

Diamonds in the Rough: New Discoveries with the SAS® Visual Investigator Text Analytics Workspace

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ABSTRACT

Take your investigative process to a new dimension and incorporate the analysis of your unstructured data. Adding text analytics to your process gives you the potential to discover new relationships between existing or newly discovered entities. Discover new locations, organizations, or people that can further your investigative process. Uncover new patterns of common phrases that were previously undetected. Let the analytics reveal common themes that might cluster the unstructured data into meaningful results. The new “Text Analytics Workspace” in SAS® Visual Investigator provides these features to enhance your investigation.

INTRODUCTION

Unstructured information (emails, claim documents, social media posts, text messages, videos, and so on) plays an important role in the investigation process. Unstructured data can easily represent 80% or more of potential data to investigate. Unstructured data is where undetected fraudulent activities can often be found. Text analytics plays an important role in uncovering hidden patterns from unstructured data and preventing wrongdoing. Text analytics is a tremendously effective technology in any domain where the majority of information collected is unstructured. SAS® Visual Investigator now includes a new investigative workspace for text analytics. This workspace enables the investigator to analyze any type of text field defined in an entity object. The text analytics workspace parses this text to reveal meaningful data and analyzes the newly created data to provide a deeper understanding of the content. This new workspace incorporates natural language processing (NLP) to reveal people, places, and organizations mentioned in the text. This workspace facilitates the integration of unstructured text data with structured data.

This paper explores the use and benefits of the new text analytics workspace of SAS Visual Investigator. This workspace can extract entities of interest, detecting people, places, organizations, companies, and entity characteristics that enable analysts to uncover relationships that would previously go unidentified. In addition to all of this, it enables investigators to organize and group data into a topic, theme, or category. Each topic is further represented by words, phrases, entities, and so on. The presence of these words or phrases in a document implies the occurrence of a concept or theme in a cluster of documents. The end result of using the text analytics workspace is a potential fraud dictionary that is a repository of concepts and suspicious key words.

To show the workspace features, we use the sample data of some known fraudulent emails as our entity objects to analyze.

UNSTRUCTURED DATA

Intelligence analysts and investigators have access to large volumes of text-based information that can come in many forms, such as the following:

- Criminal intelligence reports
- Arrest records
- Adjuster notes
- Emails
- Field reports
- Case management files
- Customer service calls
- Claimant interviews
- Social media

The goal of analyzing this data is to turn these large data stores into actionable investigation intelligence. Analyzing this type of data is more than just keyword searching. The analysis can identify new patterns, trends, and topics under which fraudulent activity takes place. Traditional keyword and search-based approaches simply fail to uncover these patterns.

REGISTERING UNSTRUCTURED DATA

In order to take advantage of the text analytics workspace, your unstructured data has to be defined in the administrator component of SAS Visual Investigator. Two key areas need to be configured. The first is under the **Permissions** tab. The user's group must have permission to the following capability: "Access text analytics view in workspaces". Second, the SAS Visual Investigator administrator needs to define certain fields of an entity object to be used for textual analysis. This is done under the **Views** tab of an entity registration. If the entity is an email, the sender and recipient (To/From) fields can be defined as well, as shown in Figure 1:

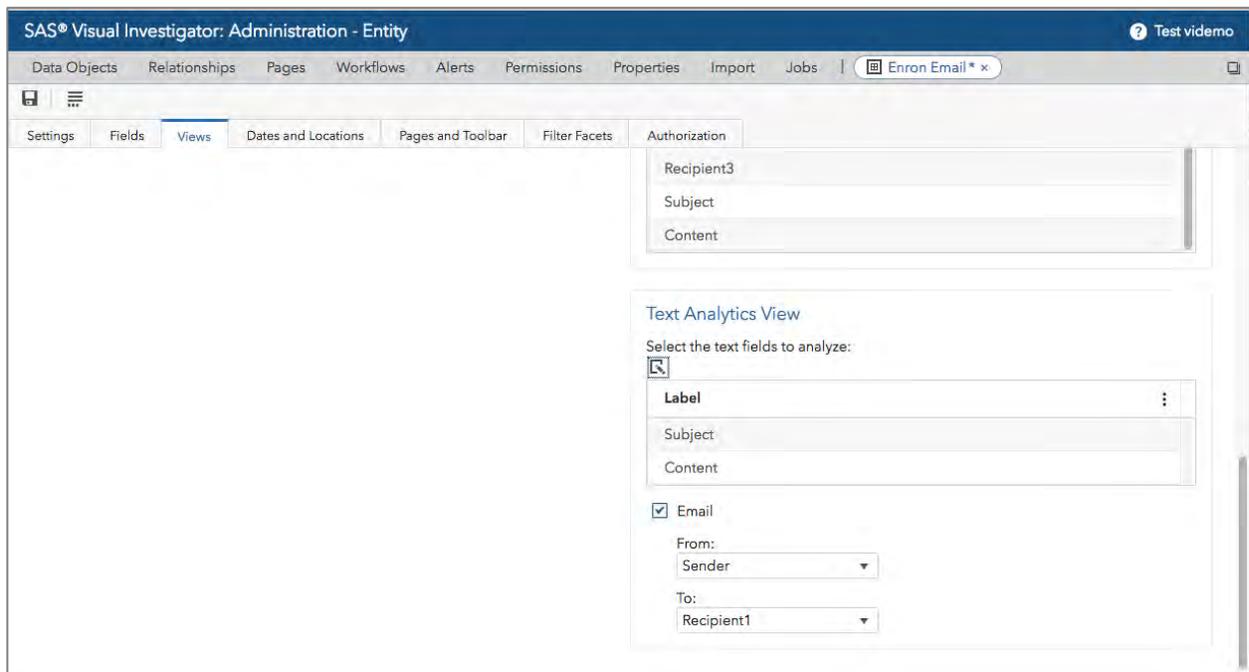


Figure 1: Registering Unstructured Data in the Administrator

ANALYZING THE UNSTRUCTURED DATA

Now that the entity has been configured for the **Text Analytics View**, the investigator can add those entity types to a workspace, and the workspace option **Text Analytics View** appears, as shown in Figure 2:

