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DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE

COS 301 - SOFTWARE ENGINEERING

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**a Amazon a**  
**Network Visualizer**  
**Demo 3**

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NOT-LIKE-THIS

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# 1 Vision

The Network Visualizer is intended to be used by registered Amazon Web Services (AWS) users. The visualizer is primarily aimed at consumers of AWS, in order to provide a simple and clear representation of the various networks' structures.

In order to access the visualizer, the user must first submit their AWS password and secret password. The visualizer then attempts to access the server, using the provided passwords. If this is successful, the visualizer will scan the specified network and log the nodes (such as instances and VPC's) and their relationships. It uses this information to construct a tree-esque representation of the network.

Using this representation, it is then translated into HTML. Making use of the vis.js library, the structure of the network is presented in a clear, visual hierarchial structure. The page also allows the user to specify which region they wish to be scanned and represented.

## 2 Scope

- The user requires a valid Amazon Web Services account (or access to one), in order to make use of the visualizer.
- The user requires an internet capable device and a modern browser to access the visualizer's page.

## 3 Architectural Requirements

### 3.1 Architecture Scope

Layered Architecture:

### 3.2 Quality Requirements

#### 3.2.1 Critical

#### 3.2.2 Important

#### 3.2.3 Nice To Have

### 3.3 Architectural Constraint

## 4 Architectural Design

Layered Architecture:

Our core architectural design follows a standard Client-Application-Server layered architecture. As seen below, the "Server" (not to be confused with the Application server) is the AWS server we connect to through their API. The product does not persist to only reads from it and as we have no control over its functionality it will be left for an integration requirement and will not be discussed further in this section. Additional information on the AWS system and their API can be found here <https://aws.amazon.com/documentation/>. Previously we used a bridging layer, ADAPTER, to join the Application and Server layer, but it has since been incorporated into the Scanner to reduce communication overhead and facilitate the threading tactics. The main backend of the system lies on the Application layer, which is broken down into the following components:

1. Scanner: Most important component, constructs a scan based on different priorities. Forms a Producer-Consumer relationship with the Visualizer. Once launched it will continue to produce network trees (see below) for the buffer until it receives a pause/stop command, or completes a scan of the network.
2. Composite: Following the composite design pattern, this object represents the hierarchical Network tree, either in part or whole.
3. Threaded sub-Scanners: Each logical part of an AWS network has an assigned threaded scanner to it. Depending on what is a priority to scan first the scanner will launch a number of threads for each part which in turn will launch its own sub scan threads based on performance requirements. Each threaded SubScanner will scan 100 of its children, place in buffer and then continue to scan another 100.
4. Smart buffer: The link between the Visualizer and the Scanner as well as the "brain" of the system. The individual scanner threads will add to the buffer

as soon as they have finished constructing a tree then go back to scanning. The trees arrive disjoint and possibly overlap. The smart buffer constructs the entire network tree from the disjoint trees it receives accurately. It stores the most up to date construct for the Visualizer.

5. REST API and Server: The REST server joins the backend to the front end. See architecture below.

The client layer consists of a Single page Application and the Visualizer. The SPA is the user interface with all the scanning options and controls, and the visualized graph and scanned information. The Visualizer polls on the REST server requesting latest tree from the smart buffer, rendering it and presenting it to the user.

#### RESTFUL Design:

User interaction is mapped from the user interface onto different API calls on the server. Each call launches a backend method to fulfill the request. The API calls are:

1. POST, ConnectToAccount: Takes the user's access and private key and creates a connection to AWS for the remainder of the session.
2. GET, ScanNetwork: Launches a scan of the entire network, Visualizer polls on results as they stream in.
3. GET, StopScan: Cancels current scan.
4. GET, PauseScan: Pauses current scan.
5. GET, ResumeScan: Resumes current scan. Visualizer polls on buffer.
6. GET, ScanFrom: Performs a subscan starting from the given point and scanning around its general vicinity.
7. GET, ScanUP: Scans the next logical area above what the ScanFrom scanned.
8. GET, ScanDown: Scans the next logical area below what the ScanFrom scanned.

