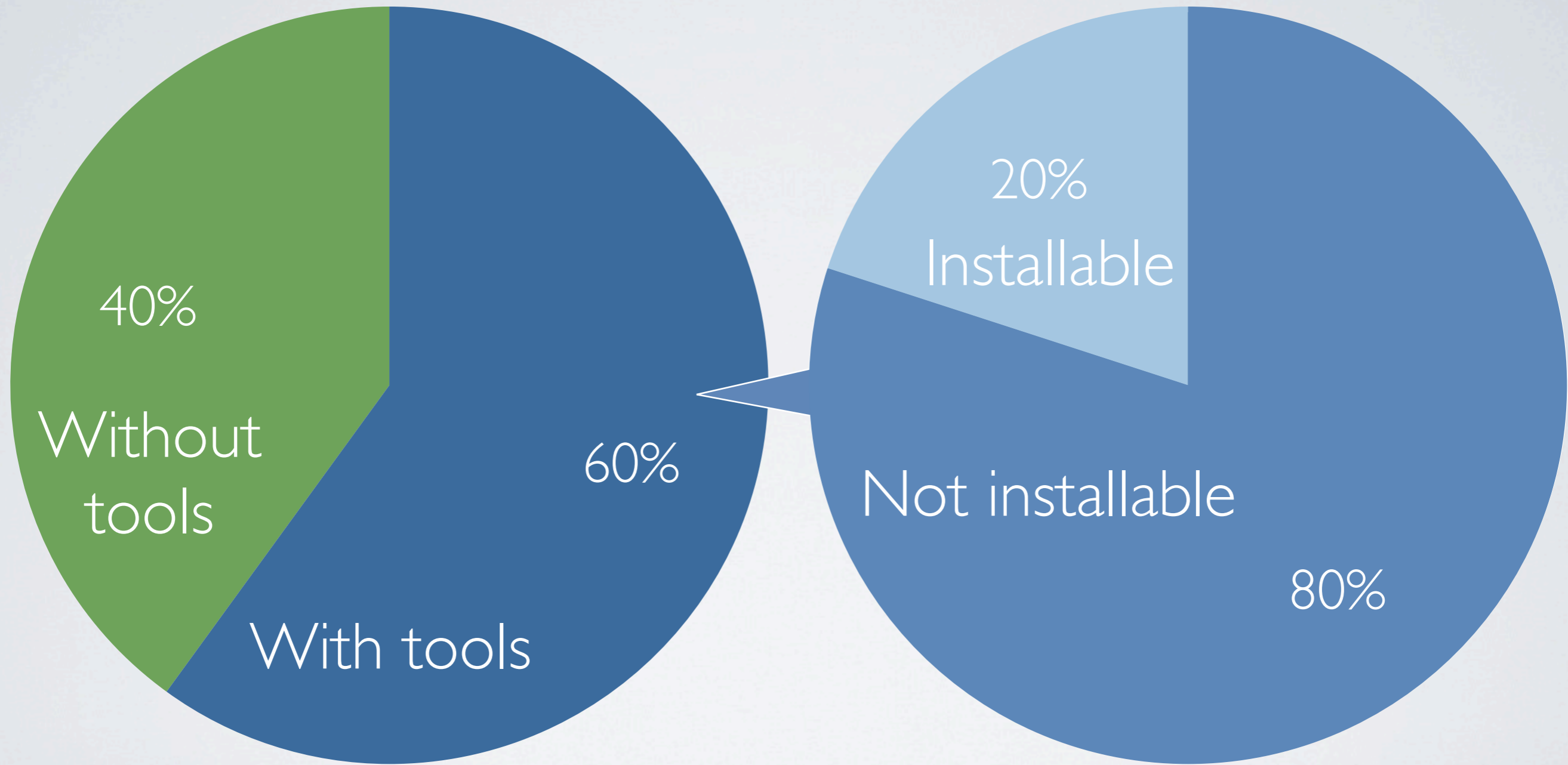
REVEAL @ University of Lugano

# TOSEM: 2000-2008



Source: ICSE keynote 2009

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Source: ICSE keynote 2009

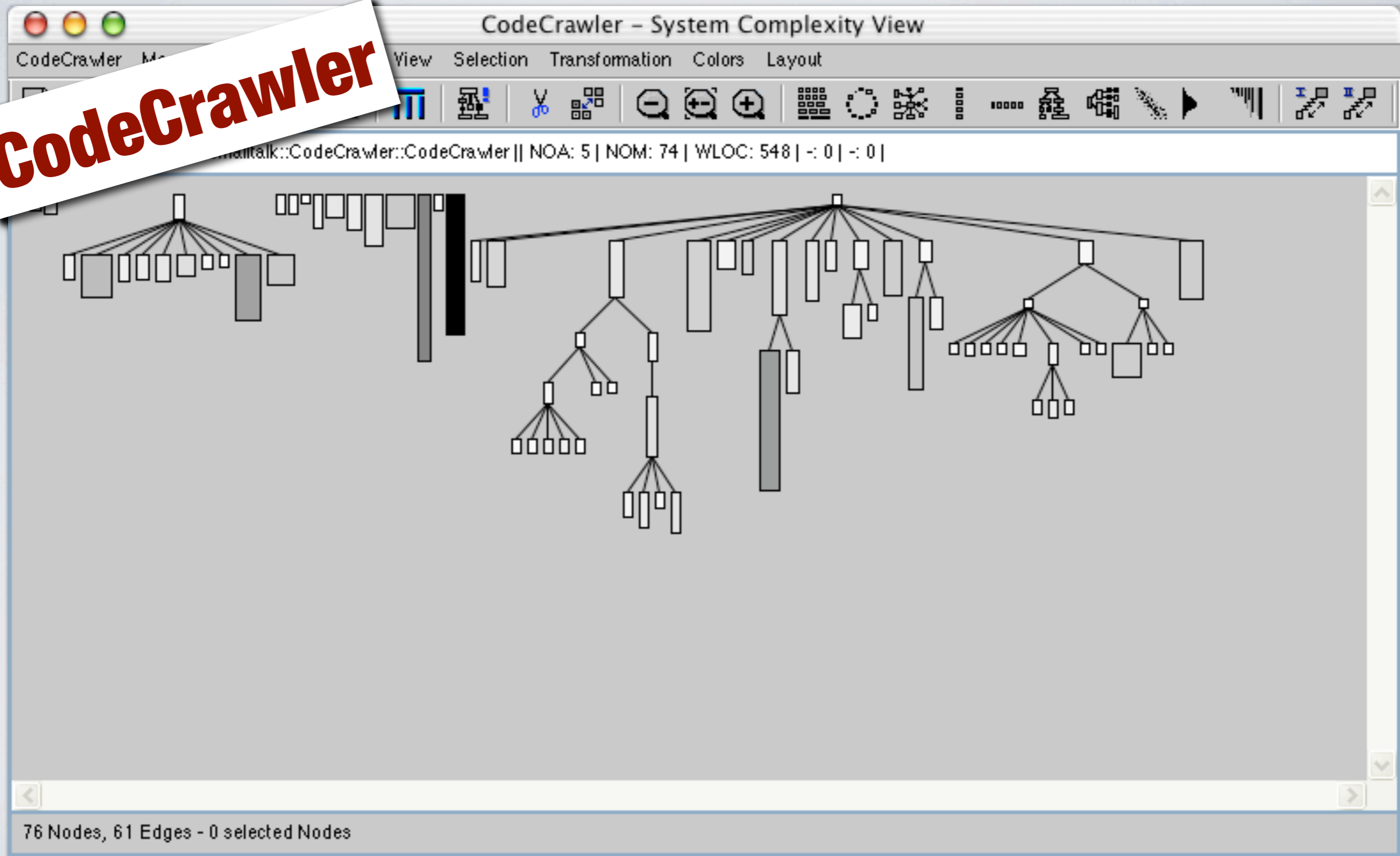




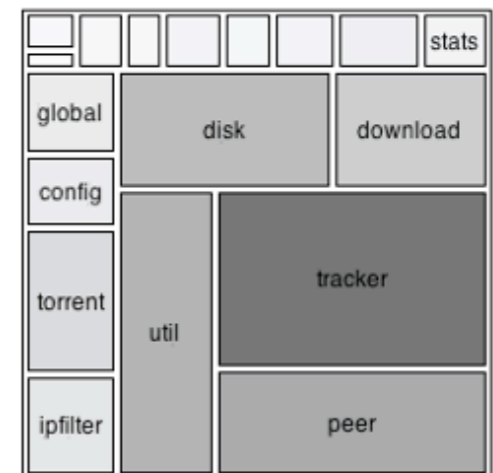
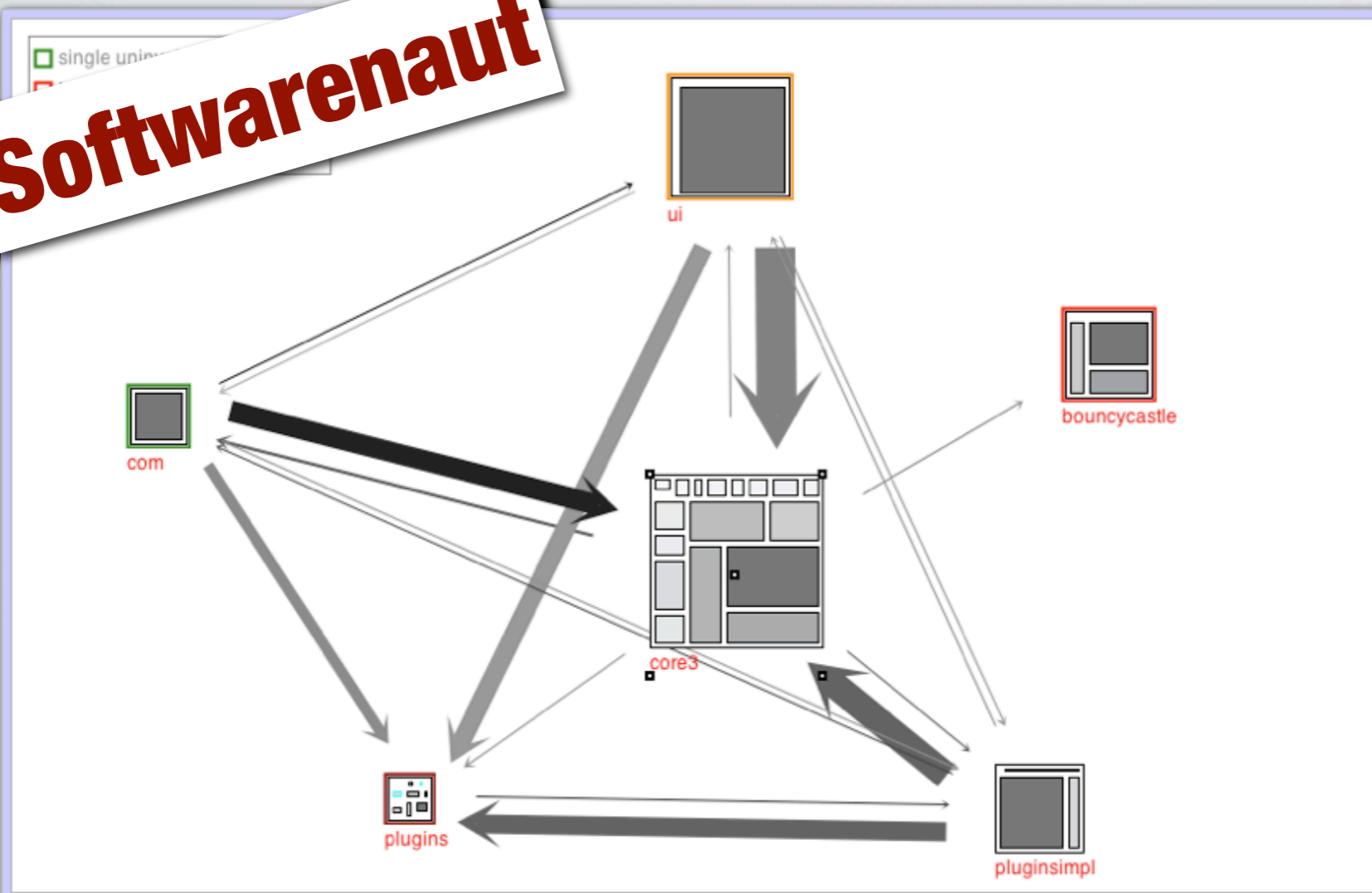
**Mmmhh...  
What about porting  
the tools to the  
web?**