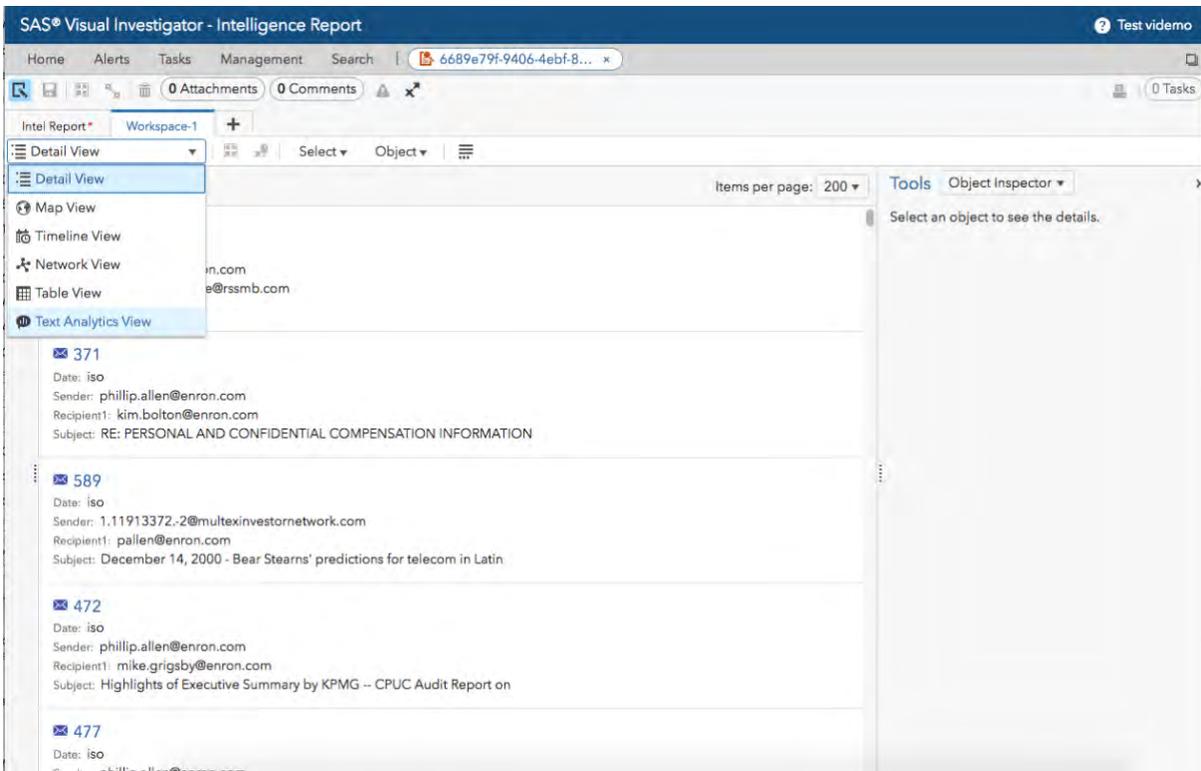


Figure 2: Selecting the Text Analytics View

TEXT ANALYTICS VIEW

Text analysis can be computationally intensive, depending on the volume of text and the number of entities and topics generated. When analysis is complete, the investigator is shown an initial view of the results. If some of the entity types have been defined as email, then the default first view of the results is similar to that shown in Figure 3:

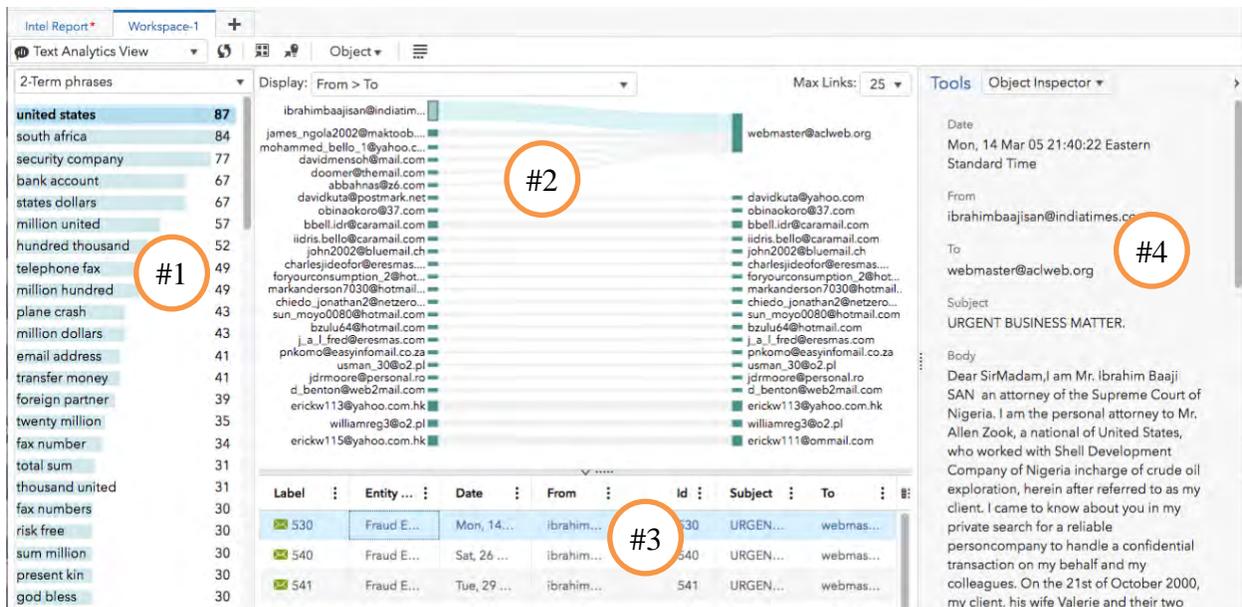


Figure 3: Default Text Analytics View That Contains Emails

The following sections explain each of the four different areas depicted in Figure 3.