Threading Tactic: Each network component Region, VPC, Subnetwork, Instance has a threaded scanner associated to it. It is up to the Scanner depending on what the user is searching for to construct the scan from these subscanners. By default The scanner will thread a RegionScanner for each region and each one will have one scanner for the other parts. However if the scan is narrowed then scanner will thread on the most cost and performance effective way to complete the scan. For example if the scan was to only scan a single VPC then other Regions would not need to be scanned and thus only one RegionalScanner will be launched, one VPCScanner will be launched and it will thread on collections of its subnetworks. We try to keep number of threads needed to a minimum, but they are invaluable to speeding up the scanning.

## 5 Functional Requirements

This section specifies the functional specifications for the AWS Network Visualizer system. It defines the user-system interaction and relationship between users and the product. It will provide the expected functionality for all user cases as well as the activity processes for the system.

### 5.1 Description of AWS

Amazon web services provide a cloud based service for hosting a clients network. There is a lack of information regarding ones network, specifically the logical representation on the system for the client to make sense of their network. The network visualizer aims to improve clients understanding of their own network, how AWS works and possible insights in the managing of their network.

### 5.2 Required Functionality

The system must be able to:

1. Be accessible to registered, valid AWS customers.
2. Scan the networks located in different regions.
3. Provide an interactive hierarchical and visual representation of the networks.
4. Give additional information on the network statistics, construction, etc.
5. Provide a clear image of the clients' virtual networks.
6. Improve the AWS clients' experience.

### 5.3 Use case Prioritization

### 5.4 Use case/Service contracts

| Use Case                             | Pre Condition   | Post Condition  | Description   |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Viewing the Hierarchy                | The application must be connected to the server and able to read in network data. The server must be active and have access to AWS. | The web page continuously updates with the new data being loaded.   | This use case forms the core of the project, as the primary purpose of the application is to visualise the structure of the virtual network.            |
| Select a region                      | The application must be connected to the server and able to read in network data. The server must be active and have access to AWS. | The previous region's visualisation is replaced by the selected region.   | There are a number of AWS regions. For simplicity's sake, the visualiser only visualises one at a time, but allows for switching between them.          |
| Zooming in/out. Moving the hierarchy | The application must be connected to the server and able to read in network data. The server must be active and have access to AWS. | The hierarchy's position or level of zoom is altered.   | Since the visualised network may be large, the user can move it about and zoom in, for a better view.   |
| Clicking a node.                     | The application must be connected to the server and able to read in network data. The server must be active and have access to AWS. | The selected node is highlighted. Node related information is displayed below the hierarchy.                                  | Each node in the network has a number of attributes that can provide valuable information. This way, the information can be displayed in a neat manner. |
| Hovering over a node.                | The application must be connected to the server and able to read in network data. The server must be active and have access to AWS. | Edges connecting nodes of different levels are rendered invisible. Edges connecting nodes on the same level are made visible. | It is possible for nodes on the same level of the network to have relationships. They are normally hidden, in order to present a cleaner hierarchy.     |

