Cyclistic Bike-Share Analysis

Neeraj Kumar

01 March, 2025

1. Introduction

Project Title: How Does a Bike-Share Navigate Speedy Success?

Company: Cyclistic Bike

Objective: To analyze how casual riders and annual members use Cyclistic bikes differently and provide insights for converting casual riders into annual members.

Business Task: The marketing team at Cyclistic aims to increase the number of annual memberships. Understanding the differences in usage patterns between casual riders and annual members will help design a targeted marketing strategy.

2. Scenario

Cyclistic operates a fleet of more than 5,800 bicycles which can be accessed from over 600 docking stations across the city. Bikes can be borrowed from one docking station, ridden, then returned to any docking stations. Over the years marketing campaigns have been broad and targeted a cross-section of potential users. Data analysis has shown that riders with an annual membership are more profitable than casual riders. Lily Moreno, the director of marketing, wants to implement a new marketing strategy in order to convert casual riders into annual members. She believes that with the right campaign there is a very good chance of such conversions between the user types. There are also user-friendly bike options include such as electric bikes, classic bikes and docked bikes. It makes Cyclistic services more inclusive to people. Lily has tasked the marketing analytics team to analyze past user data of one year to find trends and habits of Cyclistic's users to help create this marketing campaign. The marketing analyst team would like to know:

- How annual members and casual riders differ
- Why casual riders would buy a membership
- How Cyclistic can use digital media to influence casual riders to become members.

Here I have to analyze the Cyclistic historical bike trip data to identify trends in the usage of bikes by casual and member riders.

3. **Phase 1: Ask**

3.0.1 Business objective

The business objective of the case study is to identify opportunities for targeted marketing campaigns to **convert casual riders into annual members**. This will be done through **analysis of bike trip data and understanding user behavior and preferences**. The ultimate goal is to increase profitability and drive future growth for the company.

3.0.2 Business task

As an analyst my take is to do following:-

- Analyze Cyclistic's historical bike trip data
- Identify trends and Patterns in usage of bikes by casual and member riders
- Understand behavior and preferences of these two user groups
- Identify opportunities for targeted marketing campaigns to convert casual riders into annual members
- Use insights from analysis to inform development of new marketing strategy for the company
- Goal increase profitability and drive future growth.

3.0.3 Stakeholders

The Stakeholders in this case study include:

- **Lily Moreno**: Director of Marketing at Cyclistic, who is responsible for implementing the marketing campaigns at Cyclistic.
- **Cyclistic's marketing team**: They will be responsible for conducting the analysis and developing the marketing strategy based on the insights gained.
- Cyclistic's investors and shareholders: They have a financial interest in the company's success and may be interested in the results of the analysis and any changes to the marketing strategy.

4. Phase 2: Prepare

4.0.1 Where is your data located?

The data for this analysis can be accessed through the provided <u>link</u>. It includes **12 months of historical trip data from Cyclistic**, a fictional bike share company based in Chicago. It should be noted that the data is public and can be used to explore how different customer types are using Cyclistic bikes.

4.0.2 How is the Data Organized?

For this project, the data used consists of **monthly CSV files** from the **past 12 months** (January 2021 - December 2021). The files include 13 columns of information related to

ride details, such as **ride id, ridership type, ride time, start and end locations, and geographic coordinates...etc.** The data is organized in a way that allows for **analysis of trends and patterns** in the usage of Cyclistic's bike share services.

4.0.3 Credibility of data

Motivate, Inc. collected the <u>data</u> for this analysis directly through its management of the Cyclistic Bike Share program for the City of Chicago. The data is **comprehensive and consistent**, as it includes information on all rides taken by users and is not just a sample. It is also **current**, **as it is released on a monthly basis by the City of Chicago**. The data is made available to the public by the City of Chicago.

4.0.4 Licensing, privacy, security, and accessibility

The <u>data</u> used for this analysis has had all identifying information removed in order to protect the privacy of users. This limitation on the data does restrict the scope of the possible analysis, as it is not possible to determine whether casual riders are repeat users or residents of the Chicago area. The <u>data</u> is released under a <u>specific license</u> and is made available for use in this analysis.

