# **Developing Custom Visuals for Power BI**

Setup Time: 60 minutes

Lab Folder: C:\DevCamp\CustomVisuals

**Overview**: In this lab, you will begin be installing the Power BI Custom Visual Tool (PBIVIZ). After that, you will use Node.js, the PBIVIZ utility and Visual Studio Code to create and debug custom visual projects within the context of a

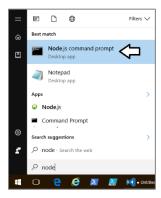
Power BI workspace.

Prerequisites: This lab assumes you've already installed Node.JS and Visual Studio Code.

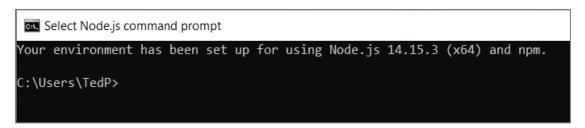
# **Exercise 1: Prepare Your PC for Developing Custom Visuals**

In this exercise you will install the Power BI Custom Visual Tool (PBIVIZ) and then install a self-signed SSL certificate which makes it possible to debug custom visual projects in Node.js using the local address of https://localhost.

- 1. Install the Power BI Custom Visual Tool (PBIVIZ).
  - a) Using the Windows Start menu, launch the **Node.js command prompt**.



b) You should now have an open Node.js command prompt.



c) Type and execute the following command to install the Power BI Custom Visual Tool (PBIVIZ).

```
npm install -g powerbi-visuals-tools
```

d) By inspecting the console output, you should be able to determine which version of the tools are being installed.

```
+ powerbi-visuals-tools@3.1.15
added 920 packages from 494 contributors in 37.563s
C:\Users\TedP>
```

- 2. Run the **pbiviz** --help command to discover what commands are available.
  - a) From the Node is command prompt, type and execute the following command.

```
pbiviz --help
```

b) You should see output in the console that lists the commands supported by the **pbiviz** utility.

```
C:\Users\TedP>pbiviz --help
Usage: pbiviz [options] [command]

Options:

-V, --version output the version number
--install-cert Creates and installs localhost certificate
-h, --help output usage information

Commands:

new [name] Create a new visual
info Display info about the current visual
start Start the current visual into a pbiviz file
update [version] Vpdates the api definitions and schemas in the current visual. Changes the version if specified
help [cmd] display help for [cmd]
```

c) Check the version of **pbiviz** by typing and executing the following command.

```
pbiviz --version
```

d) You should now see the version number of the **pbiviz** utility as output in the console window.

```
C:\Users\TedP>pbiviz --version
3.1.15
```

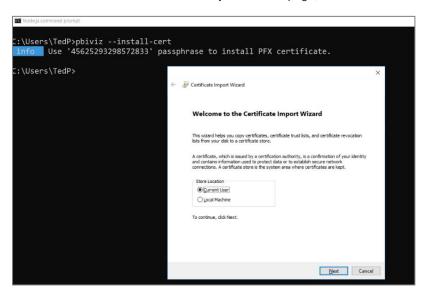
- 3. Install a self-signed SSL certificate to test and debug custom visuals using the <a href="https://localhost">https://localhost</a> domain.
  - a) In the Node.js command prompt, type and execute the following command.

```
pbiviz --install-cert
```

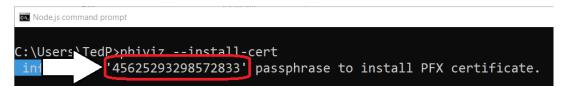
If you experience an error the first time you run the pbiviz --install-cert command, run the command a second time.

When you execute this command, you will be prompted by the **Certificate Import Wizard**. This wizard provides an interactive experience in which you will work to complete the process of installing the self-signed SSL certificate for **localhost**.

b) On the Welcome to the Certificate Import Wizard page, click Next.



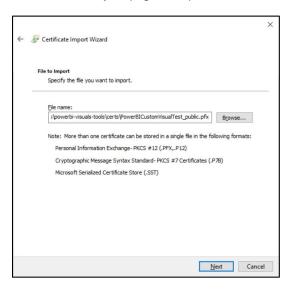
c) Navigate back to the console and copy the passphrase into the Windows clipboard.



