

Develop Data Visualization Interfaces in Python With Dash

Table of Contents

- What Is Dash?
- Get Started With Dash in Python
 - How to Set Up Your Local Environment
 - How to Build a Dash Application
- <u>Style Your Dash Application</u>
 - How to Apply a Custom Style to Your Components
 - How to Improve the Looks of Your Dashboard
- Add Interactivity to Your Dash Apps Using Callbacks
 - How to Create Interactive Components
 - How to Define Callbacks
- <u>Deploy Your Dash Application to Heroku</u>
- Conclusion

In the past, creating analytical web applications was a task for seasoned developers that required knowledge of multiple programming languages and frameworks. That's no longer the case. Nowadays, you can make data visualization interfaces using pure Python. One popular tool for this is <u>Dash</u>.

Dash gives data scientists the ability to showcase their results in interactive web applications. You don't need to be an expert in <u>web development</u>. In an afternoon, you can build and deploy a Dash app to share with others.

In this tutorial, you'll learn how to:

- Create a **Dash application**
- Use Dash core components and HTML components
- **Customize the style** of your Dash application
- Use **callbacks** to build interactive applications
- Deploy your application on **Heroku**



You can download the source code, data, and resources for the sample application you'll make in this tutorial by clicking the link below:

Get the Source Code: <u>Click here to get the source code you'll use</u> to learn about creating data visualization interfaces in Python with Dash in this tutorial.

What Is Dash?

Dash is an open source framework for building data visualization interfaces. Released in 2017 as a Python library, it's grown to include implementations for R and Julia. Dash helps data scientists build analytical web applications without requiring advanced web development knowledge.

Three technologies constitute the core of Dash:

- 1. **Flask** supplies the web server functionality.
- 2. **React.js** renders the user interface of the web page.
- 3. **Plotly.js** generates the charts used in your application.

But you don't have to worry about making all these technologies work together. Dash will do that for you. You just need to write Python, R, or Julia and sprinkle it with a bit of CSS.

<u>Plotly</u>, a Canada-based company, built Dash and supports its development. You may know the company from the <u>popular graphing libraries</u> that share its name. Plotly (the company) open-sourced Dash and released it under an <u>MIT license</u>, so you can use Dash at no cost.

Plotly also offers a commercial companion to Dash called <u>Dash Enterprise</u>. This paid service provides companies with support services such as hosting, deploying, and handling authentication on Dash applications. But these features live outside of Dash's open source ecosystem.

Dash will help you build dashboards quickly. If you're used to analyzing data or building data visualizations using Python, then Dash will be a useful addition to your toolbox. Here are a few examples of what you can make with Dash:

- A dashboard to analyze trading positions in real-time
- A visualization of millions of Uber rides
- An interactive financial report

This is just a tiny sample. If you'd like to see other interesting use cases, then go check the <u>Dash App Gallery</u>.

Note: You don't need advanced knowledge of web development to follow this tutorial, but some familiarity with HTML and CSS won't hurt.

The rest of this tutorial assumes you know the basics of the following topics:

- Python graphing libraries such as Plotly, Bokeh, or Matplotlib
- HTML and the <u>structure of an HTML file</u>
- CSS and style sheets

If you feel comfortable with the requirements and want to learn how to use Dash in your next project, then continue to the following section!

Get Started With Dash in Python

In this tutorial, you'll go through the end-to-end process of building a dashboard using Dash. If you follow along with the examples, then you'll go from a bare-bones dashboard on your local machine to a styled dashboard deployed on Heroku.

To build the dashboard, you'll use a <u>dataset</u> of sales and prices of avocados in the United States between 2015 and 2018. This dataset was compiled by <u>Justin Kiggins</u> using data from the <u>Hass Avocado Board</u>.

To develop your app, you'll need a new directory to store your code and data and a clean Python 3 <u>virtual</u> <u>environment</u>. To create those, follow the instructions below, choosing the version that matches your operating system.

If you're using **Windows**, then open a command prompt and execute these commands:

```
Windows Console

c:\> mkdir avocado_analytics && cd avocado_analytics
c:\> c:\path\to\python\launcher\python -m venv venv
c:\> venv\Scripts\activate.bat
```

The first command creates a directory for your project and moves your current location there. The second command creates a virtual environment in that location. The last command activates the virtual environment. Make sure to replace the path in the second command with the path of your Python 3 launcher.

If you're using **macOS** or **Linux**, then follow these steps from a terminal:

```
$ mkdir avocado_analytics && cd avocado_analytics
$ python3 -m venv venv
$ source venv/bin/activate
```

The first two commands perform the following actions:

- 1. Create a directory called avocado_analytics
- 2. Move your current location to the avocado_analytics directory
- 3. Create a clean virtual environment called venv inside that directory

The last command activates the virtual environment you just created.