4.0.5 Ability of Data to answer Business Questions

The available dataset is sufficient for the purpose of **answering the business question** regarding the differences in usage patterns between **annual members and casual riders**. Through detailed observation of the variables in the data, it has been determined that **casual riders typically pay for individual or daily rides, while member riders tend to purchase annual subscriptions.** This information is important in understanding the behavioral differences between the two groups and can be used to inform targeted marketing campaigns. Additional analysis of other variables in the data, such as ride duration and location, may provide further insights into the usage patterns of annual members and casual riders.

4.0.6 Challenges with the data

The **Challenges** I faced during my data analysis are:

- Data preparation identified several issues, including duplicate records and missing fields...etc, which were addressed through data cleaning
- Large amount of data (1.2 GB) required working with segments rather than attempting to use diskframe functions
- Data cleaning, removal of unnecessary variables, and saving to CSV file on hard drive allowed for efficient processing and analysis of data
- Specialized tools or techniques, were necessary for working with large amounts of data. Tools like Excel failed to handle this amount of data R and Tableau were used.

5. Phase 3: Data Process

5.0.1 What tools are you choosing and why?

- In order to efficiently prepare, process, clean, analyze, and visualize the data for
 this project, I selected RStudio Desktop as the primary tool. The large size of the
 dataset made it impractical to use tools such as Microsoft Excel or Google
 Sheets, and RStudio Cloud was also unable to handle the volume of data.
 RStudio Desktop provided the necessary capabilities to effectively work with the
 data and generate meaningful insights.
- In addition to RStudio Desktop, I also utilized Tableau to create visualizations for this project. The powerful data visualization capabilities of Tableau allowed me to effectively communicate the results of the analysis and highlight key trends and patterns in the data.
- Overall, the combination of RStudio Desktop and Tableau proved to be a powerful toolkit for preparing, processing, cleaning, analyzing, and visualizing the data for this project

5.0.2 Review of Data

In order to gain an understanding of the data and its potential for analysis, a review was conducted to assess the content of the variables, the **format of the data**, and the **integrity of the data**. This initial review provided an overview of the data and helped to identify any potential issues or challenges that would need to be addressed in the preparation and analysis process.

Data review involved the following:

- Checking column names across all the 12 original files.
- Checking for missing values.
- Checking of white spaces.
- Checking of duplicate records.
- Other data anomalies.

Results of the review found following things:

- Duplicate record of ID numbers.
- Records with missing start or end station name.
- Records with very short or very long ride duration.
- Records for trips starting or ending at an administrative station (repair or testing station).

All 12 files were combined into one data set after initial review was completed. The final data set consisted of **5733451 rows** with **13 columns** of character and numeric data. This matched the number of records in all 12 monthly data files.

5.0.3 **Setting up environment**

```
#load packages
library(tidyverse)
library(lubridate)
library(janitor)
library(data.table)
library(readr)
library(psych)
library(hrbrthemes)
library(ggplot2)
```

5.0.4 Data Validation

To enable more efficient and comprehensive analysis, it was necessary to upload
the individual data files into new vectors and combine them into a single, large
dataset. This process involved merging the data frames into a cohesive whole,
allowing for more effective analysis and interpretation of the data.

```
#Import Data
january_2021 <- read.csv("CyclisticBike/202101-divvy-tripdata.csv")
february_2021 <- read.csv("CyclisticBike/202102-divvy-tripdata.csv")
march_2021 <- read.csv("CyclisticBike/202103-divvy-tripdata.csv")
april_2021 <- read.csv("CyclisticBike/202104-divvy-tripdata.csv")
may_2021 <- read.csv("CyclisticBike/202105-divvy-tripdata.csv")
june_2021 <- read.csv("CyclisticBike/202106-divvy-tripdata.csv")
july_2021 <- read.csv("CyclisticBike/202107-divvy-tripdata.csv")
august_2021 <- read.csv("CyclisticBike/202108-divvy-tripdata.csv")
september_2021 <- read.csv("CyclisticBike/202109-divvy-tripdata.csv")
october_2021 <- read.csv("CyclisticBike/202110-divvy-tripdata.csv")
november_2021 <- read.csv("CyclisticBike/202111-divvy-tripdata.csv")
december_2021 <- read.csv("CyclisticBike/202111-divvy-tripdata.csv")</pre>
```

