genSpace: Community-Driven Knowledge Sharing in geWorkbench
Fang-Hsiang Su, Jonathan Bell, Nikhil Sarda, Gail Kaiser – {mikefhsu, jbell, kaiser} @ cs.columbia.edu
Gail Kaiser Lab, Department of Computer Science, Columbia University

- Prior work on collaboratories for computational scientists
  - Tool and Data sharing (e.g., caBIG, caGrid from NCI)
  - Terminology sharing (e.g., BiomedGT from NCICB et al.)
- We seek to introduce knowledge sharing
  - What tools should I use?
  - Which tools work together?
  - Where does this tool fit in the workflow?
  - How can I get help?
  - How to make my colleagues know what I am working on?
  - How to annotate my results with flexible privacy?

- Social Networking facilitates Collaborative Filtering
  - What movies would I like?
  - Who also likes this book?
  - Where does this song fit in the playlist?
  - Which songs my friends are listening to?
  - When was this restaurant last reviewed?
  - How can I get help?

- Investigate Social Networking Models as an approach to Scientific Knowledge Sharing
  - Implemented prototype for geWorkbench
  - Logging Module released in geWorkbench v.1.6.3 (8 January 2009)
  - Recommendations Module released in geWorkbench v.1.7.0 (17 July 2009)
  - Chat and workflow repository released in geWorkbench v2.2 (19 May 2011)
  - “People Like You” with options for diverse recommendations (to avoid the filter bubble effect) released in geWorkbench v2.3 (16 March 2012)
  - Web-based genSpace with activity feeder and private notes will be released in webinized geWorkbench(June 2013)

genSpace: Technical Approach
- genSpace is a geWorkbench plugin
- Instrument geWorkbench to record tool usage
- Aggregate event logs for communities of users
- Data mine usage patterns
- Visualize workflows that include or start with a particular tool
- Recommend popular workflows and most common tools
- Suggest next best tools based on tools just used
- Provide direct access to communicate with other scientists
- Create a permanent research log with flexible privacy setting
- Broadcast current tool usage to colleagues with no extra effort