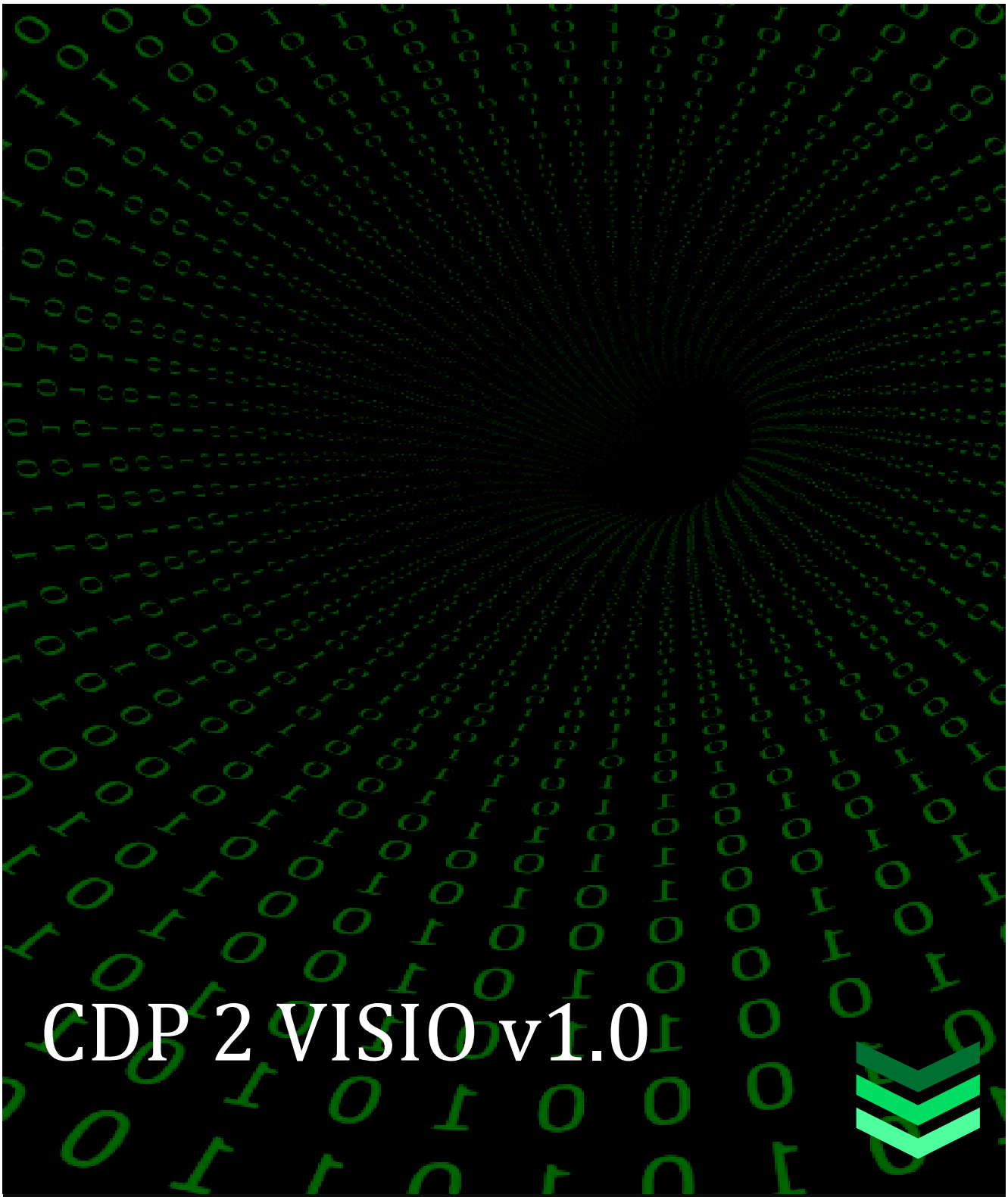

CDP 2 VISIO v1.0

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Tool documentation

1/26/2015

1 CONTENTS

2 ABOUT

CDP2VISO is a Custom Action Handler plugin for Pretty Good Terminal v4.2.26.1 or later.

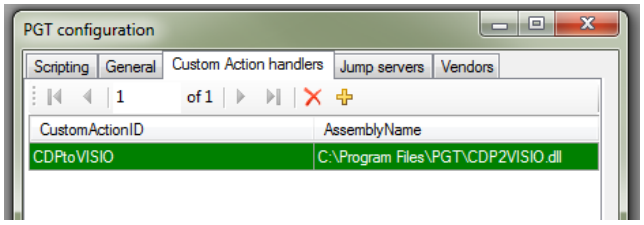
Its purpose is to map a Cisco shop network using the CDP protocol and using the discovery information to create a Microsoft Visio drawing.

This plugin is available as a binary build and also as source code.

3 INSTALLATION

Beyond Pretty Good Terminal v4.2.26.1 or later, this plugin requires Microsoft Visio 2010 or later to be installed on the system.

