

NCBI News, October 2015

Variation Viewer 1.4.1 is now available with optimized Variant Filters and Table performance

Thursday, October 29, 2015

Variation Viewer 1.4.1 provides several new features, improvements and bug fixes, including further optimized performance for Variant Filters and Variant Table. A full list of changes to Variation Viewer is available in the [release notes](#).

Variation Viewer is a tool for navigating variant data in dbSNP, dbVar and ClinVar in a genomic context.

New on the NCBI YouTube channel: "LinkOut - Linking to Datasets, Databases and More"

Thursday, October 29, 2015

The recording for the [October 2nd webinar](#) "LinkOut - Linking to Datasets, Databases and More" is available on [YouTube](#). The webinar presents an overview of LinkOut and highlights participating resources, with special emphasis on resources beyond full text articles, including databases, datasets and research tools.

Subscribe to the [NCBI YouTube channel](#) to receive alerts about new videos ranging from quick tips to full webinar presentations.

OSIRIS Version 2.5 is now available

Wednesday, October 28, 2015

OSIRIS, NCBI's open source short tandem repeat (STR) analysis and quality assurance software package, has just been updated to [version 2.5](#). This version brings several improvements, including multiple peak labels and improved allele and artifact calling. A full list of updates is included in the [release notes](#).

The OSIRIS software for Windows/Mac, the User's Guide, and release notes are all freely available for download on the [OSIRIS homepage](#). In addition, an [OSIRIS webinar](#) is available on the NCBI YouTube channel.

OSIRIS was initiated in response to recommendations of a multidisciplinary advisory group empaneled by the U.S. Department of Justice, and was developed in collaboration with state, local and federal forensic laboratories and NIST.

Outdated Genomes FTP directories will be archived on November 30, 2015

Tuesday, October 27, 2015

At the end of November 2015, many outdated Genomes FTP directories will be archived and no longer updated. If you get Genomes data from the NCBI FTP site, please prepare by checking the detailed list of changes below and updating your bookmarks, links and scripts where necessary before **November 30, 2015**.

FTP directories and files moving on November 30, 2015:

- All directories and files from <ftp://ftp.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/genbank/genomes/> will be archived to ftp://ftp.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/genomes/archive/old_genbank/;
- The following directories from <ftp://ftp.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/genomes/> will be archived to ftp://ftp.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/genomes/archive/old_refseq/;
 - Aedes_aegypti
 - Anopheles_gambiae
 - Arabidopsis_lyrata
 - Arabidopsis_thaliana
 - ASSEMBLY_BACTERIA
 - Bacteria
 - Bacteria_DRAFT
 - Branchiostoma_floridae
 - Caenorhabditis_elegans
 - Chloroplasts
 - CLUSTERS
 - Drosophila_melanogaster
 - Drosophila_pseudoobscura
 - Fungi
 - Medicago_truncatula
 - MITOCHONDRIA
 - Physcomitrella_patens
 - PLANTS
 - Plasmids
 - Populus_trichocarpa
 - Protozoa
 - Sorghum_bicolor
- The file old_genomeID2nucGI from <ftp://ftp.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/genomes/> will be archived to <ftp://ftp.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/genomes/archive/>;

- The IDS directory from <ftp://ftp.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/genomes/> will be moved to ftp://ftp.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/genomes/GENOME_REPORTS.

See the [NCBI Genomes FTP FAQ](#) for help on using the newer Genomes FTP directories, <ftp://ftp.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/genomes/genbank> and <ftp://ftp.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/genomes/refseq> that provide replacement content for the directories being archived.

GenBank release 210.0 is now available via FTP

Wednesday, October 21, 2015

GenBank release 210.0 (10/15/15) has 188,372,017 non-WGS, non-CON records containing 202,237,081,559 base pairs of sequence data. In addition, there are 309,198,943 WGS records containing 1,222,635,267,498 base pairs of sequence data, as well as 81,790,031 TSA records containing 70,917,172,944 base pairs of sequence data.

During the 62 days between the close dates for GenBank releases 209.0 and 210.0, the traditional (i.e., non-WGS, non-CON) portion of GenBank grew by 2,413,437,272 base pairs and by 1,306,171 sequence records. During that same period, 280,348 records were updated and an average of 25,573 traditional records were added and/or updated each day.

Between releases 209.0 and 210.0, the WGS component of GenBank grew by 59,359,666,497 base pairs and by 6,243,400 sequence records; the TSA component of GenBank grew by 1,556,418,531 base pairs and by 6,036,982 sequence records.