**CodeCrawler**

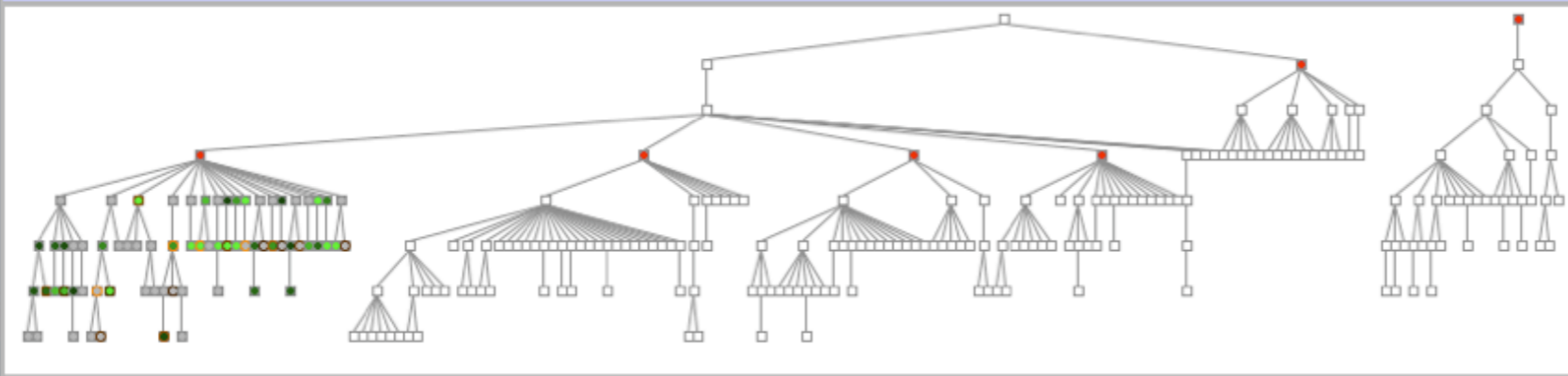


# Softwareonaut



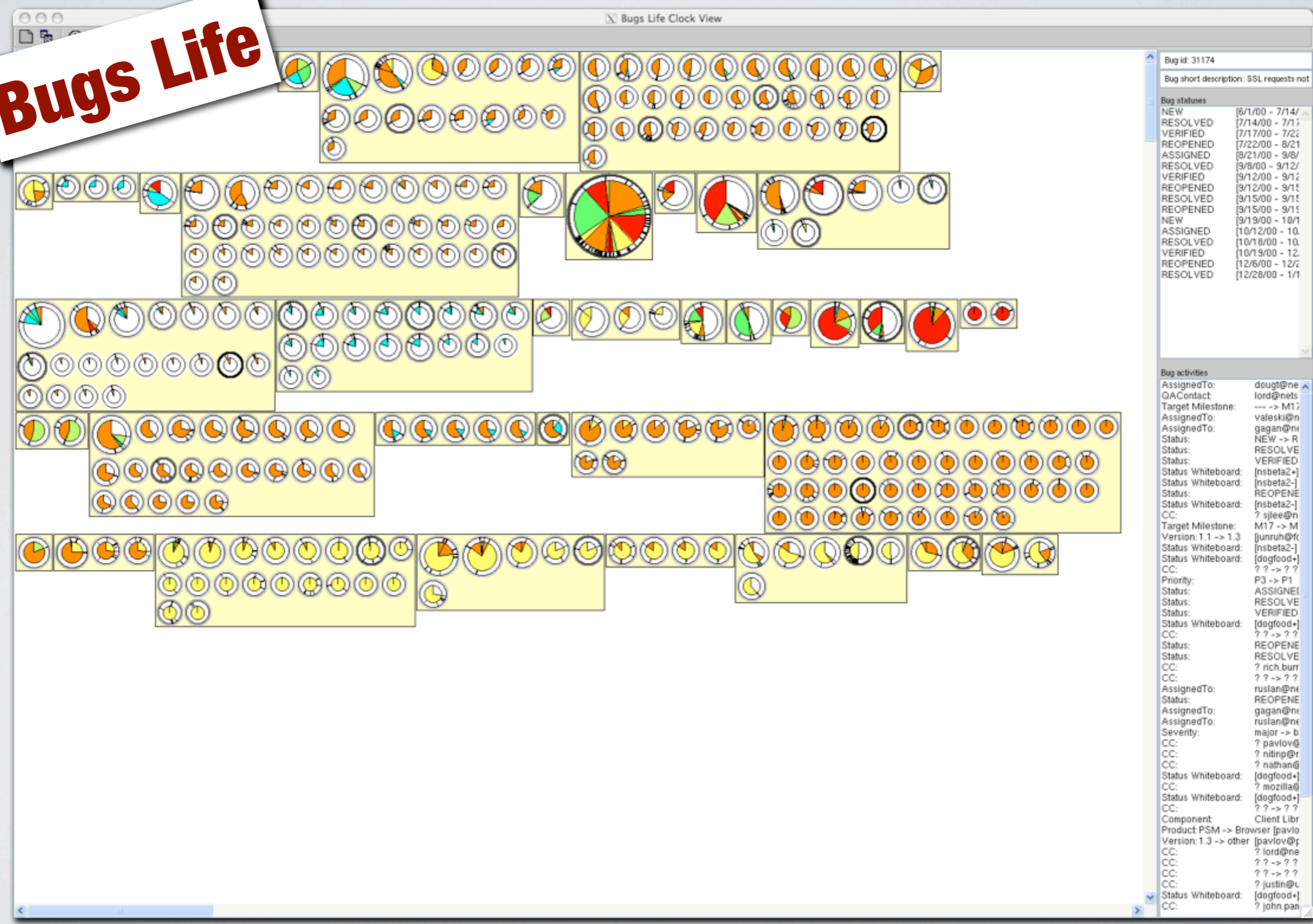
org::gudy::azureus2::core3

Property	Value
-	0
ConsumerClasses	0
ConsumingProviderCl:	0
IncomingInvocations	0
InvocationsFON	3524
InvocationsTON	0
InvokedFONMethodCo	570
InvokedMethodsFONP:	0.151113
Name	#core3
NamespaceStability	100
NOA	0
NOCIs	0
NOM	0
OutgoingInvocations	0
ProviderClasses	0
RMC	3772
UniqueName	#'org::gudy::azureus2::x
WNOS	0