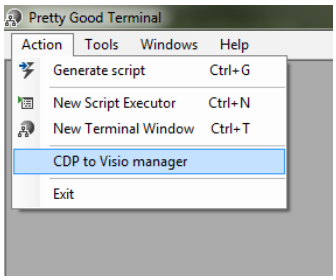
To install the tool just extract the downloaded archive to the same directory where PGT is installed. Afterwards, using PGT, it is necessary to register the CDP2VISIO.dll as a custom action handler as shown below :



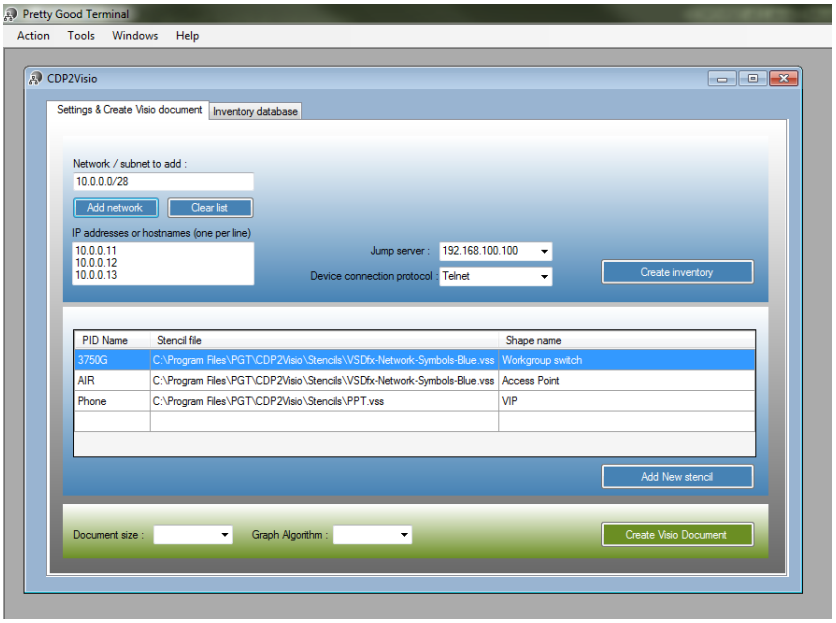
(For details on how to register the assembly, please refer to PGT user's manual)

4 USING THE TOOL

After CDP2VISIO successfully registered as a CustomActionHandler, the CDP to Visio manager menu item will appear on the Action menu of PGT :



Click the menu item to open the Manager window :

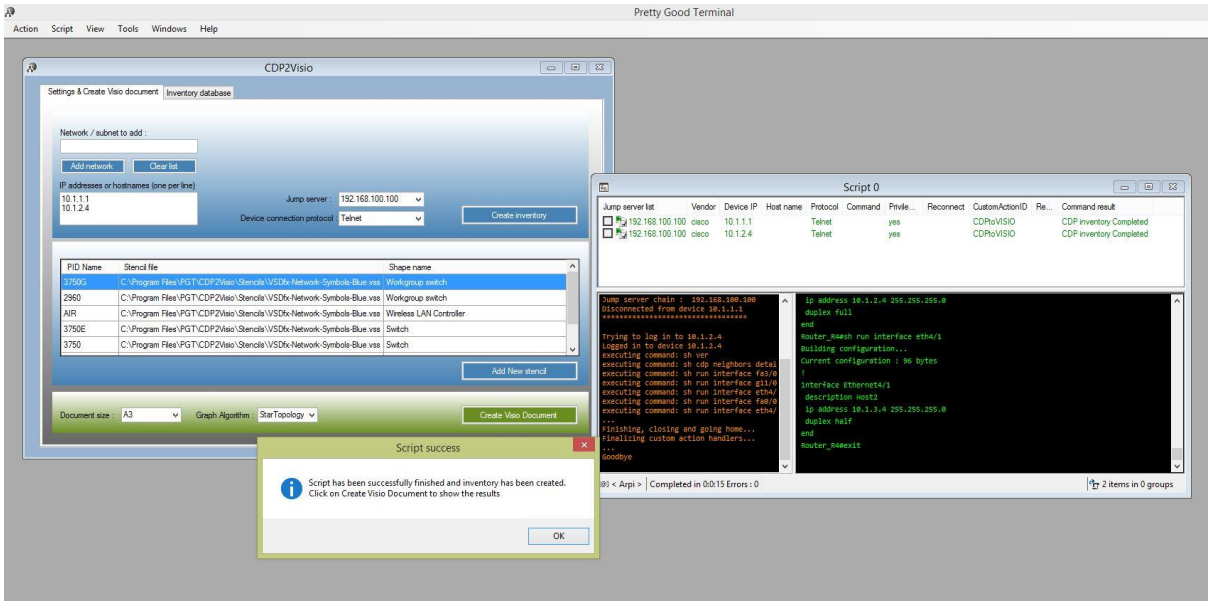


The tool will discover devices and their CDP neighbours based on the list of devices enlisted in the IP addresses list. When used with a jump server, hostnames can also be entered in the list. When PGT will access devices directly, only IP addresses are accepted.

