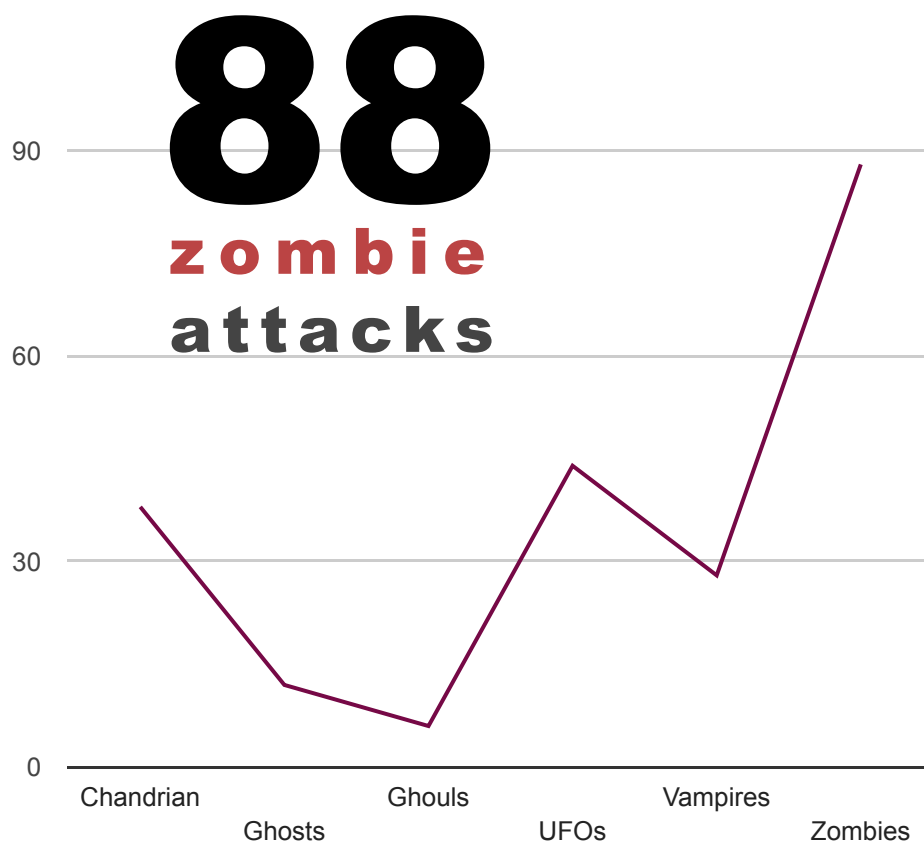# Overlays

Overview

An *overlay* is an area laid on top of a Google Chart. It's typically used to call out a particular statistic, but can be anything you want since it's just HTML and CSS.

Simple uses involve creating a CSS class and simply referring to it in your HTML; no JavaScript required. More advanced uses can involve using Google Charts to customize the positioning and content of the overlay.

A Simple Example

For our first example, we'll avoid JavaScript entirely and simply overlay some text on a line chart:

Here, an internal stylesheet defines two classes that we call `chartWithOverlay` and `overlay`. Note that we use relative positioning in `chartWithOverlay` and absolute positioning in `overlay`.

Then, in the body of our web page, we use a `chartWithOverlay` as a container into which we place our chart (`line-chart`) and then our `overlay`.

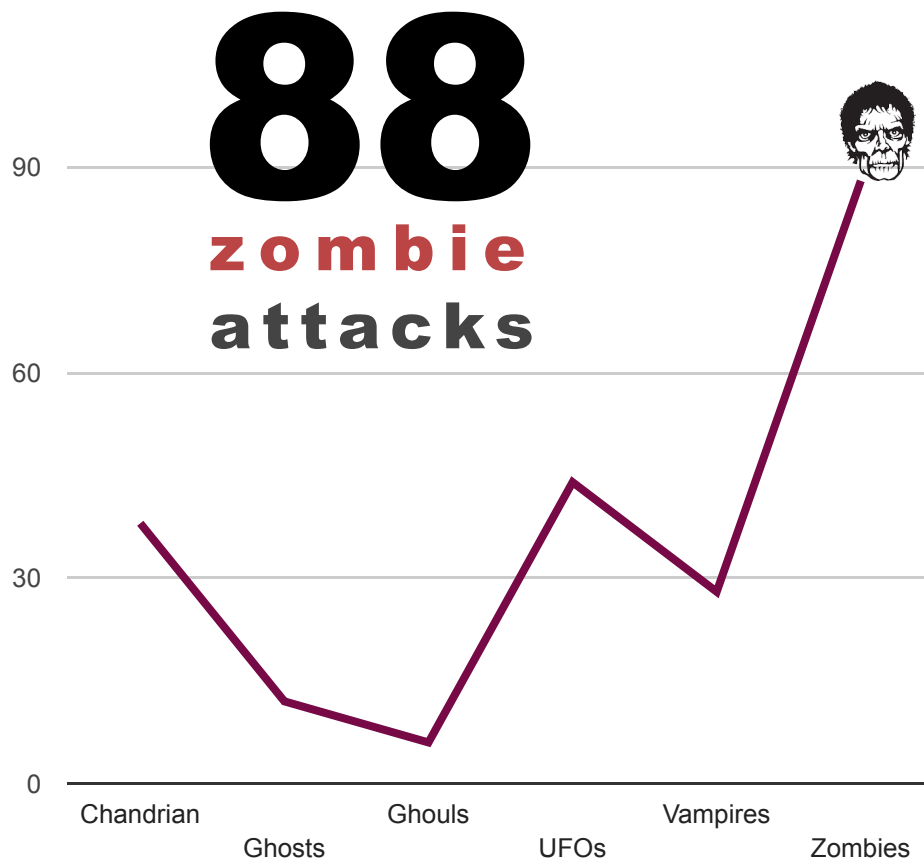| CSS	DIVS	JAVASCRIPT	FULL PAGE

```css
.chartWithOverlay {
    position: relative;
    width: 700px;
}
.overlay {
    width: 200px;
    height: 200px;
    position: absolute;
    top: 60px;   /* chartArea top  */
    left: 180px; /* chartArea left */
}
```

Positioning Overlays Relative to Data

Sometimes the best position for an overlay depends on where the data ends up on the chart. For instance, we might want to place an image close to a data element.

Let's say we wanted to draw attention to the number of zombie attacks in the chart above. We'll do this by placing a scary zombie head at the end of the line.

One way to do this would be to render the chart and hardcode our coordinates. That will work, but would require updating whenever the chart data changes. A more robust solution would have us placing the overlay relative to wherever the data element ends up onscreen. Since we can't know where that will be until the chart has finished rendering, we'll listen for the `ready` event (called when the chart is done rendering) and access the coordinates programmatically with `getXLocation` and `getYLocation`:

88 zombie attacks

Chandrian		Ghouls		Vampires	
	Ghosts		UFOs		Zombies

```css
.chartWithMarkerOverlay {
    position: relative;
    width: 700px;
}
.overlay-text {
    width: 200px;
    height: 200px;
    position: absolute;
    top: 50px;   /* chartArea top  */
    left: 200px; /* chartArea left */
}
.overlay-marker {
    width: 50px;
    height: 50px;
    position: absolute;
    top: 53px;   /* chartArea top */
```

```
    left: 528px; /* chartArea left */
}
```