Next, you need to install the required libraries. You can do that using pip inside your virtual environment. Install the libraries as follows:

```
Shell
(venv) $ python -m pip install dash==1.13.3 pandas==1.0.5
```

This command will install Dash and <u>pandas</u> in your virtual environment. You'll use specific versions of these packages to make sure that you have the same environment as the one used throughout this tutorial. In addition to Dash, pandas will help you handle reading and wrangling the data you'll use in your app.

Finally, you need some data to feed into your dashboard. You can download the data as well as the code you see throughout this tutorial by clicking the link below:

Get the Source Code: <u>Click here to get the source code you'll use</u> to learn about creating data visualization interfaces in Python with Dash in this tutorial.

Save the data as avocado.csv in the root directory of the project. By now, you should have a virtual environment with the required libraries and the data in the root folder of your project. Your project's structure should look like this:

You're good to go! Next, you'll build your first Dash application.

How to Build a Dash Application

For development purposes, it's useful to think of the process of building a Dash application in two steps:

1. Define the looks of your application using the app's layout.

2. Use **callbacks** to determine which parts of your app are interactive and what they react to.

In this section, you'll learn about the layout, and in a later section, you'll learn how to make your dashboard interactive. You'll start by setting up everything you need to initialize your application and then you'll define the layout of your app.

Initializing Your Dash Application

Create an empty file named app.py in the root directory of your project, then review the code of app.py in this section. To make it easier for you to copy the full code, you'll find the entire contents of app.py at the end of this section.

Here are the first few lines of app.py:

```
import dash
import dash_core_components as dcc
import dash_html_components as html
import pandas as pd

data = pd.read_csv("avocado.csv")
data = data.query("type == 'conventional' and region == 'Albany'")
data["Date"] = pd.to_datetime(data["Date"], format="%Y-%m-%d")
data.sort_values("Date", inplace=True)

app = dash.Dash(__name__)
```

On lines 1 to 4, you import the required libraries: dash, dash_core_components, dash_html_components, and pandas. Each library provides a building block for your application:

- dash helps you initialize your application.
- dash_core_components allows you to create interactive components like graphs, dropdowns, or date ranges.
- dash_html_components lets you access HTML tags.
- pandas helps you read and organize the data.

On lines 6 to 9, you <u>read the data</u> and preprocess it for use in the dashboard. You filter some of the data because the current version of your dashboard isn't interactive, and the plotted values wouldn't make sense otherwise.

On line 11, you create an instance of the Dash class. If you've used <u>Flask</u> before, then initializing a Dash class may look familiar. In Flask, you usually initialize a WSGI application using Flask(<u>__name__</u>). Similarly, for a Dash app, you use Dash(<u>__name__</u>).

Defining the Layout of Your Dash Application

Next, you'll define the layout property of your application. This property dictates the look of your app. In this case, you'll use a heading with a description below it and two graphs. Here's how you define it:

```
Python
    app.layout = html.Div(
13
14
        children=[
15
            html.H1(children="Avocado Analytics",),
16
            html.P(
                children="Analyze the behavior of avocado prices"
17
                 " and the number of avocados sold in the US"
18
                 " between 2015 and 2018",
19
20
            ),
            dcc.Graph(
21
22
                figure={
23
                     "data": [
24
                         {
25
                             "x": data["Date"],
                             "y": data["AveragePrice"],
26
                             "type": "lines",
27
                         },
28
29
                     ],
30
                     "layout": {"title": "Average Price of Avocados"},
31
                },
32
            ),
            dcc.Graph(
33
34
                figure={
                     "data": [
                         {
37
                             "x": data["Date"],
                             "y": data["Total Volume"],
38
                             "type": "lines",
39
40
                         },
                     ],
41
                     "layout": {"title": "Avocados Sold"},
42
43
                },
44
            ),
45
        ]
46 )
```

This code defines the layout property of the app object. This property determines the looks of your application using a tree structure made of Dash components.

Dash components come prepackaged in Python libraries. Some of them come with Dash when you install it. The rest you have to install separately. You'll see two sets of components in almost every app:

- 1. <u>Dash HTML Components</u> provides you with Python wrappers for HTML elements. For example, you could use this library to create elements such as paragraphs, headings, or lists.
- 2. <u>Dash Core Components</u> provides you with Python abstractions for creating interactive user interfaces. You can use it to create interactive elements such as graphs, sliders, or dropdowns.

On lines 13 to 20, you can see the Dash HTML components in practice. You start by defining the parent component, an html.Div. Then you add two more elements, a heading (html.H1) and a paragraph (html.P), as its children.

These components are equivalent to the div, h1, and p HTML tags. You can use the components' arguments to modify attributes or the content of the tags. For example, to specify what goes inside the div tag, you use the children argument in html.Div.

