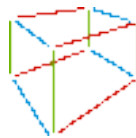


# InetVis 2.1.1 Manual

October 10, 2017



## Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>2</b>
1.1	About . . . . .	2
1.1.1	Inetvis 0.9.x and 1.x (unreleased) . . . . .	2
1.2	Concept . . . . .	2
1.3	Input . . . . .	3
1.4	Supported Protocols . . . . .	3
1.5	Plotting scheme . . . . .	3
1.6	Features . . . . .	3
<b>2</b>	<b>Usage</b>	<b>4</b>
2.1	Command Line . . . . .	4
2.2	User Interface and Controls . . . . .	4
2.2.1	Control Panel . . . . .	5
2.3	InetVis Display . . . . .	5
2.3.1	Navigation via Mouse Controls . . . . .	5
2.3.2	Navigation via Keyboard Controls . . . . .	5
2.3.3	Other Keyboard Controls . . . . .	6
2.4	Plotter Settings Dialogue . . . . .	6
2.5	Reference Frame Settings Dialogue . . . . .	7
2.6	General Settings Dialogue . . . . .	7
2.6.1	Record Settings . . . . .	8
2.6.2	Home Network settings . . . . .	9
2.6.3	Log File Settings . . . . .	9
2.6.4	Snapshot Settings . . . . .	10
<b>3</b>	<b>Usage Notes</b>	<b>10</b>
3.1	Tool tips as Helpful Hints . . . . .	10
3.2	Applying Settings . . . . .	10
3.2.1	Setting the Home Network Range Before Playback . . . . .	10
3.2.2	Setting Address Ranges with CIDR Notation . . . . .	10
3.3	Recording . . . . .	11
3.3.1	Record to Capture File . . . . .	11
3.3.2	Taking an Image Snapshot . . . . .	11
3.3.3	Dumping Rendered Frames to Image Files . . . . .	11
3.4	Minimum System Specification . . . . .	12
<b>4</b>	<b>Known Issues</b>	<b>12</b>
4.1	Stability and Performance . . . . .	12
4.2	Limitations and Feature Wish List . . . . .	13

<b>5</b>	<b>Running Inetvis</b>	<b>13</b>
5.1	Installation . . . . .	13
5.2	Uninstalling InetVis . . . . .	14
5.3	Disclaimer . . . . .	14
<b>6</b>	<b>Building and Developing InetVis</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Contact</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Licence</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Software Dependencies and Licensing</b>	<b>16</b>
10.1	Libpcap License . . . . .	16

# 1 Description

**InetVis** - Internet Visualization

**Version** 2.1.1

**Rrelease Date:** 2017/10/09

InetVis is a 3-D scatter-plot visualization for network traffic. Inetvis is more or less like a media player, but for network traffic. At the moment its just an academic toy for reviewing packet capture files, but may be useful in other endeavours. For example, InetVis has been used to verify and critique the accuracy of scan detection algorithms in the Snort IDS and Bro IDS.

## 1.1 About

Inetvis was originally developed in 2005-2007, as part of a research project by JP van Riel in the Department of Comuter Science at Rhodes Uinversity. 10 years later the project has been resurrected by Yestin Johnson as part of his Masters Degree research. both Projects have been supervised by Barry Irwin.

The Current version of Inetvis (2.x branch) has been ported across to run on Qt5.x (including Qt5.5) and on modern operating systems, and is now hosted on GitHub.

Current Author: Yestin Johnson (2017) <yestinj@gmail.com>

Reseach Supervisor: Barry Irwin

Institute: Department of Computer Science,

Rhodes University,

Github: <https://github.com/yestinj/inetvis>

Original Inetvis Concept Paper: <https://doi.org/10.1145/1108590.1108604>

### 1.1.1 Inetvis 0.9.x and 1.x (unreleased)

Original Author (InetVis 1.x): Jean-Pierre van Riel (2005 - 2007) <jp.vanriel@gmail.com>

Website: <http://research.ict.ru.ac.za/G02V2468/>

Grahamstown, 6140, Eastern Cape, South Africa

## 1.2 Concept

The original source of inspiration for InetVis is the "*The Spinning Cube of Potential Doom*" (by Stephen Lau). Whilst many other network visualizations employ lines as a metaphor for connection, the 3-D scatter-plot of points proves to scale well with larger volumes of data. The visualization makes network scanning and port scanning readily evident as horizontal and vertical lines respectively. InetVis offers numerous extensions that enhance the original basic concept.

Lau's Original Paper: <https://doi.org/10.1145/990680.990699>

Original Article:<http://www.nersc.gov/news-publications/nersc-news/nersc-center-news/1998/cube-of-doom/>

### 1.3 Input

InetVis visualizes packet captures of network traffic using Libpcap to either

- capture live traffic from the default interface
- replay traffic from a pcap file.

