

## **Technology Report Peer Review**

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### **Creating a Heat Map – Caroline Murray**

This technology report covered a different heat map plugin than covered in our class modules. One thing I have realized in this class, is that there are many ways to get to a similar output. I liked how Caroline went for a technology that may appear easier to someone than what we covered in class. I know I had some struggles with the class heat map option, so maybe I will give this one a try in my final project. I think heat maps are awesome, and when she included data about birds, even better. This report was easy to follow and was very simple. I think in some cases, there could have been a tiny bit more detail. For the most part, it followed a nice timeline and thought process. I was able to clearly see where she started and finish this project. There wasn't any confusing text, symbology or visuals. I especially enjoyed the explanation of the radius setting. This would save someone a lot of time and stress when creating a new heatmap.

Something that sounds kind of silly but may be worth noting is to clarify if this plugin can only be used for point data. Could polylines or polygons be used as well? I would also like to know if an array is the only way to input data into this plugin? Could you create a geoJSON with the locations and counts? I think clarifying the limits of the plugin would help a new user understand what they can and can't do. This is maybe too nitpicky, but I would place the source code slide before the data array slide, that follows for of a timeline. I may be wrong here, but I didn't see where she linked the "eaglearray" variable with the HeatmapOverlay. This would be very nice for a new user to see and understand!

My final project will be covering natural areas across the U.S. I hope to include, national parks, national forests, state parks, and a few other layers. I would like to use boundaries for most of these layers, so that their area is signified. However, using a heatmap for one could create a very interesting contrast. Now that I am familiar with leaflet-heatmap.js, I think I will try to include it in my final project and see how it represents the data I want it to. My only concern is that I will have to create an array for a very large file. Overall, I think Caroline did a very good job at explaining this technology and how it can easily be used. Well done Caroline.