



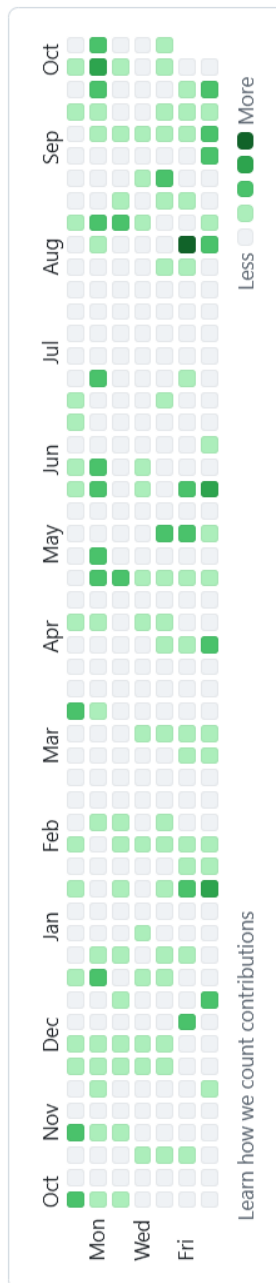
CentraleSupélec

Vizualization Diary

BDM-02 - Visual Analytics

S. Chapuis

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How I found the visualization (and why I picked it)

I encountered this visualization directly on my GitHub profile dashboard. I chose it because it represents the trace of my own programming activity over the past year. It immediately attracted my attention because it condenses an entire year of work into a single, minimal grid of color.

What this visualization shows

The chart displays the number of GitHub contributions I made over the last twelve months (commits, pull requests, and issues). Each cell represents one day, colored from light to dark green according to the number of contributions. The layout follows a calendar logic, allowing users to see long-term rhythms of activity—periods of intense coding and quieter phases—at a glance.

Context

This visualization is automatically generated by GitHub to summarize user activity and encourage engagement. It is meant to highlight consistency, productivity, and growth within the open-source and developer community. The design is familiar to millions of programmers and serves both as a personal motivator and a public indicator of involvement.

Design choices

The simplicity of the grid and the sequential green color scale make it intuitive to read. However, the color contrast could be problematic for color-blind users, and the absence of numeric labels makes quantitative comparison difficult. The alignment by weeks and days supports quick temporal reasoning, though transitions between years can feel abrupt.

Improvements

For a more analytical audience, I would add interactive tooltips showing exact contribution counts and repository names. A second line chart could reveal trends in monthly or weekday averages. Finally, alternative palettes with higher contrast or color-blind-friendly schemes (e.g., blue–orange) would improve accessibility without losing aesthetic clarity.