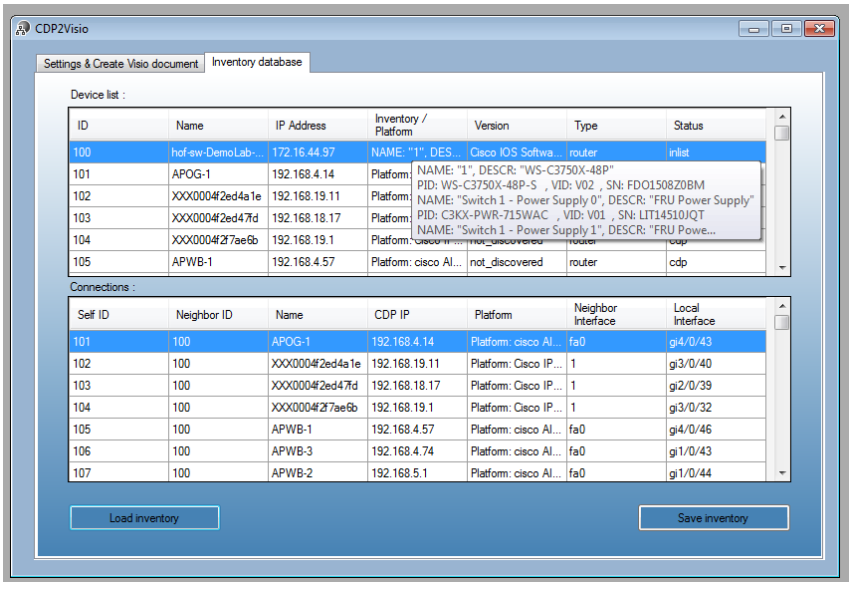
If a continues IP range is to be scanned, it is possible to add IP addresses by specifying the appropriate network and subnet mas length in like 192.168.1.0/24. CDP2Visio accepts mask lengths varying between 16 and 30.

In the main window the tool will list the jump servers configured for the current profile. Please refer to PGT User's manual with regard to jump server settings and configuration profiles. The device connection protocol must also be selected to start gathering CDP information. (If used in its simplest form, CDP2VISIO requires that all devices be reachable using the same protocol, telnet or ssh).

Clicking the Create Inventory button, the tool will generate and start the necessary script to gather CDP information :



Once the script finished, the collected information is loaded and can be viewed on the Inventory Database tab page :



Based on the collected information the Visio drawing can be created by clicking on the Create Visio document on the first tab.

5 ADVANCED USAGE

The tool basically follows a three step process to generate a Visio diagram :

1. Generate and run script to build an inventory database
2. Load the inventory
3. Create the Visio drawing

These steps are distinct parts of the plugin and can be carried out automatically in a sequence – as described in chapter 4. – or, alternatively, manually in separate steps.

5.1 GENERATE AND RUN SCRIPT TO BUILD AN INVENTORY DATABASE

When the tool creates and runs script an inventory (xml) database is built under CDP2Visio \Inventory subfolder of the installation point. The default name of the database is cdp_output.xml. Once an inventory database is created, it can later be loaded into the tool and saved under a different name. This way, many inventory databases can be retained and loaded as necessary.

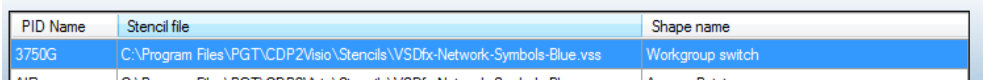
To create an inventory database, one can write their own script, too. The only requirement is to set the CustomActionID to CDPtoVISIO in the script and also specify reachability information (jump server, protocol). It is also possible to save the auto-generated script and edit as needed to adopt to device reachability. When such a script is run, it will place its output into CDP2Visio\Inventory\cdp_output.xml file.

5.2 LOAD THE INVENTORY

Navigating to the Inventory Database tab it is possible to load a previously saved inventory xml file. When a script is generated and run automatically from within the tool, the generated inventory databases is loaded automatically.

5.3 SET VISIO STENCILS

In order to use appropriate shapes for different devices, it is possible to map a shape's name to a search pattern. As CDP information gathered, the device inventory and/or platform information is extracted. Based on this text, it is possible to identify the device and map to the required shape by name. For instance, if the text contains the string 3570G then a Visio stencil and shape name could be mapped to like the following :



Please note that in some cases CDP2Viso is unable to successfully query Visio to identify the shape by name and so an error is displayed.

5.4 CREATE THE VISIO DRAWING

Once an inventory was loaded, it is possible to generate the Visio drawing by clicking the Create Visio Document button. There are two settings applicable here :

- The paper size

- The graph layout. Whether star topology or hierarchical model is a better fit

Router version info and interface configuration data is copied to shape's screentip :