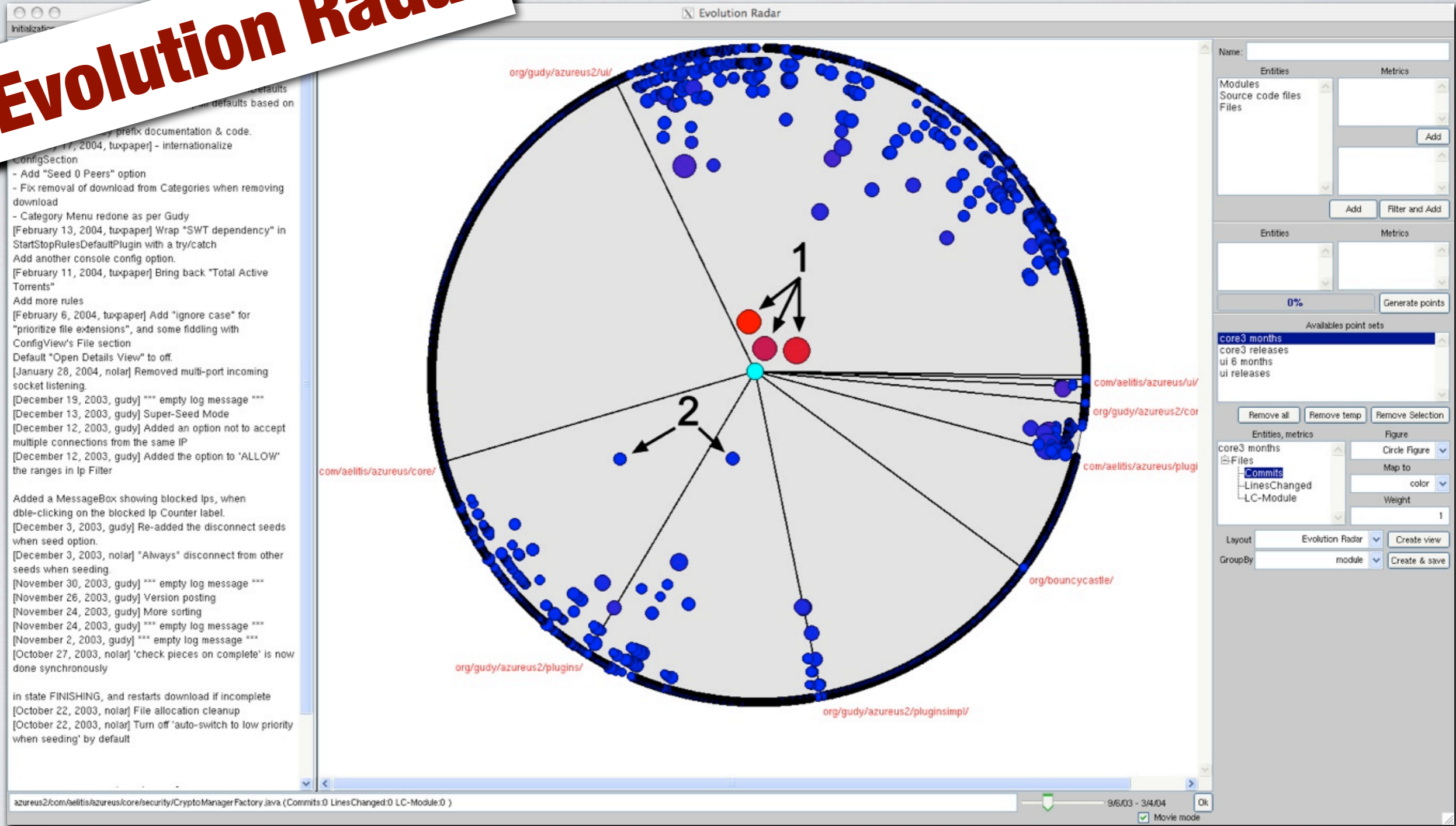




# Bugs Life

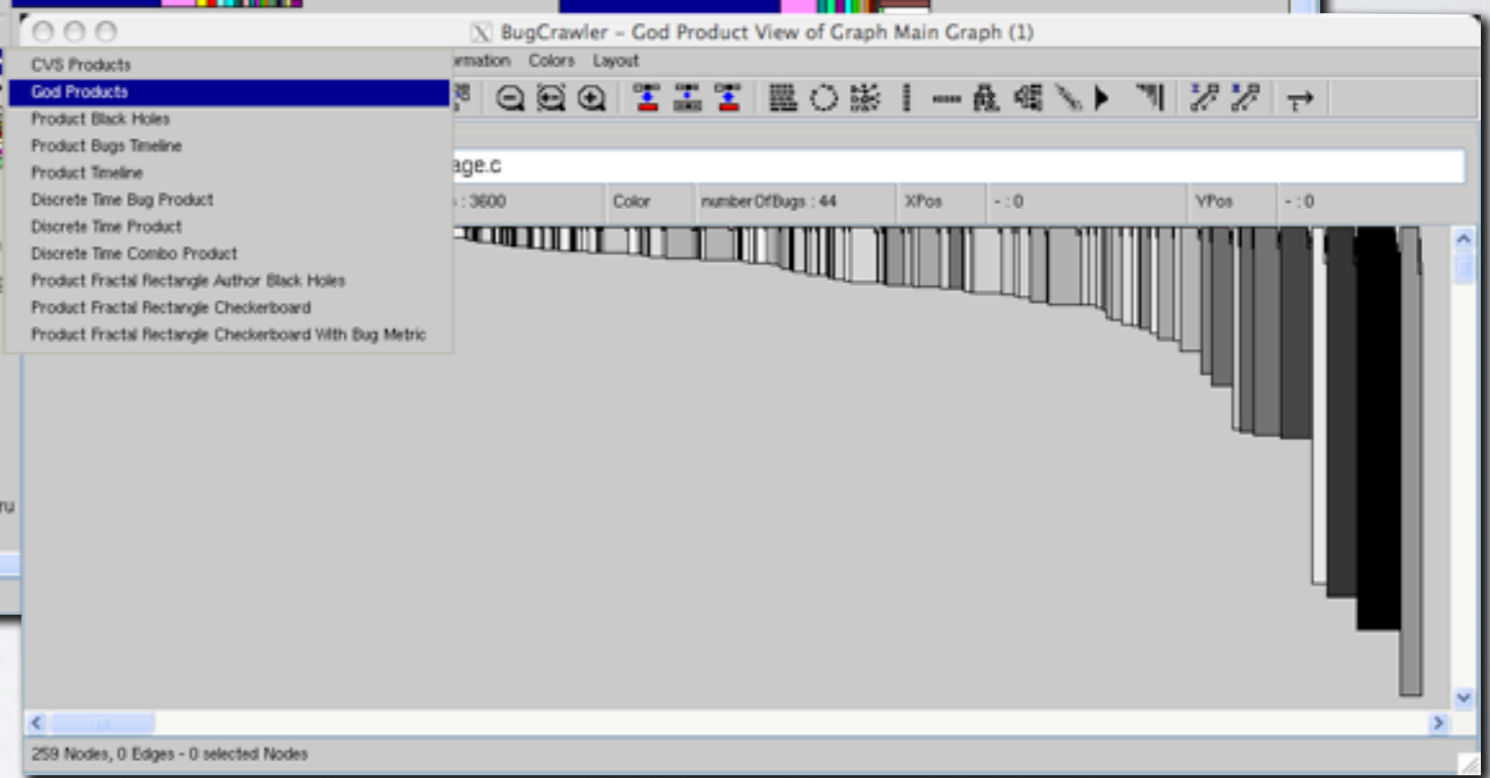
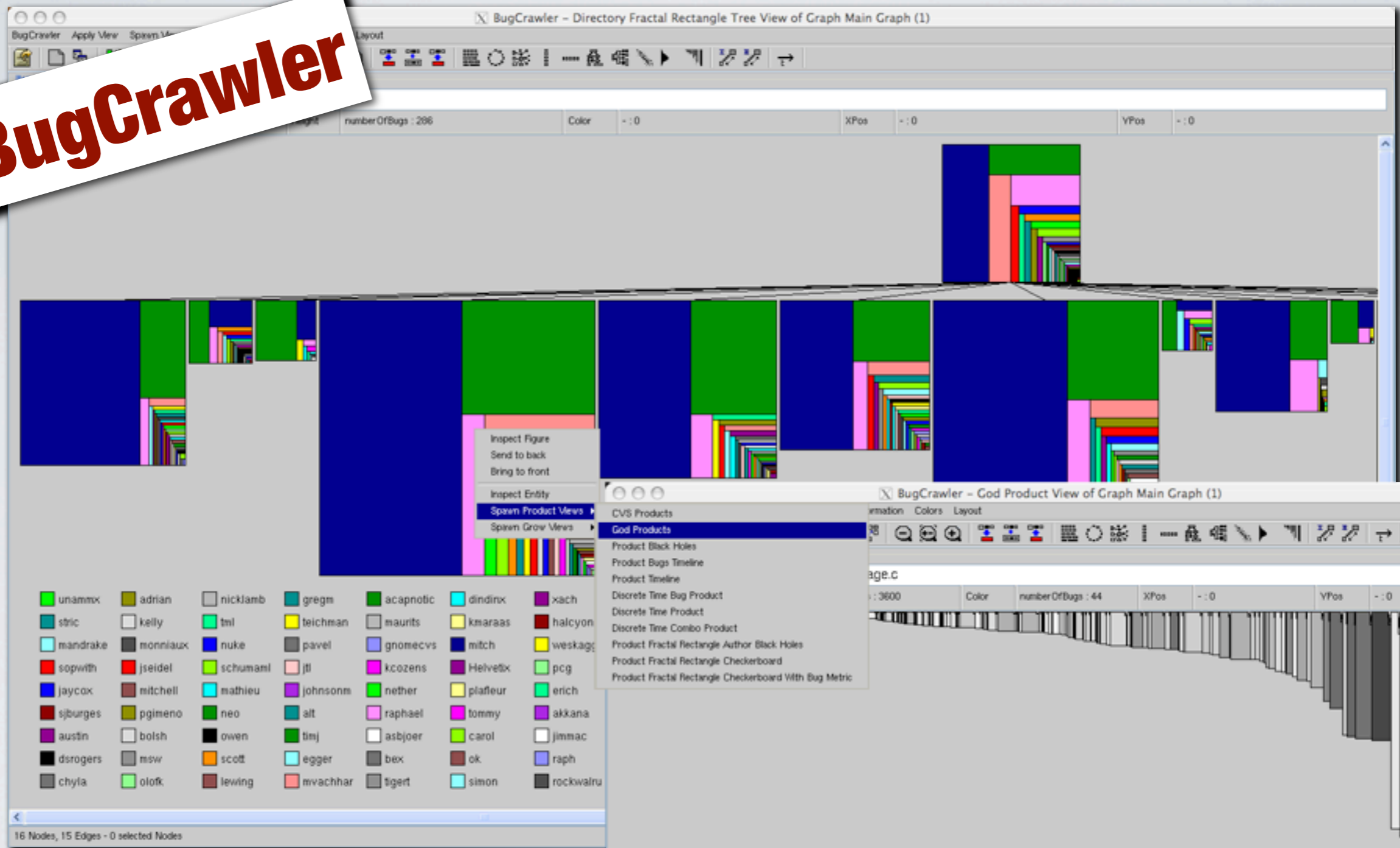


# Evolution Radar



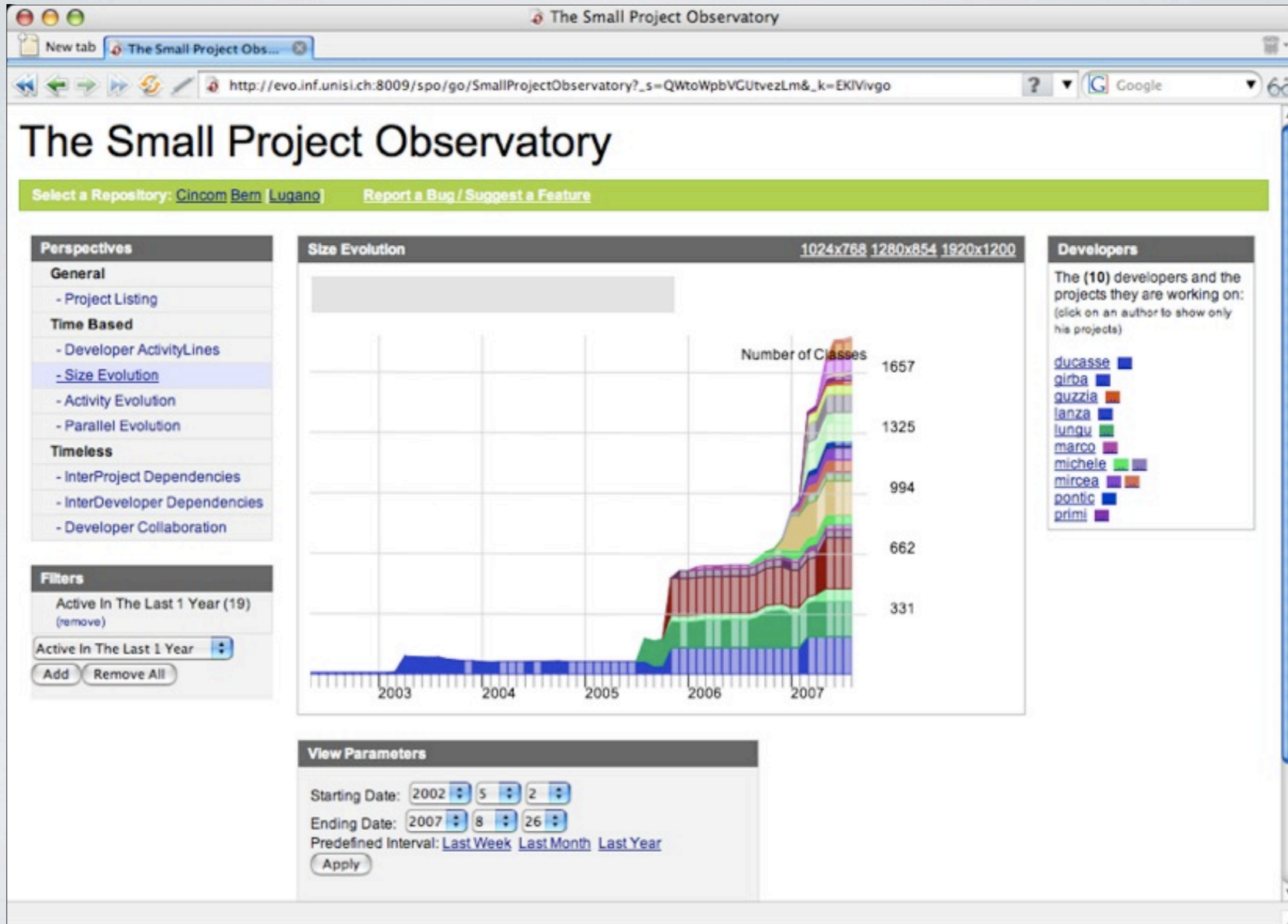


# BugCrawler



The screenshot shows the Churrasco web application interface. At the top, the browser address bar displays the URL `http://churrasco.inf.unisi.ch:8018/seaside/Churrasco?_s=jOivkJacQrotmkDT&_k=npkCPdmi`. The page title is "Episode" and the subtitle is "System complexity". The user is logged in as "Marco D'Ambros" (Log out). The interface features a central "System Complexity" diagram, which is an SVG Interactive Visualization of a system hierarchy. Surrounding the diagram are several panels: "Recent annotations" (listing Michele Lanza's annotation from November 14, 2008), "Participants" (listing Michele Lanza and Marco D'Ambros), "Create pdf report" (with a "Download the report" button), "System Complexity" (showing "Target system: argoUML-0.24" and "Selected figure information" for "JavaRecognizer" with 146 attributes, 91 methods, and 3406 WLOC), "Metrics mapping" (with dropdowns for Node width, Node height, and Node color), "Apply view on packages" (with a "View Package" button), and "Regular expression matcher" (with a text input field and "Clear selection" and "Spawn selection" buttons). Annotations include: "Recent annotations added" pointing to the "Recent annotations" panel; "User" pointing to the "Logged in as Marco D'Ambros" text; "SVG Interactive Visualization" pointing to the central diagram; "People participating to the collaboration" pointing to the "Participants" panel; "Report generator" pointing to the "Create pdf report" panel; "Selected figure information" pointing to the "Selected figure information" table; "Context menu" pointing to a menu with "Show annotations" and "Add annotation" options; "Metrics mapping configurator" pointing to the "Metrics mapping" panel; "Package selector" pointing to the "Apply view on packages" panel; and "Regular expression matcher" pointing to the "Regular expression matcher" panel.







