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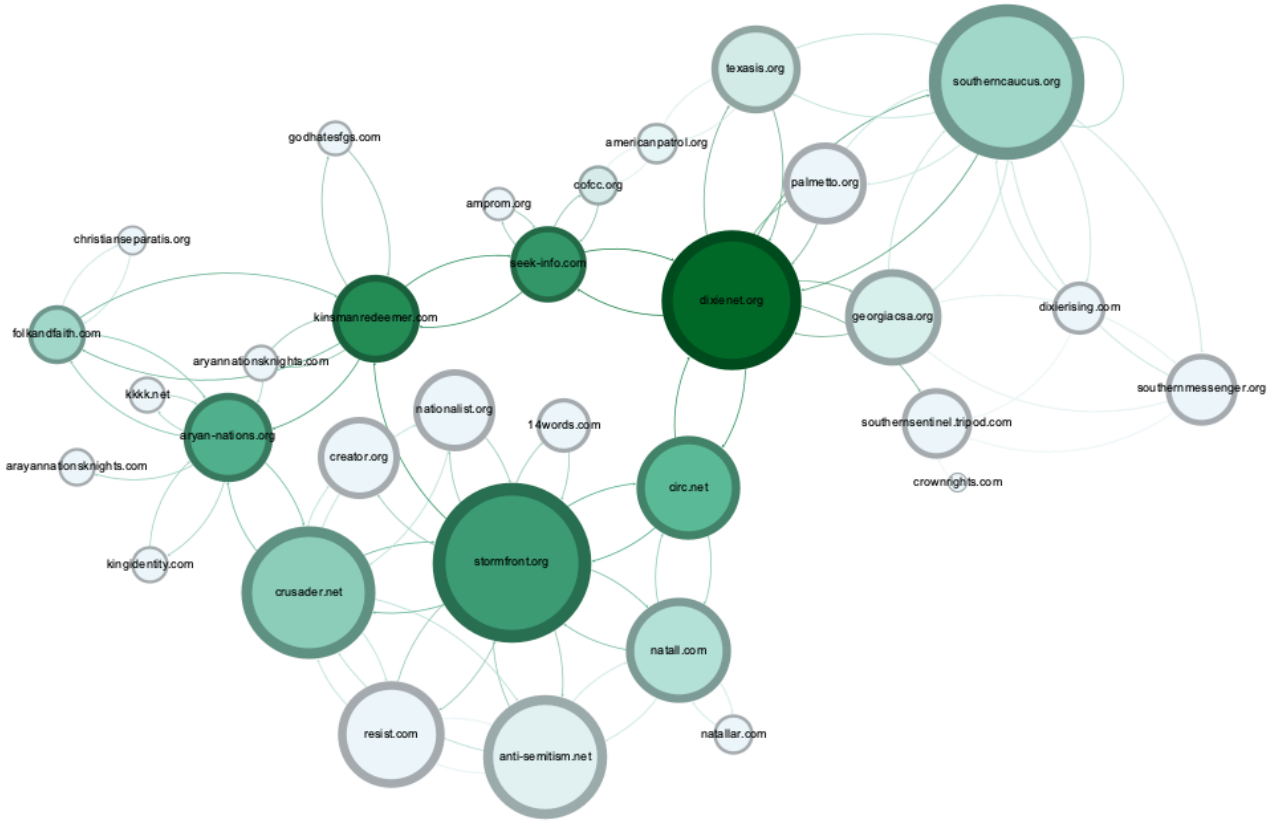
Module 6 Basics Write-Up

I chose to look at Domestic Terrorist Web Links. After restructuring the data into a dataframe to be used with Networkx, I found the betweenness centrality, degree centrality, and eigenvector centrality of the network.

