Installing a Lisp Environment for Babel2

Babel2 is written in Common Lisp because we strongly believe that Lisp is the best programming language for doing what we do. What?s not so great about using Lisp is that setting up a proper Lisp environment can be difficult sometimes. But don?t surrender, it can be done and I hope this page will help you to succeed. If you get stuck or find problems with this instruction, don?t hesitate to contact us: pieter@?.

For running Babel2 you need three things: A Lisp environment, ?Gnuplot for creating graphs and ?Graphviz for network visualizations.

Babel2 runs on a number of Lisps, including ?Clozure Common Lisp (CCL) (version 1.5 is recommended), ?SBCL, ?Lispworks, and probably others. If you have one of these Lisps installed, then most of the work is already done and you only need to install the other two tools. Note that Babel2 will not work if your Lisp doesn?t support threads.

If you don?t have a Lisp on your machine, then I recommend you to install ?CCL as a Lisp implementation, ?Emacs as an editor and development environment (don?t frown, it?s still better than vi) and ?Slime for the communication between the lisp and emacs. Computer experts feel free to install any of the above Lisps (plus gnuplot and graphviz, please note that Babel2 will not run in the free Lispworks Personal Edition because it has a heap size limit) and all others follow the instructions for their operating system below:

- Mac
- Windows
- Linux
- when everything failed

Good luck!