# Promises & Perils

Availability  
& privacy

Collaboration &  
performance

Error handling

Development





# Promises & Perils

Availability  
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Development



## **Availability**

Just a URL to use the tool



## **Privacy**

Sensible information on the web?





# Promises & Perils

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## **Collaboration**

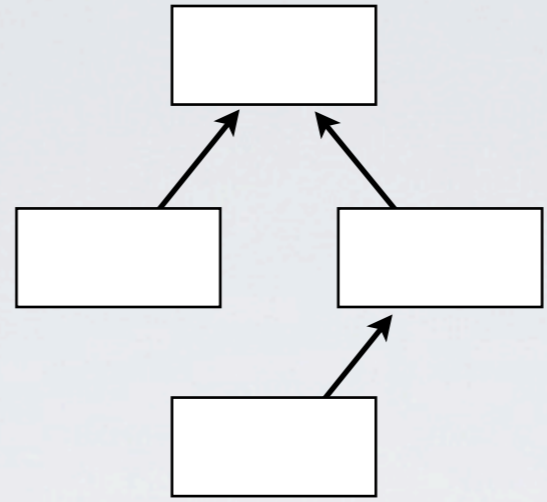
- ✓ Increasing importance (e.g. IBM Jazz)
- ✓ Easier than in desktop application



## **Performance & scalability**

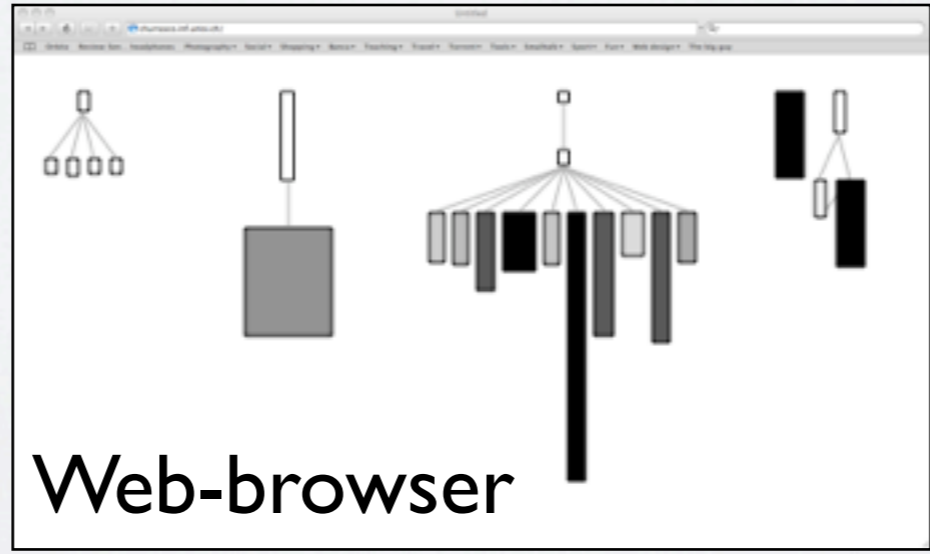
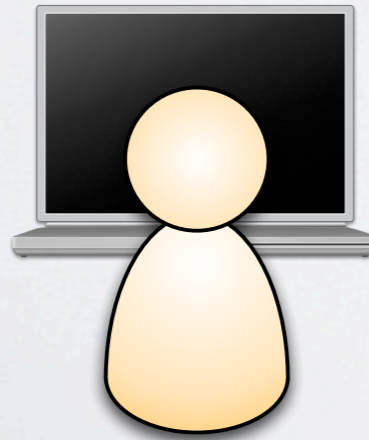
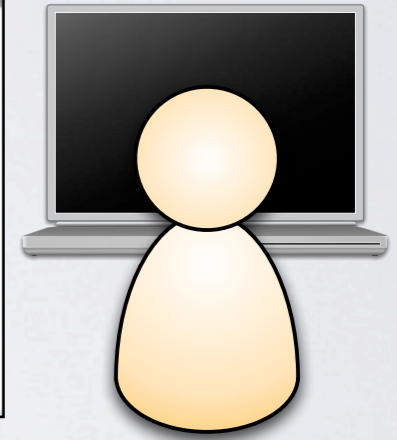
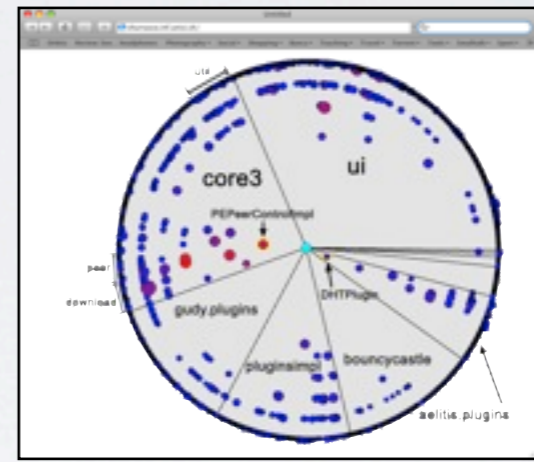
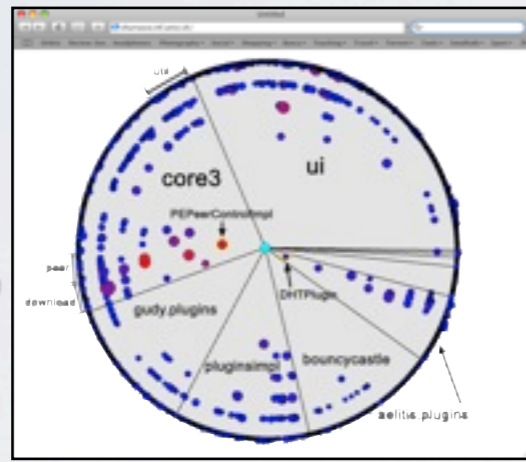
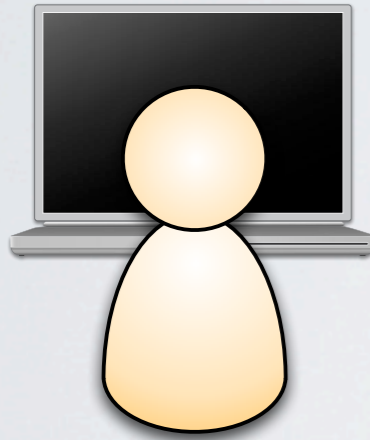
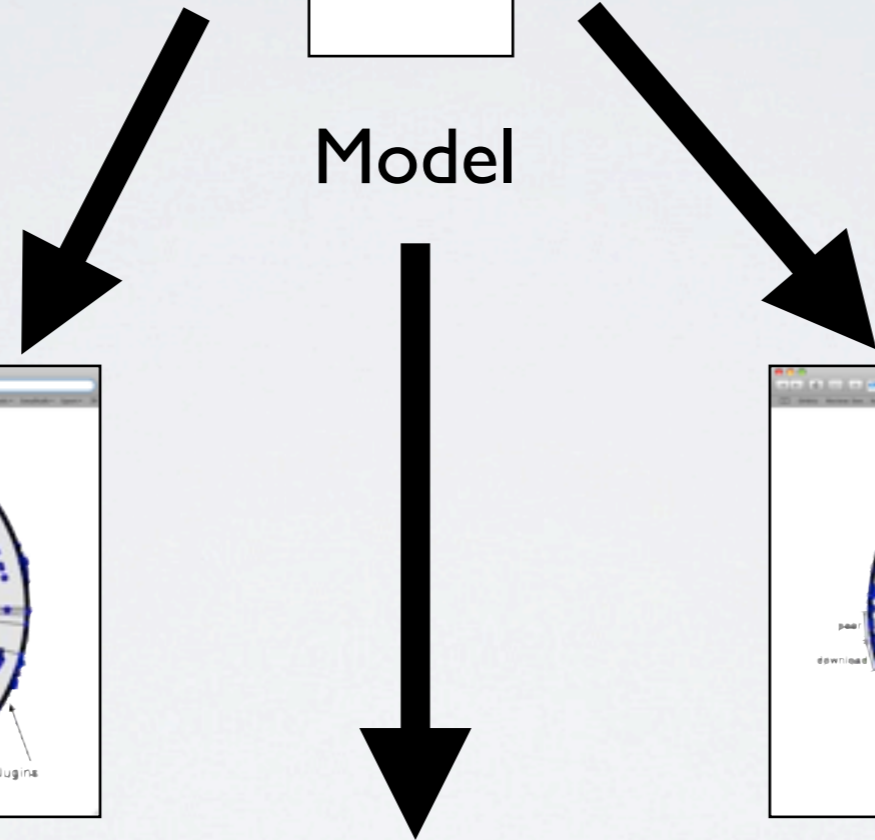
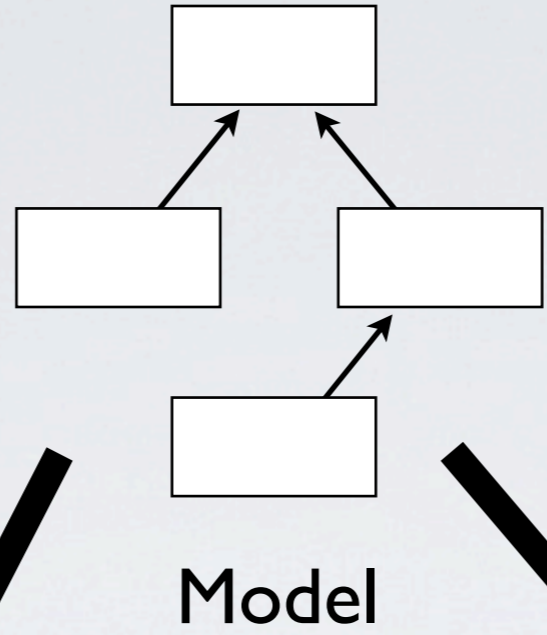
- ⦿ Many users, one application
- ⦿ Large datasets to render
- ⦿ Latency of page refresh
- ⦿ Worse in a collaborative setting





