Job Aid: Lay Out the Data Visualization

Overview: There are five steps involved in laying out the data visualization. These steps provide you the tools to ensure that the data visualization you create relays information in a way that is quick and easy to understand and interpret for your specific audience (Executive, Departmental or Analyst Audience).

Directions: You should use the steps and checklist given below while you work through the scenario practice. As you go through each step, check the box to the right to show it has been completed. You may take down any notes/comments you find helpful under the comments section. You can print this job aid for your convenience.

| No. | Steps | Check | Comments |
|-----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|----------|
| 1 | Create the visual flow of the data on the dashboard so that it directs visual attention from the most important to the least important information. | | |
| 1.1 | Place data, based on importance, in the visualization from left to right using this general Z-pattern. 1. Logo | | |
| 1.2 | Verify that the data visualization signals you to look in places with the most important information before looking at less important information. | | |
| 2 | Identify the layout of the data visualization/dashboard appropriate for your audience. | | |



| No. | Steps | Check | Comments |
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| 2.3 | If you have an Analyst Audience , you should generally use the following layout: 1. Logo 2. Title Clear Structure or Question 3. Main Graph 1 Compare performance across products/services & other dimensions such as time (e.g. bar chart, combination chart, line chart) 7. Main Table Use cross tables(pivot tables) to show proportion of sample within interesting categories (e.g. heavy viewers in premium vs non-premium categories) Option 1 Option 1 | | |
| 3. | Use the Pre-Attentive Attributes , Tufte Guidelines and Gestalt Principles to emphasize important information and direct the audience where to look. | | |
| 4 | After creating the initial visual flow and audience layout, ask yourself the following questions: | | |
| 4.1 | What is the first thing you notice about the visualization? | | |
| 4.2 | Does the data visualization signal you to look at the most important items first? Does it signal you where to look at all? (Is the title easily seen and understood? Is there a title at all? Are important elements emphasized?) | | |
| 4.3 | Do the items that are most important standout, or is it confusing to understand where you should look? | | |
| 5 | Revise the data visualization/dashboard based on the answers to the questions given in Step 4. | | |