Continuity of Government—A Network Approach to Cabinet Level Positions

Number of Officials (As of June 6, 2008)

The Greatest Connected Component

Is there a Starter Cabinet Position?

- In the graph on the right, arcs represent subsequent cabinet positions held by the same individual.
- In the aggregate, cabinet positions with a net outflow may be regarded as less prestigious than cabinet positions with a net inflow.
- Rationale: In the aggregate, once an individual has held a cabinet position, s/he will not accept a different one unless it is more desirable.

2 Mode Conceptualization of the Cabinet Network

Nodes are both people and offices. This allows for a more nuanced capturing of an administration. High inflow degree for a particular cabinet position indicates high turnover for that particular position (Attorney General (4); Secretary of the Treasury (4)). High outflow for a particular individual might indicate high confidence placed in him/her by the President (Richardson (3)).

Breaks in Continuity

The following presidents did not have any cabinet members that were cabinet members for 30 or more days in a previous administration:

- Harrison, William
- Grant
- Carothers
- Cleveland
- Wilson

Cabinet Mobility Network

Arcs represent subsequent cabinet positions held by the same individual.