Memoplex Browser, v.1
- Originally a 533 project from a previous year
- Built on top of Mike Huggett's Memoplex server
- Backend: Semantic network of documents
- Frontend: node-link graph of network
- Nodes are individual documents

Memoplex Browser, v.2
- Takes up to three keywords in search
- Finds a set of documents in search pane
- Double-click: opens graph view
- Elements are spatially organized / coloured into “clusters”

The problem
- Directed search: find docs easily if
  - we have the document title
  - we know exactly what keywords are involved
  - We know what we’re looking for
- What if we don’t exactly know?
  - look through a list of titles
  - “feel around”, browse

Memoplex Browser++
- Text document browser
  - Uses semantic links, spatial arrangement
  - Color-based clustering for easier identification
  - Can view local information more easily, but no advantage over a flat list of results

Memoplex Browser, v.2
- Attempts to make browsing of ASN more useful / relevant
- View actual document snippets, only a few at a time
- Idea: following local links / highly connected links makes for simpler exploratory search

My contribution
- Make the system useful beyond visualizing structure
- Graph structure (browsing) augmented to support the search functionality
- Built in prefuse

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Conclusion
- Exploiting intricacies of network may not be necessarily useful
- List form is easier to navigate
- However, some kind of indication of “location” and relative referencing is useful
- May have better applications in other domains

Navigation, browsing
- Analogy:
  - Directed search: Look up exact item in library call number system
  - Browsing: Go to a shelf and look around at various books
  - What if we combine these?
    - Go to a bookshelf in a general call number range
    - Browse around various titles and books that are related

Conclusion: Recap
- A text document browser that uses semantic links and spatial clustering to aid in browsing tasks
- Very tricky to do spatial layout of text

Compared to Google Desktop ...
- Flat list simpler to navigate - familiar
- Spatial layout – very easy to get lost
- Clustering / search results were skewed
- Good for orienting to local (1 hop away)
- Easy to find heavily referenced articles

Interaction
- Double-click brings item into focus, re-orients nodes
- Also displays it in content pane
- Simplified panning controls?

Comparison
- Flat list simpler to navigate - familiar
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Analytical
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Memoplex (Browser)++: A
Semantic Document Browser