 To ensure the accuracy and integrity of the combined dataset, it was necessary to verify that the column names in the individual data files were compatible for merging. This involved comparing the names and ensuring that they matched perfectly, regardless of their order. This step was crucial to enable the use of a command to join the data into a single file.

```
#Data Validation
colnames(january_2021)
colnames(february_2021)
colnames(march_2021)
colnames(april_2021)
colnames(may_2021)
colnames(june_2021)
colnames(july_2021)
colnames(august_2021)
colnames(september_2021)
colnames(october_2021)
colnames(november_2021)
colnames(december_2021)
```

• The **total number of records** in all 12 monthly data files was calculated to be **5733451 rows** and **13 columns**. This information provides an overview of the **size** and **scope of the data**, which can be helpful in planning and executing the analysis process.

```
#Total number of rows
sum(nrow(january_2021) + nrow(february_2021) + nrow(march_2021) +
nrow(april_2021)
+ nrow(may_2021) + nrow(june_2021) + nrow(july_2021) + nrow(august_2021)
+ nrow(september_2021) + nrow(october_2021) + nrow(november_2021) +
nrow(december_2021))
```

 In the next step, the monthly data frames were aggregated into a single data frame. This involved combining the data from each of the monthly files into a cohesive whole, allowing for more efficient and comprehensive analysis of the data. Aggregating the data in this way also made it easier to identify trends and patterns across the entire dataset, rather than having to analyze the data for each month separately.

```
#Combine Data of 12 month into one
trip_merge <-
rbind(january_2021,february_2021,march_2021,april_2021,may_2021,june_2021,
july_2021,august_2021,september_2021,october_2021,november_2021,
december_2021)</pre>
```

After aggregating the monthly data frames into a single data frame, the resulting combined dataset was written to a new file and saved to the hard drive. This allows for easier access to the data for further analysis and visualization, and ensures that the data is available for future reference. Saving the data to a file on the hard drive also ensures that it is backed up and protected against accidental loss or damage.

```
# Save the combined files
write.csv(trip_final,file = "data/trip_final.csv",row.names = FALSE)
```

After being saved to the hard drive, the data was once again subjected to
validation in order to ensure its accuracy, completeness, and consistency. This
process involved reviewing the data for errors or inconsistencies, checking for
missing or incomplete records, and verifying that the data met the requirements
and expectations of the analysis.

```
#Final data validation
colnames(trip_merge)
str(trip_merge)
View(head(trip_merge))
View(tail(trip_merge))
dim(trip_merge)
summary(trip_merge)
```

6. Phase 4: Data Cleaning

In this stage, I performed data cleaning to **identify and correct or remove errors or inconsistencies from the data**. This will involve a variety of techniques, such as correcting errors in data entry, **removing duplicates** or **incorrect records**, and **standardizing data formats** to ensure compatibility with analysis tools. Data cleaning is an important step in the data analysis process, as it helps to ensure that the **data is accurate and reliable**, and that the results of the analysis are **meaningful and useful**.

 Before beginning the data cleaning process, it is necessary to check the total number of rows with missing or "NA" values. Understanding the extent of missing or incomplete data helps to inform decisions about how to handle these values, such as whether to drop them from the dataset or impute them with estimates or substitute values.

```
#Count rows with "na" values
colSums(is.na(trip_merge))
```

• To ensure the integrity and reliability of the data, it is necessary to remove a certain percentage of missing or "NA" values. In this case, the missing values will be removed and saved into a new data frame.

```
#Remove missing
clean_trip <- trip_merge[complete.cases(trip_merge), ]</pre>
```

Removing duplicates helps to ensure that the data is as complete and accurate
as possible, and that the results of the analysis are not unduly influenced by
duplicate or erroneous data.

```
#Remove duplicates
clean_trip <- distinct(clean_trip)</pre>
```

 To further refine and clean the data, it is necessary to remove empty, "NA", and missing values. This can be achieved through the use of functions such as drop_na(), remove_empty(), and remove_missing()

```
#Remove na, empty, missing
clean_trip <- drop_na(clean_trip)
clean_trip <- remove_empty(clean_trip)
clean_trip <- remove_missing(clean_trip)</pre>
```