There are also other arguments in the components, such as style, className, or id, that refer to attributes of the HTML tags. You'll see how to use some of these properties to style your dashboard in the next section.

The part of the layout shown on lines 13 to 20 will get transformed into the following HTML code:

This HTML code is rendered when you open your application in the browser. It follows the same structure as your Python code, with a div tag containing an h1 and a p element.

On lines 21 to 24 in the layout code snippet, you can see the graph component from Dash Core Components in practice. There are two dcc. Graph components in the app.layout. The first one plots the average prices of avocados during the period of study, and the second plots the number of avocados sold in the United States during the same period.

Under the hood, Dash uses Plotly.js to generate graphs. The dcc. Graph components expect a <u>figure object</u> or a <u>Python</u> <u>dictionary</u> containing the plot's data and layout. In this case, you provide the latter.

Finally, these two lines of code help you run your application:

```
Python

48 | if __name__ == "__main__":
49 | app.run_server(debug=True)
```

Lines 48 and 49 make it possible to run your Dash application locally using Flask's built-in server. The debug=True parameter from app.run_server enables the **hot-reloading** option in your application. This means that when you make a change to your app, it reloads automatically, without you having to restart the server.

Finally, here's the full version of app.py. You can copy this code in the empty app.py you created earlier.

```
app.py Show/Hide
```

This is the code for a bare-bones dashboard. It includes all the snippets of code you reviewed earlier in this section.

Now it's time to run your application. Open a terminal inside your project's root directory and in the project's virtual environment. Run python app.py, then go to http://localhost:8050 using your preferred browser.

It's ALIVE! Your dashboard should look like this:



The good news is that you now have a working version of your dashboard. The bad news is that there's still some work to do before you can show this to others. The dashboard is far from visually pleasing, and you still need to add some interactivity to it.

But don't worry—you'll learn how to fix these issues in the next sections.

Style Your Dash Application

Dash provides you with a lot of flexibility to customize the look of your application. You can use your own CSS or JavaScript files, set a **favicon** (small icon shown on the web browser), and embed images, among other advanced options.

In this section, you'll learn how to apply custom styles to components, and then you'll style the dashboard you built in the previous section.

How to Apply a Custom Style to Your Components

You can style components in two ways:

- 1. Using the style argument of individual components
- 2. Providing an external CSS file

Using the style argument to customize your dashboard is straightforward. This argument takes a Python dictionary with key-value pairs consisting of the names of CSS properties and the values you want to set.

Note: When specifying CSS properties in the style argument, you should use mixedCase syntax instead of hyphen-separated words. For example, to change the background color of an element, you should use backgroundColor and not background-color.

If you wanted to change the size and color of the H1 element in app.py, then you could set the element's style argument as follows:

```
html.H1(
    children="Avocado Analytics",
    style={"fontSize": "48px", "color": "red"},
),
```

Here, you provide to style a dictionary with the properties and the values you want to set for them. In this case, the specified style is to have a red heading with a font size of 48 pixels.

The downside of using the style argument is that it doesn't scale well as your codebase grows. If your dashboard has multiple components that you want to look the same, then you'll end up repeating a lot of your code. Instead, you can use a custom CSS file.

If you want to include your own local CSS or <u>JavaScript</u> files, then you need to create a folder called assets/ in the root directory of your project and save the files you want to add there. By default, Dash automatically serves any file included in assets/. This will also work for adding a favicon or embedding images, as you'll see in a bit.

Then you can use the className or id arguments of the components to adjust their styles using CSS. These arguments correspond with the <u>class</u> and <u>id</u> attributes when they're transformed into HTML tags.

If you wanted to adjust the font size and text color of the H1 element in app.py, then you could use the className argument as follows:

```
html.H1(
   children="Avocado Analytics",
   className="header-title",
),
```

Setting the className argument will define the class attribute for the H1 element. You could then use a CSS file in the assets folder to specify how you want it to look:

```
css
.header-title {
  font-size: 48px;
  color: red;
}
```

You use a <u>class selector</u> to format the heading in your CSS file. This selector will adjust the heading format. You could also use it with other element that needs to share the format by setting className="header-title".

Next, you'll style your dashboard.

How to Improve the Looks of Your Dashboard

You just covered the basics of styling in Dash. Now, you'll learn how to customize your dashboard's looks. You'll make these improvements:

- Add a favicon and title to the page
- Change the font family of your dashboard
- Use an external CSS file to style Dash components

You'll start by learning how to use external assets in your application. That will allow you to add a favicon, a custom font family, and a CSS style sheet. Then you'll learn how to use the className argument to apply custom styles to your Dash components.