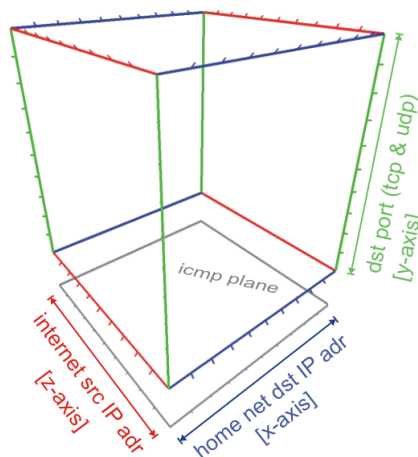
Tcpdump (<http://www.tcpdump.org>), Wireshark (<http://wireshark.org>) and Snort (<http://www.snort.org>) are examples of other applications can use and produce network packet captures in the Libpcap file format.

### 1.4 Supported Protocols

Currently only Ethernet based IPv4 packets are supported. Within the TCP/IP suite explicit support is provided for TCP, UDP and ICMP protocols. Other protocols may be silently dropped by the builtin base BPF filter (`"ip[6:2] & 0x3fff"`). See Section 4.2 for details.

### 1.5 Plotting scheme

1. Destination address (home network) plotted along blue x-axis (horizontal).
2. Source address (external Internet range) plotted along red z-axis (depth).
3. Ports (TCP and UDP) plotted along green y-axis (vertical).
4. ICMP traffic plotted below TCP/UDP cube grey/white ICMP plane.



### 1.6 Features

- Adjustable replay position to seek through the traffic capture files.
- Variable playback speed (time scaling), from as slow as 0.001x (1 ms/s), or as fast as 86400x (1 day/s).
- Variable time frame/window to view events for the past 100 ms up to 5 years.
- Transparent decay of events - points fade as they age (with respect to the time window).
- New events are highlighted by pulsing once (a momentarily bulge of the point).
- Filtering capability via BPF filter expressions (as used in Libpcap and Tcpdump).
- Various colour schemes for colouring points and adjustable point size.
- Setting the data ranges and scaling down into sub-domain IP addresses (destination and source) as well as port ranges to view a subset of the traffic data.

- Adjustable logarithmic plot for stretching out (thus increasing visibility) lower port range where, in general, most TCP/UDP traffic occurs.
- Various reference frame controls, i.e. toggling visibility of axes, markers, transparent grid lines, labels, and background colour.
- Orthographic and perspective projection modes.
- Immersive navigation - scaling (zooming), translating (moving) and rotating.
- Record single snapshot image, or dump all image frames (useful for manually encoding video clips).
- Record output back to pcap binary file format, for further detailed analysis with other applications (e.g. Tcpdump, Wireshark and Snort).

See the CHANGELOG file in the source distribution for updated feature additions.

## 2 Usage

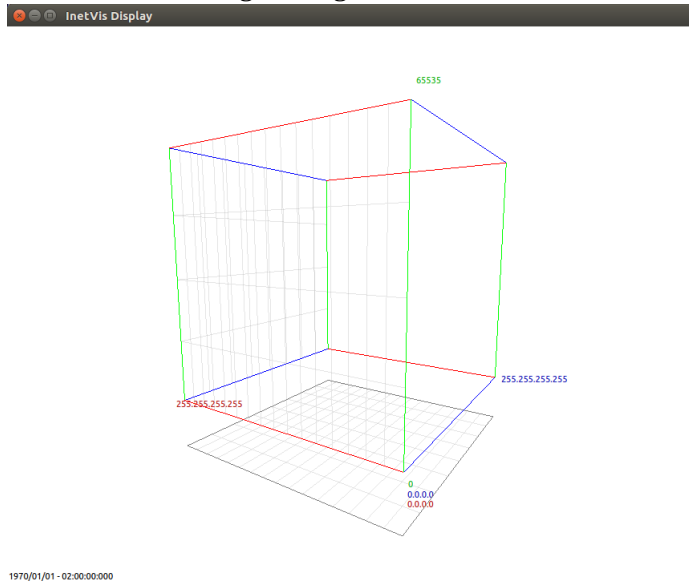
### 2.1 Command Line

```
$ ./inetvis
```

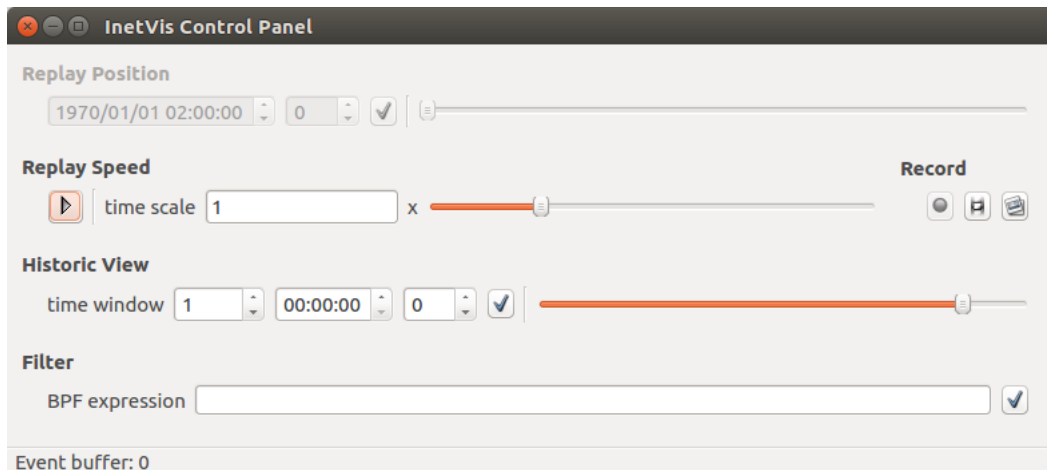
Inetvis takes no commandline arguments at this time.