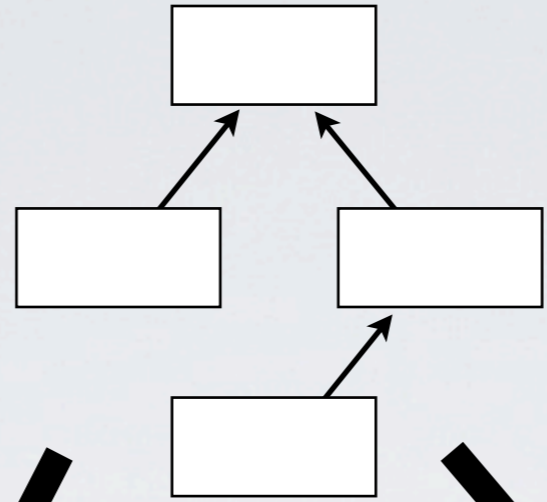
Model

Collaboration & performance

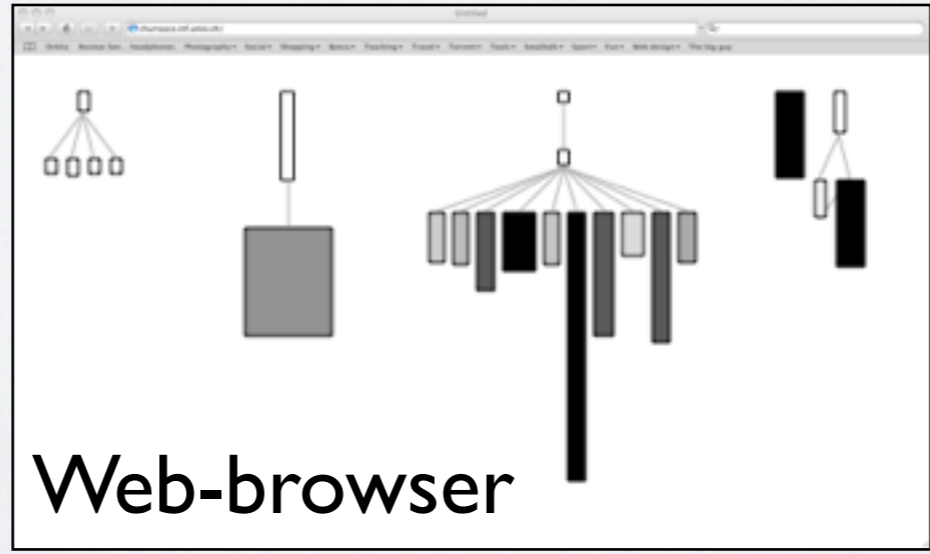
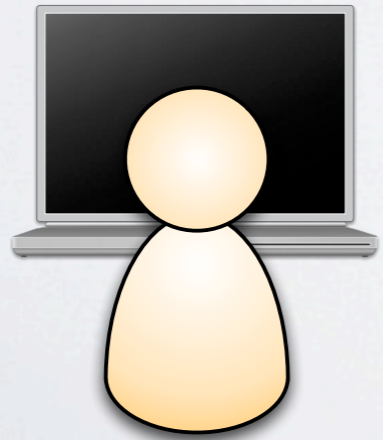
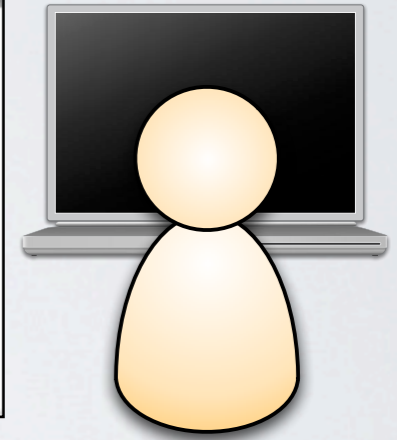
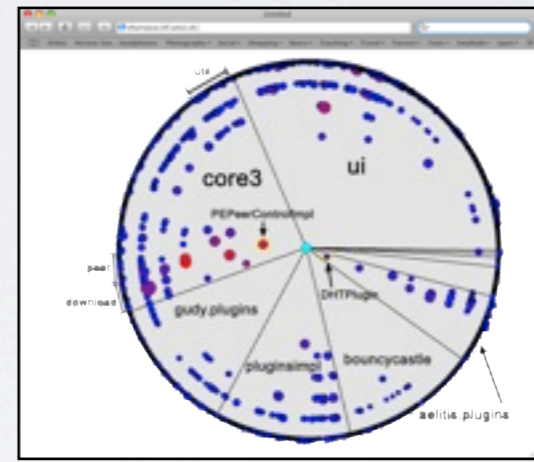
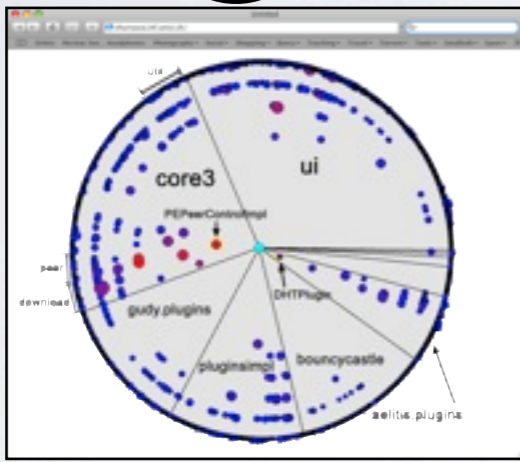
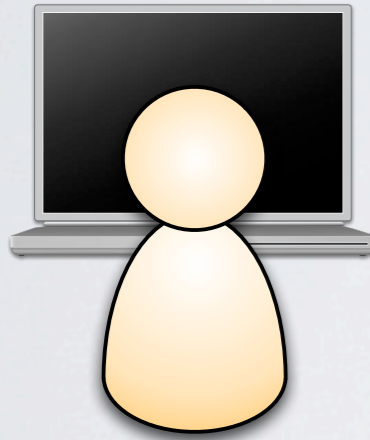
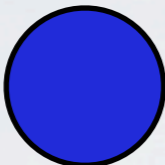
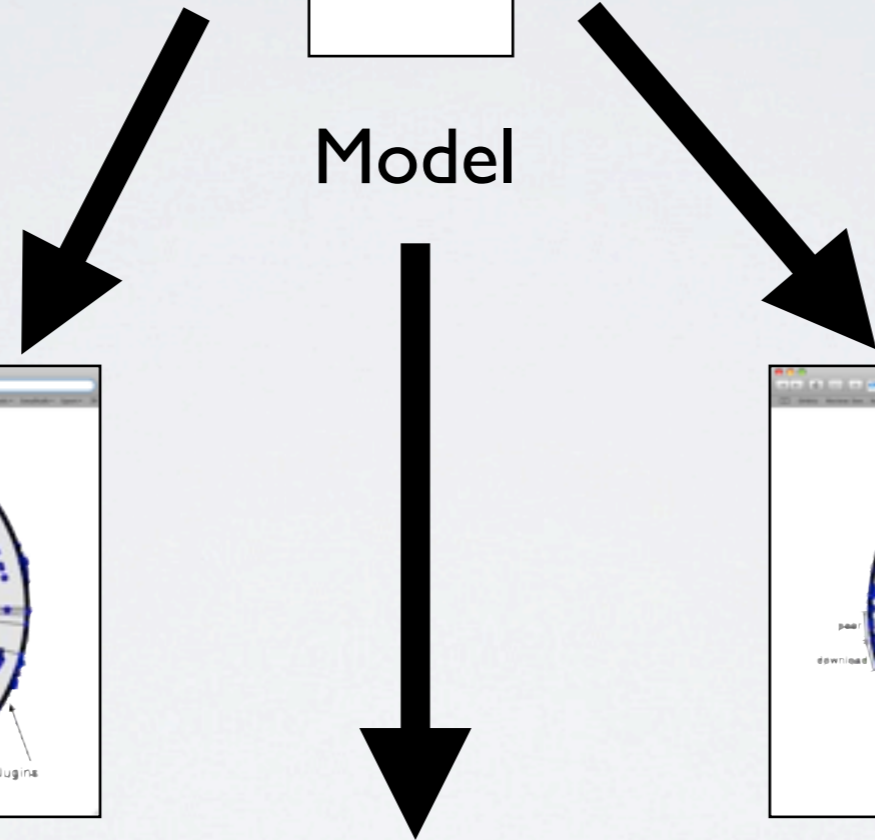




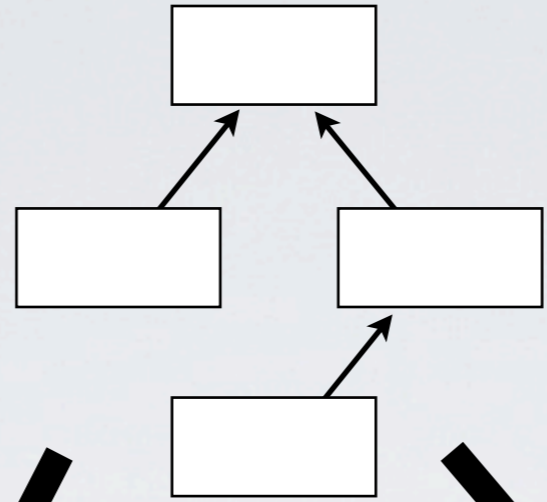
Collaboration & performance



Model

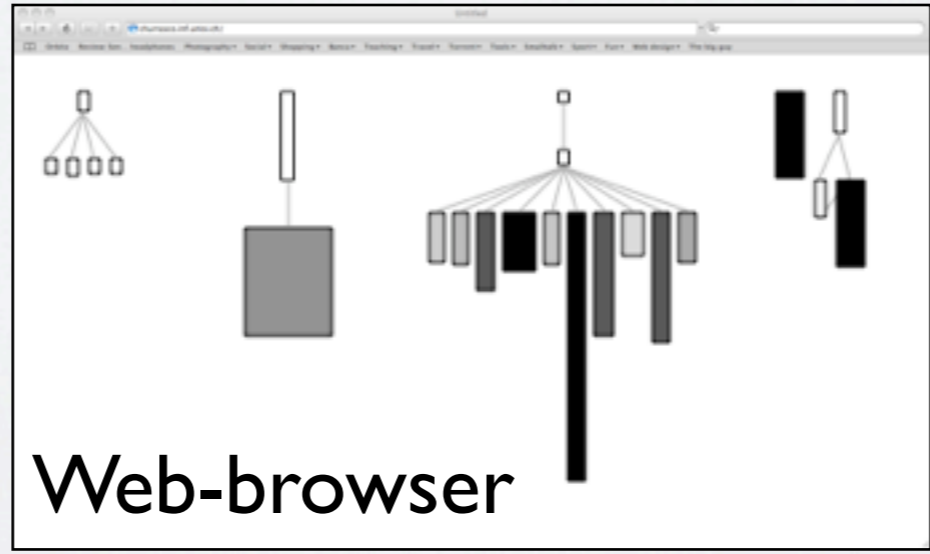
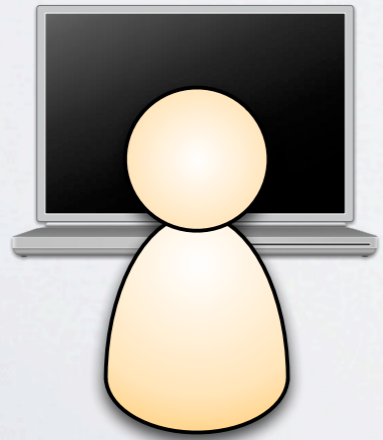
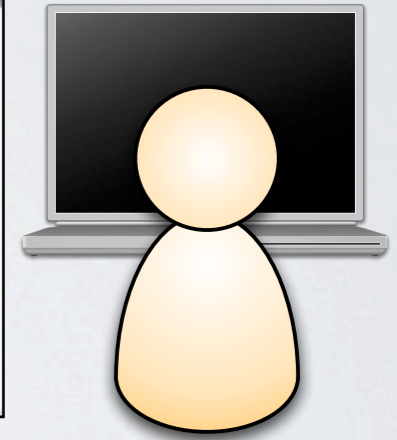
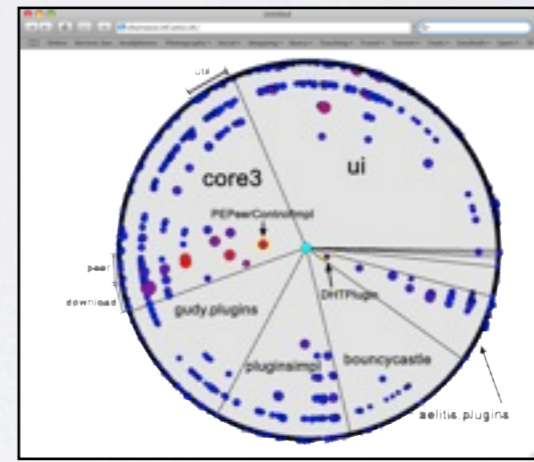
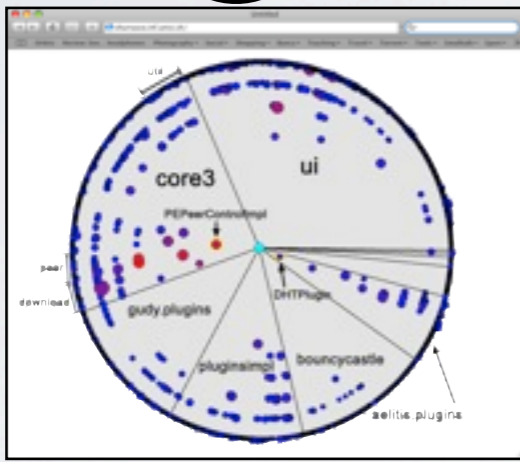
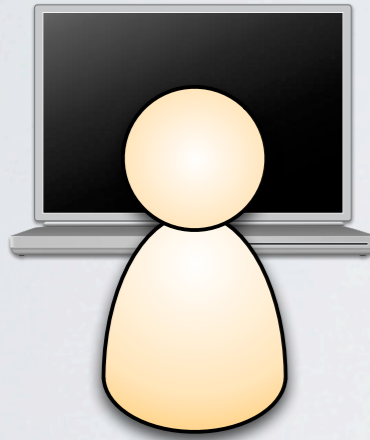
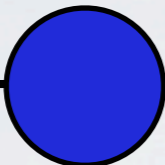