The total number of sequence data files increased by 38 with this release. The divisions are as follows:

- BCT: 10 new files, now a total of 206
- ENV: 1 new file, now a total of 86
- INV: 3 new files, now a total of 132
- MAM: 9 new files, now a total of 37
- PAT: 6 new files, now a total of 235
- PLN: 5 new files, now a total of 119
- VRL: 1 new file, now a total of 38
- VRT: 3 new files, now a total of 59

For downloading purposes, please keep in mind that the uncompressed GenBank flat files require approximately 742 GB (sequence files only); the ASN.1 data require approximately 605 GB.

More information about GenBank release 210.0 is available in the [release notes](#).

New on the NCBI YouTube channel: Learn how to view track sets and store track collections

Friday, October 16, 2015

Two new videos on the NCBI YouTube channel will show you how to view track sets in all of the NCBI genome browsers and Sequence Viewer displays and how to store and share custom sets of tracks in track collections.

NCBI Recommended Tracks presents track sets, which allow you to instantly tailor your display to a specific need, while *My NCBI Track Collections: Introduction* shows you how to store and share tracks in custom sets called track collections. If you'd like to learn more about track sets and collections, you can read the [FAQ](#) on the Sequence Viewer page.

Subscribe to the [NCBI YouTube channel](#) to receive alerts about new videos ranging from quick tips to full webinar presentations.

Larger word size in modified algorithm speeds up BLASTP, BLASTX, TBLASTN search

Thursday, October 15, 2015

The [NCBI BLAST webpage](#) now offers faster BLASTP, BLASTX and TBLASTN searches due to a modified algorithm that can use a larger word size. This improvement can make search 2-4 times faster without changing the results most of the time. Please see this [article](#) for more details on the modified algorithm.

Note: You may also recover the search's previous behavior by changing the word size from 6 to 3. To do so, expand "Algorithm parameters" at the bottom of the BLAST page and use the Word size menu (see Figure 1).

Variation Viewer 1.4 is now available with faster filter performance, track sets & collections

Thursday, October 08, 2015

Variation Viewer 1.4 provides several new features, improvements and bug fixes, including significantly faster performance for Sequence Viewer and Variant Table filters, improved documentation readability, added [track sets and track collections](#), and more. A full list of changes to Variation Viewer is available in the [release notes](#).

[Variation Viewer](#) is a tool for navigating variant data in [dbSNP](#), [dbVar](#) and [ClinVar](#) in a genomic context.

The image shows the NCBI BLAST search interface. The 'Enter Query Sequence' section includes a text input for accession numbers, a 'Choose File' button, and a 'Genetic code' dropdown set to 'Standard (1)'. The 'Choose Search Set' section shows the 'Database' set to 'Non-redundant protein sequences (nr)'. The 'Algorithm parameters' section is expanded, showing 'General Parameters' with 'Max target sequences' at 100, 'Expect threshold' at 10, 'Word size' at 6 (highlighted with a red box), and 'Max matches in a query range' at 0.

Figure 1. You can use the word size menu (outlined in red) to recover BLAST search's previous behavior.

Sequence Viewer 3.10 adds support for track sets and track collections, performance optimization and more

Monday, October 05, 2015

Sequence Viewer has been updated to version 3.10, bringing new features, improvements and bug fixes. These changes include:

- Support for [track sets and track collections](#)
- Performance optimization allowing faster switching between molecules in genomic browsers and faster Sequence Viewer staging
- A new display option for alignment track

A full list of changes to Sequence Viewer is available in the [release notes](#).

Sequence Viewer is a graphical view of sequences and color-coded annotations on regions of sequences stored in the [Nucleotide](#) and [Protein](#) databases.

New NCBI Insights blog post: "Troubleshooting GenBank Submissions: Annotating the Coding Region (CDS)"

Friday, October 02, 2015

The [latest blog post on NCBI Insights](#) gives GenBank data submitters a workflow for using BLAST to troubleshoot problems with CDS feature annotation. This information is also available in two webinars on the NCBI YouTube channel: [Coding Region Annotation](#) and [Eukaryotic CDS Annotation](#).

[NCBI Insights](#) is the official NCBI blog, where we share science feature stories, quick tips, and what's new at NCBI.

Subscribe to the [NCBI YouTube channel](#) to receive alerts about new videos ranging from quick tips to full webinar presentations.

NCBI staff to attend and present at ASHG 2015

Friday, October 02, 2015

NCBI will participate in the [ASHG annual meeting](#) in Baltimore, MD (Oct. 6-10). Staff will participate in the Genome Reference Consortium workshop and present twelve different posters on updated tools and resources for clinical genetics, genomics, and human genome assembly and annotation.

NCBI staff members will also be at the NCBI Exhibit Booth (**#2405**), where attendees can get answers and provide input for the future development of NCBI human genome resources.