

An Atlas Of Cyberspaces

Maps of Web Sites

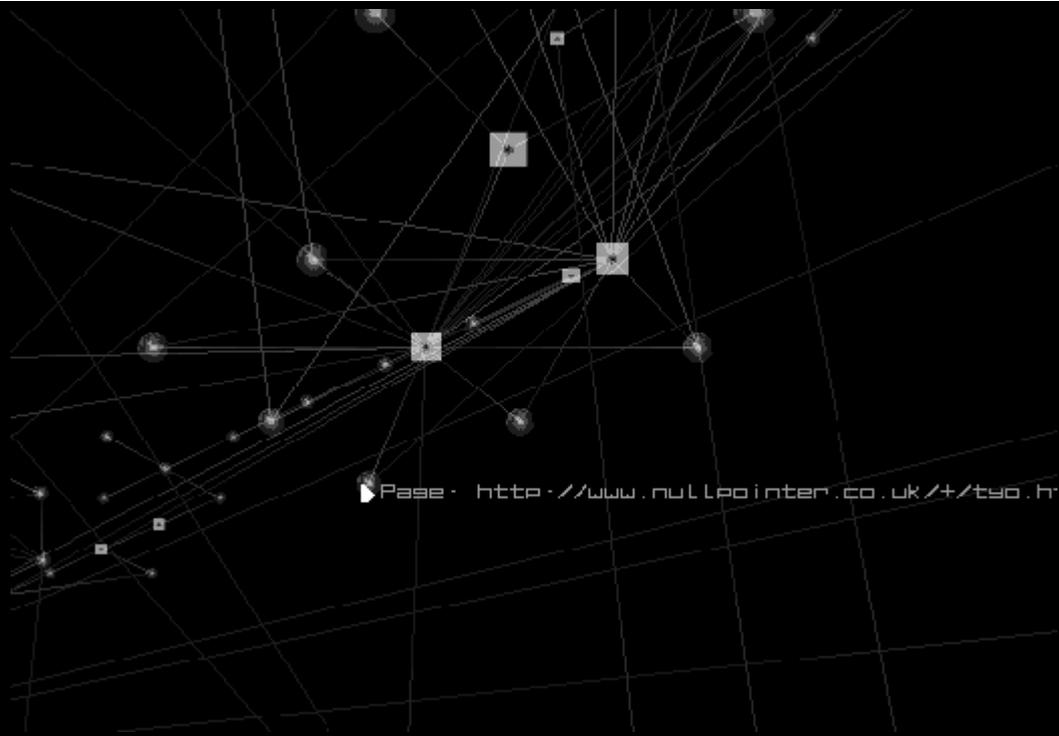
Web site maps are created by webmasters and content providers to help users navigate and search complex web sites. A variety of styles of map are used, many based on organisational charts. Presented here are some of the best examples from around the Web.



An interactive Web site map called SiteBrain, which was a development of TheBrain information modelling technology to the Web. The example SiteBrain screenshot above is mapping the Web site for the graduate school of architecture and planning at Columbia University.

NEW WebTracer is a tool for mapping the structure of websites being developed by Tom Betts at nullpointer. This freeware tool utilises a 3D molecular model visualisation to show hyperlinks of a given site. An interview with Tom Betts by Matthew Fuller at Rhizome.org gives background information on the project.