Bar Chart Area (#1)

This area of the results reveals term frequencies. The drop-down menu in Figure 4 enables the investigator to navigate between 1-, 2-, and 3-term frequencies as well as the entities that have been extracted and organized by type.

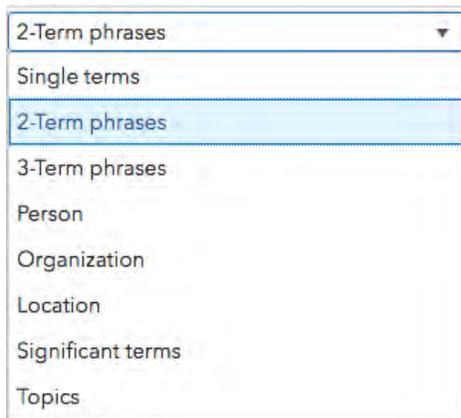


Figure 3: Drop-Down Menu for Bar Chart Results

The options are the following:

- the most common 1-, 2-, and 3-term phrases
- potential discovered named entities categorized by person, location, or organization
- text mining results of statistically relevant terms and topics or themes discovered in the text

For common phrases and discovered entities, a frequency count indicates the number of occurrences for the term or phrase. **Significant terms** and **Topics** show a weighting to reveal the importance or strength of the term or topic. Common terms or phrases might be important in some cases, but if the investigator views the **Significant terms**, this list might be very different.

Sometimes a term appears so often in the documents that it becomes irrelevant—mere “noise.” Therefore, looking a term that the basic text mining results have shown as statistically relevant might prove to be more beneficial.

Since we are looking at term or phrase frequency, many times terms appear in the results that are not relevant. The **Text Analytics View** enables you to remove those unwanted terms and save that removal as part of the workspace. Therefore, you don’t have to repeat your cleanup each time you come back to the view. The bars also re-scale themselves in proportion to the results with the terms removed. You can bring those removed terms back into the analysis by selecting the **Open term and identity archive** option, as shown in Figure 5.

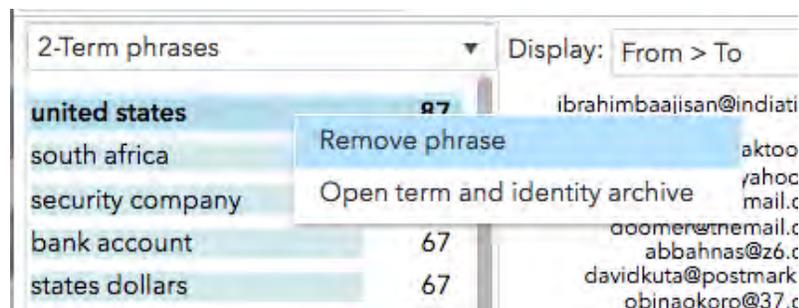


Figure 4: Ability to Remove a Term or Phrase from Analysis

When an investigator selects a bar of interest, the area to the right (#2) updates its results based on that selection.

Display Area (#2)

When the user selects the bar of interest, the display area reveals a Sankey diagram if some of the entities have been defined as email.

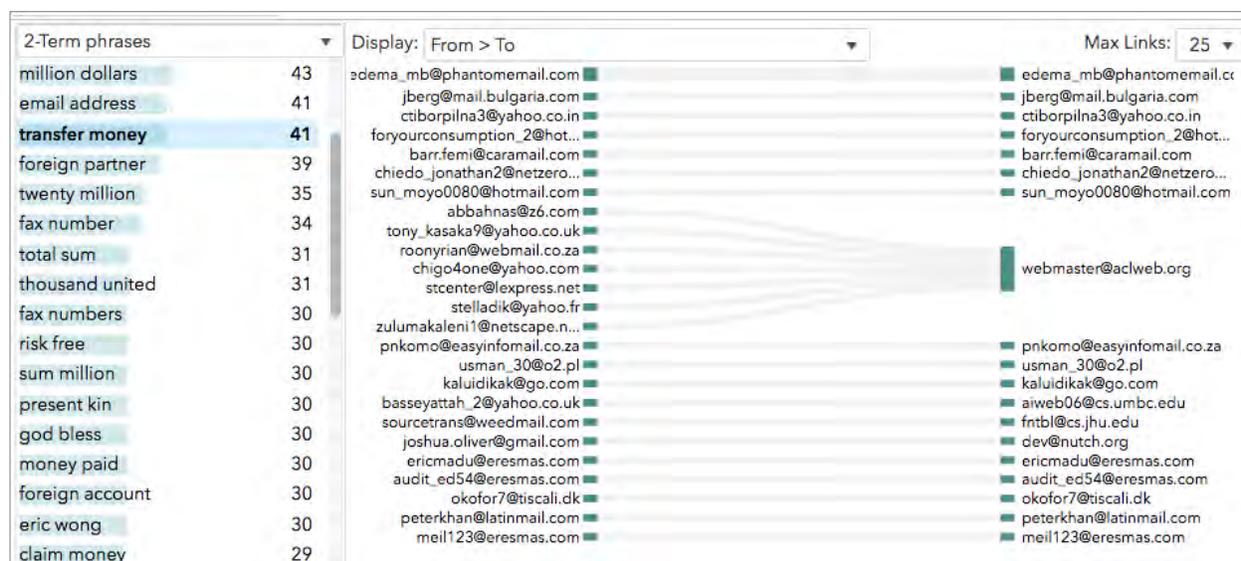


Figure 5: All Email Correspondence Containing the Phrase "Transfer Money"

The results in Figure 6 show all the emails that contain the phrase “transfer money”. The results also show the volume of emails that were sent and received. The width of the flow from the sender to the

receiver is proportional to the number of documents that were sent. Therefore, you can quickly determine which emails contain a key term or phrase that might be relevant to the investigation. This Sankey diagram always shows the top *N* links (the document count that is represented by the flow width between the emails). The **Max Links** option at the top can control the volume that is shown.

