

Interactive Data Visualization Project Diary

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Week 1

My plan for the week was to come up with a topic, look for some data that can be used for the visualization and do some exploration with the chosen tools on the data. All things considered, I feel like I managed everything quite well. I am a big fan of basketball and the game has become more statistics driven so I wanted to do something related to it. The NBA regular season is coming to an end this week so I decided that I want to compare how teams have done over the course of the 2021-2022 season.

For my data I have been using a site called Basketball Reference¹ which contains all sorts of basketball statistics. So far I have gathered some very basic data about the teams from the site. I have used the site before so finding a place for suitable data was easy. Some of the data is behind a paywall but I do not think I will need data at such a level of detail for this project. The official NBA website² also contains a good amount of statistics and Kaggle has a decent amount of data sets that could be used as well. Mainly, I will try to stick to Basketball Reference since I am most used to it.

The tools I will be using on the project are Python with Plotly³ and Dash⁴. I have not used these libraries before so this week has for a large part been about getting more acquainted with them. The tools look very promising and suitable for exactly this type of a project and at least some of my group has also planned to use the same tools which will certainly help.

¹<https://www.basketball-reference.com/>

²<https://www.nba.com/stats/>

³<https://plotly.com/python/>

⁴<https://dash.plotly.com/>

So far everything has gone smoothly since a large part of the week was getting the project initialized. The most difficult part could have been finding potential data sources but I already had knowledge about solid sources for suitable data beforehand. Next week I will start to actually build the application and get some basic visualization work done. After that I will think about how I can further visualize the data and try to come up with some potential design layouts for the application. I will most likely have to gather some more data for further visualization and at the very least fetch an updated version of the team data after the regular season actually comes to an end on Sunday.