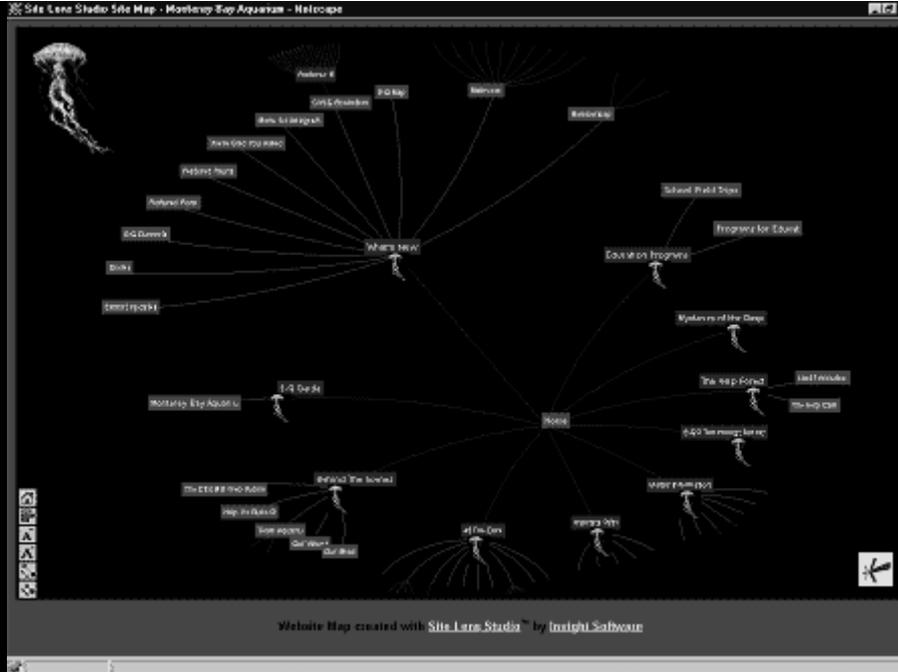
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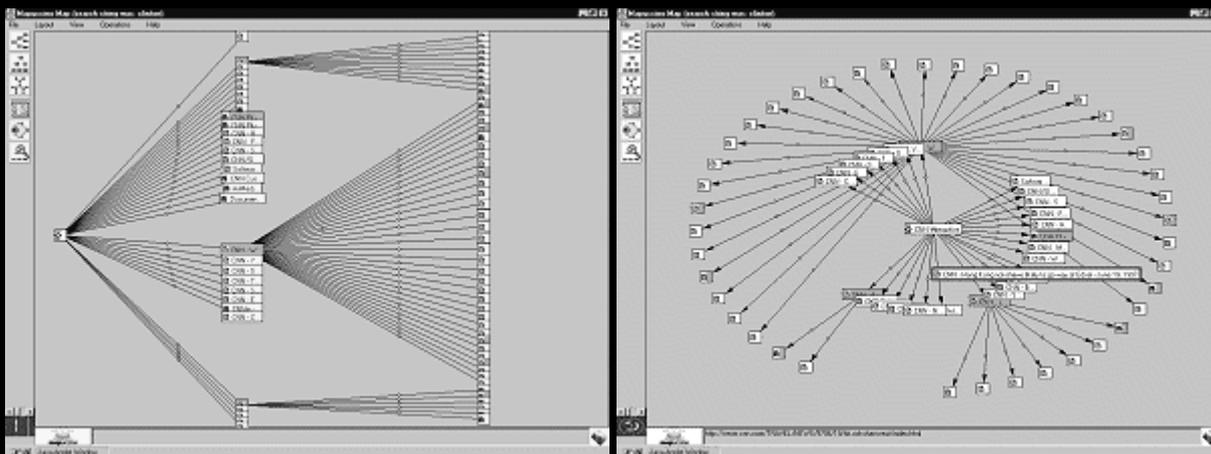
Organisational chart type site maps. For example, Apple or Hilton Hotels Hilton.com web site from 1998 (Apple have since adopted a much more conventional site map and Hilton do not currently provide a site map.)



Dynamic Diagrams Inc. are a leading company in designing web site maps and navigation tools. One of the graphic styles they use is to map sites in a perspective view, with individual web pages sticking up, a bit like a card index. A good example of these is shown below, a map of Britannica Online.