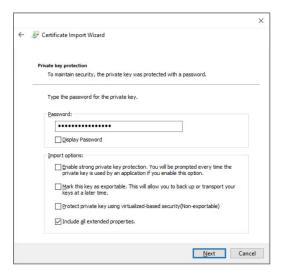
d) On the Welcome to the Certificate Import Wizard page, select Current User and then click Next.



e) On the File to Import page, accept the default File name value and click Next to continue.

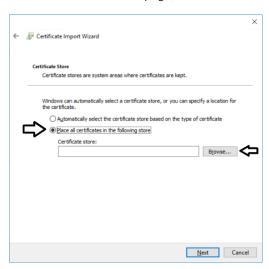


f) On the Private key protection page, paste the passphrase from the clipboard into the Password textbox and click Next.



It can be helpful to check the Display Password option so you can make sure there are no quotes at the start or end of the password.

g) On the Certificate Store page, select Place all certificates in the following store and then click the Browse... button.



h) In the Select Certificate Store dialog, select Trusted Root Certificate Authorities and click the OK button.



- i) On the **Certificate Store** page, click the **Next** button to continue.
- j) On the Completing the Certification Import Wizard page, click Finish.



k) If you see the following Security Warning dialog, click Yes to continue with the certificate installation.



You should be prompted with a dialog that tells you the certificate import was successful.

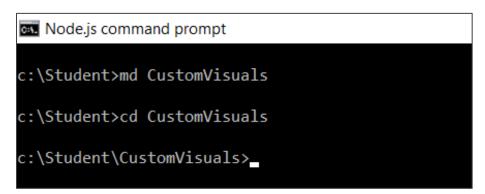


You have now installed the Power BI Custom Visual Tool (PBIVIZ) and a self-signed SSL certificate for the local debugging address of <a href="https://localhost">https://localhost</a>. You can now begin to create, test and debug custom visuals.

# **Exercise 2: Create and Debug a Simple Custom Visual**

In this exercise you will create and test out your first custom visual project using the PBIVIZ utility.

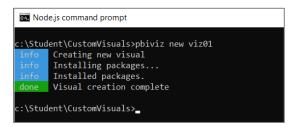
- 1. Create a new project for custom visual name viz01 using the pbiviz utility.
  - a) Return to the **Node.js** command prompt.
  - b) Type and execute **cd c:\Student** to switch the current path to the **c:\Student** folder.
  - c) Type and execute the command md CustomVisuals to create a new folder named c:\Student\CustomVisuals.
  - d) Type and execute **cd CustomVisuals** to switch the current path to the **c:\Student\CustomVisuals** folder.



e) Type and execute the following **pbiviz** command to create a new custom visual project named **viz01**.

pbiviz new viz01

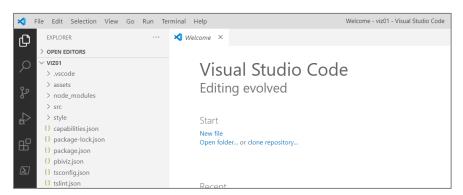
f) You should see output in the console window that the visual has been created successfully.



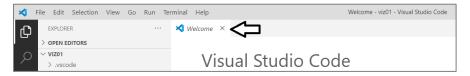
- 2. Open project using Visual Studio Code.
  - a) In the Node.js command prompt, type and execute cd viz01 to make the folder for this project the current directory
  - b) In the Node.js command prompt, type and execute **code**. to open the project with Visual Studio Code.



c) Visual Studio Code should start and open the root folder of the viz01 project.



d) Close the Welcome page if it's open.



- 3. Inspect the package.json file for your new project.
  - a) Open the the package.json file.



b) Inspect the dependencies and devDependencies sections to see what other packages have been installed.

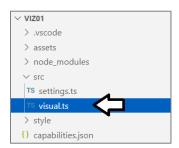
```
{} package.json > ...
        "name": "visual",
        "scripts": {
          "pbiviz": "pbiviz",
          "start": "pbiviz start",
          "package": "pbiviz package",
         "lint": "tslint -c tslint.json -p tsconfig.json"
 8
         'dependencies": {
          "@babel/runtime": "7.6.0",
10
          "@babel/runtime-corejs2": "7.6.0",
11
          "@types/d3": "5.7.2",
12
         "d3": "5.12.0",
13
          "powerbi-visuals-utils-dataviewutils": "2.2.1",
14
           "powerbi-visuals-api": "~2.6.1",
15
         "core-js": "3.2.1
16
17
18
         'devDependencies": {
          "ts-loader": "6.1.0".
19
          "tslint": "^5.18.0",
20
           "tslint-microsoft-contrib": "^6.2.0",
21
          "typescript": "3.6.3"
22
23
24
```

c) After you have inspected package.json, close this file without saving any changes.