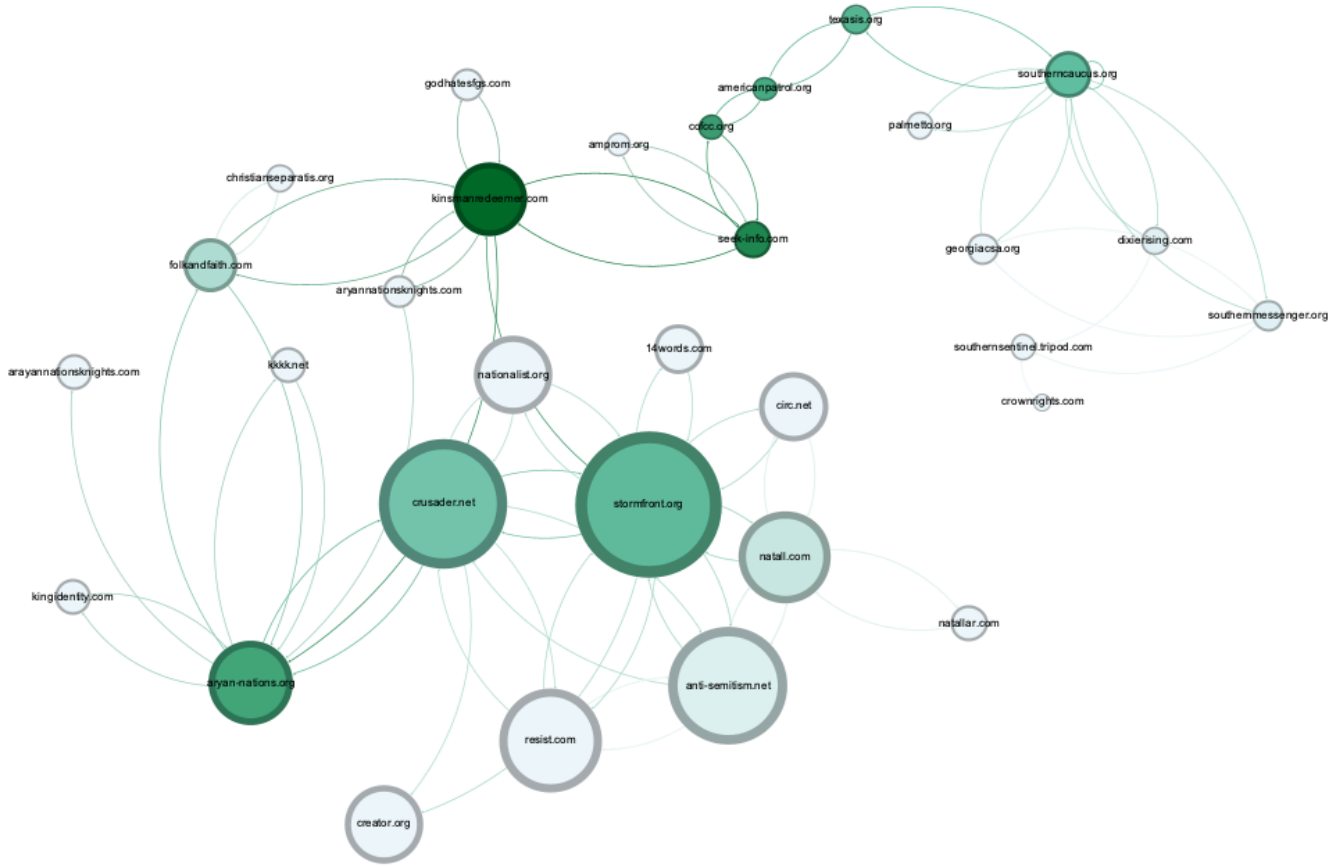
I found that Dixienet.org had the highest betweenness centrality while Stromfront.org was the highest in the other two metrics. This told me that Dixienet.org was the connection between other sites most often, so I removed it first.

Original network graphic from Gephi. The size of the nodes represents the eigenvector centrality and the color of the nodes represents the betweenness centrality. The edge color is based on weight.