### 2.2 User Interface and Controls

The display pane and control panel are in separate windows, with a plotter settings dialogue and reference frame settings dialogue accessed via the 'view' menu of the control panel



### 2.2.1 Control Panel



- main menu to open files, set mode (monitor local host or replay file), or to access other dialogues (view).
- Replay position controls.
- Playback and replay speed controls.
- Recording controls.
- Time window controls (Historic View).
- Filter.
- Task-bar reports the number of packets currently in the buffer.

## 2.3 InetVis Display

This is the primary visualization display pane.

### 2.3.1 Navigation via Mouse Controls

- Holding left button and moving rotates.
- Holding right button and moving translates along x and y (horizontally and vertically respectively).
- Rotating scroll wheel translates along z (depth).
- Holding middle button and moving zooms.

### 2.3.2 Navigation via Keyboard Controls

- to rotate the cube.
- + to translate (x and y).
- + or + to translate (z).
- and to scale (zoom).
- + Set Left View (up x axis)
- + Set Right View (down x axis)
- + Set Top View (down y axis)
- + Set Bottom View (up y axis)

- **[Ctrl] + [F]** Set Front View (up  $x$  axis)
- **[Home]** Set Front view (down  $y$  axis)
- **[End]** Set Back View (down  $z$  axis)

### 2.3.3 Other Keyboard Controls

- **[F]** Toggle full screen.
- **[Esc]** Exit full screen
- **[~]** Toggle *Harlemshake*
- **[0]** Clear the visualisation pane
- **[1]** Rotation Toggle
- **[2]** Decrease Rotation
- **[3]** Increase Rotation
- **[9]** Toggle FPS display
- **[Ctrl] + [H]** Hide Home Range (addresses prefix replaced with *the.drk.net*)
- **[F]** Take single frame Screenshot
- **[ ]** Pause/Resume the visualisation
- **[Ctrl] + [Q]** Quit the application
- **[P]** to bring up Plotter Settings Dialogue.
- **[R]** to bring up Reference Frame Settings Dialogue.
- **[C]** to bring up Control Panel Dialogue.

## 2.4 Plotter Settings Dialogue

**Plotter Settings**

**Plotting Ranges and Functions**

**Destination Home Network Range (Blue x-Axis)**

0 . 0 . 0 . 0 / 0 **Guess** **Load** ☒

0.0.0.0 - 255.255.255.255 (0.0.0.0)

**Source Internet Network Range (Red z-Axis)**

0 . 0 . 0 . 0 / 0 **Full Range** ☒

0.0.0.0 - 255.255.255.255 (0.0.0.0)

**Port Range (Green y-Axis)**

0 - 65535 ☒ linear plot ☐ log plot 100 ☒

**Points**

**Colour Mapping**

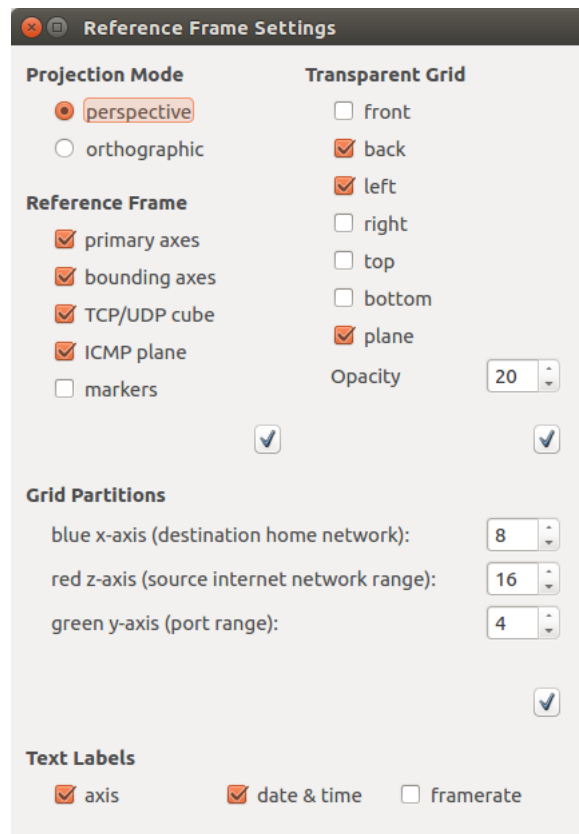
scheme Destination port size 2

**Background**

☐ white ☒ black ☐ transparent decay ☐ smooth ☒ bulge

- Set the destination home network range (or drill down into it).
- Set the source Internet range (drill down into a domain).
- Set the port range (drill down into a port range).
- Set linear or logarithmic plotting for ports.
- Set colour mapping, toggle transparent decay, and set background colour (black or white).
- Set point size, point bulging (highlight new events), and toggle point smoothing (rounded points).