Note that the new project will not include the latest version of the Power BI custom visuals API (powerbi-visuals-api). If you want to ensure you have the latest version of the Power BI custom visuals API, run the following command from the Terminal:

#### npm install powerbi-visuals-api@latest

- 4. Inspect what's inside visual.ts to see the TypeScript code automatically added by pbiviz when creating a new custom visual.
  - a) In Visual Studio Code, expand the **src** folder and locate file named **visual.ts** and double-click this file to open it.



b) Look inside the source file visual.ts and inspect the pre-provided code for the class named Visual.

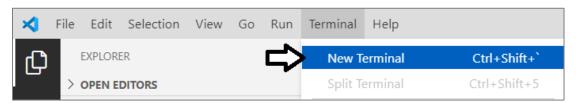
```
"use strict";
import "core-js/stable";
import "./../style/visual.less";
import powerbi from "powerbi-visuals-api";
import VisualConstructorOptions = powerbi.extensibility.visual.VisualConstructorOptions;
import VisualUpdateOptions = powerbi.extensibility.visual.VisualUpdateOptions;
import IVisual = powerbi.extensibility.visual.IVisual;
import EnumerateVisualObjectInstancesOptions = powerbi.EnumerateVisualObjectInstancesOptions;
import VisualObjectInstance = powerbi.VisualObjectInstance;
import DataView = powerbi.DataView;
import VisualObjectInstanceEnumerationObject = powerbi.VisualObjectInstanceEnumerationObject;
import { VisualSettings } from "./settings";
export class Visual implements IVisual {
    private target: HTMLElement;
    private updateCount: number;
   nrivate settings: VisualSettings:
```

c) Delete all the existing code from visual.ts and replace it with the following code.

```
import powerbi from "powerbi-visuals-api";
import VisualConstructorOptions = powerbi.extensibility.visual.VisualConstructorOptions;
import VisualUpdateOptions = powerbi.extensibility.visual.VisualUpdateOptions;
import IVisual = powerbi.extensibility.visual.IVisual;
import "./../style/visual.less"
export class Visual implements IVisual {
    private target: HTMLElement;
    private updateCount: number;
    constructor(options: VisualConstructorOptions) {
        console.log('Visual constructor', options);
        this.target = options.element;
        this.updateCount = 0;
    }
    public update(options: VisualUpdateOptions) {
        console.log('Visual update', options);
        this.target.innerHTML = `Update count: <em>${(this.updateCount++)}</em>`;
    }
}
```

FYI, You can copy and paste this code from C:\Student\Modules\08\_CustomVisuals\Lab\Snippets\Exercise2-Visual-Starter.ts.txt.

- 5. Open the Terminal so you can execute pbiviz commands from within Visual Studio Code.
  - a) In Visual Studio Code, select the Terminal > New Terminal command to display the Integrated Terminal.



You should now see a comand line prompt within Visual Studio Code.

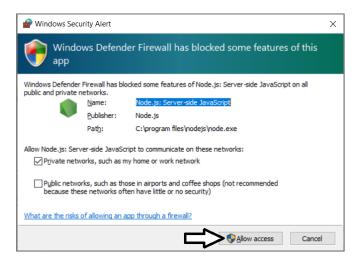


- 6. Use the start command of the pbiviz utility to start a debugging session for the viz01 custom visual project.
  - a) Place your cursor at the command prompt in the Terminal.
  - b) Type and execute the following command to start a debugging session for the viz01 project.

## pbiviz start

c) If you examine the console output, you can see that the web server provided by Node.js for debugging has started and is listening for incoming HTTP requests on https://localhost:8080.

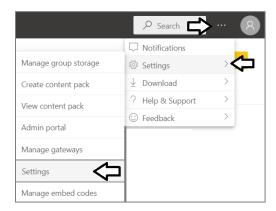
d) If you are prompted with a Windows Security Alert dialog concerning firewall blocking, click Allow access.