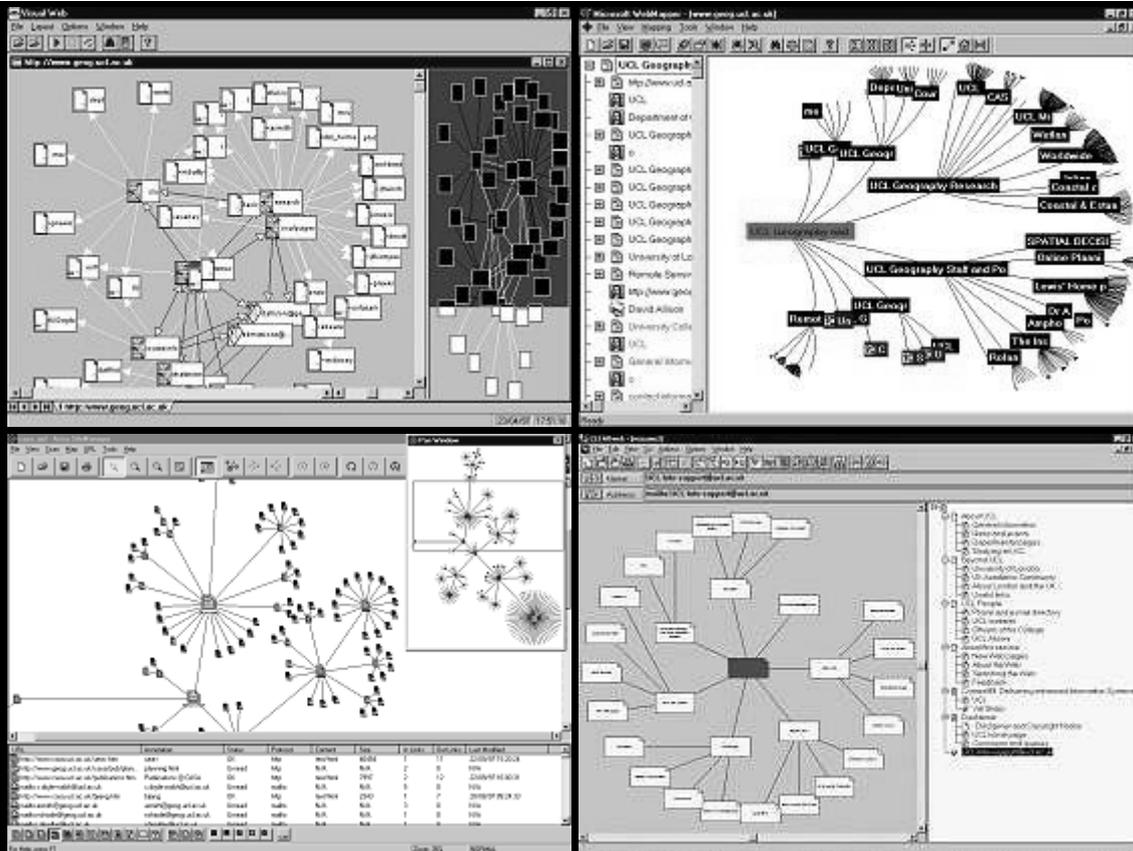


Mapuccino is a neat Java application for dynamically constructing interactive visual maps of Web sites developed by the IBM's Haifa Research Lab in Israel. Several different graphic styles of maps are available, including the horizontal tree and fish-eye views shown in the screen-shots below.

