

Using NLP to Study Steven King's Dark Tower Series

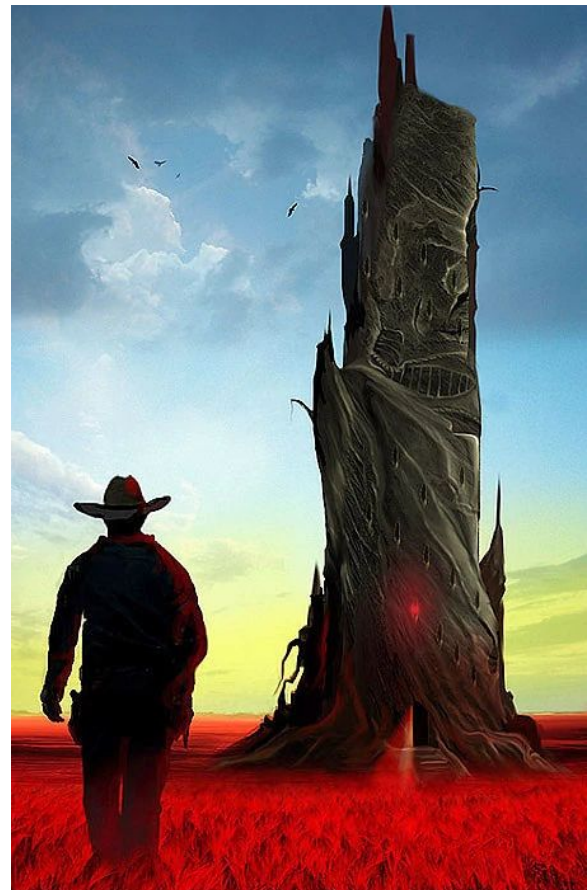
Derek Nelson

Our journey to the Dark Tower

The Dark Tower is very *meta*. In the series it is said that “everything leads to the Dark Tower” and that is mirrored in the writing of the books themselves.

Many characters especially from King’s early work ended up in the Dark Tower multiverse.

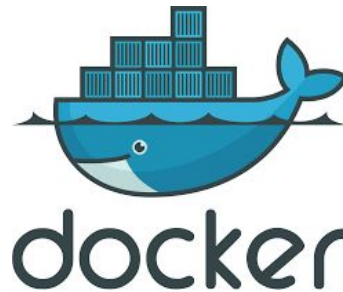
I wanted to use NLP to map the relationship between the series and his second book ‘*Salem’s Lot*’.



Tech



- Mostly Java with Spring
- Gradle and Gulp for builds
- Neo4J for Storage
- D3 for Visualization
- OpenNLP and CoreNLP for text processing
- Docker for deployment
- Calibre for converting EPUBs to plaintext



Starting NL

I started with **Nam**
books from **Proje**
quickly realized I r
tried **Co-Referenc**
characters.

I had memory pro
finish a single boo
and references we

Eventually I learne
was able process

David Bamman from *UC Berkeley* saved my butt.

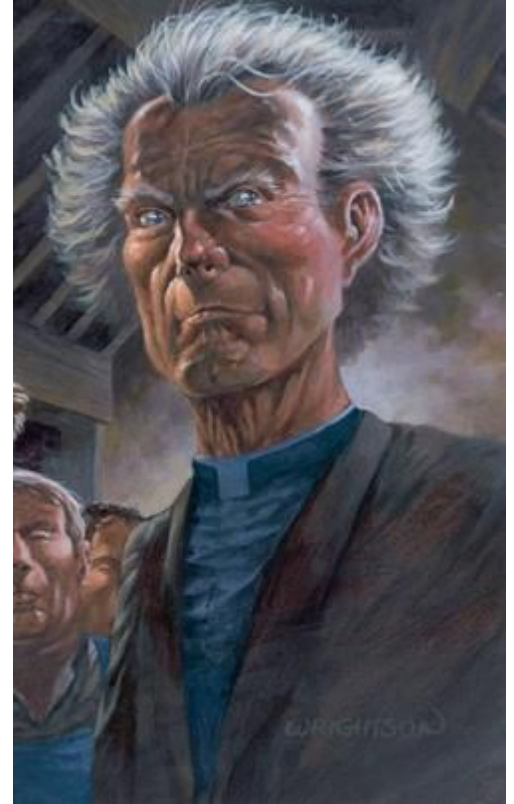


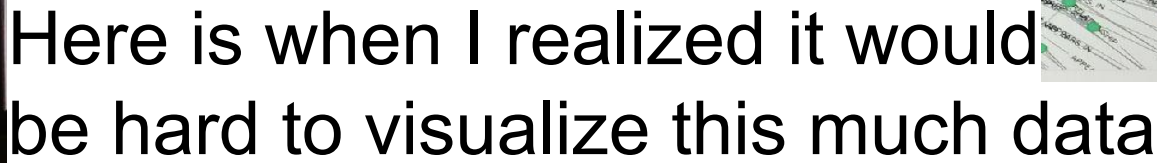
voted for **Nader** because **he** was most
aligned with **my** values," **she** said.

