Example 1: Management Dashboards.

Observations on Current Visualization:

The management dashboard showcases a variety of data visualizations, each offering insights into different aspects of business performance. Enhancements in design would refine the communication of this information (datapine, n.d.).

- 1. **Comment on "Need a Makeover":** The dashboard, while functional, presents an opportunity for a design makeover to streamline the flow of information and improve interpretability (Lastiri, 2023).
- 2. **Agreement on Design Improvement:** The dashboard stands to gain from design improvements, particularly in the area of visual hierarchy and data emphasis (Krishnappa, 2022).
- Explanation for Design Improvement: A focused design improvement could include optimizing the color scheme for better distinguishing metrics and introducing interactive elements for a dynamic user experience. Simplifying visual elements to avoid overwhelming users can contribute to a more transparent, more actionable dashboard (Koytek, 2020; Kowieski, 2022).

Example 2: Sales Dashboards

Observations on Current Visualization:

The sales dashboard is designed to offer snapshots of key performance indicators like conversion rates and sales funnel progress. The visual layout provides a segmented view of various stages in the sales process (datapine, n.d.).

- 1. Comment on "Need a Makeover": The dashboard's use of different visualization types bar graphs, gauges, and numerical displays, offers variety. However, some elements, such as the gauges, might not be the most space-efficient way of displaying data (zebrabi, n.d.).
- 2. Agreement on Design Improvement: The design would benefit from improvements that could enhance data readability and space utilization (promptcloud, 2018).
- 3. Explanation for Design Improvement: Replacing the gauges with a more compact visualization could free up additional data or analysis space. Moreover, standardizing the color scheme across different charts would create a more cohesive look and assist in quicker data assessment (Koytek, 2020; zebrabi, n.d.).

Example 3: Decline of the school bus

Observations on Current Visualization:

The graph titled "Decline of the school bus" effectively conveys the transition in school transport methods, but it could be enhanced for better clarity and engagement (flowingdata, n.d.).

- 1. **Comment on "Need a Makeover":** The graph shows clear trends over time but might benefit from a design refresh to aid in storytelling and emphasize key findings (LOBEL, n.d.).
- 2. **Agreement on Design Improvement:** The current line graph is effective but could be improved. A more nuanced approach could further highlight the trends and make the data more relatable (LOBEL, n.d.; zebrabi, n.d.).
- 3. Explanation for Design Improvement: Introducing a more interactive design, perhaps with a slider to observe year-by-year changes, could provide a dynamic experience. Additionally, annotations indicating major societal shifts or policy changes could offer context to why these trends may have occurred. A dual-axis chart might also illustrate the proportion of students using each mode over time, offering a direct visual correlation between the rise of private vehicles and the decline in school bus usage (inforiver, n.d.; zebrabi, n.d.).

Design Principle Application in Data Visualization

For a deeper understanding of data visualization principles, consider the teachings of Edward Tufte, a pioneer in the field. Tufte emphasizes the importance of presenting information with clarity, precision, and efficiency. One of his fundamental principles is the "data-ink ratio," advocating for reducing non-essential ink to maximize the data's communication. This principle could be applied to refine the dashboards you are reviewing by minimizing non-data ink and maximizing the data presented (Rai, 2022).

Conclusion: Across these examples, the potential for design enhancement is evident. Whether improving visual hierarchy, increasing interactivity, or contextualizing data trends, each modification aims to transform raw numbers into a more compelling and actionable narrative. These adaptations streamline the flow of information and heighten the user's ability to engage with and derive insights from the data presented.

All The Best!

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