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MIS 505

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Module 2 Reflection

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There was a lot of work tied to this module, but that work was well worth it. I gained valuable experience with pivot tables and charts, and I deepened my understanding of Tableau. I began listening to the “Storytelling with Data” podcast this week, which is a nice supplement to the actual textbook. The assignments tied to this week were very helpful with practice in Excel and with theory. I submitted a couple of questions about the assignments (on Wednesday). Although I didn’t receive a response, I did my best to work out the solutions on my own.

I had some experience with pivot tables from a previous course, but I still felt like I needed more practice. This week gave me plenty of useful repetitive practice, as well as a reference for future pivot chart work. I had struggled with the concept of moving the same Pivot Table Field into both rows and values. One example is moving “property\_type” into Rows, and then moving “property\_type” into Values, to obtain the count. This makes sense now, looking back on it, but that hadn’t really made sense before.

The Tableau tutorials provided a significant time challenge, but they were also very useful. For some of the videos, I found that the workbook example did not exactly match the video. My view settings were also not exactly the same as the presenter. Because of this, it was a challenge to follow-along with the tutorial in those cases. It was helpful that there were a large number of individual tutorials, making it so that any technical difficulties with one video were not universally an issue.

This week has really been fun for me, as I have explored the world of data visualization. I connected with Cole Knalfic on Twitter, commenting on a post and even getting a “like.” I also followed Tableau Software on Twitter, watching some of the “Iron Viz” highlights from #data19, the 2019 Tableau Conference. I would like to attend a Tableau Conference in the future, although I realize that those offerings may be limited for a while. I hope to gain some more practice with pivot tables and Tableau in the weeks to come, and I look forward to making more connections in the data visualization community in the future.