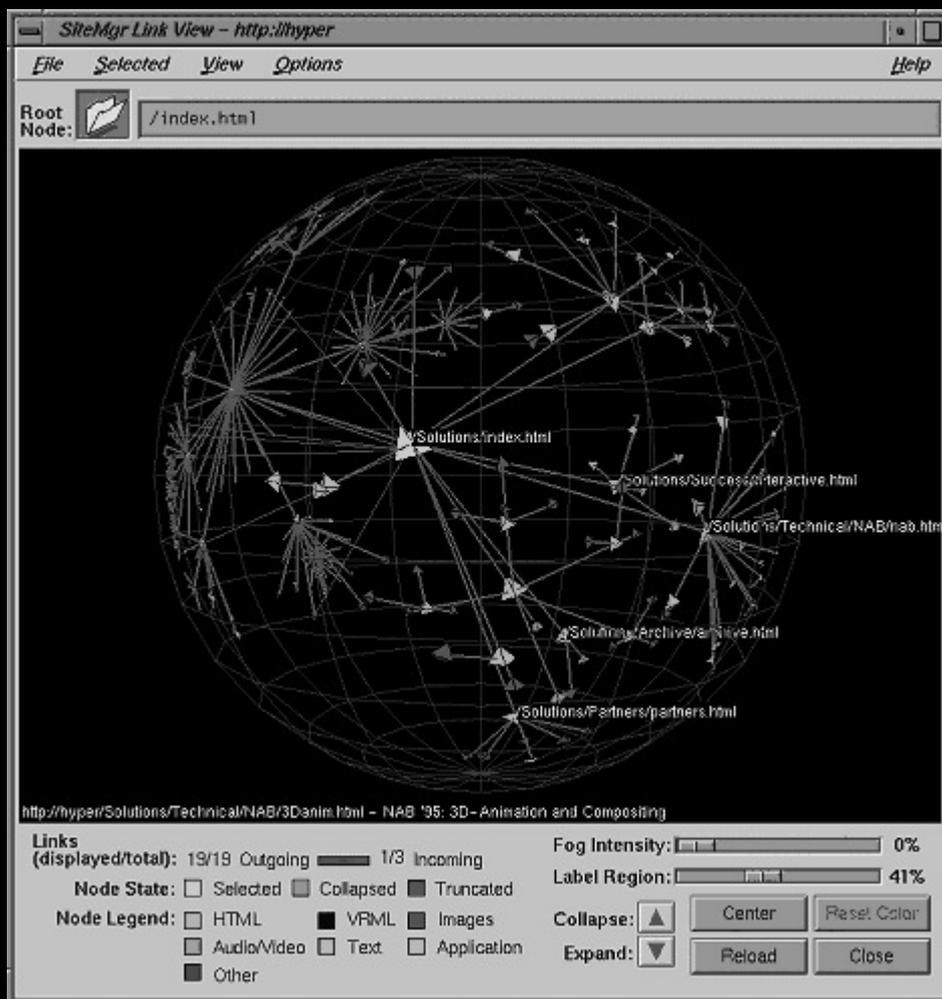


Web site maps can also be created by site management tools. These software tools are designed to aid webmasters to visualise and manage large, complex web sites. We present screen-shots of from four of the best site management tools to give you an idea of the type of maps they produce.

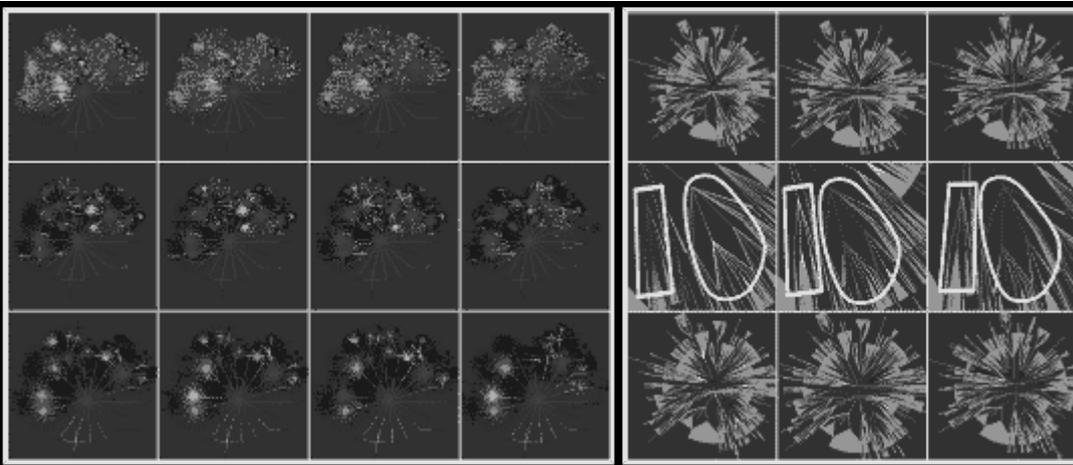
Below are screen-shots from Visual Web and Microsoft's Site Analyst (neither application is now available).



Shown above are Astra SiteManger and CLEARweb screen-shots.