Viewing common phrases among the documents might assist in detecting a person or group of people telling the same story for different claims or statements. This can be a flag for fraudulent behavior.

Table Area (#3)

This list always shows the entities that contain the terms or phrases of interest. When the investigator selects a bar, the list reveals all the documents that contain that term or phrase. If the user selects a flow in the Sankey diagram, the list reveals all documents that contain the term or phrase *and* are from the sender and are sent to the recipient. Figure 7 shows emails that meet the following criteria:

- They contain the phrase “bank account”.
- The sender was “madu_invest@yahoo.com”.
- The recipient was “webmaster@aclweb.org”.

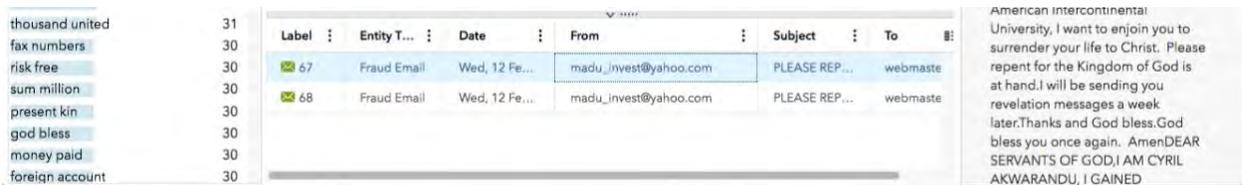


Figure 6: List of Emails That Contain the Selected Term and Email Correspondents

Object Inspector (#4)

Notice that if the investigator selects one of the entities in the list, then the **Object Inspector** reveals the details of the email. Figure 8 shows the actual email details of the selected email in the table list.

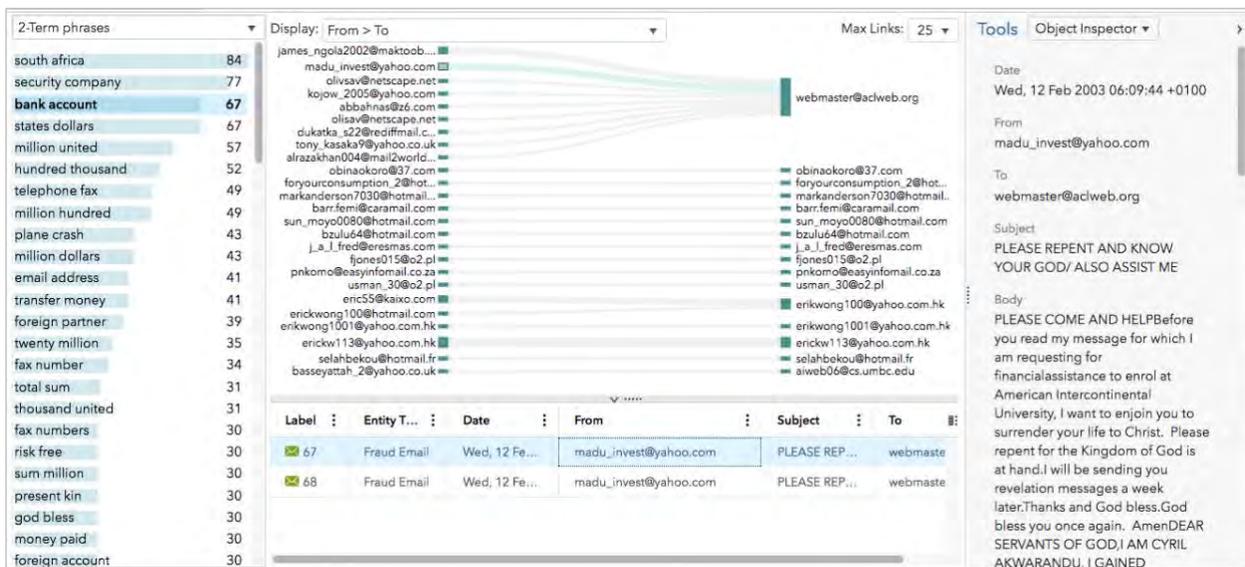


Figure 7: List of Emails That Contain the Selected Phrase and Email From/To

Notice that the workspace can easily group emails that contain the same phrases or terms. The investigator can also discover who is communicating this information. We can take this a step further.

TEXT ANALYTICS VISUALIZATIONS

An investigator can look at all the potential discovered named entities as well. (We refer to these entities as “identities” in this view so that they are not confused with actual entity objects defined in the SAS Visual Investigator system.) The named identities that are revealed fall into the following categories:

- people
- organizations
- locations

This information can help you discover new relationships to other persons of interest or organizations that might or might not already be in your system. In Figure 9, we see the frequency bars showing the different locations discovered in the text. We also see the emails that contained the location “Nigeria” and who sent and received them.