• Now, it is necessary to filter out records where the value of the "started_at" variable is greater than the value of the "ended_at" variable. This can help to ensure that the data is accurate and meaningful

```
#Remove data with greater start_at than end_at
clean_trip<- clean_trip %>%
  filter(started_at < ended_at)</pre>
```

• To improve the clarity and understanding of the data, it is necessary to change a few column names. This involve's renaming columns to more accurately reflect their content, or to use more descriptive or intuitive names.

```
#Renaming column for better context
clean_trip <- rename(clean_trip, costumer_type = member_casual,
bike_type = rideable_type)</pre>
```

• To facilitate more **granular analysis** of the data, additional columns were **created** for the **date**, **month**, **day**, **year**, **and day of the week** based on the "**started_at**" column. This allowed for more detailed analysis of the data by specific dates, days, or months, and helped to identify trends and patterns that may not have been apparent when analyzing the data at a more general level.

```
#Separate date in date, day, month, year for better analysis
clean_trip$date <- as.Date(clean_trip$started_at)
clean_trip$week_day <- format(as.Date(clean_trip$date), "%A")
clean_trip$month <- format(as.Date(clean_trip$date), "%b_%y")
clean_trip$year <- format(clean_trip$date, "%Y")</pre>
```

• Similarly a new column was created just for the time in "%H:%M" format.

```
#Separate column for time
clean_trip$time <- as.POSIXct(clean_trip$started_at, format = "%Y-%m-%d
%H:%M:%S")
clean_trip$time <- format(clean_trip$time, format = "%H:%M")</pre>
```

• To gain a better understanding of the duration of rides, a column was created to calculate the duration of rides based on the start and end time of each ride. This allows for more detailed analysis of ride duration's, and can help to identify trends and patterns in the data.

```
#Add ride length column
clean_trip$ride_length <- difftime(clean_trip$ended_at,
clean_trip$started_at, units = "mins")</pre>
```

• To focus the analysis on the variables of interest, data that will not be used for this analysis was filtered out. This was done using the "select()" function to select only the relevant variables.

```
#Select the data we are going to use
clean_trip <- clean_trip %>%
select(bike_type, costumer_type, month, year, time, started_at, week_day,
ride_length)
```

To ensure the accuracy and reliability of the data, it is necessary to get rid of
excessively long rides, as these may be considered stolen by Cyclistic. Rides are
typically limited to a duration of one day or 1440 minutes, or 24 hours also data
below 5 minutes was removed due to it begin too small for affecting this analysis.

```
#Remove stolen bikes
clean_trip <- clean_trip[!clean_trip$ride_length>1440,]
clean_trip <- clean_trip[!clean_trip$ride_length<5,]</pre>
```

• Before moving on to the **next phase** of the data analysis process, it is important to perform **one final check** to ensure that all necessary data cleaning and preparation steps have been completed.

```
#Check Cleaned data
colSums(is.na(clean_trip))
View(filter(clean_trip, clean_trip$ride_length > 1440 |
clean_trip$ride_length < 5))</pre>
```

• Once all necessary data cleaning and preparation steps have been completed, **the** data can be saved to the hard disk as a csy file.

```
#Save the cleaned data
write.csv(clean_trip,file = "CyclisticBike/clean_trip.csv",row.names = FALSE)
```

7. Phase 5: Data analysis

During the **Data analysis phase**, I **explored the data** in order to gain a better understanding of its **characteristics and patterns**. I **created charts**, **graphs**, **and other types of visualizations** to help visualize the data and identify trends. I also used **statistical techniques**, such as regression analysis, to identify relationships between different variables in the data. By analyzing the data in this way, I was able to **extract insights and knowledge** that could inform **business decisions and support decision making**.

• To begin the analysis phase, I **imported the cleaned** and prepared trip data into my analysis software. I conducted a thorough **validation of the data** to ensure that it was **accurate and free of errors**.

```
#import the cleaned data
clean_trip <- read_csv("CyclisticBike/clean_trip.csv")
str(clean_trip)
names(clean_trip)</pre>
```

• To better facilitate my analysis, I **sorted the month and week day** variables in the trip data in ascending order. This allowed me to **easily compare and analyze trends across different time periods and days of the week.**

```
#order the data
clean_trip$month <-
ordered(clean_trip$month,levels=c("Jan_21","Feb_21","Mar_21","Apr_21"
,"May_21","Jun_21","Jul_21","Aug_21"
,"Sep_21","Oct_21","Nov_21","Dec_21"))</pre>
```