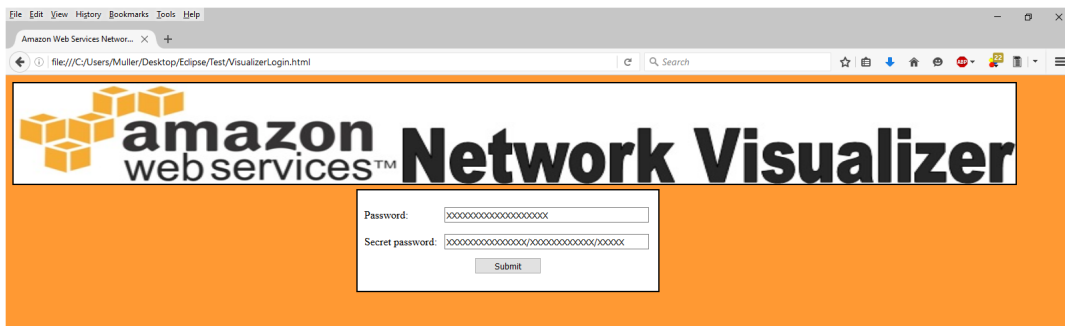
## 6 Specification Update

## 7 Using the system

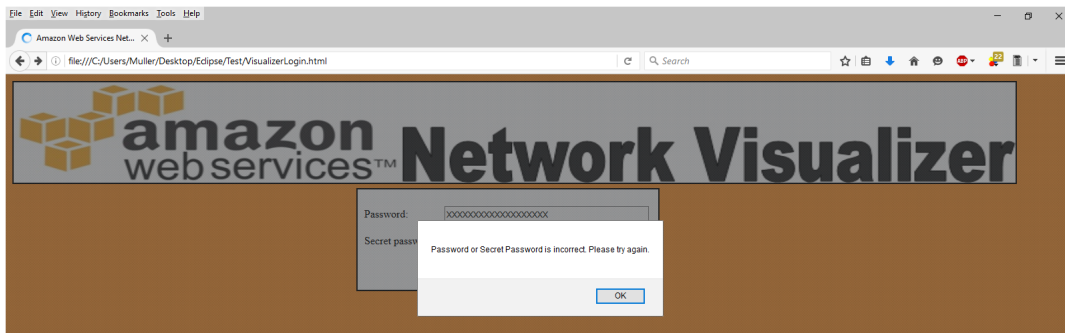
The functionality of the web page will be spread between the following use cases:

### 7.1 Login

This is the first web page of the visualizer. The user is presented with two fields: One for the user's normal AWS password and another for their secret AWS password. The user then enters the requested details and the server is queried to verify the user's identity. Only when the correct passwords are supplied, will the user be able to continue to the visualizer.



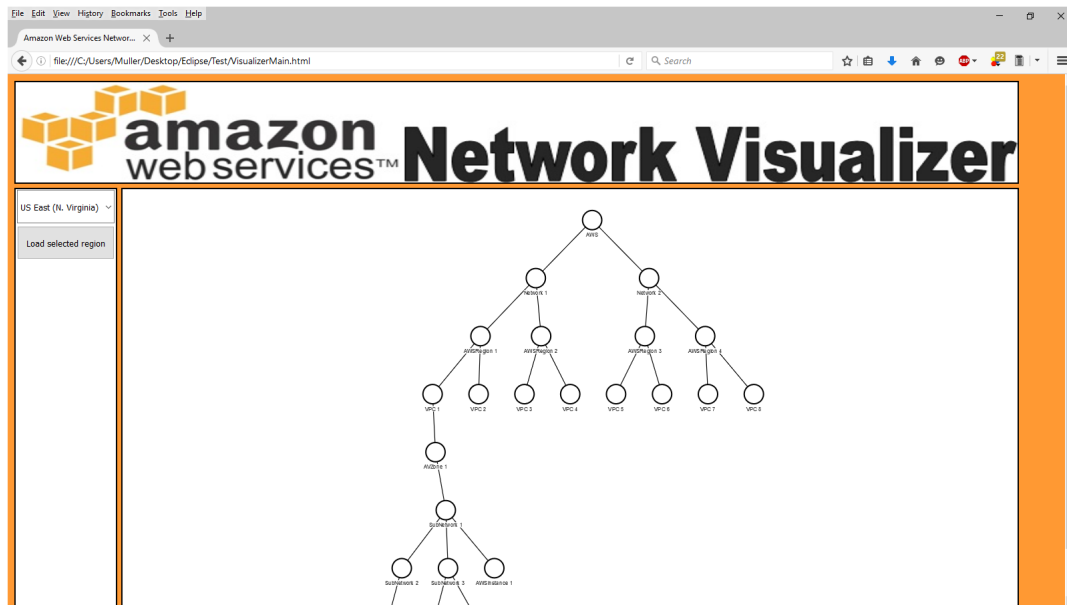
If the user provides incorrect information, they are presented with a message informing them of this occurrence.