## 2.5 Reference Frame Settings Dialogue



- Set projection mode (Orthographic or perspective).
- Toggle visibility of reference frame axes and markers.
- Toggle visibility and transparency of grid lines.
- Set number of divisions along  $x$ ,  $y$ , and  $z$  for markers and grid lines.
- Toggle text labels (time, axes ranges, frame rate).

## 2.6 General Settings Dialogue

New functionality added in version 2.1.0 is the ability to have inetvis save a config file. The location of this file depends on the way QT handles it in a platform specific manner

Ubuntu     `~/config/Rhodes\ University/InetVis.conf`

MacOSX    `<todo>`

Windows   `<todo>`

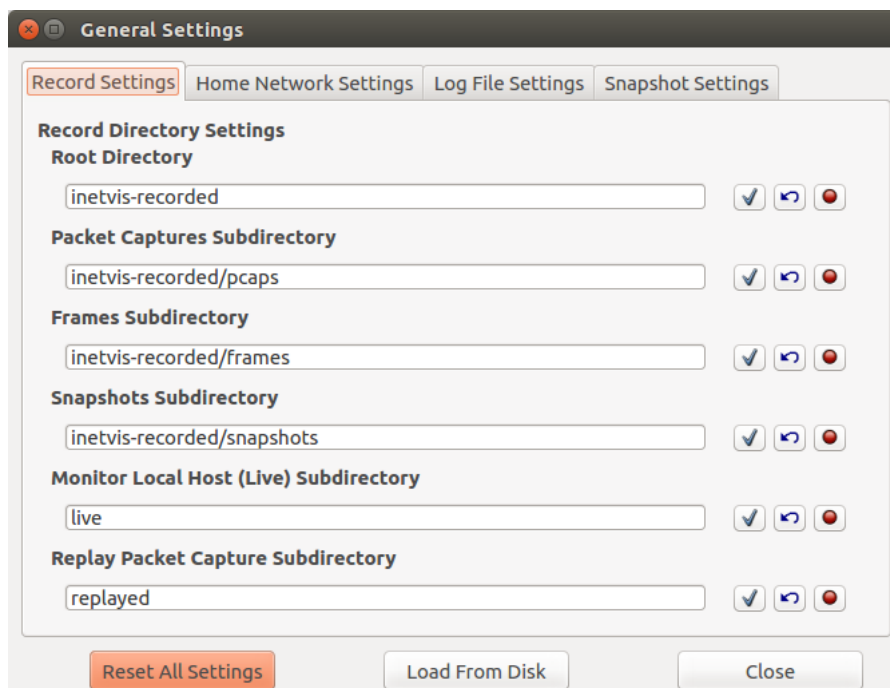
An example of a default config file is shown below.

```
[dataproc]
home_network\default_home_network=0.0.0.0/0
home_network\monitor_interface=
home_network\show_not_set_error=false
recording\default_dir=inetvis-recorded
recording\frames_subdir=inetvis-recorded/frames
recording\live_subdir=live
recording\pcaps_subdir=inetvis-recorded/pcaps
recording\replay_subdir=replayed
recording\snapshots_subdir=inetvis-recorded/snapshots
screenshot\screenshot_extension=png
screenshot\screenshot_format=png
screenshot\screenshot_quality=-1

[glviswidget]
pos=@Point(186,127)
size=@Size(704,605)

[logging]
root_dir=logs
stderr_filename=stderr
stdout_filename=stdout
```

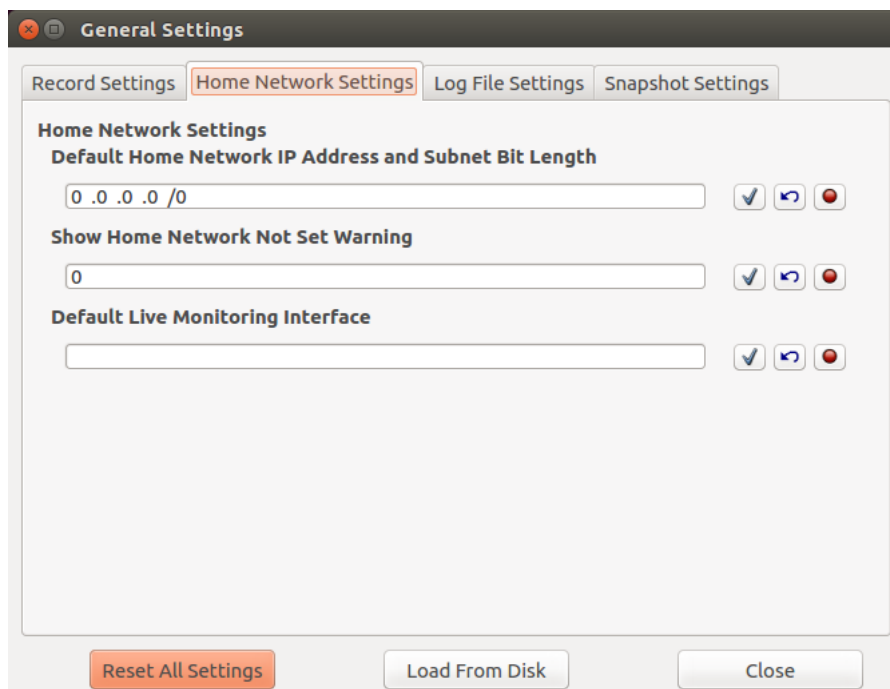
### 2.6.1 Record Settings



These directories are all relative to the directory in which inetvis is run.



