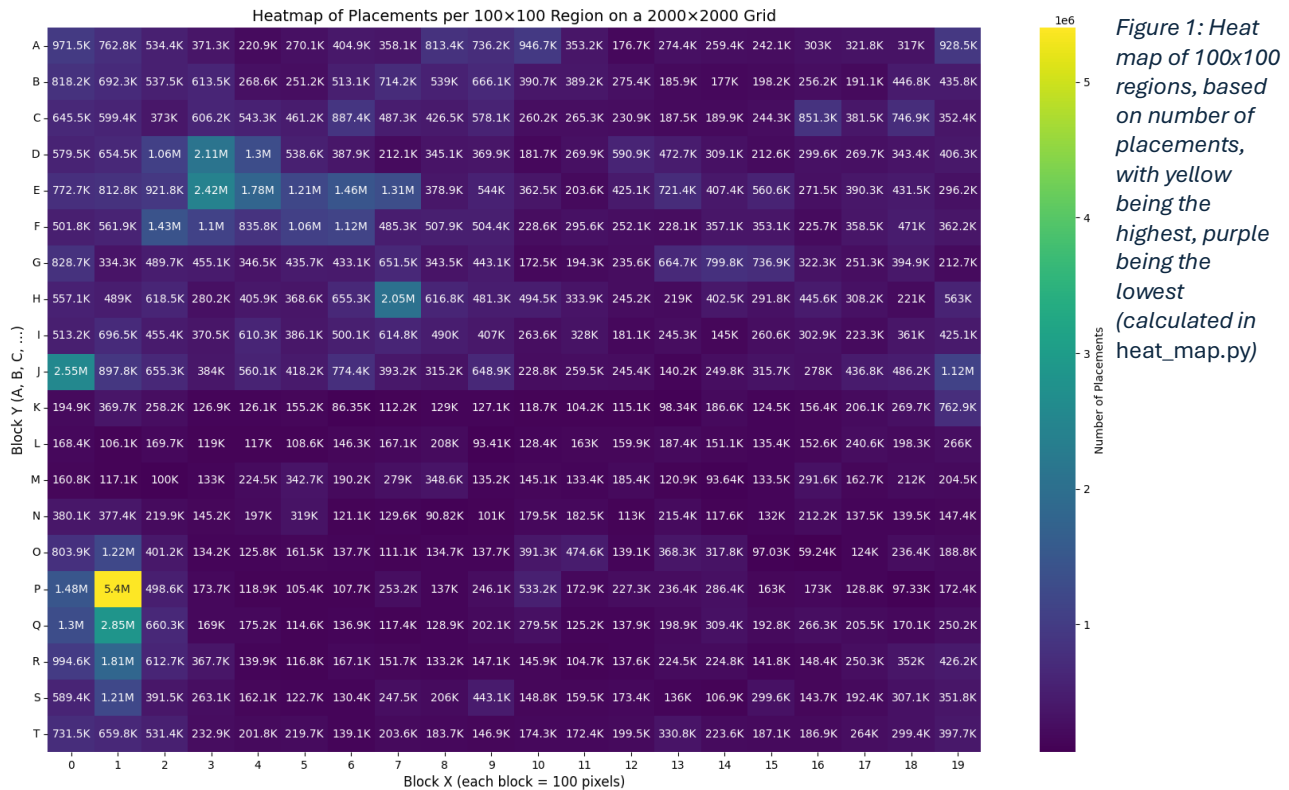


“r/place Week 5 Data Analysis: Most Painted Regions”

In our previous analysis of the 2022 r/place data, the most painted pixels revealed an intense war between rival subreddit videogame communities. This time, we will put away the microscope and take to the skies as we strive to take a bird’s eye view of the battlefield.

Why are certain regions more painted than others?

At surface level, the most popular regions ended up that way because more users placed there than others. Let’s break down the canvas into 100x100 regions and make some calculations from there.



Examining the heatmap, a few major hotspots are revealed.