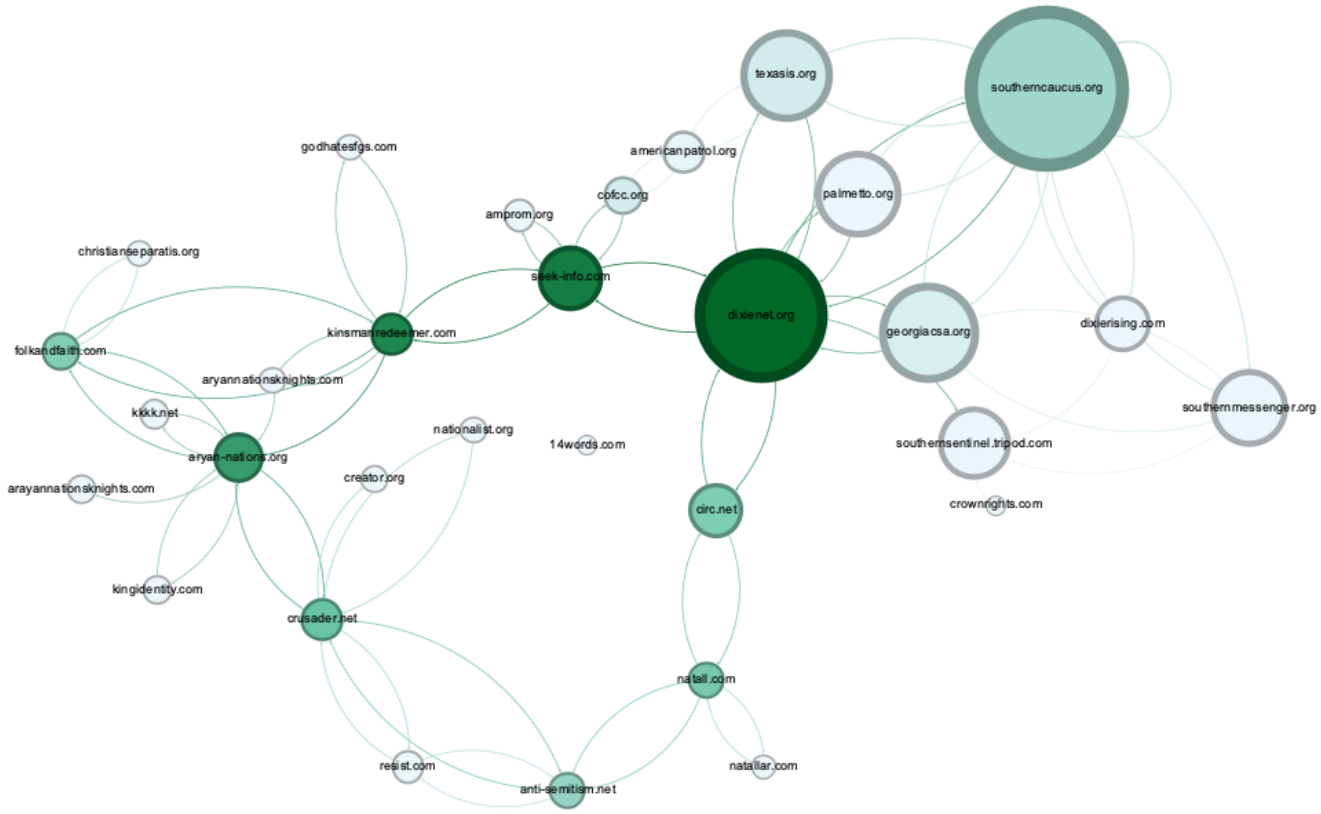


After removing Dixienet.org from the dataset, I noticed that the betweenness centrality was greatly increased for quite a few of the previously less significant sites. There were also some large increases in degree centrality for other sites. Overall, eigenvector centrality seemed to decrease for other sites, and when it did increase it was by a small amount. Removing Dixienet.org did not fully eliminate any of the other sites from the network. I found it interesting how much the eigenvector centrality was reduced for Southerncaucus.org.

Here is the graphic after removing Dixienet.org:



After looking at the impact of removing Dixienet.org, I decided to look at what happens when I remove Stormfront.org. Removing Stormfront.org eliminated 14words.com from the network. Looking at the centrality measures, Dixienet.org and Southerncaucus.org seemed to get the biggest boost in all three measures.



It is hard to say whether removing Dixienet.org or Stormfront.org had a larger impact on the overall network. In my opinion, removing Dixienet.org was more effective as it decreased the eigenvector centrality of other largely influential sites. The network didn't "fall apart" in either case, but the act of removing either site did seem to weaken the overall network.