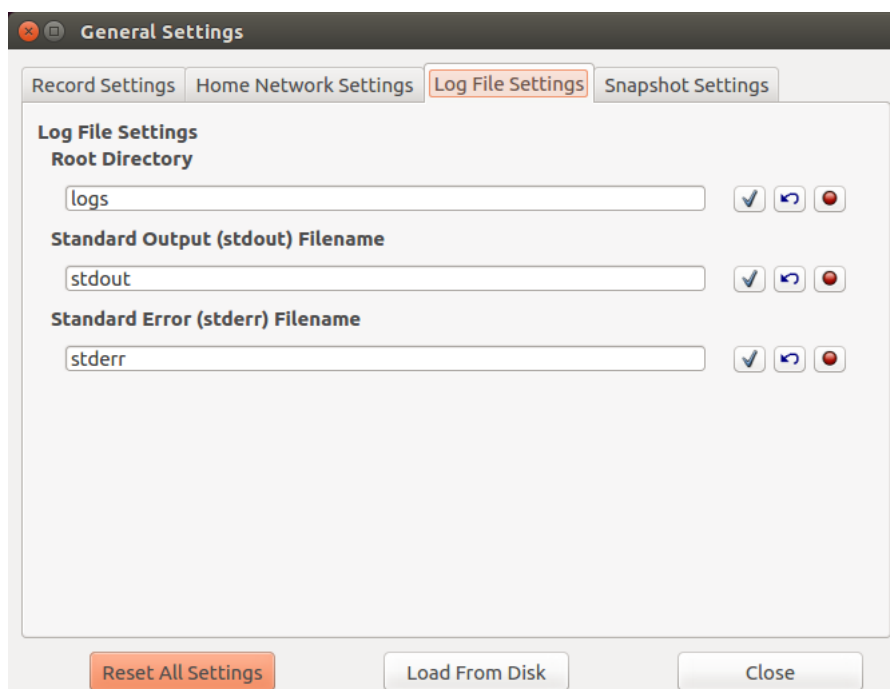
### 2.6.2 Home Network settings



The screenshot shows the 'General Settings' dialog box with the 'Home Network Settings' tab selected. The dialog has four tabs: 'Record Settings', 'Home Network Settings', 'Log File Settings', and 'Snapshot Settings'. The 'Home Network Settings' tab contains three sections: 'Default Home Network IP Address and Subnet Bit Length' with a text field containing '0 .0 .0 .0 /0', 'Show Home Network Not Set Warning' with a text field containing '0', and 'Default Live Monitoring Interface' with an empty text field. Each text field has three icons to its right: a checkmark, a refresh arrow, and a red stop button. At the bottom of the dialog are three buttons: 'Reset All Settings' (orange), 'Load From Disk', and 'Close'.

Dialogs for setting the home network ( useful if the same network is being monitored )

