

CS 171/CSCI E-64: Visualization

Homework 1, Group Reflections

James Goodspeed – jgoodsp@fas.harvard.edu

I had the assistance of Devin Shackle with reviewing my submission for Homework #1.

There were three major things that Devin helped me with:

1. **scraper.py:** Devin pointed out that this script actually was throwing errors when he ran it. This was a bit odd – the script worked fine for me, but I eventually figured out that running it from Eclipse worked and from command line did not. To fix this I imported unicodedata and added the following to each field being written out:

```
encode( 'ascii', 'ignore')
```

This fixed the problem and the script now works from command line and Eclipse (and I will be testing both from now on before submission).

2. **cleanup_justifications:** Devin also pointed out to me that the crime data did not have all the towns that the unemployment data had. I think removing this data (which google fusion tables did without me realizing it) is the right decision as it seems like the goal of this data is to correlate between crime and unemployment. This wouldn't be possible if data did not exist for those towns.
3. **design_critique.pdf:** Devin had good observations that the visualization also provided element repetition and also made some good points on Proximity. I added these to my document along with the comment that the visualization could be improved by grouping the countries regionally instead of alphabetically.