Collaboration & performance



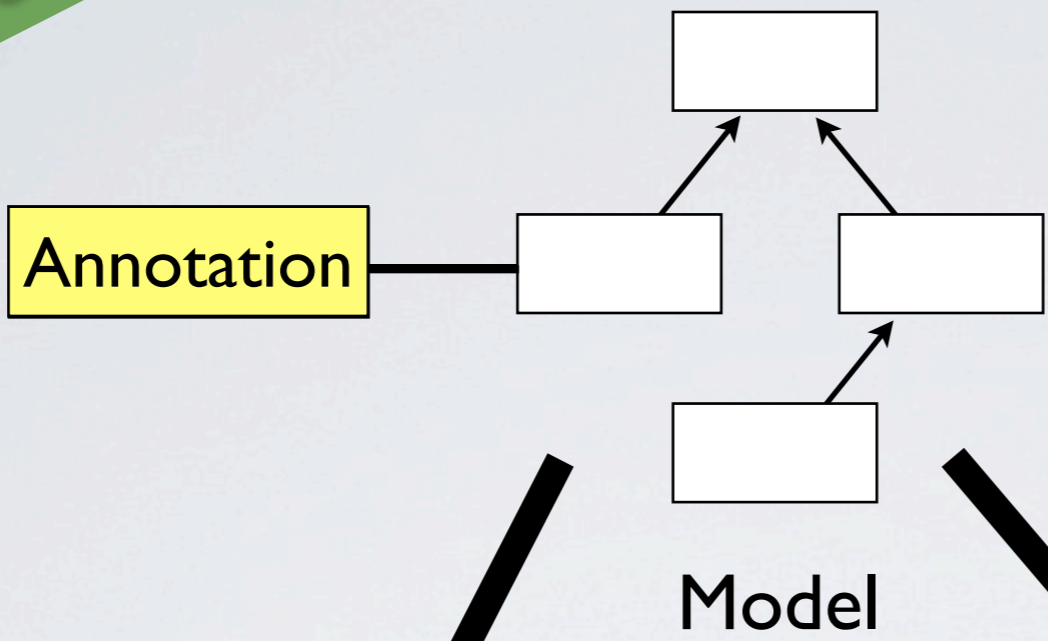
Model

Annotation

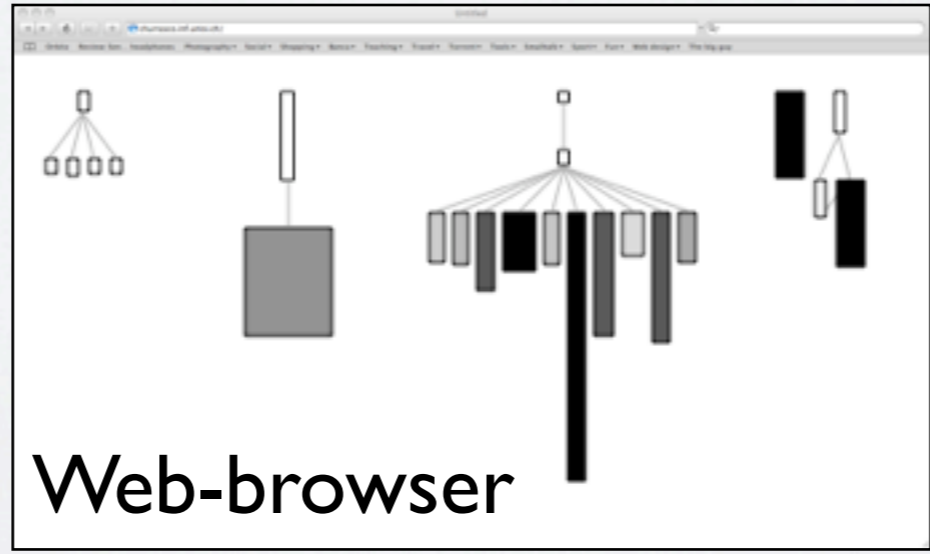
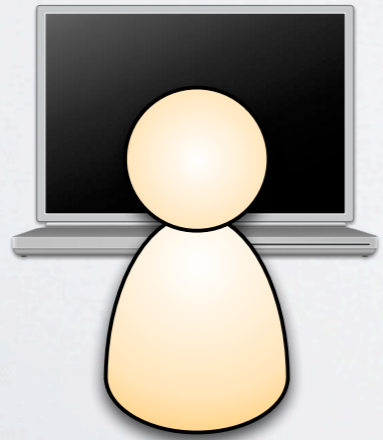
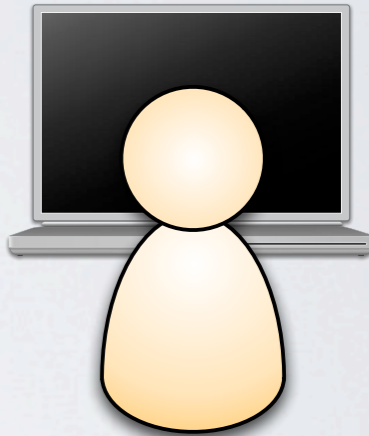
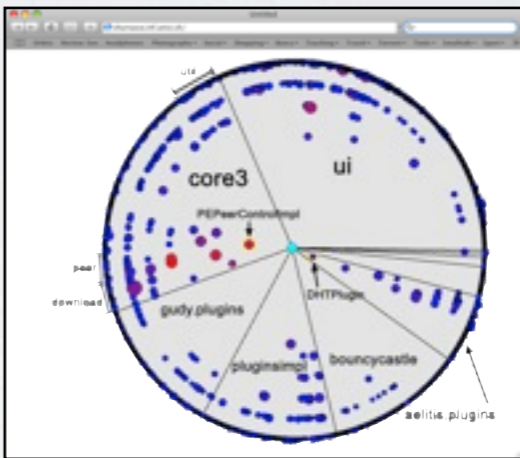
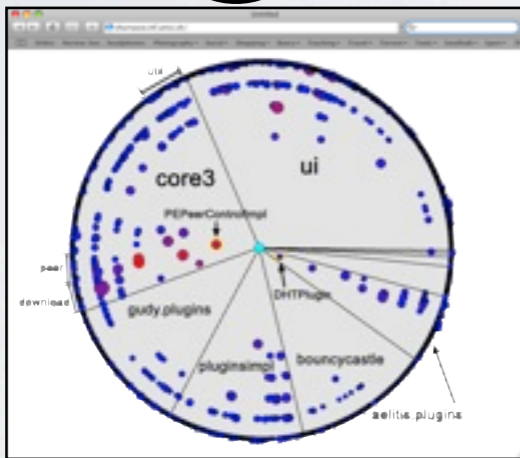
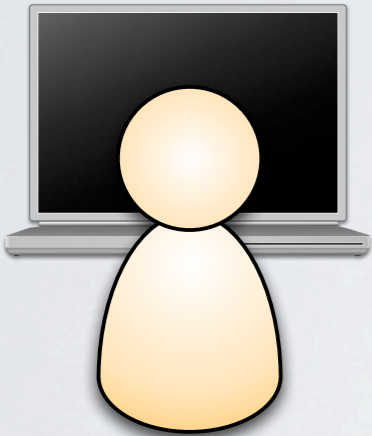
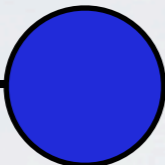




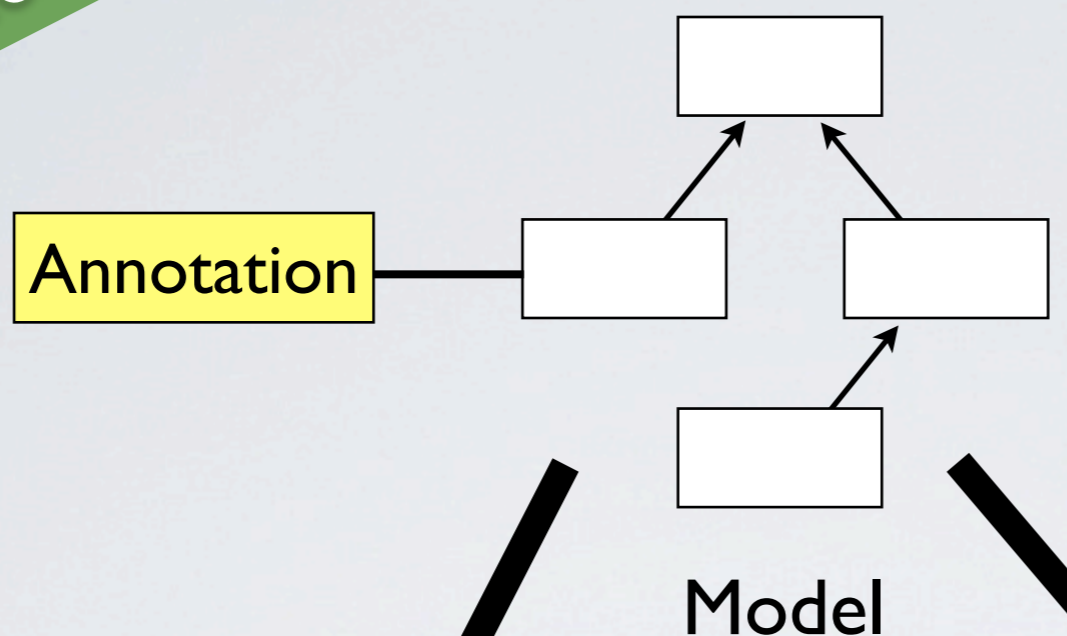
Collaboration & performance



Annotation



Collaboration & performance



Annotation

A user icon is shown at a laptop. The screen displays a circular visualization of a project structure. The visualization is divided into segments, each containing a set of colored dots. Labels around the circle include 'core3', 'ui', 'PEPeerControlImpl', 'gudy plugins', 'DHTPlugin', 'pluginimpl', 'bouncycastle', 'seelite plugins', 'download', and 'paa'.