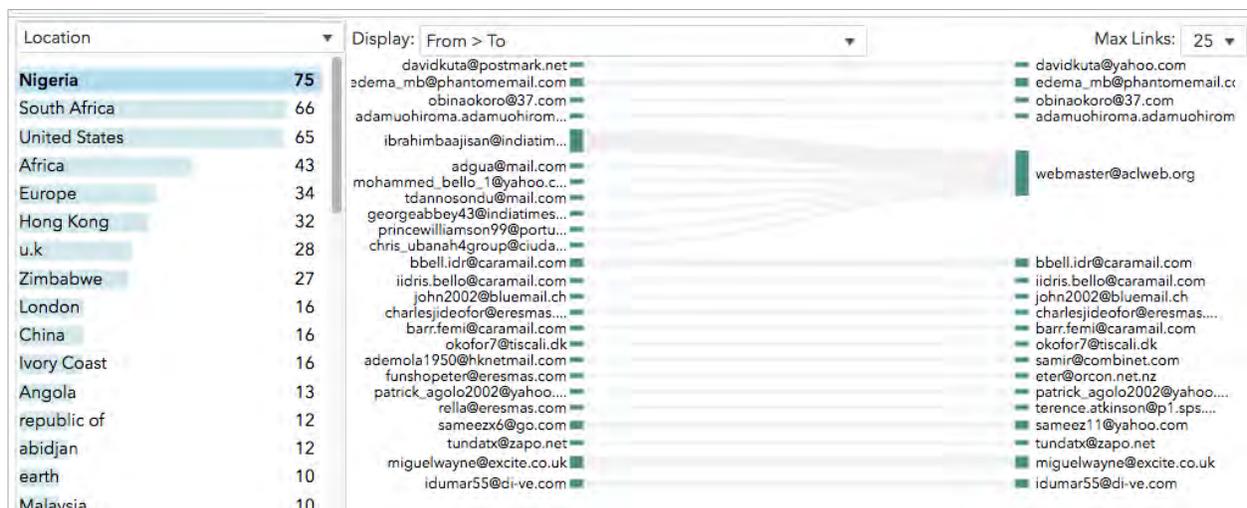


Figure 8: Documents Containing the Location "Nigeria"

Our entity discovery is not always accurate, and some of the discoveries that are revealed might not have any relevance to the investigation. These discoveries can easily be removed from the analysis, as mentioned earlier. Removal of terms or phrases can be performed on the Sankey diagram as well. Figure 10 shows the results before the removal, and Figure 11 shows the results after the removal.



Figure 9: Before Email Is Removed from the Diagram

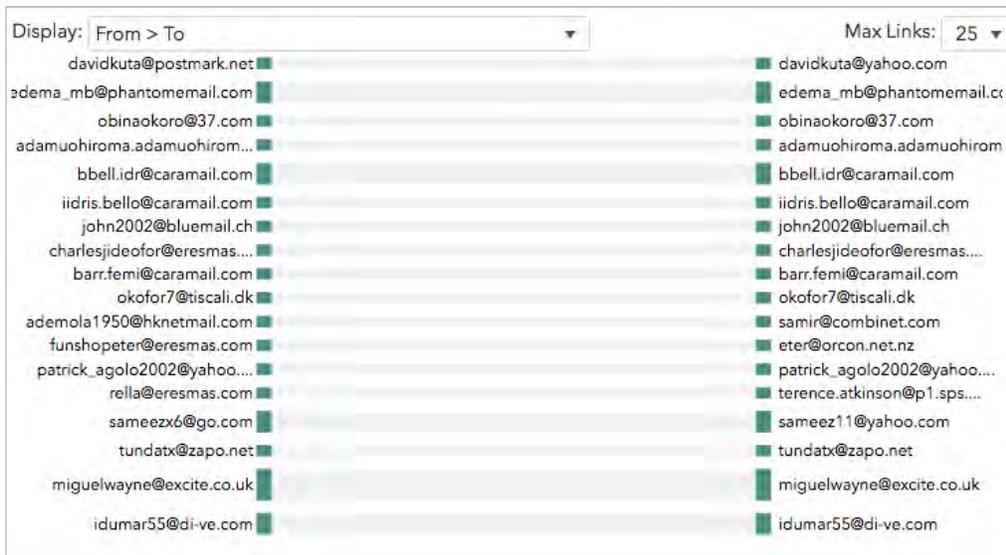


Figure 10: After Email Is Removed

OTHER DISPLAY OPTIONS

On the main view, an investigator can change the diagram display also. This enables the user to view the resulting parsing and analysis from many different viewpoints. Figure 12 shows all possible options. Any option containing a “>” is displayed as a Sankey diagram to show the relationships between the two category types. All other options are displayed as a word cloud.

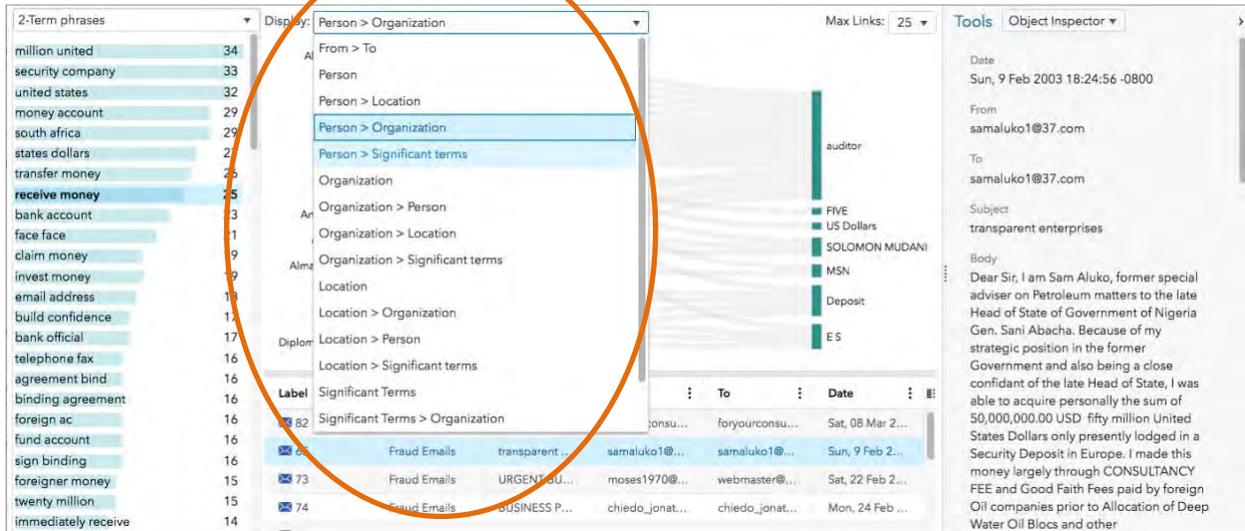


Figure 11: Display Options for Main View of the Text Analytics Workspace

In Figure 13, we can quickly see that emails that contain the location “Nigeria” also contain a number of top persons and organizations. In other words, we can see that anytime “Nigeria” is mentioned, a “Mr. Allen Zook” is also mentioned. If you select “Mr. Allen Zook”, you can see that four different organizations are mentioned as well. This functionality enables the investigator to quickly discover new relationships that might have gone undetected otherwise.