As a first step in my analysis, I calculated key summary statistics for ride length, including the minimum, maximum, median, and average values. These values provided a broad overview of the distribution of ride lengths among Cyclistic's customers and allowed me to identify any extreme values or unusual patterns in the data.

```
#Analysis:- min, max, median, average
View(describe(clean_trip$ride_length, fast=TRUE))
```

 As a next step in my analysis, I examined the distribution of Cyclistic's customers by membership type. This included breaking down the data by annual members and casual riders.

```
#Total no. of customers
View(table(clean_trip$costumer_type))
```

Continuing my analysis, I calculated the total number of rides taken by each
customer type, as well as the total duration of these rides in minutes. This analysis
allowed me to understand the overall usage patterns of Cyclistic's bike share
service among different customer types

• In my next analysis, I focused specifically on **comparing the ride length patterns of annual members and casual riders**. To do this, I calculated key summary statistics, including the **mean, median, maximum, and minimum values**, for ride length among these two customer types.

• In my subsequent analysis, I focused on analyzing the average ride length of Cyclistic's users by day of the week, as well as the total number of rides taken on each day of the week.

```
#Average ride_length for users by day_of_week and Number of total rides by day_of_week
View(clean_trip %>%
```

• After this, I analyzed the **number of average rides taken by Cyclistic's users by month**. This analysis allowed me to understand the **seasonal fluctuations** in usage of the bike share service, and to identify any **trends or patterns** in usage levels over the **course of a year**.

Now, I compared the average ride length of Cyclistic's users by week day
according to customer type. This analysis allowed me to understand how the
behavior and usage patterns of annual members and casual riders differed from
one another on different days of the week.

• In my next analysis, I compared the average ride length of Cyclistic's users by month according to customer type.

 Here, I analyzed the ride length data of Cyclistic's users by customer type and weekday. This allowed me to understand the behavior and usage patterns of annual members and casual riders on different days of the week.

 Here, I analyzed the ride length data of Cyclistic's users by customer type and month.

```
median_duration = median(ride_length),
max_duration = max(ride_length),
min_duration = min(ride_length)))
```

The data was then written to a new file next phase of data visualization.

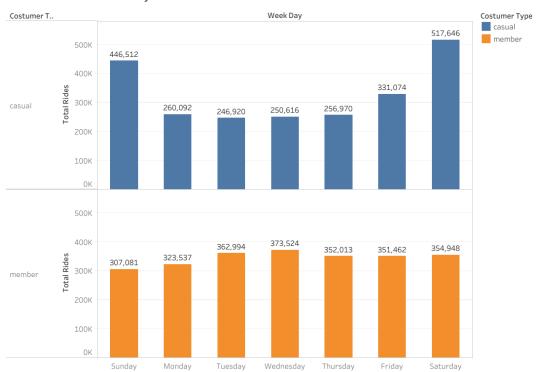
```
#Save the data for data visualization
write.csv(clean_trip,file = "CyclisticBike/trip_tableau.csv",row.names =
FALSE)
```

8. Phase 6: Data Visualizations and Summary

8.0.1 Visualization 1

• This visualization shows the total number of rides per day of the week for each customer type. It appears that casual riders have the highest number of rides on Saturdays and Sundays, potentially indicating leisurely use of the bikes on the weekends. Meanwhile, members have a more consistent number of rides throughout the week, with slightly higher numbers on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. This suggests that members may primarily use the bikes for their regular commuting needs.

Total Rides Vs Week Days

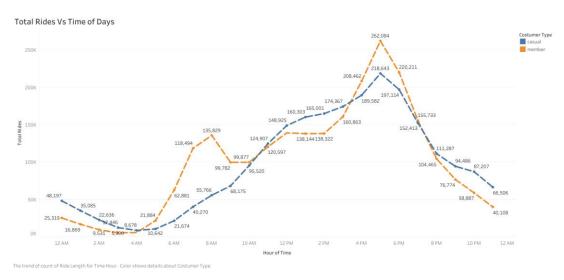


Count of Ride Length for each Week Day broken down by Costumer Type. Color shows details about Costumer Type.

