Palantir Technologies
VAST 2008 Grand Challenge
What is Palantir?

- ... a new approach to building contextually-grounded visual analytics environments.
- ... a thriving startup nestled in the heart of Silicon Valley.
- ... the next big thing from the folks that brought PayPal into the world.
- ... an enterprise software products company.
What does Palantir do?

We build platforms for human-driven analysis.
Human-Driven Analysis

- Turn hard user problems into hard software problems
- Use all of the tools available
  - Human-centric design calls for an amalgamation of techniques and technologies into coherent systems
- Create and use metaphors familiar to domain users
  - Keep model at a high, conceptual level
  - *e.g.*, people instead of rows
- Produce low-friction interfaces and workflows
  - Automate anything that’s obvious
  - Use interface elements to reduce human work
  - Make it all look (and feel) easy
- **Core model: object graph**
  - Data from multiple sources map into a single conceptual model
  - Nodes represent real-world things (entities, events, documents) with properties
  - Links model relationships
  - Types are user-defined

- **User metaphor: customizable based on user context!**
  - CT: People, organizations, meetings, emails, sightings
  - Corporate intel: products, meetings, hiring, firings
  - …
Spring 2008 Sadr City Battle (unclassified)
And we’ve barely scratched the surface…

- Data import (structured and unstructured)
- Data sourcing
- Entity resolution
- Persistent searches
- Object graph revisioning (akin to source control)
- Secure Collaboration
- Presentation
- …

Integration of technologies enables powerful workflows which may be significantly more difficult without an integrated solution.
- Core model: time-series analysis
  - Objects model the language of finance: equities, indices, groups, portfolios, strategies

- User metaphor: financial markets
  - Stocks, bonds, futures…
  - Correlation, volatility, rolling-average…
  - Indices, trading strategies, market indicators…

- Pluggable models and visualizations
  - Everything is a building block!
Where We’re Going

- The Palantir Government product is operational at intel, defense, and law enforcement agencies all over the world.

- The Palantir Finance product is currently deploying to multiple financial institutions.

- Where to next?
  - Drug discovery/genomics/proteomics
  - Legal discovery and analysis
  - Corporate fraud/compliance
  - Climatology research
  - Network monitoring/security
  - …
The Future of Analysis

- Support for all aspects of analysis
  - Data integration
  - Knowledge management
  - Search and discovery
  - Visualization
  - Collaboration

- Interoperability

- Extensibility
- Palantir espouses a new approach to building powerful, contextually-grounded platforms for analysis.
- We’re a rapidly growing Silicon Valley startup.
- We’re hiring!
- And we’re offering $5,000 referral bonuses!