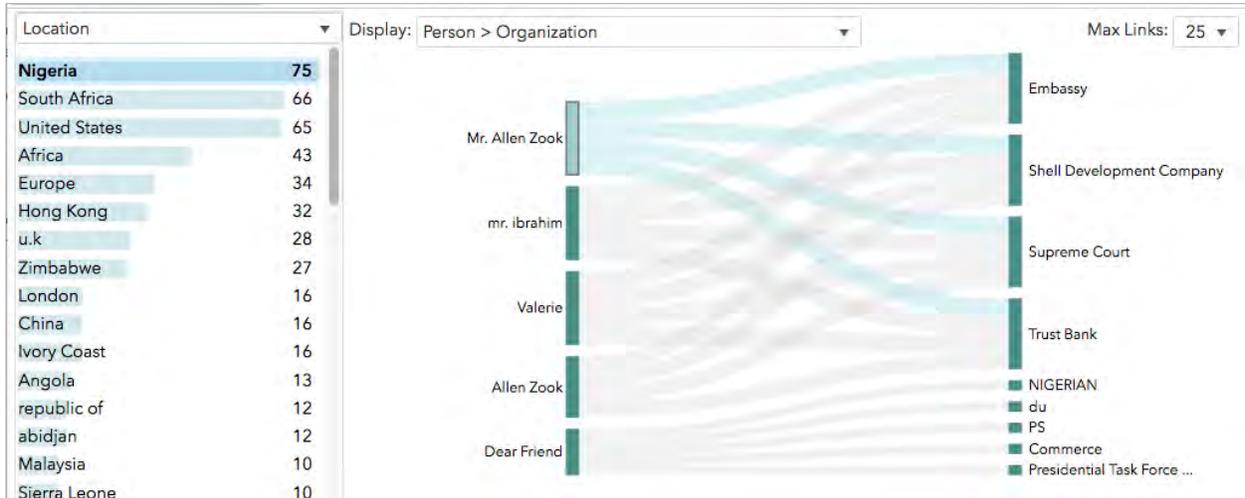


Figure 12: Details of Entity Discovery Relationships

If the investigator is only interested in *all* of the organizations that are discovered in the emails that contain the location “Nigeria”, then a word cloud is the more appropriate display. Figure 14 shows the word cloud display. The size of the word represents the number of times it has occurred in the documents.



Figure 13: A Word Cloud of Discovered Organizations Found in Emails Containing "Nigeria"

TEXT MINING

There are two display options for the bar charts that reveal the results of text mining analysis performed on the documents. The first is the **Significant terms** option. These terms or phrases are results of the text mining analysis and have shown statistical relevance to the documents as a whole. This significance doesn't always correlate to the term frequency, so a weighting or importance is represented as a bar value instead of a frequency count. Figure 15 shows a comparison of significant terms versus single term frequency.



Figure 14: Statistically Significant Terms Versus High-Frequency Terms

In Figure 15, notice that the word “money” doesn’t appear in the list of significant terms. This is probably because it occurs so frequently that it does not make a statistical impact. Frequent terms such as “money” become “noise” in the documents, and thus aren’t significant.

The second text mining analysis we provide is topic or theme clustering. Topics represent a cluster of documents that contain a similar theme. For example, Figure 16 shows a topic that is characterized by the following terms or phrases: “kong, hong kong, hong, china, world cruisei”. Therefore, an investigator can determine that the 36 documents that have been classified under this topic have a similar theme that discusses China or Hong Kong. This provides the investigator a quick way to group the documents together and understand in general what the topic of discussion might be.

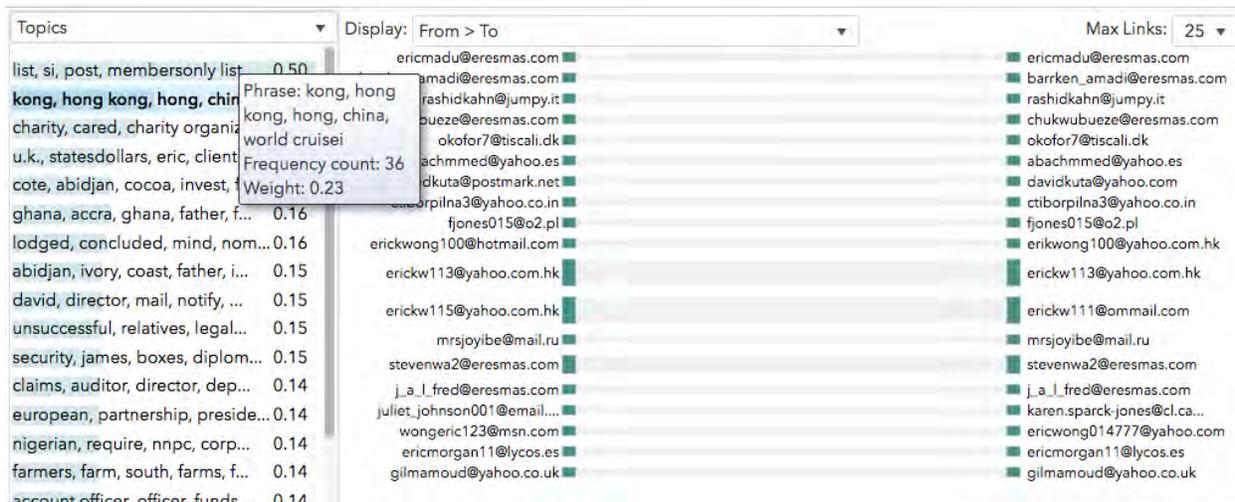


Figure 15: Topics View

The text mining results of the **Test Analytics View** are only a starting point for text mining analytics. The SAS® Visual Text Analytics solution can provide a much richer set of results for text mining.