## 7.2 Visualizer

This use case pertains to the network visualization. The network is presented in a hierarchial manner, to make traversing the tree easier.



## 7.3 Regions

The dropdown menu in the left column displays the active region's name. The active region is the one that is shown in the visualizer.



Clicking the menu will display a list of the official AWS regions. Clicking one of the options will set the current region.

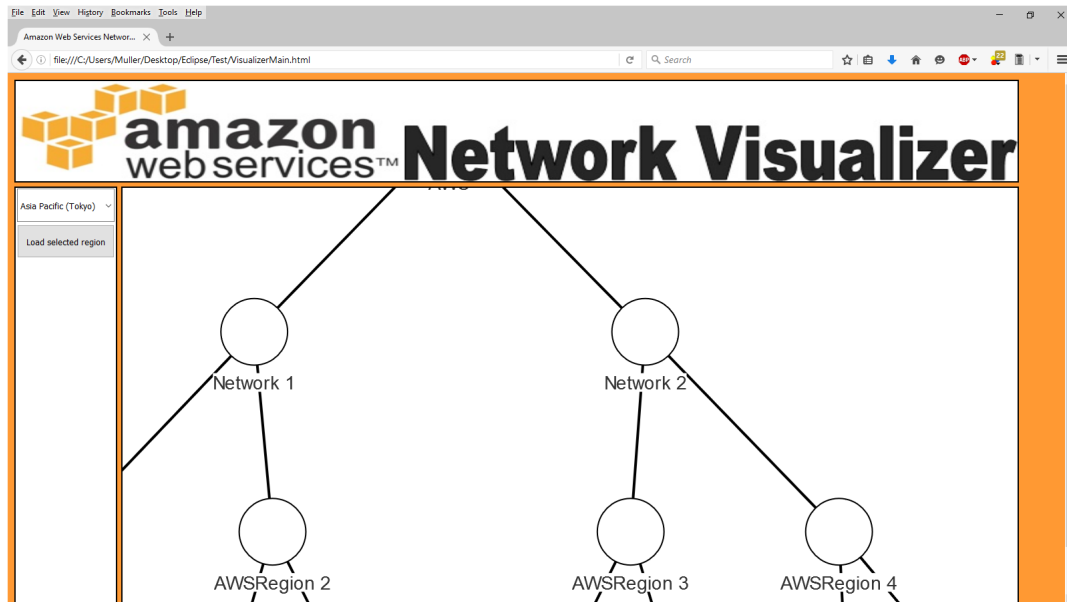


Clicking the "Load selected region" button sends a request to the server, which will then load the selected region and return a web page with the selected network representation



