

Research creating the Future of Agriculture



Bayer CropScience - Belgium

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GBrowse: lessons learned and statement of interest

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Who are we?



- Working at Research Centre of Bayer CropScience
- Fungicides, herbicides, insecticides
- ~18'000 world wide,
- ~250 Ghent, Belgium
- Bayer BioScience
 - Biotech company
 - Dealing with: crops, cereals, vegetables, ...
- GMOD
 - GBrowse 1.70 and 2.0
 - CMap
 - Galaxy
 - ERGATIS (tigr-workflow)
 - ...





- A bit of history
- Current Bayer GBrowse infrastructure
 - Public Genome Annotations
 - Private Genome Annotations
- In house developed components
- Requirements/Needs
- Conclusion/Discussion



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A bit of history



- GBrowse utilised since 2004
- Tested most of the versions and the available adaptors
 - Currently: GBrowse 2 and mainly Bio::DB::GFF
- Mainly focus on plant genomes (e.g. rice)

Lots of:

- Publicly available plant genome sequences
- Private genomes
- Annotation release updates are more and more frequent
- Requirements:
 - Minor data reformatting
 - Fast data loading
 - Fast querying
 - Highly customizable application
 - High level of integrity in our bioinformatics platform





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GBrowse infrastructure: Public Data



One MySQL database per Genome Annotation Version





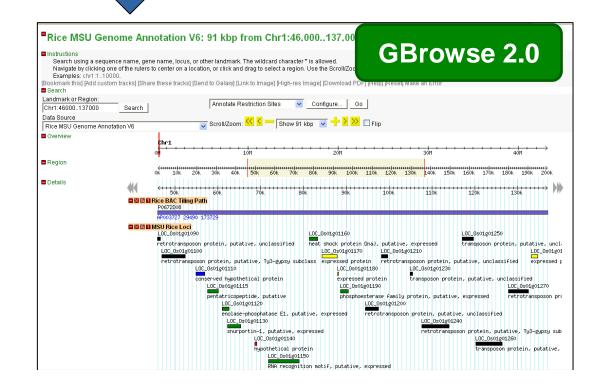






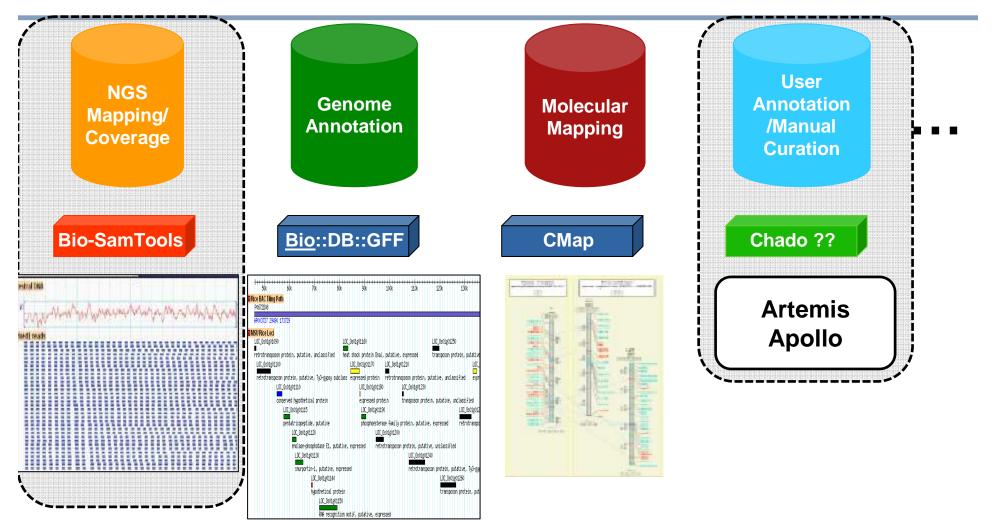
Connection to MySQL using Bio::DB::GFF adaptor