8.0.2 Visualization 2

• This plot demonstrates that annual members tend to use the bikes more frequently during rush hour, potentially for commuting to and from work. On the other hand, casual riders show a more steady increase in usage throughout the

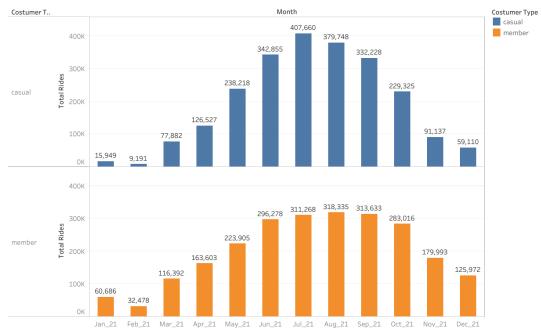
day, with a peak at around 6pm and a steady decrease thereafter. This suggests that casual riders may be using the bikes more for leisure activities. These insights provide valuable information on the different usage patterns of annual members and casual riders, which can inform strategies for promoting the bike share program and targeting different customer segments.



8.0.3 Visualization 3

This plot shows the monthly usage trends of bike sharing among annual members and casual riders. It appears that there is a higher demand for bike usage during the summer months for both customer types, with casual riders showing a slightly higher demand. On the other hand, the demand for bike usage among casual riders decreases significantly in the winter months, while annual members continue to use the service at a relatively consistent rate throughout the year. This further supports our analysis that annual members may rely on the bike sharing service for their regular commute, while casual riders may use it more for leisure and recreational purposes.

Total Rides Vs Months

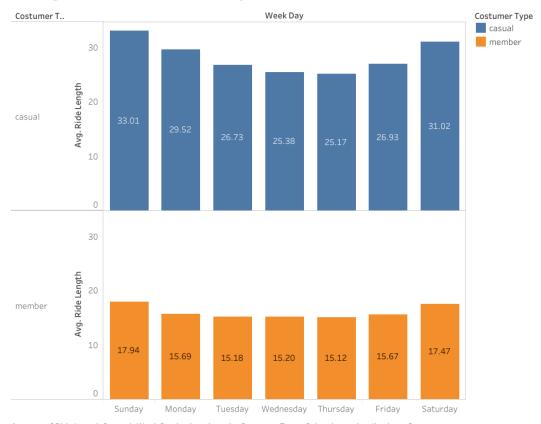


Count of Ride Length for each Month broken down by Costumer Type. Color shows details about Costumer Type.

8.0.4 Visualization 4

In this plot between the Avg. Ride duration and Week days, It is clear that casual riders tend to use the bike share service primarily on weekends for leisure or recreational purposes, while annual members use the service more consistently throughout the week, possibly for commuting to work or other daily activities. This information could be useful for Cyclistic in terms of understanding how to target marketing efforts and potentially adjusting pricing or membership plans to better meet the needs of these different customer groups.

Average Ride Duration Vs Week Days

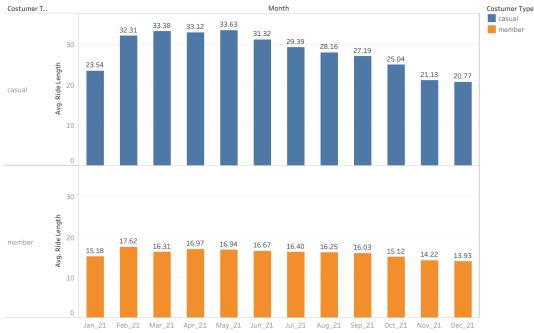


 $\label{thm:continuous} Average of Ride Length for each Week Day broken down by Costumer Type. \ Color shows details about Costumer Type.$

8.0.5 Visualization 5

To summarize, the analysis of the plot showed that annual members and casual riders use the bike-sharing service differently. Annual members tend to use the bikes for their regular commutes, with a steadier usage throughout the week and year. Casual riders, on the other hand, tend to use the bikes more for leisure, with higher usage on weekends and in the summer months. Additionally, the average ride length for casual riders was found to be longer than that of annual members. These findings can inform business decisions and support decision making for the bike-sharing company.

