

Domestic Terrorist Web Network

Robert Gal
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Introduction: This project focuses on analyzing the relationships between websites affiliated with domestic terrorist groups in the United States. Each node represents a website, and a directed edge from one website to another indicating a hyperlink connection. The purpose of this visualization is to uncover patterns of influence, cohesion, and brokerage within the network, identifying which websites serve as central hubs, which are isolated, and whether tightly connected subgroups, cliques are present.

The dataset captured: <https://sites.google.com/site/ucinetsoftware/datasets/covert-networks/domestic-terrorist-web-links>
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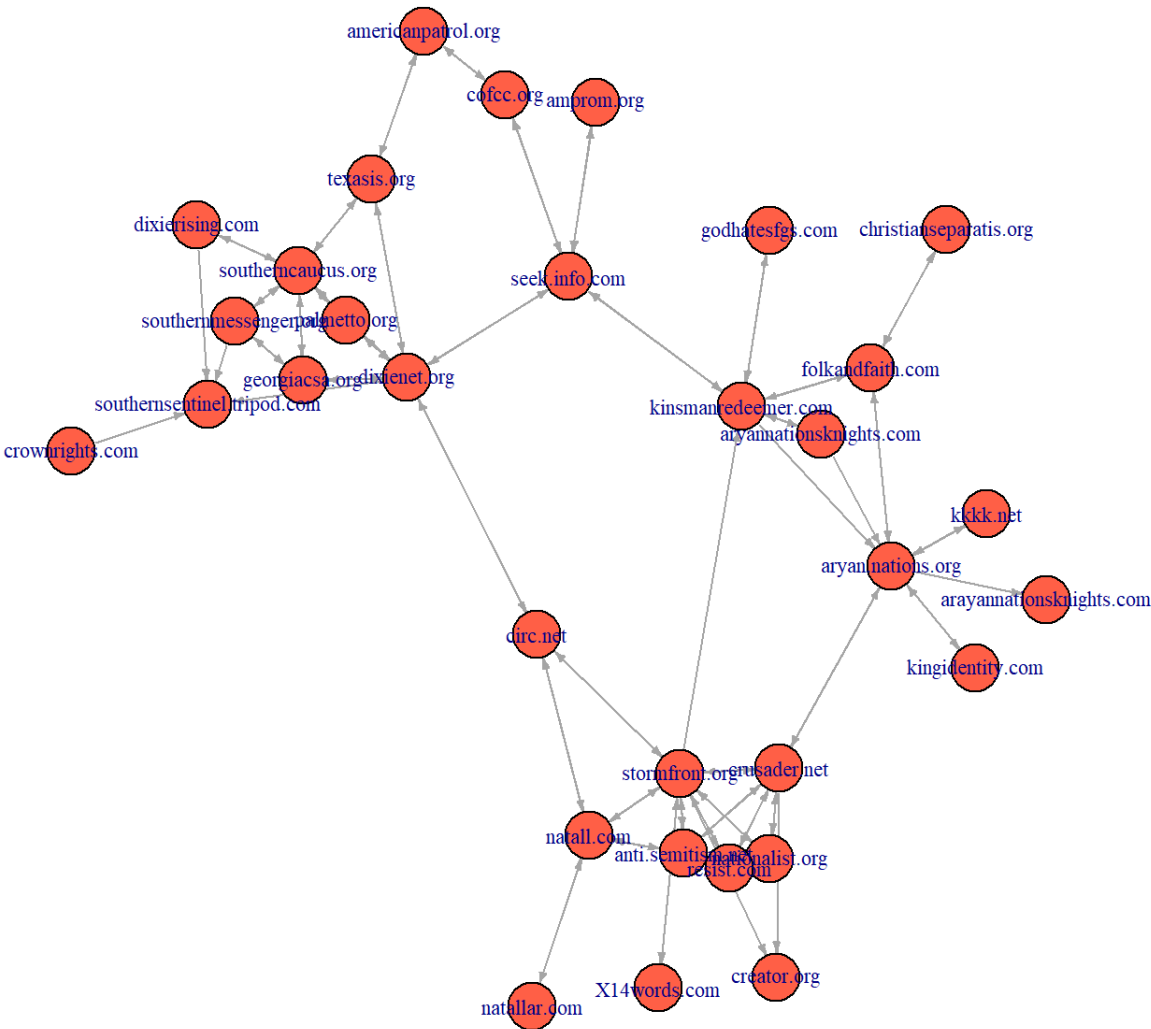
The project will use 'Domestic Terrorist Web Links'dataset. It is a directed 1-mode adjacency matrix network, which consist of hyperlinks between websites connected to domestic terrorist groups in the United States. The dataset consists of 32 rows and 32 columns, forming a 32 x 32 matrix. Each row and column represent a website, and the binary cell values indicate whether a hyperlink present, 1 if there is a link, 0 if there is no link between them

```
library(igraph)
library(visNetwork)
library(tidygraph)
library(ggraph)
```

```
setwd("C:/Users/Gigaboly/Desktop/PSU 2025/INSC 846")
crimeset <- read.csv("DOMESTICTERRORWEB.csv", header = TRUE, row.names = 1)
```

```
#Plot the dataset:
crime_matrix <- as.matrix(crimeset)
g <- graph_from_adjacency_matrix(crime_matrix, mode = "directed", diag = FALSE)
plot(g,
     vertex.label = V(g)$name,
     vertex.color = "tomato",
     vertex.size = 10,
     vertex.label.cex = 0.7,
     edge.arrow.size = 0.3,
     layout = layout_with_fr(g),
     main = "Domestic Terrorist Website Network")
```