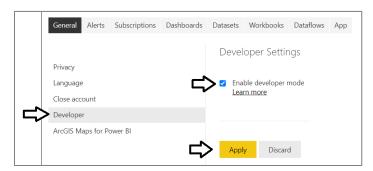
e) The console in the Terminal should now be blocked indicating the custom visual project is ready for debugging.

```
DONE Compiled successfully in 1966ms
  | wdm]: Hash: 592df8c2ce33a0121f6b
Version: webpack 4.45.0
Time: 1966ms
Built at: 01/10/2021 5:36:13 PM
                                                           Size Chunks
                                                                                                 Chunk Names
                                             Asset
..\build\.tmp\precompile\visualPlugin.d.ts 261 bytes
                                                                             [emitted]
                      ..\build\src\visual.d.ts 506 bytes
                                                                              [emitted]
                                     pbiviz.json 10.3 KiB
                                                                              [emitted]
                                           status
                                                      57 bytes
                                                                             [emitted]
                                       visual.css 132 bytes
                                                                             [emitted]
                                                                                                  visual.js
                                                                             [emitted] [dev]
                                  visual.css.map 324 bytes
                                                                                                 visual.js
                                       visual.js 6.74 KiB
                                                                        0
                                                                             [emitted]
                                                                                                  visual.is
                                   visual.is.map
                                                                         0 [emitted] [dev]
                                                                                                 visual.is
Entrypoint visual.js = visual.css visual.js visual.css.map visual.js.map
 [0] ./src/visual.ts 1.18 KiB {0} [built]
 [1] multi ./.tmp/precompile/visualPlugin.ts 28 bytes {0} [built]
[2] ./.tmp/precompile/visualPlugin.ts 759 bytes {0} [built] [3] external "Function('return this')()" 42 bytes {0} [built]
 [4] ./style/visual.less 39 bytes {0} [built]
 [] css C:/Users/TedP/AppData/Roaming/npm/node_modules/powerbi-visuals-tools/node_modules/css-loader/dist/cjs.js!C:/Users/Ted
bi-visuals-tools/node_modules/less-loader/dist/cjs.js??ref--6-2!./style/visual.less 93 bytes {0}
Child mini-css-extract-plugin ./../../users/TedP/AppData/Roaming/npm/node_modules/powerbi-visuals-tools/node_modules/css-loader/dist/cjs.js??ref--6-2!style/visual.less
     Entrypoint mini-css-extract-plugin = *
[0] C:/Users/TedP/AppData/Roaming/npm/node_modules/powerbi-visuals-tools/node_modules/css-loader/dist/cjs.js!C:/Users/Trbi-visuals-tools/node_modules/less-loader/dist/cjs.js??ref--6-2!./style/visual.less 408 bytes {0} [built]
     [1] C:/Users/TedP/AppData/Roaming/npm/node_modules/powerbi-visuals-tools/node_modules/css-loader/dist/runtime/api.js 2.4
i | wdm]: Compiled successfully.
```

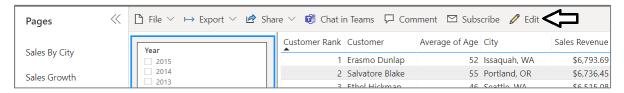
- 7. Test visual by loading it into the Power BI environment.
  - a) Log into our personal workspace at https://app.powerbi.com.
  - b) Once you have logged into your personal workspace, drop down the Power BI Setting menu (it's the one with the gear icon) and then select the **Settings** menu command as shown in the following dialog.



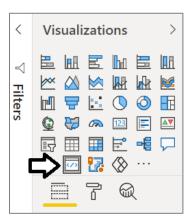
c) Select Developer on the left and then select the Enable developer visual for testing checkbox.



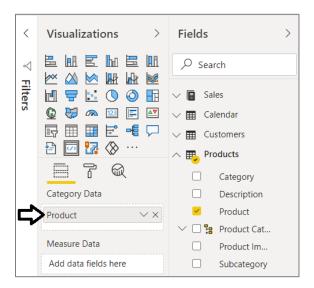
- d) Now navigate to any report in your workspace. It doesn't matter what report you use as long as you have a report.
- e) Move the report into edit mode by clicking the **Edit** button.