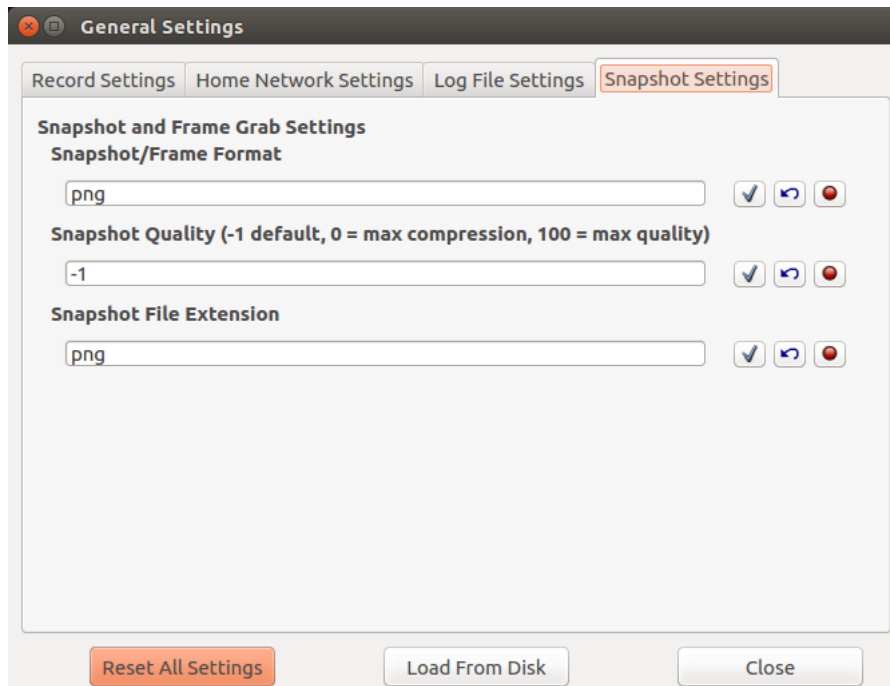
### 2.6.3 Log File Settings



The screenshot shows the 'General Settings' dialog box with the 'Log File Settings' tab selected. The dialog has four tabs: 'Record Settings', 'Home Network Settings', 'Log File Settings', and 'Snapshot Settings'. The 'Log File Settings' tab contains three sections: 'Root Directory' with a text field containing 'logs', 'Standard Output (stdout) Filename' with a text field containing 'stdout', and 'Standard Error (stderr) Filename' with a text field containing 'stderr'. Each text field has three icons to its right: a checkmark, a refresh arrow, and a red stop button. At the bottom of the dialog are three buttons: 'Reset All Settings' (orange), 'Load From Disk', and 'Close'.

Logging data relative to startup directory

## 2.6.4 Snapshot Settings



Format and configuration to support screenshots. PNG, BMP, and PPM formats are now supported.

## 3 Usage Notes

### 3.1 Tool tips as Helpful Hints

Majority of the controls, buttons and fields in the GUI provide tool tips to help explain their function and usage. Tool tips can be seen by hovering the mouse cursor over the GUI component in question.

### 3.2 Applying Settings

Many of the settings are grouped together and require the user to click the apply button (button with a tick icon) once they are ready to apply the new settings.

#### 3.2.1 Setting the Home Network Range Before Playback

After opening a file, set the home network address (in Plotter Settings dialogue) to scale the data along the blue axis - otherwise all traffic is rendered in a narrow single band with respect to the x-axis. A 'guess' button can help infer this home network range by checking the destination addresses contained within the file. In the case of monitoring the local network interface (live packet capture), the application will automatically retrieve the home network address from Libpcap.

#### 3.2.2 Setting Address Ranges with CIDR Notation

Setting the address ranges entails using 'dots-slash' (CIDR) notation to specify network sub-domains. For example 192.168.0.0/24 is the network with address 192.168.0.0, subnet mask 255.255.255.0, giving the network range 192.168.0.0 to 192.168.0.255\ . The number after the slash represents the number of bits in the subnet mask. Thus the octet classed network masks are:

Legacy Class A 255.0.0.0 = /8

Legacy Class B 255.255.0.0 = /16

Legacy Class C 255.255.255.0 = /24

Values other than /8, /16 and /24 are trickier as they involve bits in between the four octets of a 32 bit IP address. The Plotter Settings dialogue has a field below the dots-slash edit boxes that show the range and subnet mask to help as guide. For bits added on to a full octet (i.e. /8+x or /16+x or /24+x), the following octet in the mask will have the value:

/+1	/+2	/+3	/+4	/+5	/+6	/+7
.128	.192	.224	.240	.248	.252	.254

For example, 192.168.120/20 has subnet mask 255.255.248.0 and represents 8 /24 (Legacy Class C) networks in the range 192.168.120.0 to 192.168.127.255.

### 3.3 Recording

All three record methods, recording to capture file, taking a single image snapshot, or dumping rendered frames to image files, can be used simultaneously and used in conjunction with playback.

Recording back to capture file, taking a snapshot image, or dumping frames, creates a directory hierarchy relative to the InetVis running directory.

recorded/frames Sequences of framed which can be stiched together to create video

recorded/pcaps files in pcap format


recorded/snapshots individual image snapshots

Within these directories, sub-directory structures follow and should be self explanatory. Some file and directory names include numeric timestamps of the form yyyyymmdd-hhMMsszzz (where MM is minutes and zzz milliseconds) - the timestamps refer to timestamps in the capture file (or live capture).

#### 3.3.1 Record to Capture File

InetVis can record back out to a Libpcap packet capture file which can later be reviewed with any other tool capable of reading the file format (e.g. Wireshark or tcpdump). A record session begins when the record button (with the round red record symbol) is toggled on, and stops once the button is toggled off. Everything seen in the current display (and time window), as well as any consequent playback, will be recorded while the red record button is toggled on.

#### 3.3.2 Taking an Image Snapshot

Pressing the record button with a picture symbol allows the user to take a snapshot of the current image in the visualization pane of the InetVis Display window. To save a single frame to disk the  key can be used when uin the plotter window.

#### 3.3.3 Dumping Rendered Frames to Image Files

InetVis can record rendered frames to image files. Frame record sessions work much the same way as capture file record sessions. Whilst the record button with the film symbol is on, the application dumps each frame to an image file, and stops when the button is toggled off. For each frame, a raw copy of the image buffer is copied into an uncompressed image file (.ppm format). Consequently, recording image frames uses up a large amount of disk space at a rapid rate and can degrade the applications performance - setting the window to a smaller resolution will help reduce the performance hit. During frame recording, the timing is fixed to produce frames suitable for encoding video clips at 25 frames per second (fps). Even if, whilst recording, it appears that playback is degraded to less than 25 fps, the timing between each frames is calculated with respect to the data in the file and according to the replay speed. Therefore, when the frame capture files are encoded to video a clip at 25 frames per second, the video clip has the correct timing and replay speed while despite the recording process appearing slower. As a consequence, playback of some video clips may appear faster than the original recording.