Domestic Terrorist Website Network



```
# Get the number of rows and columns
dim(crimeset)
```

```
## [1] 32 32
```

```
colnames(crimeset)
```

```
## [1] "X14words.com"      "americanpatrol.org"
## [3] "amprom.org"        "anti.semitism.net"
## [5] "arayannationsknights.com" "aryan.nations.org"
## [7] "aryannationsknights.com" "christianseparatis.org"
## [9] "circ.net"          "cofcc.org"
## [11] "creator.org"        "crownrights.com"
## [13] "crusader.net"       "dixienet.org"
## [15] "dixierising.com"    "folkandfaith.com"
## [17] "georgiacsa.org"     "godhatesfgs.com"
## [19] "kingidentity.com"   "kinsmanredeemer.com"
## [21] "kkkk.net"           "natall.com"
## [23] "natallar.com"       "nationalist.org"
## [25] "palmetto.org"       "resist.com"
## [27] "seek.info.com"      "southerncaucus.org"
## [29] "southernmessenger.org" "southernsentinel.tripod.com"
## [31] "stormfront.org"     "texasis.org"
```

1. Which nodes are the most connected in the network?

```
avg_path_length <- average.path.length(g, directed = TRUE)
net_diameter <- diameter(g, directed = TRUE)
print(paste("Average Path Length:", round(avg_path_length, 2)))
```

```
## [1] "Average Path Length: 3.23"
```

```
print(paste("Network Diameter:", net_diameter))
```