Several regions had over 2 million placements, but region P1 had nearly twice as many as the next closest with nearly 5.4 million placements. There appear to be two areas with clusters of highly placed regions, in the center of the top left quadrant centered around E3, and the bottom left of the bottom left quadrant centered around P1. Additionally, there are a few notable standalone regions such as J0 with > 2.5 million and J19 with > 1.1 million.

Rank	Region	Placements
1	P1	5,398,334
2	Q1	2,849,907
3	J0	2,551,355
4	E3	2,424,500
5	D3	2,112,817

Table 1: Top five most painted regions (calculated in heat_map_rankings.py)

Why do users decide to place in certain regions more than others?

Let's examine the regions from a different perspective. Figure 2 shows a heat map of the regions based on the number of placements per user. This theoretically should measure which regions had the most loyalty:

1. G0:
828.7K plcmt
4.61 ppu
2. P1:
5.4M plcmt
4.25 ppu
3. J0:
2.5M plcmt
4.16 ppu

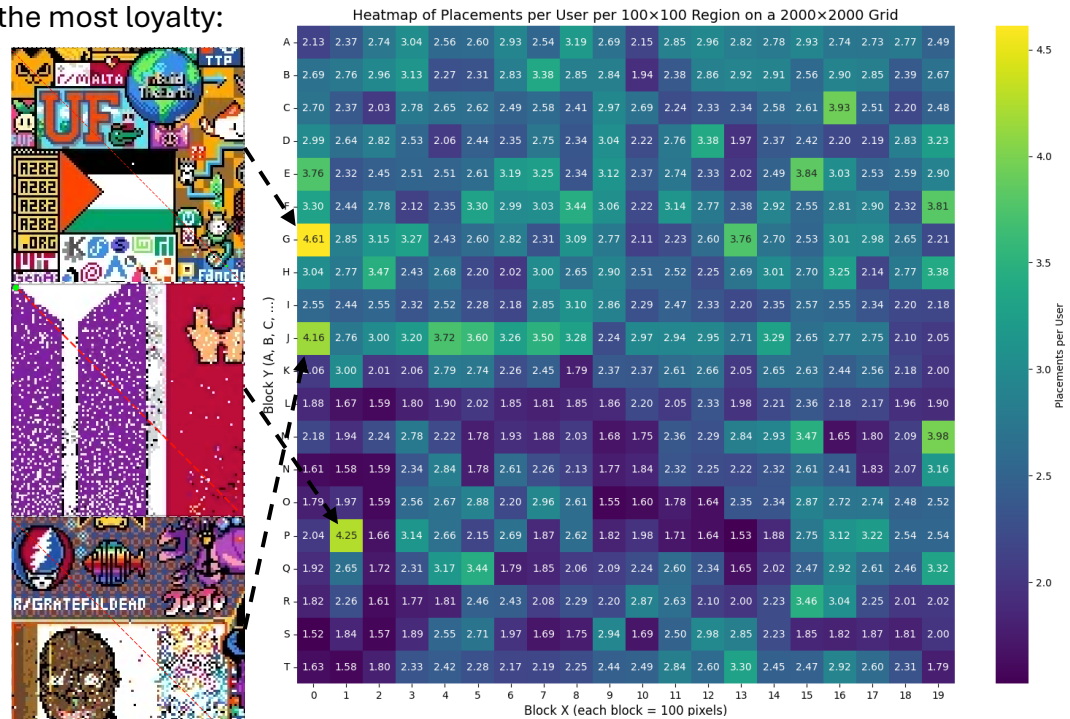


Figure 2: Heat map of 100x100 regions, measuring placements per unique user, with yellow being the highest, purple being the lowest (calculated in per_user_map.py)

The most placed region (P1) and the region with the highest placements per user (G0) have one thing in common: they both contain a national flag, those of France and Palestine, respectively.

Why are flags so influential when it comes to r/place movements?

These displays of nationalism certainly inspire loyalty on a deeper level than simple fandoms. In fact, based on evidence from r/Israel and r/Palestine, the G0 region became a kind of virtual battleground for the territorial disputes that have been ever-present in the area for well over half a century.

