

1. *SoftwareAlliancesMasterNodeList.csv*: This is the master node list file that identifies the firms to be considered in your analysis.
  - a. `prim_cusip`: Identifier code of the firm (5-digit CUSIP code); this is a common firm identifier used by the financial markets: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CUSIP>.
  - b. `InNet`: Binary classification, value of 1 indicating that the firm is within a software industry (i.e. “in network”, for the purpose of this exercise).
  - c. `In_sales`: Ignore for the purpose of this exercise; instead use the annual firm sales that are given in a different spreadsheet described below.
  - d. `Name`: Name of the firm.
2. *EdgeList\_yyyy.csv*; where yyyy stands for years 1999 through 2009. These files show the list of alliances formed between firms during each year. Each file corresponds to one of the years from 1999 through 2009. Each row represents an alliance connection formed between firms, listed by their CUSIP identifier. Alliances can join two firms in the software industry (where both have `InNet=1`), or they can join a firm in the software industry (`InNet = 1`) with a firm outside the software industry (`InNet=0`).
3. *FirmMetrics2006-2010.csv*: This contains firm performance and investment measures for publicly listed firms, not just those listed in the master node list. Thus, you can discard the metrics for firms not listed in the master node list or *EdgeList* files. You’ll also find some missing metrics: Firms don’t necessarily report all of these items—for example, advertising, employees and R&D are often not reported.
  - a. `year`: Year
  - b. `adv`: Advertising investments
  - c. `rd`: Research and development investments (R&D)
  - d. `physcap`: Physical capital investments
  - e. `sales`: Annual sales
  - f. `total_assets`: Total assets
  - g. `curassets`: Current assets
  - h. `operincome`: Operating income
  - i. `pref_stock`: Preferred stock
  - j. `sharesout`: Shares outstanding
  - k. `invent`: Inventory
  - l. `ltdebt`: Long-term debt
  - m. `stock_price`: Closing stock price at the end of year
  - n. `current_liabilities`: Current liabilities
  - o. `employees`: Number of employees
  - p. NAICS industry classifications (one through five-digit versions), for more information, see: <https://www.census.gov/eos/www/naics/>
  - q. `cusip`: Full CUSIP code
  - r. `prim_cusip`: 5-digit CUSIP code