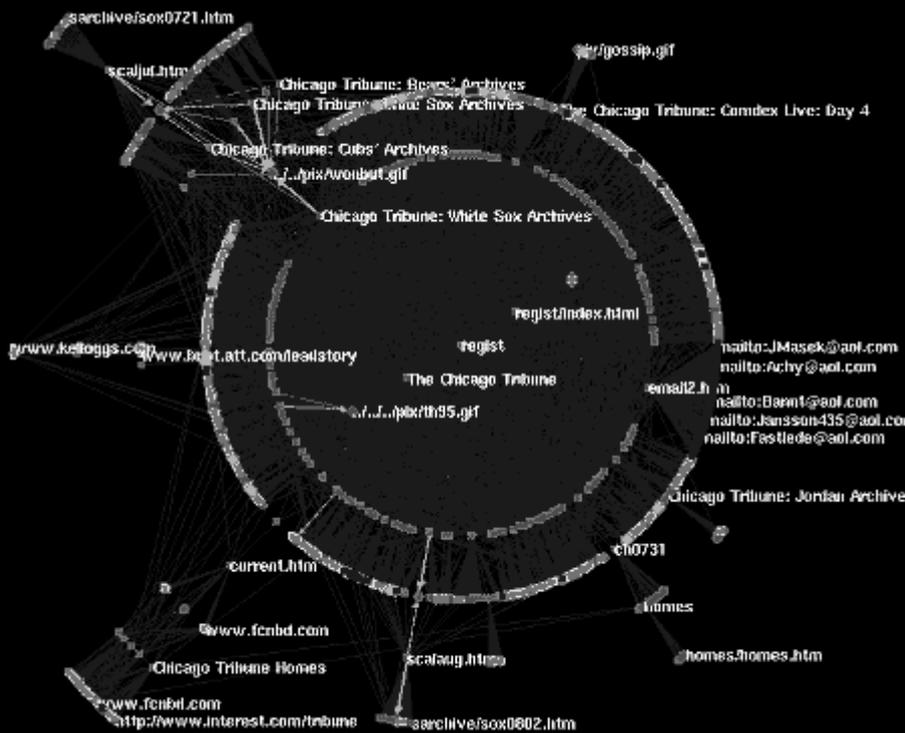


Site Manager from Silicon Graphics, a web site visualisation tool.