IDENTITY MANAGEMENT

When discovering potential named entities or identities, you might encounter several issues that require some adjustments. When the text analysis is initially performed, we attempt to group like entities together and create aliases. However, the basic fuzzy matching is not always 100% correct, and some are missed. The text analytics workspace enables investigators to manage the identities found during the analysis. An investigator can access all discovered identities via a pop-up menu available on any discovered identity. Figure 17 shows the pop-up menu.

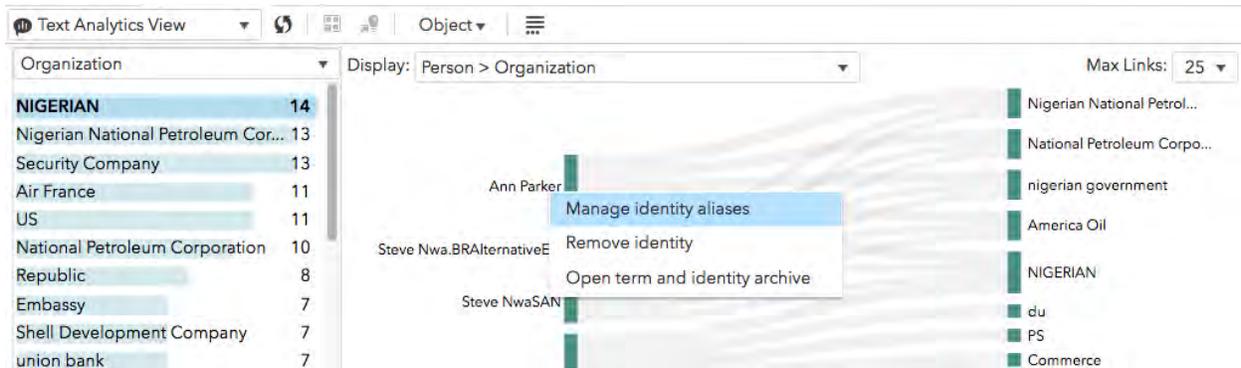


Figure 16: Pop-Up Menu for Identities

Figure 18 shows the window that enables an investigator to create aliases and to rename the identity. Notice that the highlighted identity contains two aliases. They look very similar, but the second one contains a period (.) at the end. The number in parentheses represents the number of occurrences of the alias. By default, all identities have a label that corresponds to the name of the first alias in the list. This can be changed by the investigator.

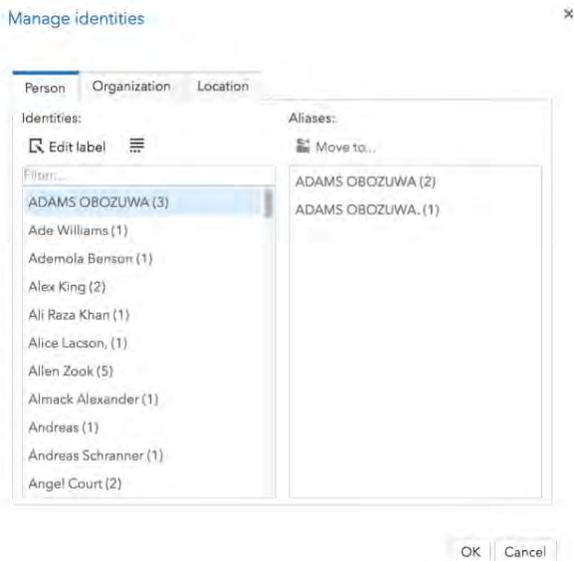


Figure 17: Identity Management Window

Identities and aliases can be moved and deleted from this list as well. Figure 19 illustrates the steps of changing an identity label. The changed label becomes the label that is used in all of the views.

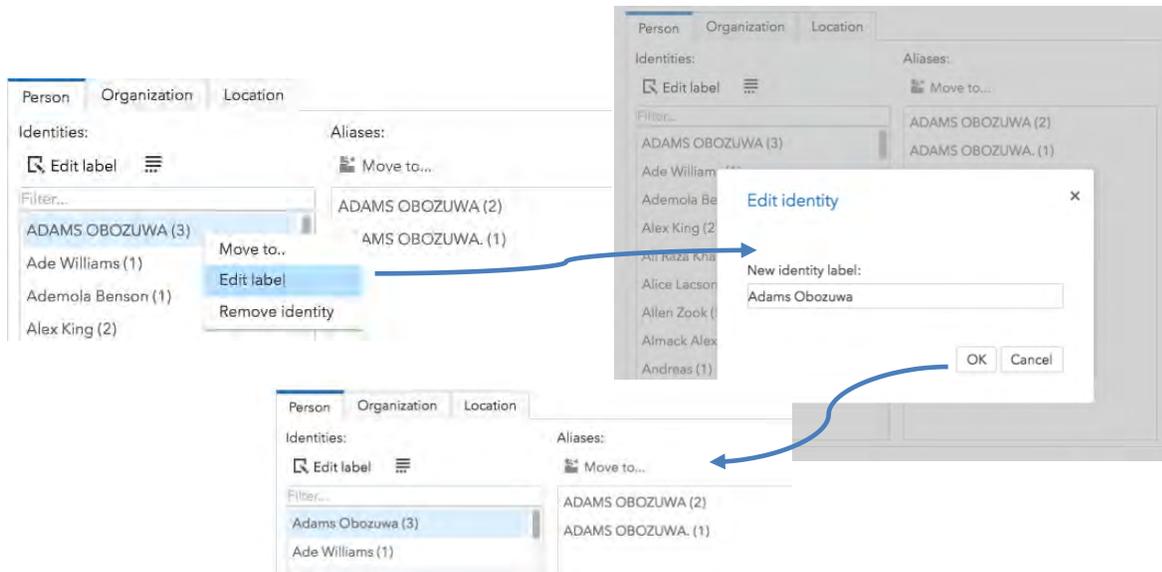


Figure 18: Changing the Identity Label

Some examples of potential issues with named identities are the following:

- Identity overlap:
An identity is defined in two different categories. In our sample data, the phrase “Angel Court” appears as a person and an organization.
- Invalid identity:
The identity is not a valid person, organization, or location. These items need to be removed from the analysis.
- Missed aliases:
In our example, we have three unique identities: “Nigerian National Petroleum CorporationNNPC.”, “National Petroleum Corporation”, and “Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation”. These three identities might need to be aliases of an identity with a label of “NNPC”.