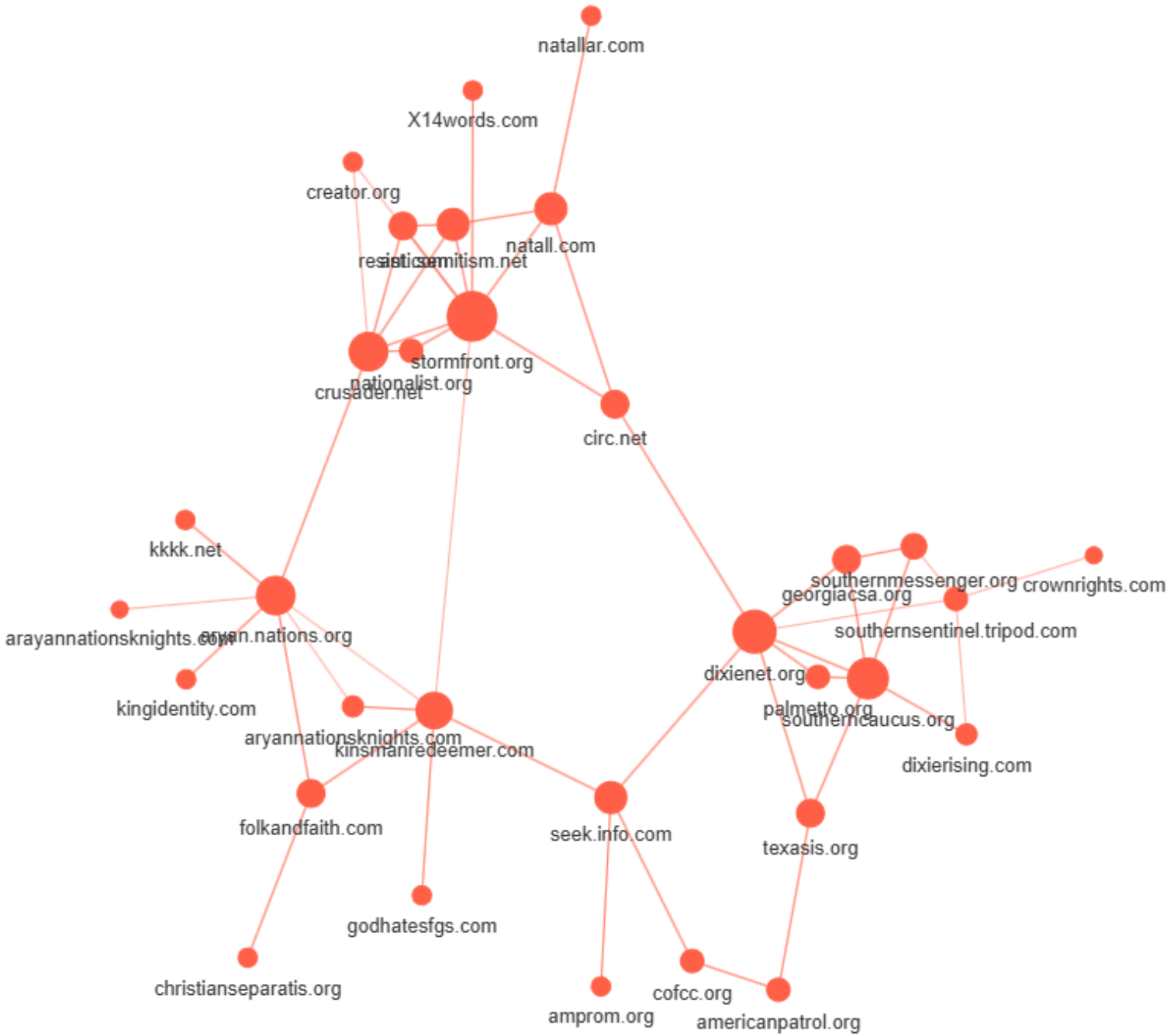
```
## [1] "Network Diameter: 7"
```

```
# Calculate degree
deg <- degree(g, mode = "all")
# Make nodes for visNetwork
nodes <- data.frame(id = V(g)$name,
                    label = V(g)$name,
                    value = deg,
                    title = paste("Degree:", deg),
                    color = "tomato",
                    font.size = 24)

edges <- as_data_frame(g, what = "edges")
# Plot network
visNetwork(nodes, edges, main = "Network Topography") %>%
  visIgraphLayout(layout = "layout_with_fr") %>%
  visOptions(highlightNearest = TRUE, nodesIdSelection = TRUE)
```

Network Topography

Select by id▼



Visual 1: This visual shows the number of connections using the size. The node size encodes degree, so we can visually spot which websites (nodes) have more direct hyperlinks. Using visNetwork helps to explore degrees and relationships.