- f) Add a new page to the report so you have a blank report page to work with.
- g) Add an instance of the **Developer Visual** to the page.

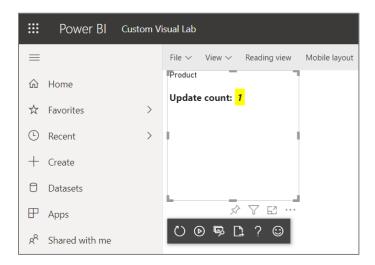


h) Select the developer visual and then add a field into the Category Data well in the Fields pane.



It doesn't really matter which field you add. However, you must add at least one field for the visual rendering to occur properly.

i) You should now see the custom visual for viz01 on the report page render inside the developer visual.



j) Resize the visual by dragging and dropping the lower right corner of the visual with the mouse. You should see the **Update count** total increase whenever you resize the visual.



- 8. Modify the code in the **update** function of the custom visual.
  - a) Return to Visual Studio Code.
  - b) Open the source file visual.ts.
  - c) Inside visual.ts, locate the update method which should currently match the following code listing.

```
public update(options: VisualUpdateOptions) {
   console.log('Visual update', options);
   this.target.innerHTML = `Update count: <em>${(this.updateCount++)}</em>`;
}
```

Replace the code in the update method by copying and pasting the following code.

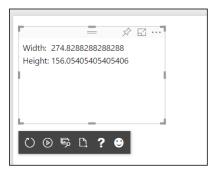
```
public update(options: VisualUpdateOptions) {
   console.log('Visual update', options);
   this.target.innerHTML =
      `
        widh:\{options.viewport.width}
        Height:\{options.viewport.height}
        Height:\{options.viewport.height}
        + (table);
}
```

You can copy and paste this code from C:\Student\Modules\08\_CustomVisuals\Lab\Snippets\Exercise2-Replace-Update-Function.ts.txt.

- e) After you have updated the update method, save your changes to the file visual.ts.
- f) When you save visual.ts, you will notice that the Node.js command prompt will run to recompile the code for your visual.
- g) Return to the browser and the page where you instantiated the custom visual for testing.
- h) In the visual developer panel, click the Reload Visual Code button as shown in the following screenshot.



i) You should now see that the visual output as shown in the following screenshot which shows the visual width and height.



j) Click the Toggle Auto Reload button so that visual automatically reloads when you make additional updates.



9. Make another change to the code in your custom visual.

- a) Return to Visual Studio Code.
- b) Move down to the update method.
- c) Modify the code that retrieve the visual width and height by adding the toFixed(2) method to configure the output to only show two digits of accuracy after the decimal.

```
public update(options: VisualUpdateOptions) {
   console.log('Visual update', options);
   this.target.innerHTML =
        `

        Width:${options.viewport.width.toFixed(2)}

        Height:${options.viewport.height.toFixed(2)}

        Height:${options.viewport.height.toFixed(2)}

        */table>`;
```

You can copy & paste this from C:\Student\Modules\08\_CustomVisuals\Lab\Snippets\Exercise2-Replace-Update-Function-Part2.ts.txt.

- d) Save your changes to visual.ts.
- e) Return to the browser and you should see the effect of your changes in that the values now show only two points of precision.

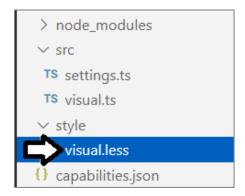


Experiment by resizing the visual and you should see the width and height automatically update.



At this point, you are done testing your first custom visual.

- 10. Add some CSS styles to your visual.
  - a) Expand the style folder and open the file named visual.less.



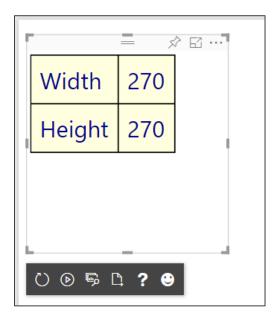
b) Replace the contents of visual.less with the following CSS code.

```
#myTable{
   background-color: black;
   td{
      background-color: lightyellow;
      color:darkblue;
      padding: 8px;
   }
}
```

c) Save your changes to visual.less.