### 3.4 Minimum System Specification

The Original system was developed with very modest hardware requirements by modern standards (see below). Performance on more modern multicore systems is very good, and able to achieve frame rates of 25 FPS even using software rendering in a virtual machine. Significant performance hits still occur when dumping successive frames to disk (this is especially evident when using the PNG file format).

#### **InetVis 0.9.x Requirements:**

At least a Pentium III class processor with 256MB RAM and a 3-D graphics accelerator supporting OpenGL is recommended.

While InetVis may work with on-board video cards, poor performance and limited OpenGL support is a typical drawback.

Typical Performance:

- Tested on Ubuntu 7.04 with Intel Core2 (6300) 1.86 GHz CPU, 2GB RAM, GeForce 7600GS (256MB) graphics card.
- The application takes a best effort approach to rendering 25 frames a second. Once rendering at less than 25 frames per second, playback becomes slower than the chosen replay rate.
- During playback, handles 100MB capture file with about 500,000 packets at 25 frames per second.
- During playback, handles 200MB capture file with about 2,000,000 packets at about 5 FPS.
- When paused, handles 600MB capture file with about 6,000,000 packets at 8 FPS using an OpenGL display list optimisation.
- When recording frames, expect a significant performance hit due to heavy file I/O.

## 4 Known Issues

As of Version 2.1.0 the following known issues are still present:

- At present running the standalone app does not work on Mac OS, however opening with Qt Creator, building, and then running does work.
- Monitoring local network interfaces does not work under Mac OS at this time.
- Windows support is failing to compile.

### 4.1 Stability and Performance

1. Target frame rate is intentionally capped at 25 frames per second. The achieved frame rate is usually a little slower and when the system reaches full processor usage, the replay rate is reduced to a best effort (plays slower than the chosen replay rate).
2. Large capture files can take a while to load while the GUI remains unresponsive. Similarly, some interactions require reloading the capture file, which, if not cached in RAM, will be applied with noticeable delay. This is minimised on modern systems with sufficient RAM
3. Attempting to view too many packets may exhaust system memory. The system will just about halt if the application starts running from swap space. (unlikely with >4GB ram)
  - (a) To improve InetVis should (yet to be implemented) have a memory cap set and warn the user while automatically decreasing the time window to limit memory usage.
4. The Microsoft Windows (currently broken) and MacOS port is, not tested extensively and expected to be buggy.
5. Live monitoring is still has a few heisenbugs See <https://github.com/yestinj/inetvis/issues/46>.

A Full list of current issues can be found on GitHub <https://github.com/yestinj/inetvis/issues>.

## 4.2 Limitations and Feature Wish List

1. The option to aggregate packet traffic into flows would be a major improvement for dealing with production class network traffic.
2. Additional colour schemes would be nice. Furthermore, colour legends would help assist the users interpreting colours.
3. Axes labels overlap in certain orientations.
4. The reference frame and grid lines could be made more intelligent by dynamically scaling according to the data ranges chosen and only applying grids on the panes of the cube in the background.
5. Error reporting needs refinement (multiple reports and obscure references to code functions might be experienced).
6. InetVis lacks a mechanism to select a point and call up detailed textual information, such as the IP addresses, ports, and other such details.
7. The multi-window GUI is a little awkward and could do with re-factoring into a single integrated window with semi-transparent control overlays. This would allow the user to toggle controls and while making changes see the effect on the visualisation in the background.
8. Would be nice to have a 'play list' of capture files that can be queued for replay.
9. Proper file indexing, instead of re-reading the file from the start would improve manipulations (such as setting the filter, setting the domain/port ranges, changing the colour scheme, and so forth).
10. Currently, the application only caters for traffic captured from an Ethernet data link.
11. IP packets with options are processed, but the options are ignored. Fragmented IP packets are not yet handled and simply dropped by an implicit BPF filter "ip[6:2] & 0x3fff". Refer to RFC 791 for details about the fragment flags and offset field.
12. The ability to integrate IDS alerts, or at least scan detection alerts from an IDS, would be awesome.

Additional features in 'todo' status can be found on GitHub <https://github.com/yestinj/inetvis/issues?q=is%3Aissue+is%3Aopen+label%3Aenhancement..>

## 5 Running Inetvis

The instructions below have all been tested on the current version of Ubuntu, 17.04 64-bit. Installing and Running InetVis

A compiled version of InetVis is available under the releases section of <https://github.com/yestinj/inetvis>.

### 5.1 Installation

In order to install and run the software please do the following:

1. Download the latest release archive from the releases page.
2. Extract the archive which will be called something like inetvis-2.1.1.tgz
3. Change into the extracted directory, something like inetvis-2.1.1
4. Run the install\_inetvis.sh shell script to install the software.