- More than 30 databases
- Around 30 GB of data



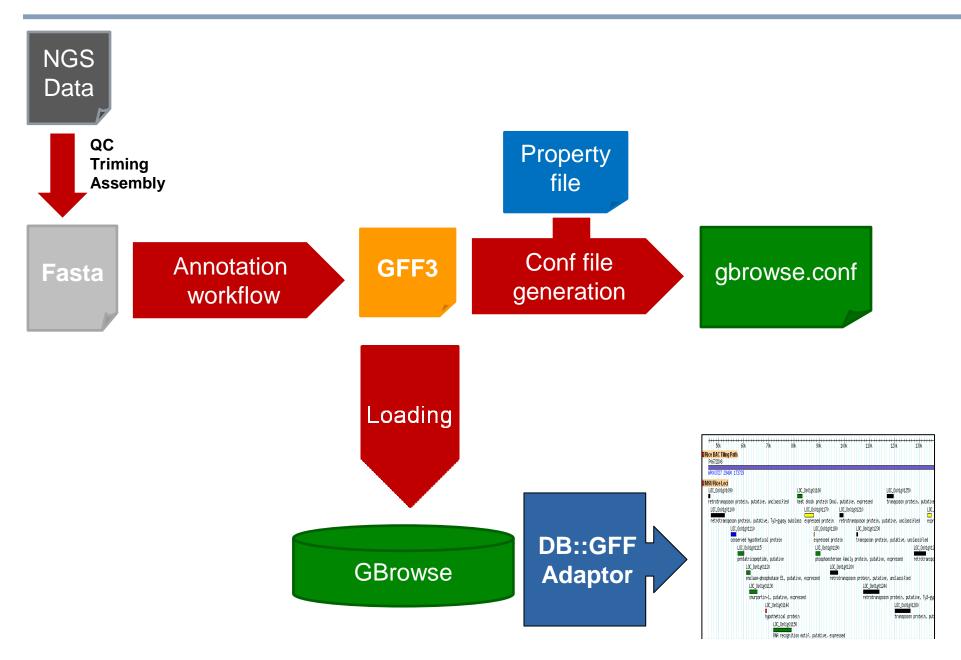
GBrowse infrastructure: Private Data Research