Annotation

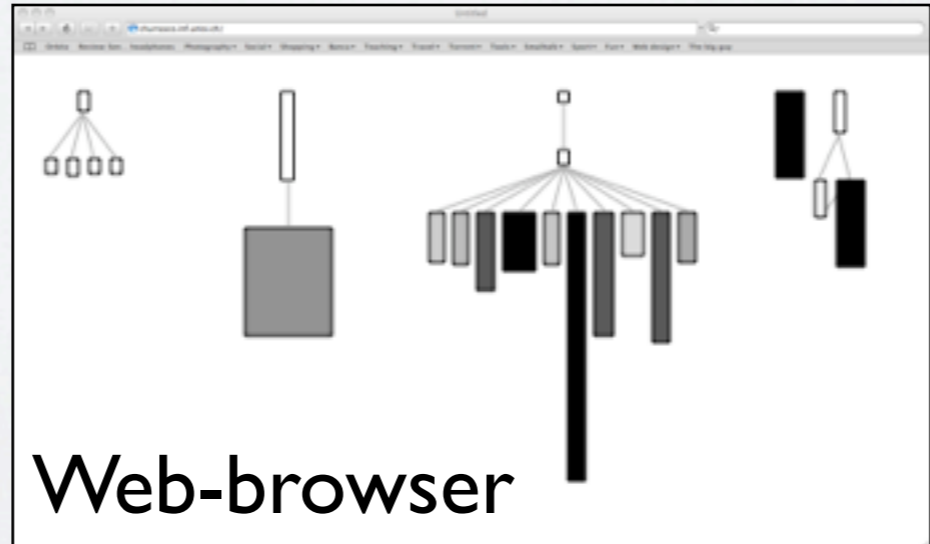
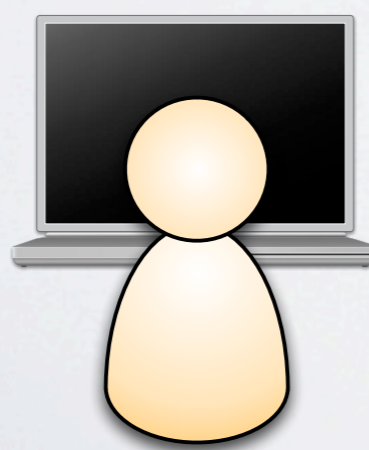
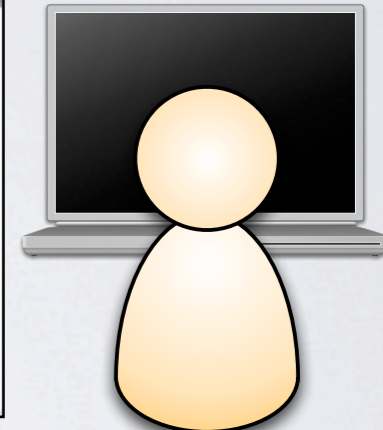
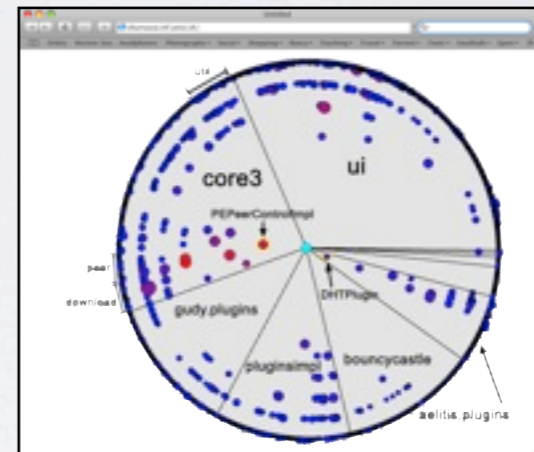
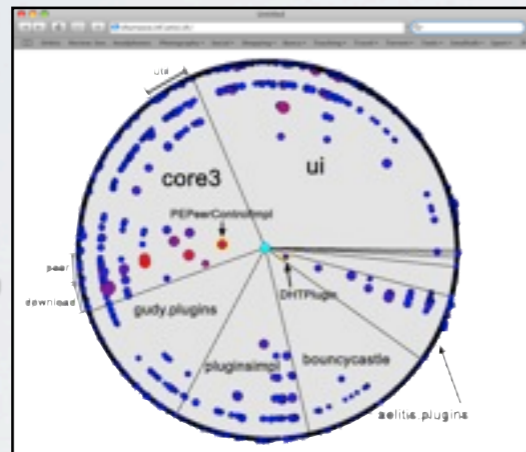
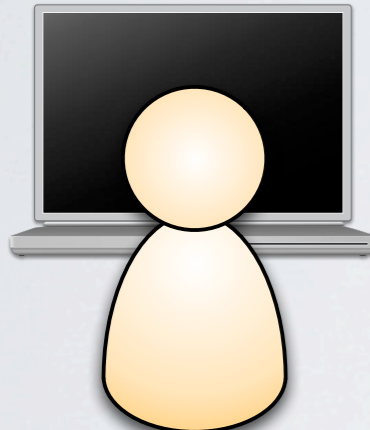
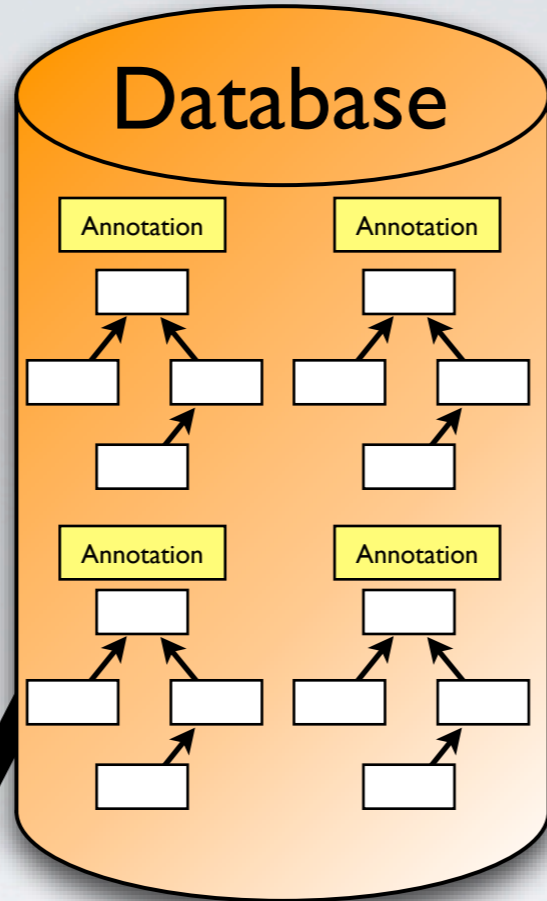
A user icon is shown at a laptop. The screen displays a circular visualization of a project structure, identical to the one on the left.

Annotation  
Web-browser

A user icon is shown at a laptop. The screen displays a web browser window showing a hierarchical tree structure. A yellow box labeled 'Annotation' is overlaid on the tree. The tree consists of nodes and edges, with some nodes highlighted in black.



Collaboration & performance





## Collaboration

- ✓ Increasing importance (e.g. IBM Jazz)
- ✓ Easier than in desktop application



## Performance & scalability

- ⦿ Many users, one application
- ⦿ Large datasets to render
- ⦿ Latency of page refresh
- ⦿ Worse in a collaborative setting





## Incremental Results

- ✓ Possible because of shared data
- ✓ Cross-fertilization of results



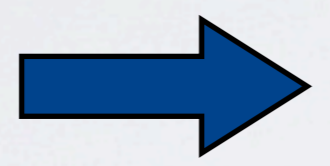




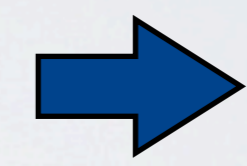


# Incremental Results

- ✓ Possible because of shared data
- ✓ Cross-fertilization of results



Iteration	Value 1	Value 2	Value 3
1	0.1234	0.5678	0.9012
2	0.2345	0.6789	0.0123
3	0.3456	0.7890	0.1234
4	0.4567	0.8901	0.2345
5	0.5678	0.9012	0.3456
6	0.6789	0.0123	0.4567
7	0.7890	0.1234	0.5678
8	0.8901	0.2345	0.6789
9	0.9012	0.3456	0.7890
10	0.0123	0.4567	0.8901



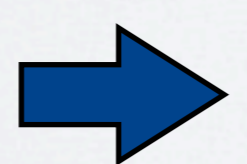
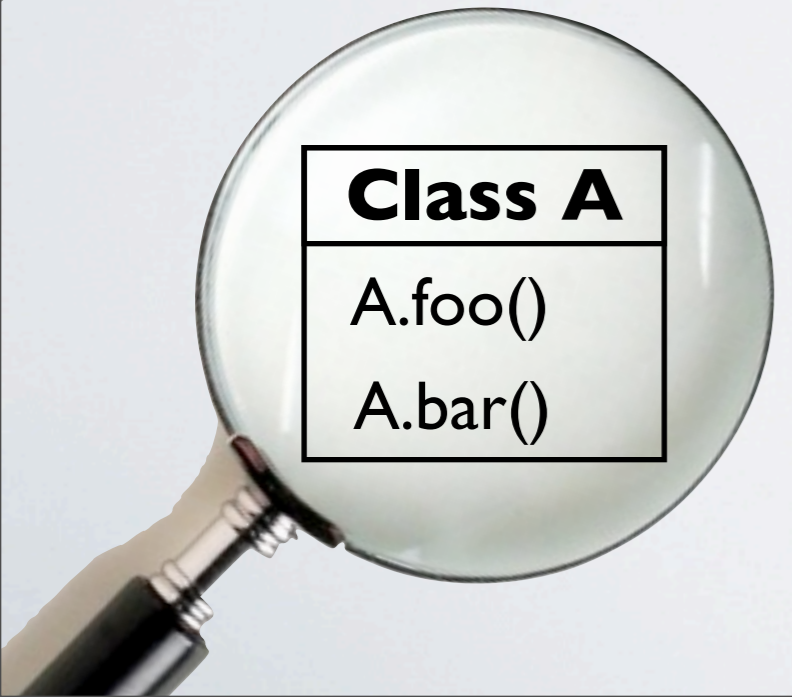
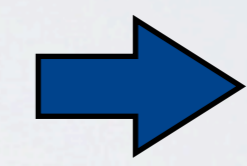
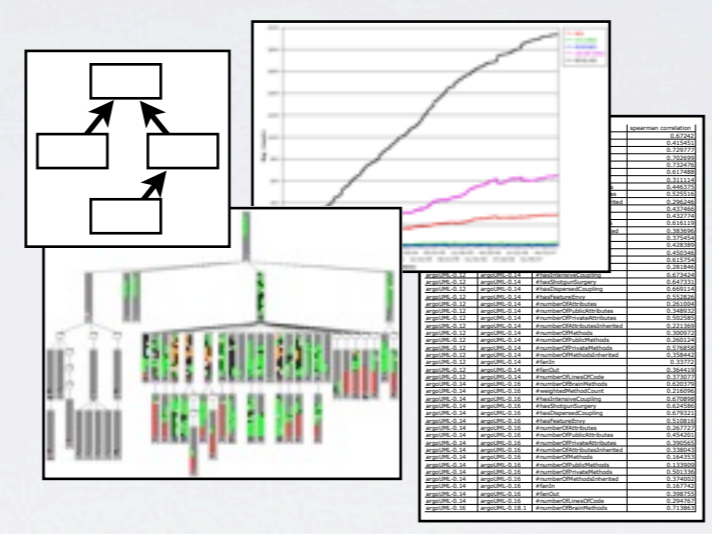
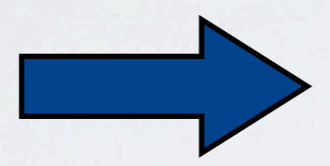
```
Class A  
A.foo()  
A.bar()
```

