

Tapping the Web for interaction data: MiTap & MiSink extensions to Firefox and Cytoscape

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Interactive access and analysis of the biological interaction data remain difficult because most of the relevant information is spread over multiple Web sites and often presented only as text oriented, static Web pages.

A number of 'integrator' sites attempt to address this issue by combining locally information collected from the primary data sources in order to provide a unified access to the combined resource.

The MiTap/MiSink pair of extensions to, respectively, Firefox browser and Cytoscape network visualization platform, offers an alternative approach by providing means to: (a) identify the relevant information on an arbitrary Web page; (b) annotate the identified proteins and interactions by contacting publicly available SOAP servers; (c) interactively import selected, relevant data into Cytoscape

In contrast to integration, our alternative approach offers access to the most current data that is available directly from the original data sources while using the familiar Web interfaces and search facilities provided within the original sites. At the same time the information is automatically processed and prepared for integration within Cytoscape for further analysis.

References

Salwinski L, Eisenberg D; (2007) The MiSink Plugin: Cytoscape as a graphical interface to the Database of Interacting Proteins. *Bioinformatics* (Advance Access, Jun 7, 2007)

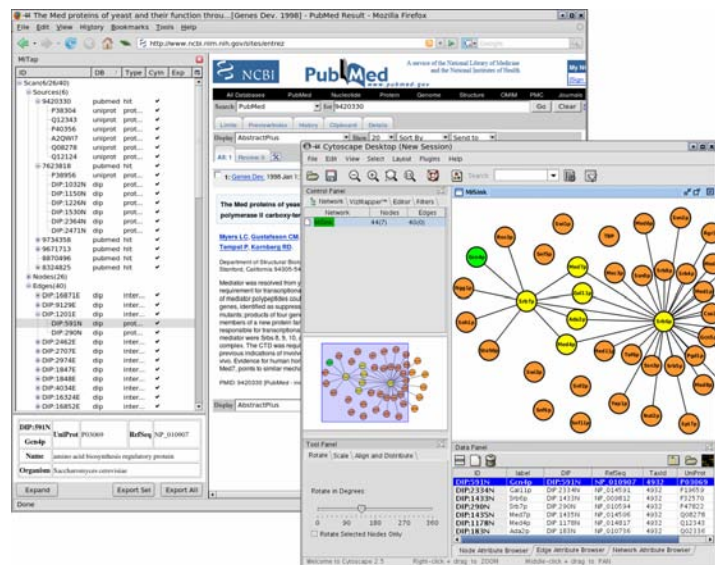


Figure 1. Interaction network imported into Cytoscape starting from a single reference to a publication found in PubMed