When you save your changes to visual.less, the PBIVIZ utility will recompile the entire viz02 project.

d) Return to the browser and refresh your visual. You should see the effects of the CSS styles in your visual.



- 11. Add scaling font behavior to your visual.
  - a) Return to Visual Studio Code.
  - b) Navigate to the **visual.ts** file and locate the **update** method.
  - c) Copy and paste the following code into the update.

You can copy & paste the code for this visual from C:\Student\Modules\08\_CustomVisuals\Lab\Snippets\Exercise3-Font-Scaling.ts.txt

- d) Save your changes to visual.ts.
- e) Return to the browser and refresh your visual.

f) As you change the size of the visual, the font size should now change along with it.



- 12. Stop the visual debugging session.
  - a) Return to Node.js command prompt.
  - b) Hold down the Ctrl key on the keyboard and then press C to interrupt the Node.js debugging session.
  - c) The Ctrl + C command should stop the server.

```
rbi-visuals-tools/node_modules/less-loader/dist/cjs.js??ref--6-2!./style/visual.less 408 bytes {0}
    [1] C:/Users/TedP/AppData/Roaming/npm/node_modules/powerbi-visuals-tools/node_modules/css-load
    i | wdm]: Compiled successfully.

info    Stopping server...
PS C:\Student\CustomVisuals\viz01>
```

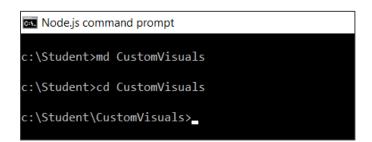
Now you have created and tested a simple custom visual project. Next you will create another custom visual project that uses D3.js.

## Exercise 3: Create a Custom Visual using the D3 Library

In this exercise, you will create a new visual named viz03 which uses D3 to implement a simple Power BI visual.

- Create a new visual project named viz02.
  - a) Return to the Node.js command prompt.
  - b) Type and execute the following command to make the current directory back to C:\Student\CustomVisuals

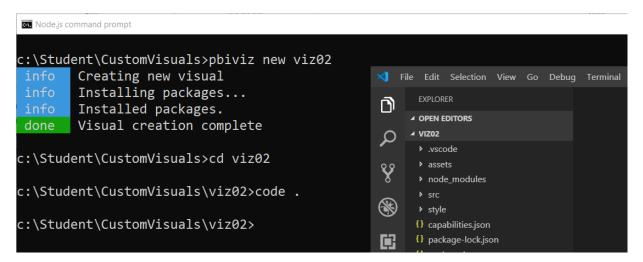
Cd ..



c) Type and execute the following three commands to create a new visual project and open it in Visual Studio Code.

```
pbiviz new viz02
cd viz02
code .
```

d) You should now have a new project named viz02 that is open in Visual Studio Code.



2. Open the package ison file and see what's inside.

There is no need to add the Node.js package for d3 and @types/d3 because they have been automatically added by the template used to create a new custom visual project.

- a) Close package.json without saving any changes.
- 3. Open the Integrated Terminal so you can execute command-line instructions from within Visual Studio Code.
  - a) Inside Visual Studio Code, select the View > Terminal menu command.
  - b) You should see the **Terminal** window with a command prompt inside Visual Studio Code.

Now you are now ready to begin programing your TypeScript code using the D3 library.

- 4. Modify the visual.ts file.
  - a) Open visual.ts if it is not already open.
  - b) Modify the class definition named **Visual** to match the following code.

```
import powerbi from "powerbi-visuals-api";
import VisualConstructorOptions = powerbi.extensibility.visual.VisualConstructorOptions;
import VisualUpdateOptions = powerbi.extensibility.visual.VisualUpdateOptions;
import IVisual = powerbi.extensibility.visual.IVisual;
import * as d3 from "d3";

export class Visual implements IVisual {
    constructor(options: VisualConstructorOptions) { }
    public update(options: VisualUpdateOptions) { }
}
```

c) Modify the Visual class as shown in the following code listing.

```
export class Visual implements IVisual {
    private svgRoot: d3.Selection<SVGElement, {}, HTMLElement, any>;
    private ellipse: d3.Selection<SVGElement, {}, HTMLElement, any>;
    private text: d3.Selection<SVGElement, {}, HTMLElement, any>;
    private padding: number = 20;

    constructor(options: VisualConstructorOptions) {
        this.svgRoot = d3.select(options.element).append("svg");
    }

    public update(options: VisualUpdateOptions) {
    }
}
```