Average Ride Length Vs Month

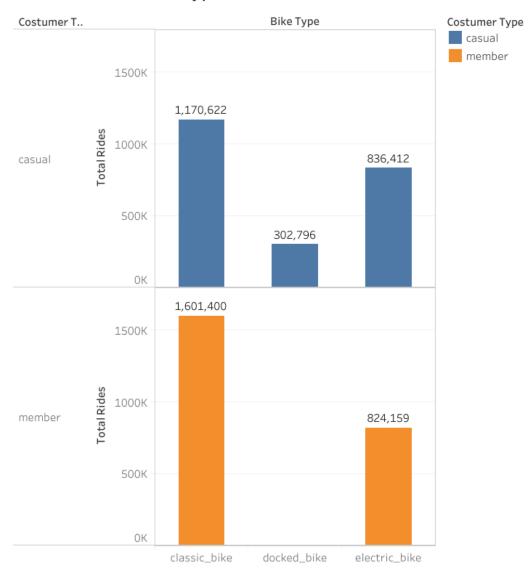


Average of Ride Length for each Month broken down by Costumer Type. Color shows details about Costumer Type.

8.0.6 Visualization 6

• The analysis of bike type usage showed that members prefer classic bikes over electric and docked bikes, while casual riders have similar usage of electric bikes and a slightly higher preference for docked bikes. It was unclear from the data sets what exactly is meant by "docked bikes," but it is evident that this type of bike is not a popular choice for annual members as no member used it over the year. Overall, both groups showed a preference for classic bikes over the other options.

Total Rider Vs Bike Type

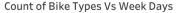


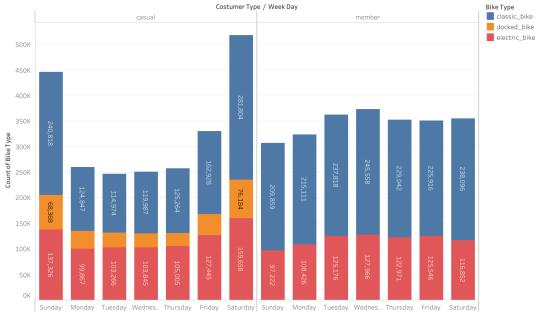
Count of Ride Length for each Bike Type broken down by Costumer Type. Color shows details about Costumer Type.

8.0.7 Visualization 7

Additionally, this graph indicates that classic bikes are the most popular choice among both members and casual riders, followed by electric bikes. Docked bikes are the least popular choice. It is worth noting that the popularity of classic bikes among annual members is much higher compared to casual riders. This could suggest that annual members have a preference for classic bikes over the other options, possibly due to their reliability and simplicity. On the other hand, casual riders seem to have a more balanced distribution of bike choices, with electric bikes being a close second in popularity. Overall, this graph provides

insights into the preferences and habits of bike-sharing service users, which could be useful for the company in terms of marketing and resource allocation.





 ${\tt Count \, of \, Bike \, Type \, for \, each \, Week \, Day \, broken \, down \, by \, Costumer \, Type. \, \, Color \, shows \, details \, about \, Bike \, Type.}$

9. **Phase 7: Act**

9.0.1 Key Takeaways:

- Annual members primarily use the bike-sharing service for commuting purposes, while casual riders tend to use it for leisure, particularly on weekends and in the summer months.
- Annual members exhibit a more consistent usage of the service throughout the week and year, compared to casual riders.
- Both annual members and casual riders favor classic bikes over the other two types
 of bikes offered. However, annual members primarily use classic bikes and rarely
 use docked bikes, while casual riders are more likely to use all types of bikes.
- Casual riders tend to have longer ride duration's, averaging around 50% longer than annual members.
- Casual riders show lower usage of the service during the winter months compared to annual members.

9.0.2 Recommendations:

- **Targeted Promotions:** Offer discounts or incentives for casual riders during weekdays to encourage more frequent usage.
- **Subscription Benefits Highlighting:** Promote the cost-effectiveness and convenience of annual membership.

- **Optimized Station Placement:** Expand or adjust station locations based on user demand patterns.
- **Loyalty Programs:** Introduce a rewards system for casual riders to encourage membership conversion.

10. Phase 8: Conclusion

The analysis successfully identified key behavioral differences between casual and annual
riders. By leveraging these insights, Cyclistic can implement marketing strategies to boost
annual memberships, optimize station locations, and enhance customer engagement.

 -End of Case Study