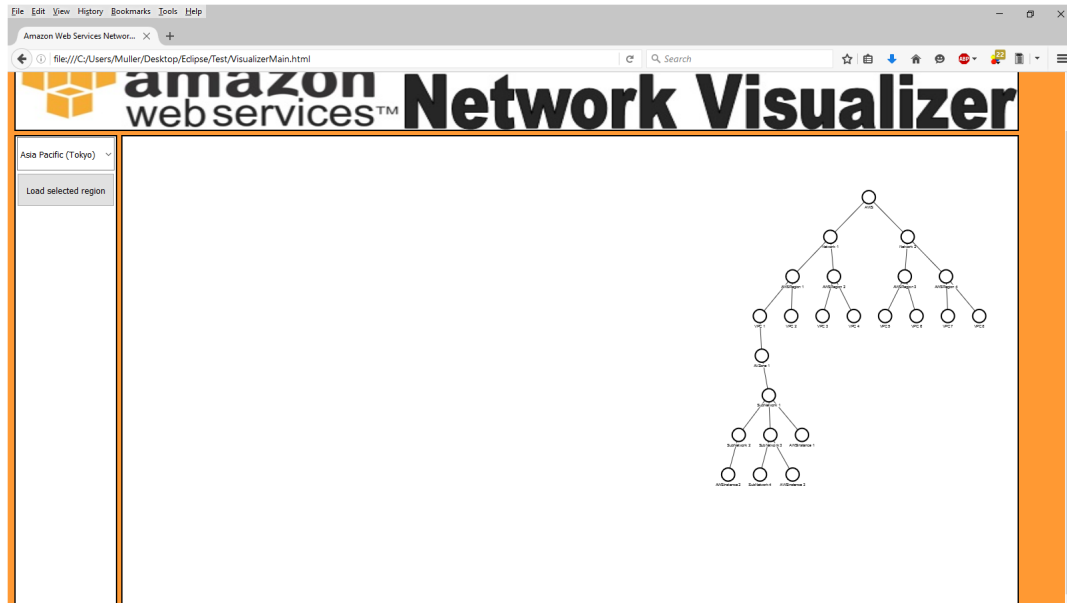
## 7.4 Zooming

Hovering the mouse over the visualizer's window and rolling the mouse wheel will change the zoom of the visualizer.



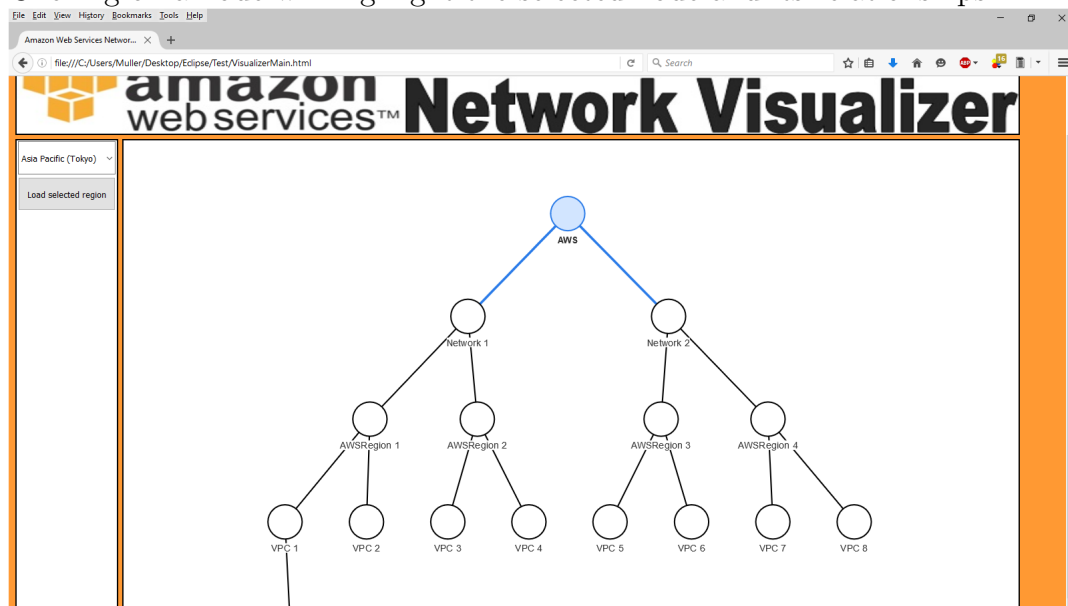
## 7.5 Moving

Clicking and dragging inside the visualizer's window will move the image.



## 7.6 Selection

Clicking on a node will highlight the selected node and its relationships.



## 7.7 Information

Hovering the mouse over a node will display a small box, specifying its name and the number of VPC's it has.