2. Are there tightly connected groups of websites that consistently link to each other?

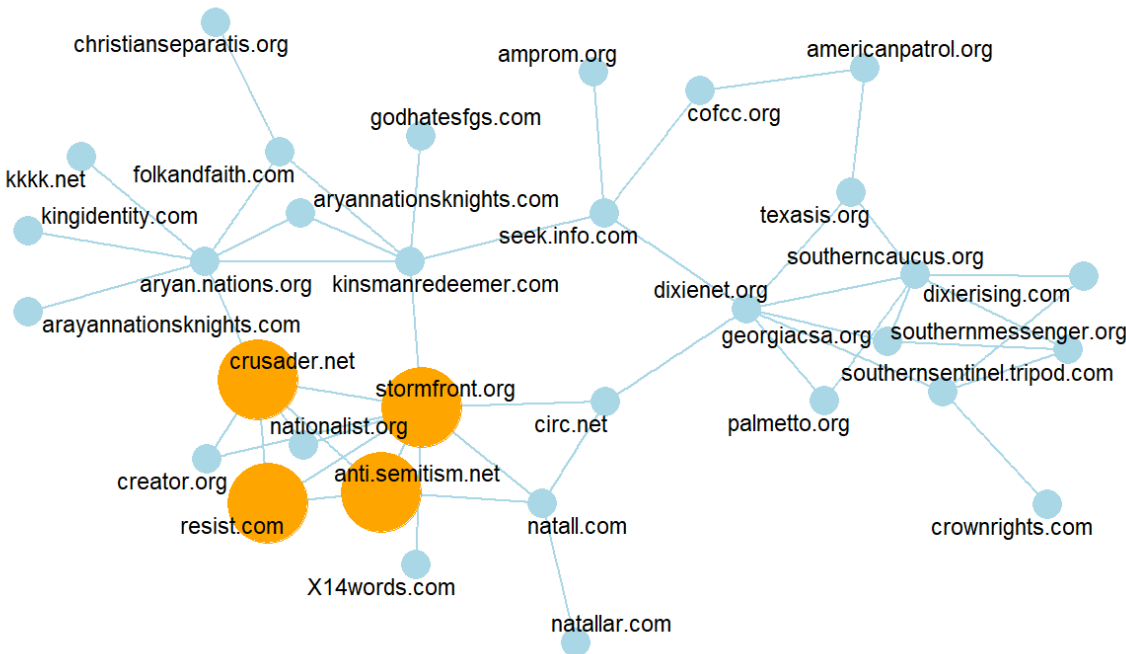
```
# Convert to tidygraph object
library(tidygraph)
g_tbl <- as_tbl_graph(g)

# Find the Largest clique
largest_clique <- largest.cliques(g)[[1]]

# Mark clique membership
g_tbl <- g_tbl %>%
  mutate(clique_member = ifelse(name %in% V(g)[largest_clique]$name, "Yes", "No"))

# Plot ggraph
ggraph(g_tbl, layout = "stress") +
  geom_edge_link(alpha = 1.5, color = "lightblue") +
  geom_node_point(aes(color = clique_member, size = clique_member), show.legend = FALSE) +
  geom_node_text(aes(label = name), repel = TRUE, size = 3) +
  scale_color_manual(values = c("Yes" = "orange", "No" = "lightblue")) +
  scale_size_manual(values = c("Yes" = 14, "No" = 5)) +
  labs(title = "Cohesive Subgroup: Largest Clique\n") +
  theme_graph(base_family = "sans") +
  theme(plot.title = element_text(size = 14, hjust = 0.5))
)
```

Cohesive Subgroup: Largest Clique



Visual 2: The graph identifies and visualizes the largest cohesive subgroup in the network. These 4 nodes form a fully connected group, where each of those 4 websites links directly to every other in that group. This is the largest completely cohesive subgroup in the network.

3. Which website is the most influential broker connecting different groups in the network?

```
# Calculate betweenness
btwn <- betweenness(g, directed = TRUE)

# Scale node sizes
V(g)$size <- (btwn / max(btwn)) * 30 + 5
# Create color nodes
V(g)$color <- ifelse(btwn == max(btwn), "red", "tan")

# Create nodes for visNetwork
nodes <- data.frame(id = V(g)$name,
                    label = V(g)$name,
                    color = V(g)$color,
                    size = V(g)$size)

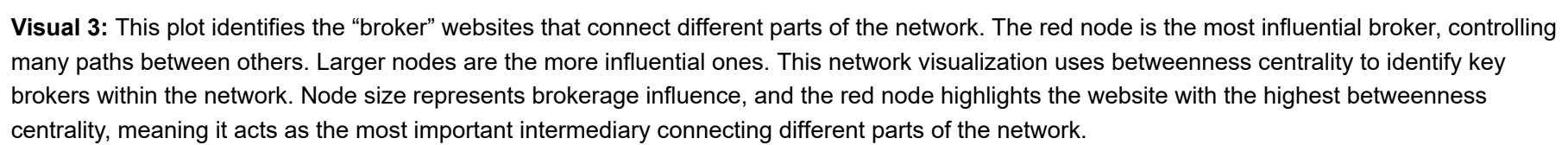
# Create edges for visNetwork
edges <- as_data_frame(g, what = "edges")
colnames(edges)[1:2] <- c("from", "to")

# Print title
cat("Central Actor: Highest Betweenness\n")

## Central Actor: Highest Betweenness

# Plot visnetwork
visNetwork(nodes, edges, main = "Central Actor: Highest Betweenness",
            width = "100%", height = "800px") %>%
  visEdges(color = list(color = "tan")) %>%
  visNodes(borderWidth = 15, font = list(size = 20)) %>%
  visLayout(randomSeed = 42) %>%
  visPhysics(stabilization = TRUE)
```

Central Actor: Highest Betweenness



References:

Users/Gigaboly/Desktop/PSU 2025/INSC 846/Course Project - Domestic Terrorist Web Network.html