Collaboration & performance



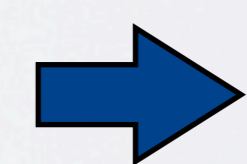
# Incremental Results

- ✓ Possible because of shared data
- ✓ Cross-fertilization of results



**CODE SMELL**

```
Class A  
A.foo()  
A.bar()
```



```
Annotation  
Is God Class
```

```
Class A  
A.foo()  
A.bar()
```





# Promises & Perils

Availability  
& privacy

Collaboration &  
performance

Error handling

Development



## **Single point of failure**

A crash impacts all users



## **Debugging & testing**

Harder than in desktop applications





## **Feedback**

Notification of bugs and deployment of fixes are easier than in desktop applications



## **Usage Report**

Easy by exploiting web statistics tools



# Promises & Perils

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# Interaction

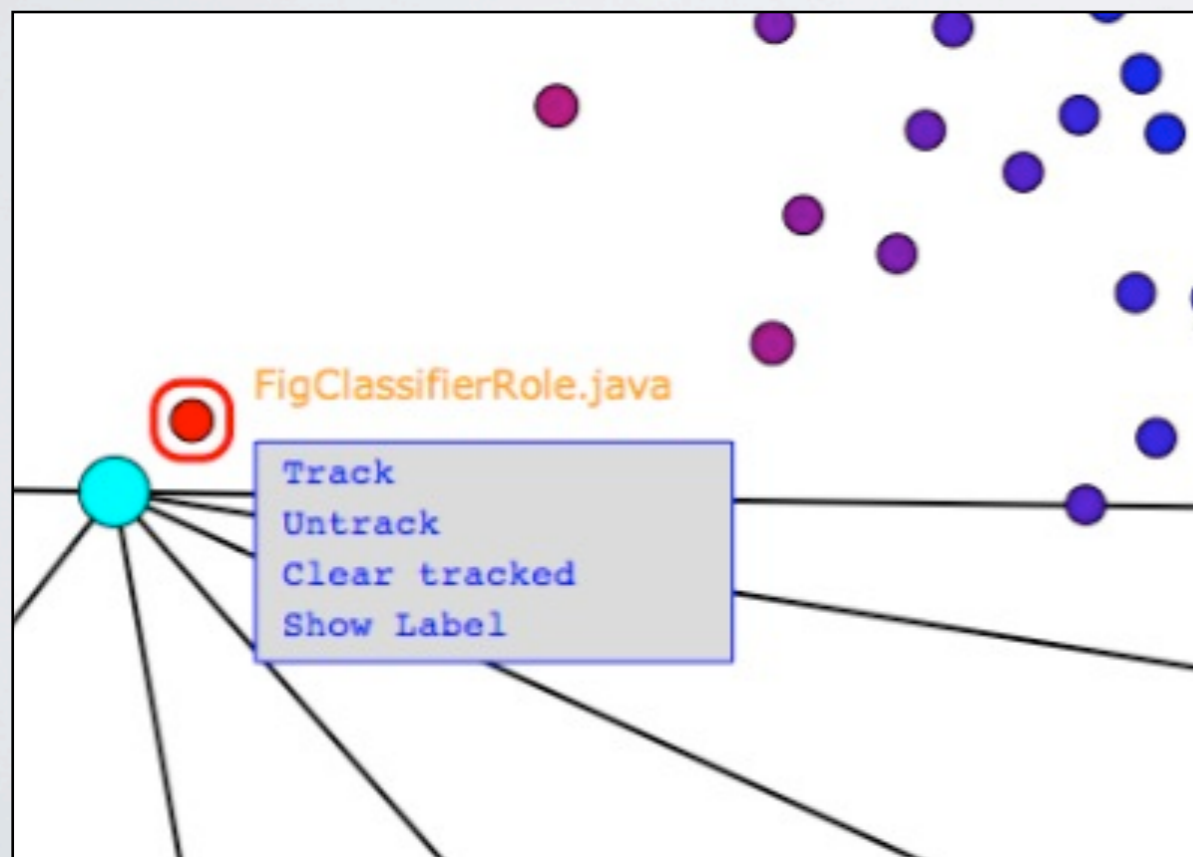
Basic features have to be implemented



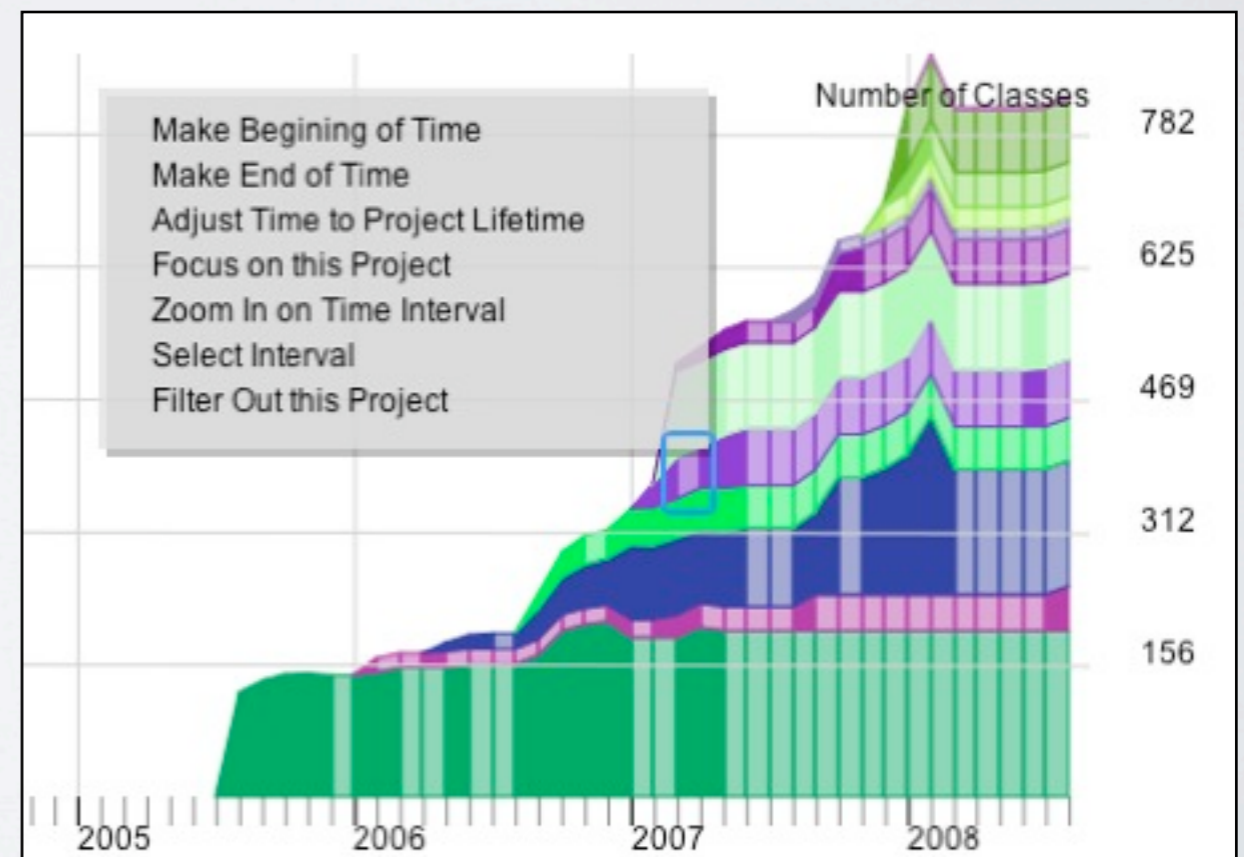
# Interaction

Basic features have to be implemented

## Example: context menu



Churrasco: SVG (server-side)



SPO: Javascript (client-side)





## **Interaction**

Basic features have to be implemented



## **Browser compatibility**

- Churrasco is fully functional only in Firefox
- Different JS/SVG performances



## **Interaction**

Basic features have to be implemented



## **Browser compatibility**

- Churrasco is fully functional only in Firefox
- Different JS/SVG performances



## **Rapid evolution**

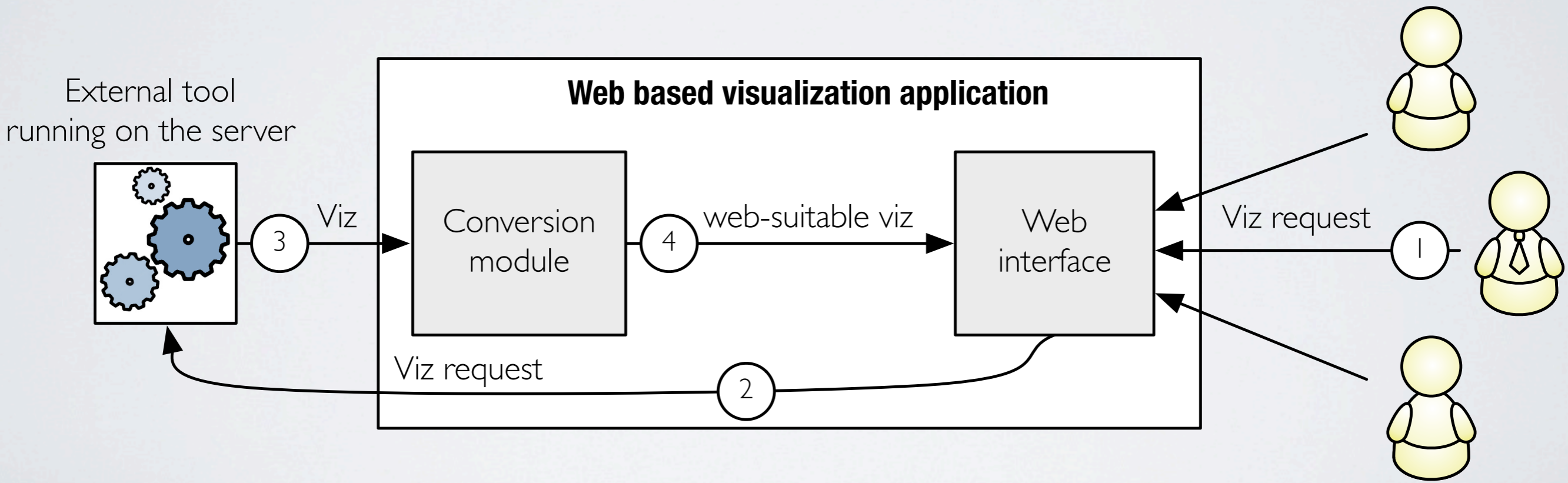
Web technologies are moving fast (Flash, Javascript, JQuery, Scriptaculous, etc)





# Hiding tasks & exposing services

Use external tools and provide the results as services





Availability



Privacy



Collaboration



Performance & scalability



Hiding tasks &  
exposing services



Single point of failure



Feedback



Debugging & testing



Usage report



Interaction



Incremental results



Browser compatibility



Rapid evolution





**Promises**



**Perils**



Availability



Privacy



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Single point of failure



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Incremental results



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Rapid evolution





Availability



Collaboration



Hiding tasks &  
exposing services



Availability



Collaboration



Hiding tasks &  
exposing services



**I WANT YOU TO PORT  
YOUR TOOL TO THE WEB\***





Availability



Collaboration



Hiding tasks &  
exposing services



**I WANT YOU TO PORT  
YOUR TOOL TO THE WEB\***

\* After a careful evaluation of the mostly technical perils





Availability



Collaboration



Hiding tasks &  
exposing services



**I WANT YOU TO PORT  
YOUR TOOL TO THE WEB\***



\* After a careful evaluation of the mostly technical perils