*Note: This scenario and all the people, places, groups, and technologies contained therein are fictitious. Any resemblance to real people, places, groups, or technologies is purely coincidental.*

# **Disappearance at GAStech**



Introduction  
  
In the roughly twenty years that Tethys-based GAStech has been operating a natural gas production site in the island country of Kronos, it has produced remarkable profits and developed strong relationships with the government of Kronos. However, GAStech has not been as successful in demonstrating environmental stewardship.  
  
In January, 2014, the leaders of GAStech are celebrating their new-found fortune as a result of the initial public offering of their very successful company. In the midst of this celebration, several employees of GAStech go missing. An organization known as the Protectors of Kronos (POK) is suspected in the disappearance, but things may not be what they seem.  
  
It is January 21, 2014, and as an expert in visual analytics, you are called in to help law enforcement from Kronos and Tethys assess the situation and figure out where the missing employees are and how to get them home again. Time is of the essence.

Overview

This challenge focuses on the disappearance itself. As an analyst, you have a set of current and historical news reports at your disposal, as well as resumes of numerous GAStech employees and email headers from two weeks of internal GAStech company email. You are being counted on to bring law enforcement up to date on the current organization of the POK and how that organization has changed over time, as well as to characterize the events surrounding the disappearance. Design and build a visual analytics tool to analyze the available data and develop responses to possible questions below.

## Example Questions

1. Identify at least two possible explanations why the GAStech employees may be missing. What evidence do you have to support each of these explanations?
2. How does the communication network change over time? Which people communicate with each other? Does the communication between people change between the first and second week? Can you find information that explains the kidnapping if you compare daily snapshots of the network with one another?

## Available Data

As an analyst, you have the following data at your disposal:

* A map of Kronos
* A chart describing the local GAStech organization, in PDF format.
* A spreadsheet of GAStech employee records, in Microsoft Excel format. The primary worksheet contains the data; the index worksheet contains the data dictionary
* Email headers from two weeks of internal GAStech company email, in comma-separated values (CSV) format
* Resumes and short biographies of many, but not all, of the GAStech employees, in Microsoft Word format
* Historical reports and descriptions of the countries involved, in Microsoft Word format or .txt format if that is more convenient.
* Relevant current and historical news reports from multiple domestic and translated foreign sources, in text file format. Because these articles have come from multiple sources and original formats, some of them may contain corrupted characters, which is typical for this type of data. These corrupted characters should not interfere with your ability to analyze the data.