d) Modify the constructor using the following code.

```
constructor(options: VisualConstructorOptions) {
    this.svgRoot = d3.select(options.element).append("svg");

    this.ellipse = this.svgRoot.append("ellipse")
        .style("fill", "rgba(255, 255, 0, 0.5)")
        .style("stroke", "rgba(0, 0, 0, 1.0)")
        .style("stroke-width", "4");

    this.text = this.svgRoot.append("text")
        .text("Hello D3")
        .attr("text-anchor", "middle")
        .attr("dominant-baseline", "central")
        .style("fill", "rgba(255, 0, 0, 1.0)")
        .style("stroke", "rgba(0, 0, 0, 1.0)")
        .style("stroke-width", "2");
}
```

e) Modify the update method by adding code to append the **svgRoot** element.

```
public update(options: VisualUpdateOptions) {
    this.svgRoot
        .attr("width", options.viewport.width)
        .attr("height", options.viewport.height);
}
```

f) Add the following code to create a **plot** variable.

```
this.svgRoot
    .attr("width", options.viewport.width)
    .attr("height", options.viewport.height);

var plot = {
    xOffset: this.padding,
    yOffset: this.padding,
    width: options.viewport.width - (this.padding * 2),
    height: options.viewport.height - (this.padding * 2),
};
```

g) Add the following code to resize the ellipse.

```
this.ellipse
   .attr("cx", plot.x0ffset + (plot.width * 0.5))
   .attr("cy", plot.y0ffset + (plot.height * 0.5))
   .attr("rx", (plot.width * 0.5))
   .attr("ry", (plot.height * 0.5))
```

h) Add the following code to scale the font size.

```
var fontSizeForWidth: number = plot.width * .20;
var fontSizeForHeight: number = plot.height * .35;
var fontSize: number = d3.min([fontSizeForWidth, fontSizeForHeight]);
```

i) Add the following code to resize the text element.

```
this.text
   .attr("x", plot.xOffset + (plot.width / 2))
   .attr("y", plot.yOffset + (plot.height / 2))
   .attr("width", plot.width)
   .attr("height", plot.height)
   .attr("font-size", fontSize);
```

j) Your implementation of **update** should now match the following code listing.

```
public update(options: VisualUpdateOptions) {
    this.svgRoot
        .attr("width", options.viewport.width)
        .attr("height", options.viewport.height);

var plot = {
        XOffset: this.padding,
        yoffset: this.padding,
        width: options.viewport.width - (this.padding * 2),
        height: options.viewport.height - (this.padding * 2),
};

this.ellipse
        .attr("cx", plot.xoffset + (plot.width * 0.5))
         .attr("cy", plot.yoffset + (plot.height * 0.5))
         .attr("rx", (plot.width * 0.5))
         .attr("ry", (plot.height * 0.5))
         .attr("ry", (plot.height * 0.5))

var fontsizeForWidth: number = plot.width * .20;
var fontsizeForWidth: number = plot.height * .35;
var fontsizeForHeight: number = plot.height * .35;
var fontsize: number = d3.min([fontSizeForWidth, fontSizeForHeight]);

this.text
         .attr("x", plot.xoffset + (plot.width / 2))
         .attr("y", plot.yoffset + (plot.height / 2))
         .attr("width", plot.width)
         .attr("height", plot.height)
         .attr("height", plot.height)
         .attr("font-size", fontSize);
}
```

You can copy & paste all this code from C:\Student\Modules\08\_CustomVisuals\Lab\Snippets\Exercise4-Visual-Starter.ts.txt

- 5. Test out your new visual on a Power BI report.
  - a) Return to the Node.js command prompt and run the following command to start a new debugging session.

## pbiviz start

- b) Move back to the browser and return to the Power BI report you used in the previous exercise.
- c) Make sure the report is in edit mode.
- d) Add a Developer Visual to the page and then add a field into the **Data Category** well inside the **Fields** pane.
- e) You should now see your custom visual render on the page and it should match the following screenshot.



f) Experiment by resizing the visual and seeing how to scales to various sizes.



Congratulations. You have now completed this lab.