

# IEEE VAST Challenge 2011

A participation category of the IEEE VAST 2011 Conference (part of VisWeek 2011)

[Home](#)

[Download Dataset](#)

[Task Description](#)

[Criteria for](#)

[Judging](#)

[Guidelines](#)

[How to Submit?](#)

[Answer Forms](#)

[Agenda](#)

[Submissions](#)

[Solutions](#)

[Results](#)

[Discussion Blog](#)

[History of Changes](#)

## News

All Solutions, Awards and Submissions are posted after the conference in the "[Visual Analytics Benchmark Repository](#)"

. There click on BENCHMARKS then VAST CHALLENGE 2011

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[Old text - may not remain active]

[View Solutions](#) - [View Awards and Submissions](#)

Our contact email has changed to: challengecommittee AT weblab.cs.**uml**.edu

## Overview of the event

The VAST Challenge is a participation category of the IEEE VAST 2011 Symposium (part of VisWeek 2011). The VAST 2011 Challenge continues in the footsteps of the [VAST 2010 Challenge](#), [VAST 2009 Challenge](#), [VAST 2008 Challenge](#) and the [2007](#) and [2006](#) contests with the purpose of pushing the forefront of visual analytics tools using benchmark data sets and establishing a forum to advance visual analytics evaluation methods. We also hope it will speed the transfer of VA technology from research labs to commercial products, and increase the availability of evaluation techniques.

Teams may enter one or more mini Challenges independently of the entering the Grand Challenge. ALL teams submitting an entry to a VAST Challenge will be invited to discuss their work during a challenge workshop.

Entries will be judged on both the correctness of the analysis (based on the availability of ground truth) and the utility of the tools in conducting the analysis. Participants have several months to prepare their submissions.

## Topics:

In order to provide more opportunities for increased participation we will again offer an overall Grand Challenge as well as three smaller Mini Challenges.

MINI CHALLENGE 1 : Geospatial and Microblogging - Characterization of an Epidemic Spread

MINI CHALLENGE 2 : Cybersecurity - Situational Awareness in Computer Networks

MINI CHALLENGE 3: Text Analytics - Investigation into Criminal Activity

GRAND CHALLENGE: Combines all data sets.

Questions? Send email to challengecommittee AT weblab.cs.**uml**.edu

## Rules

The challenge is open to EVERYONE. If in doubt, ask the chairs.

Student teams must have a faculty sponsor and provide the faculty's contact information with their registration.

Teams may use any existing commercial product or research prototype and, of course, may combine tools. We strongly encourage teams to find partners with complementary expertise (e.g. groups with text analysis or reasoning tools might want to seek partners with user interface expertise). We can assist you if you are looking for partners. Please ask!

At least one participant of the teams receiving recognition must attend the Symposium, so please discuss travel support issues early with your advisor or supervisor. If you are a student, register as a student volunteer as early as possible.

## 2011 Timeline

Late March	Mini challenges and Grand Challenge available
June 29	Submissions Deadline
August 10	Return results to participants
August 25	Deadline for award winners to submit 2-page summary for inclusion in the proceedings
October 23-28	Visweek conference (Providence, RI)

### *VAST Challenge chairs*

Georges Grinstein, University of Massachusetts Lowell  
Mark Whiting, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory  
Kristin Liggett, United States Air Force  
Danko Nebesh, Department of Defense

### *Related URLs*

[VAST 2010 Challenge](#) and [VAST 2009 Challenge](#)

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