Some Simple Goals

- Develop a critical ability and language for visualization
- Practice your skills
- Have a foundation for future exploration and application
Ariadne - Social and Technical Dependencies among Developers and Components

Worldview - Dependencies with Locality

Ariadne 2.0
What is Visualization

• From page 5 of Spence:
  – Visualize: to form a mental model or mental image of something

What is a mental model?

• From Wikipedia (3/29/10):
  “A mental model is an explanation of someone’s thought process about how something works in the real world. It is a representation of the surrounding world, the relationships between its various parts and a person's intuitive perception about their own acts and their consequences. Our mental models help shape our behaviour and define our approach to solving problems (akin to a personal algorithm) and carrying out tasks.”

“A picture is worth a thousand words …”

• From Herbert Simon & Jill Larkin, “Why a diagram is (sometimes) worth 10,000 words” (1987)
  – A data structure in which elements appear in a single sequence is what we will call a sentential representation.
  – A data structure in which information is indexed by two-dimensional location is what we call a diagrammatic representation.
• From Erik Trainer (unpublished):
  – Visual representations are composed of graphical symbols, or visual elements that are arranged according to a layout.

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