Things were good for a bit

I quickly realized I would need to use Spring and a build process more robust than Ant though. Mr. Bammam's code wasn't compatible so Saturday was mostly rewriting everything.

By 3am on Sunday I had processed and saved all of the Dark tower books as well as 'Salem's Lot.



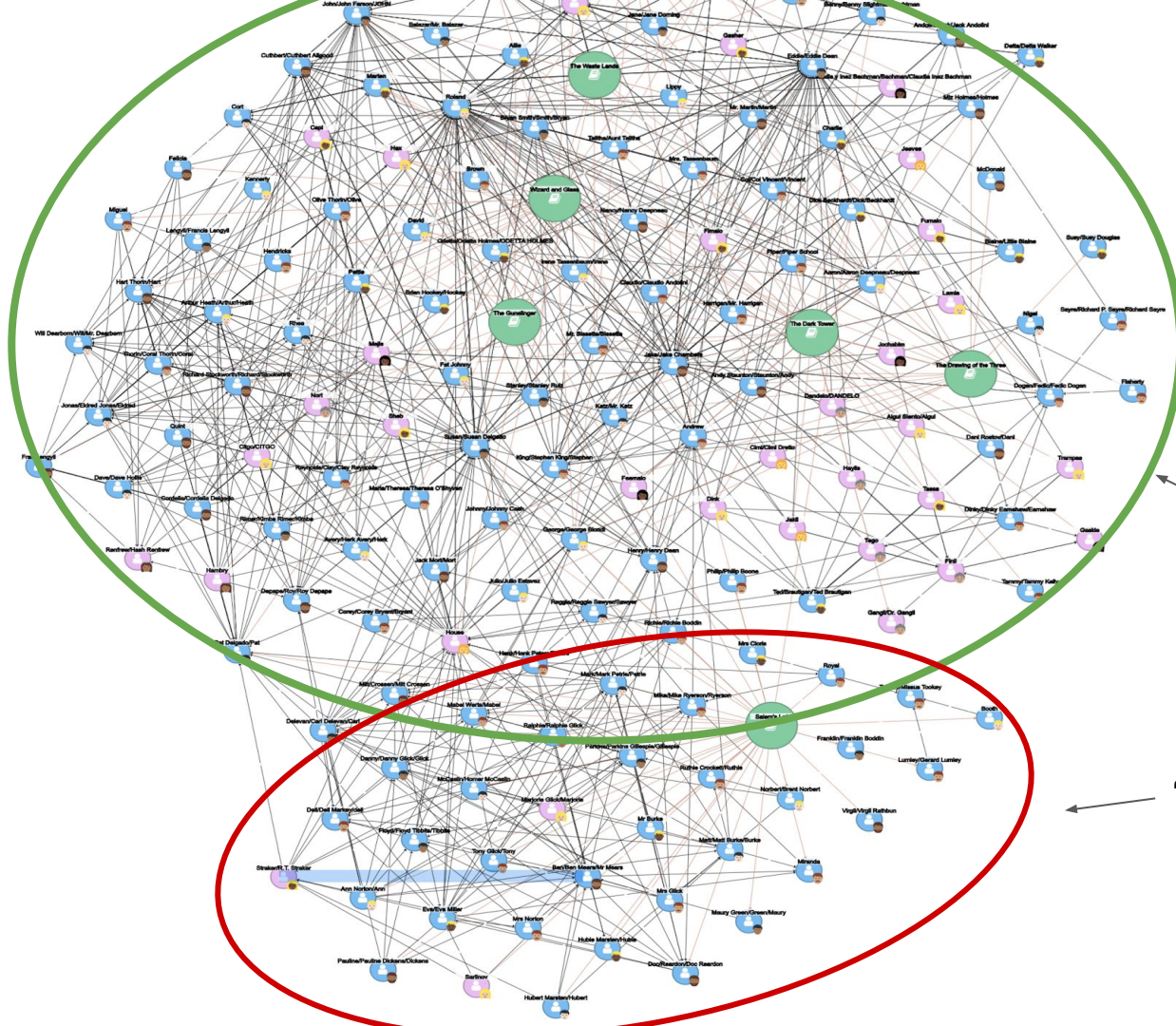


Visualization

Sunday was spent cleaning data and **HEAVILY** modifying Neo4J's built in renderer (which just happened to be written in D3). Mostly displaying specific metadata and teaching the graph how to “organize” itself to best show the relationships.



Success!



Dark Tower

'Salem's Lot