Automated Annotation workflow







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In house developments

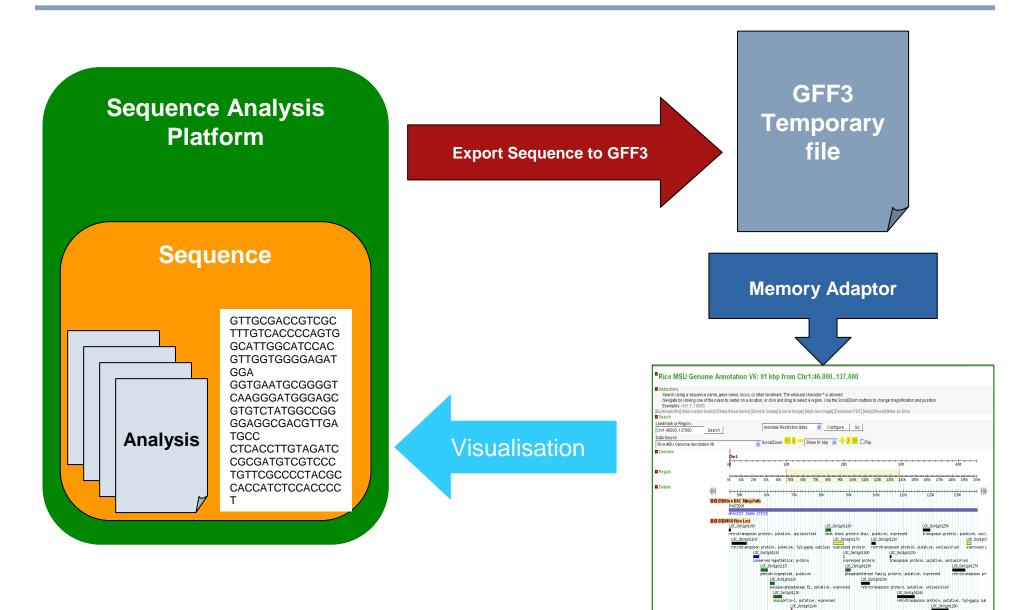


- Authentication system
 - track of user sessions
 - storage of the user annotation on the server
 - So, activate user access rights
- GFF3 files on-the-fly visualization.
- Blast anchoring/Sequence homology search
 - blast homologies are uploaded as user annotations
- Plugins
 - data export
 - links to in house applications
- In house keyword search engine
 - fast search utility
 - cross databases search
- Gateway
 - centralised access point