5. This script will:

- install the software to /opt/inetvis-<version>
  - Create a symlink directory /opt/inetvis for convenience
  - Copy across the relevant files to the new directory under /opt.
  - Place an icon file in /usr/share/icons/hicolor/48x48/apps/
  - Place a desktop file in /usr/share/applications, allowing inetvis to be found in the menu on Ubuntu systems.
  - Create a symlink at /usr/local/bin/inetvis pointing to the main binary.
  - Set the cap\_net\_raw, and cap\_net\_admin=eip capabilities on the inetvis binary allowing for monitoring packets on local host without running as root.
    - `$sudo setcap 'CAP_NET_RAW+eip CAP_NET_ADMIN+eip'`
    - This needs to generally not be /home which on Debian/ubuntu systems is mounted nosuid
  - If the script completes successfully inetvis should now be in your path, and also be in the menu system of your distribution.
6. You should now be able to run the inetvis binary from the command line, as it will be in your path, or you can run it from the Ubuntu menu system, where it will show up as an item. Running from the command line allows you to view console messages produced while the application is running.

## 5.2 Uninstalling InetVis

A convenience script is included in the release archive, namely `uninstall_inetvis.sh`, which can be used to completely remove inetvis from your system at any time.

## 5.3 Disclaimer

This code may eat your homework — *Caveat emptor* .

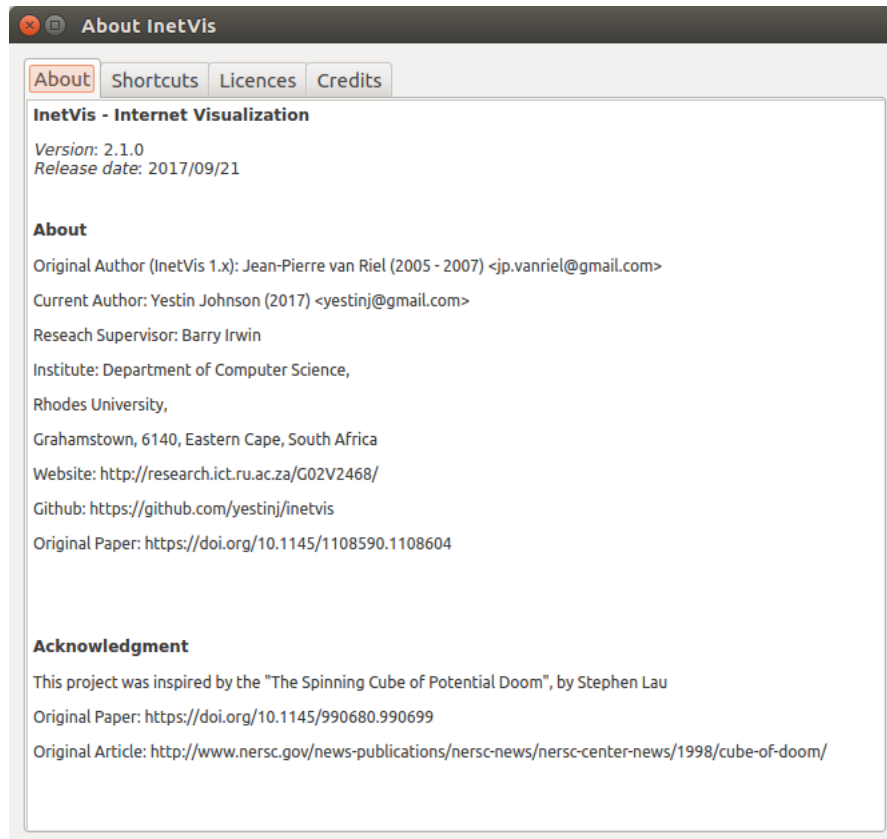
# 6 Building and Developing InetVis

In order to build InetVis onn your own system or VM please consider the following guidelines:

1. Update your system:
  - (a) `sudo apt-get update` and `sudo apt-get upgrade`,
  - (b) finally `sudo apt-get dist-upgrade`
  - (c) Install the following dependencies: `sudo apt-get install libpcap-dev qt5-default`
2. It has been noted that the following dependencies were also required on *Linux Mint* based systems:
  - (a) `sudo apt-get install libqglviewer-dev libqglviewer2`
3. Once the dependencies are installed, clone this repository if you haven't already.
  - (a) Clone the github repo into the inetvis directory: `git clone git@github.com:yestinj/inetvis.git`
4. Change into the inetvis directory, and then change to src.
5. Checkout whichever branch you want to build, i.e. master or develop. `git checkout master`
6. Finally, build the inetvis binary:
  - (a) `qmake ; make`
  - (b) This will result in a new inetvis binary being generated within the source directory.
7. You may now run inetvis by simply running the generated binary. You will need to either run using `sudo`, or set packet capture capabilities (see instructions above) on the file in the event that you would like to monitor your local host for packets.

## 7 Contact

Any questions/queries can be directed to Yestin Johnson (2017) <yestinj@gmail.com>, or via GitHub.



## 8 Credits

Significant Contributions to this software beyond the base code have been made by:

Barry Irwin  
Alan Herbert

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***InetVis - Internet Visualisation for network traffic analysis.***

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### THIS NEEDS TO BE UPDATED

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