Figure 20 shows the organizations before they are managed. Notice that both identities show up separately: “Nigerian National Petroleum CorporationNNPC.” and “National Petroleum Corporation”.

Organization	Count
NIGERIAN	14
Nigerian National Petroleum Cor...	13
Security Company	13
Air France	11
US	11
National Petroleum Corporation	10
Republic	8
Embassy	7
Shell Development Company	7

Figure 19: Identities without User-Defined Aliasing

In Figure 21, we have a new identity label “NNPC” for all the aliases listed.

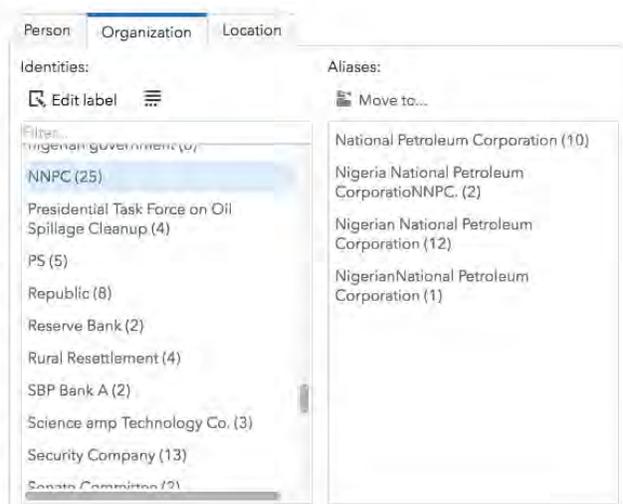


Figure 20: Identity Aliasing

Figure 22 shows the new identity label. All aliases defined under this identity are grouped together when they appear in the analysis.

Note: A highlighted note also appears at the top of the display. This note informs you that there are changes to the identities and you need to refresh the analysis to fully incorporate your changes into the analysis. In Figure 22, the Refresh button at the top is circled.

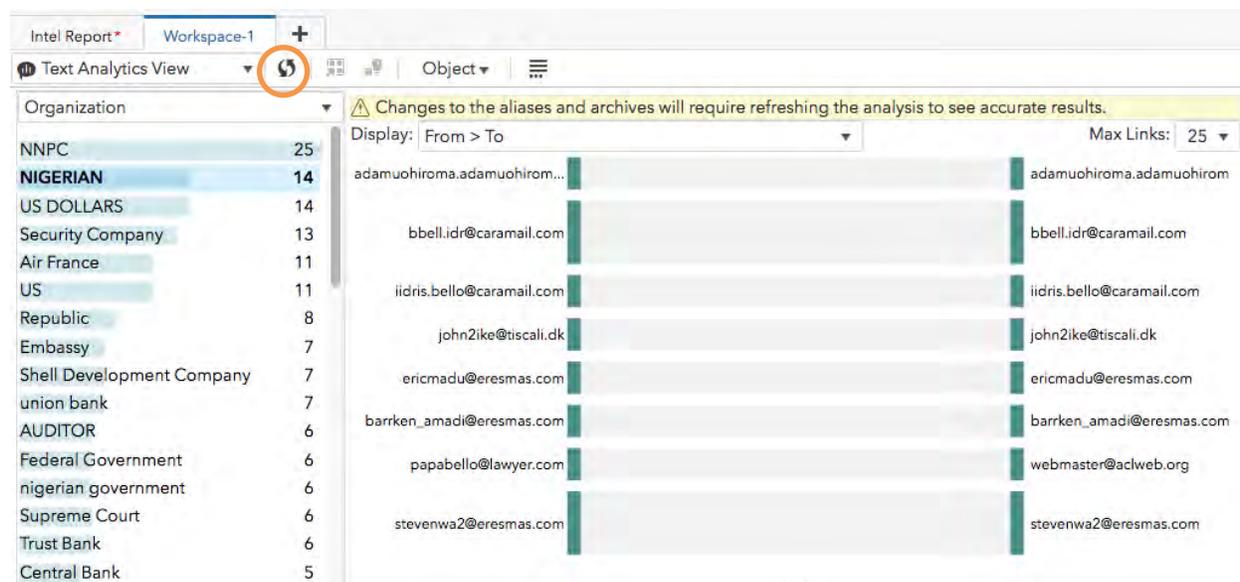


Figure 21: Results with New Identity Label and Aliases Grouped Together

One of the big advantages of the identity management feature is that all the changes that are made are saved with the workspace. Therefore, the next time the investigator opens this workspace, all the term or phrase removal and identity management will be done as part of the initial analysis. This enables the investigator to start with the investigative process right away instead of having to repeat the cleanup process.

CONCLUSION

The text analytics workspace can provide the first step in understanding unstructured data that might be related to your investigation. In this workspace, relationships are revealed, clusters of documents are defined by a topic or theme, and common phrases can be exposed to assist in identifying fraudulent behavior. The workspace also provides an identity management tool to manage aliases and enable you to consolidate multiple terms or names into one key category. Your investigative process can be enhanced by examining the hidden gems that are sometimes buried deep in the voluminous text of unstructured data.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Your comments and questions are valued and encouraged. Contact the author:

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