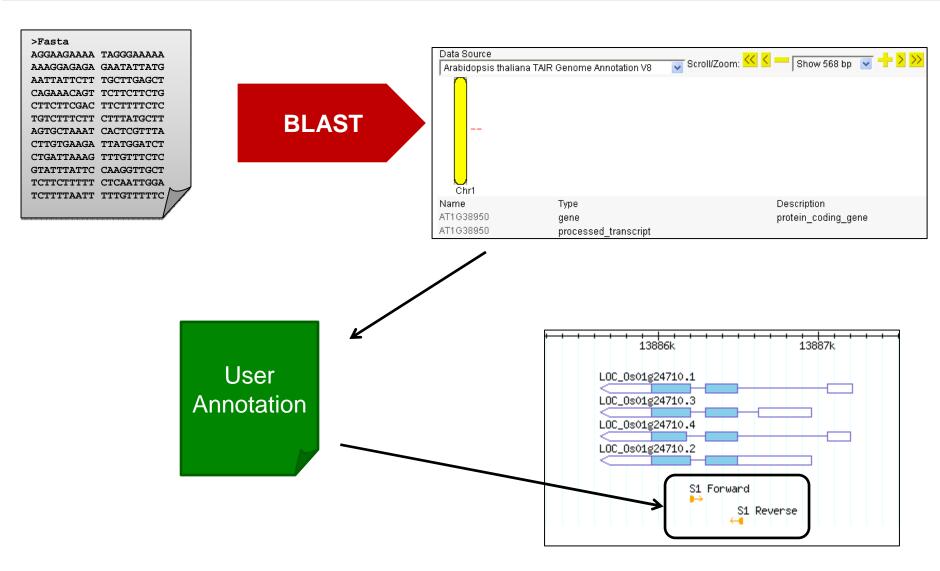
GBrowse for on-the-fly visualisation





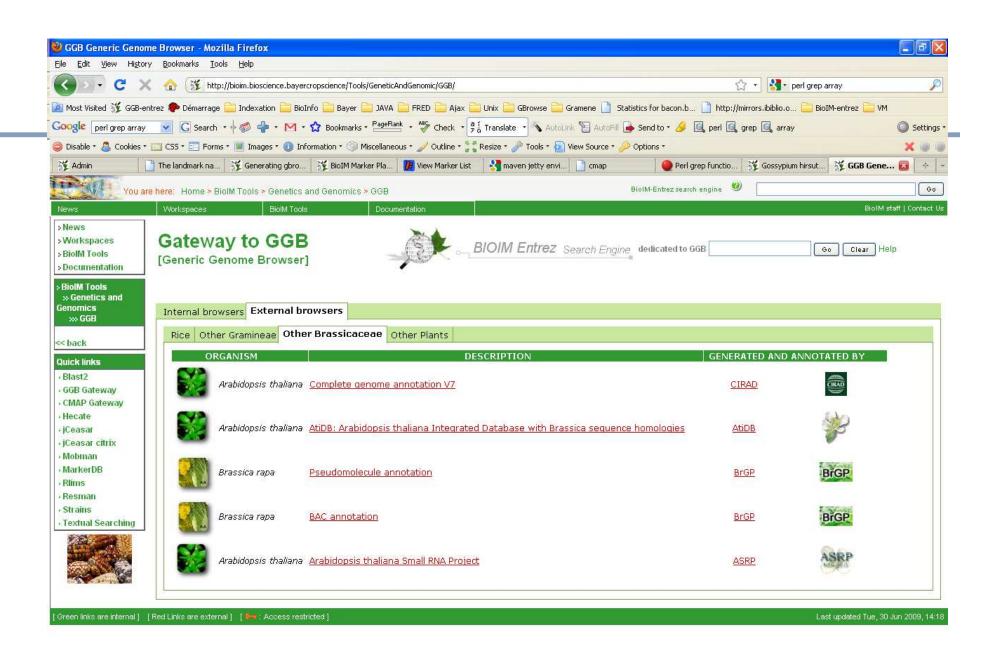
BLAST anchoring*





^{*} under development







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Statement of interest: DB adaptors



NGS adaptor

Key priority

Memory adaptor

To be able to specify a file name or a complete path via a parameter so, the adaptor doesn't need to load all the GFF files in the directory

Chado adaptor

- Portability to Oracle
- To store user annotation and manual curation
- Including a system track versions and history of the annotations
- Management of user access rights

SeqFeature::Store

Portability to Oracle (c.f. user access rights via VPD) Improve loading process: time issues

Compatibility with other genome browsers databases

For instance: ensembl databases?



Statement of interest: User Interaction Research



Authentication

- To track user sessions
- To enable user access rights management
- User Annotation Management
- To store the user annotations in a database or in a file on the server.
 Thus the users will be able to get their annotations while getting connected to different machines.
- To send automatically user's annotations to GBrowse via a URL parameter
- Integration with CMap



Statement of interest: Gbrowse.conf



- Issues with the conf file format:
 - Error prone
 - Difficult to debug
 - Steep learning curve
 - Time consuming to maintain
 - ...
- Solution: automatic conf file generation for instance
- Ideal solution: better representation of the configuration
 - Use XML for instance
- Configuration of the global layout to enable/disable components thereof:
 - Disable the custom tracks component
 - Disable the display settings component
 - ...

Statement of interest: data_source.conf Research



- Genome annotation metadata
 - Species information
 - Assembly and Annotation version

```
# database definitions
[TAIR_Arabidopsis_V8:database]
db_adaptor
           = Bio::DB::GFF
db_args
           = -adaptor DBI::mysql
             -dsn dbi:mysql:TAIR_Arabidopsis_V8
               = Arabidopsis thaliana
species
assembly.source
               = TAIR
assembly.version
annotation.source = TAIR
annotation.version = 8
```



Statement of interest: web services



- Querying/Reporting tool on metadata
 - List of reference sequences
 - Annotation version
 - Assembly version
 - List of available feature types
 - Suggestion:

```
<browser>
    <species>Arabidopsis
<assembly>bayer</assembly>
    <annotation>1.0</annotation>
    <reference-sequence>chr1</reference-sequence>
    <reference-sequence>chr2</reference-sequence>
    <feature-type>fgenesh:mRNA</feature-type>
    <feature-type>splign:mRNA</feature-type>
</browser>
```





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Conclusion / Discussion



- GBrowse 2 is a tool that can be used in a production environment
 - Performance (rendering farm)
 - Various DB's
- Intensively used within the Bayer Bioinformatics platform:
 - Facilitate data integration
 - High level of integration
 - Easy to maintain
- Our priorities for further developments:
 - Adaptors performance
 - Need to focus on user interaction
 - GBrowse.conf representation
 - Native integration of other GMOD tools (e.g. CMap)





creating the Future of Agriculture



Thank you for your attention