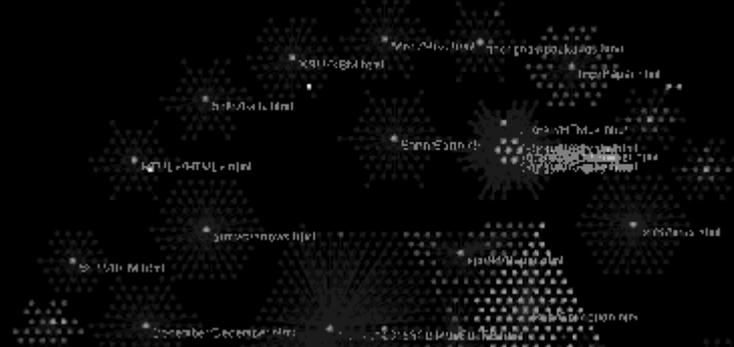


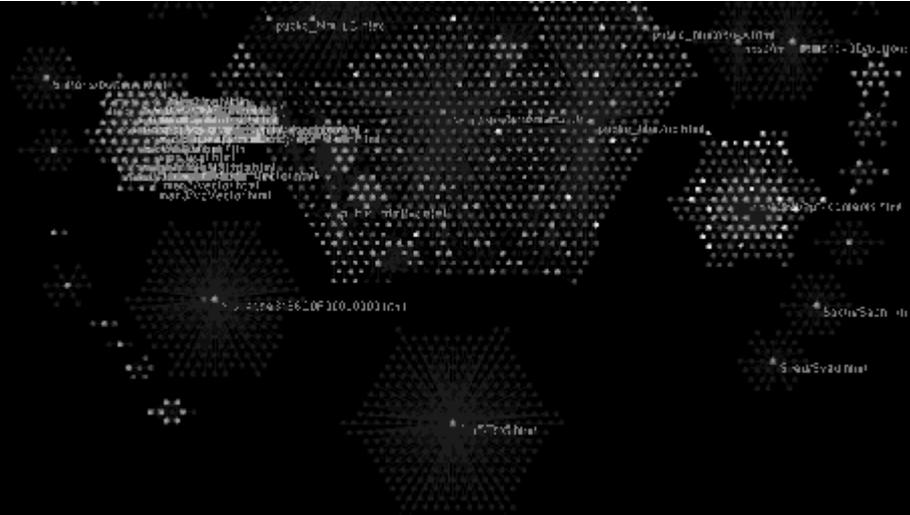
Mapping the evolving structure and content of large Web sites developed by Ed H. Chi, Stuart K. Card and colleagues at the User Interface Research group at Xerox PARC. The visualisation examples above use Cone Trees and Disk Trees within an interactive visualisation spreadsheet environment.

See their papers for further information on this innovative research, "Sensemaking of Evolving Web Site Using Visualization Spreadsheets" and "Visualizing the Evolution of Web Ecologies".

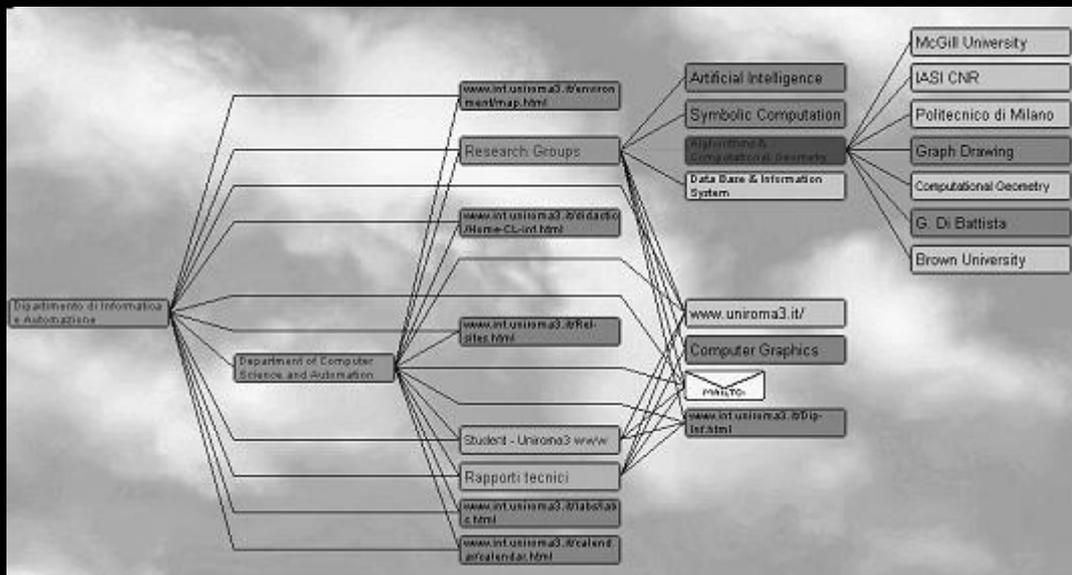


Nicheworks is an interactive tool for visualising massive networks with hundreds of thousands of nodes. It was developed by Graham Wills at Bell Labs. The screen-shots here show Nicheworks visualisation of the network structure of a large Web site.





Ptolomaeus - the Web cartographer, a nice tool for graphing the hierarchical structure of Web sites being developed by Fabio Vernacotola and colleagues in the Department of Informatica ed Automazione at the University of Roma Tre, Italy.



To find out more on the types and styles of web site maps you are recommended to consult Paul Kahn's book Mapping Websites (Rotovision, February 2001).

Introduction	Whats New	Conceptual	Artistic	Geographic	Cables & Satellites	Traceroutes
Census	Topology	Info Maps	Info Landscapes	Info Spaces	ISP Maps	Weather Maps
Wireless	► Web Site Maps	Surf Maps	MUDs & Virtual Worlds	Historical		

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