Adding External Assets to Your Application

Create a folder called assets/ in your project's root directory. <u>Download a favicon</u> from the <u>Twemoji open source</u> <u>project</u> and save it as favicon.ico in assets/. Finally, create a CSS file in assets/ called style.css and the code in the collapsible section below.

style.css	Show/Hide

```
body {
        font-family: "Lato", sans-serif;
        margin: 0;
        background-color: #F7F7F7;
    }
    .header {
        background-color: #222222;
        height: 256px;
        display: flex;
        flex-direction: column;
        justify-content: center;
    }
   .header-emoji {
Th
        font-size: 48px;
str
        margin: 0 auto;
 avocado_analytics/
    - assets/
       — favicon.ico
      └─ style.css
    - venv/
   — app.py
  └─ avocado.csv
        color: #CFCFCF;
        margin: 4px auto;
On
        text-align: center;
fav
        max-width: 384px;
sty
    }
apr
    .wrapper {
        margin-right: auto;
COI
        margin-left: auto;
ful
        max-width: 1024px;
        padding-right: 10px;
He
        padding-left: 10px;
        mangin_ton. 37nv.
 Python
     external_stylesheets = [
 12
         {
              "href": "https://fonts.googleapis.com/css2?"
 13
                      "family=Lato:wght@400;700&display=swap",
 14
              "rel": "stylesheet",
 15
 16
         },
 17
     app = dash.Dash(__name__, external_stylesheets=external_stylesheets)
 18
     app.title = "Avocado Analytics: Understand Your Avocados!"
```

On lines 11 to 18, you specify an external CSS file, a font family, that you want to load in your application. External files are added to the head tag of your application and loaded before the body of your application loads. You use the external_stylesheets argument for adding external CSS files or external_scripts for external JavaScript files like Google Analytics.

On line 19, you set the title of your application. This is the text that appears in the title bar of your web browser, in Google's search results, and in social media cards when you share your site.

Customizing the Styles of Components

CSS

To use the styles in style.css, you'll need to use the className argument in Dash components. The code below adds a className with a corresponding class selector to each of the components that compose the header of your dashboard:

```
Python
    app.layout = html.Div(
21
22
        children=[
            html.Div(
23
24
                children=[
                    html.P(children="\overline", className="header-emoji"),
25
                    html.H1(
26
                         children="Avocado Analytics", className="header-title"
27
28
                    ),
29
                    html.P(
                         children="Analyze the behavior of avocado prices"
30
                         " and the number of avocados sold in the US"
31
                         " between 2015 and 2018",
32
                        className="header-description",
33
34
                    ),
35
                ],
                className="header",
36
37
            ),
```

On lines 21 to 37, you can see that there have been two changes to initial version of the dashboard:

- 1. There's a new paragraph element with an avocado emoji that will serve as logo.
- 2. There's a className argument in each component. These class names should match a class selector in style.css, which will define the looks of each component.

For example, the header-description class assigned to the paragraph component starting with "Analyze the behavior of avocado prices" has a corresponding selector in style.css:

```
ccs

29    .header-description {
        color: #CFCFCF;
        margin: 4px auto;
        text-align: center;
        max-width: 384px;

34    }
```

Lines 29 to 34 of style.css define the format for the header-description class selector. These will change the color, margin, alignment, and maximum width of any component with className="header-description". All the components have corresponding class selectors in the CSS file.

The other significant change is in the graphs. Here's the new code for the price chart:

```
Python
    html.Div(
38
        children=[
39
40
            html.Div(
41
                 children=dcc.Graph(
                     id="price-chart",
42
                     config={"displayModeBar": False},
43
44
                     figure={
                         "data": [
45
46
                             {
                                  "x": data["Date"],
47
                                  "y": data["AveragePrice"],
48
                                  "type": "lines",
49
                                  "hovertemplate": "$%{y:.2f}"
50
                                                       "<extra></extra>",
51
                             },
52
53
                         ],
                         "layout": {
54
                              "title": {
55
                                  "text": "Average Price of Avocados",
56
57
                                  "x": 0.05,
                                  "xanchor": "left",
58
59
                             },
                              "xaxis": {"fixedrange": True},
60
                              "yaxis": {
61
                                  "tickprefix": "$",
62
                                  "fixedrange": True,
63
                             },
64
                              "colorway": ["#17B897"],
65
66
                         },
67
                     },
68
                 ),
69
                 className="card",
70
            ),
```

In this code, you define a className and a few customizations for the config and figure parameters of your chart. Here are the changes:

- **Line 43**: You remove the floating bar that Plotly shows by default.
- **Lines 50 and 51:** You set the hover template so that when users hover over a data point, it shows the price in dollars. Instead of 2.5, it'll show as \$2.5.
- Lines 54 to 66: You adjust the axis, the color of the figure, and the title format in the layout section of the graph.
- **Line 69:** You wrap the graph in an html.Div with a "card" class. This will give the graph a white background and add a small shadow below it.

There are similar adjustments to the sales and volume charts. You can see those in the full code for the updated app.py in the collapsible section below.

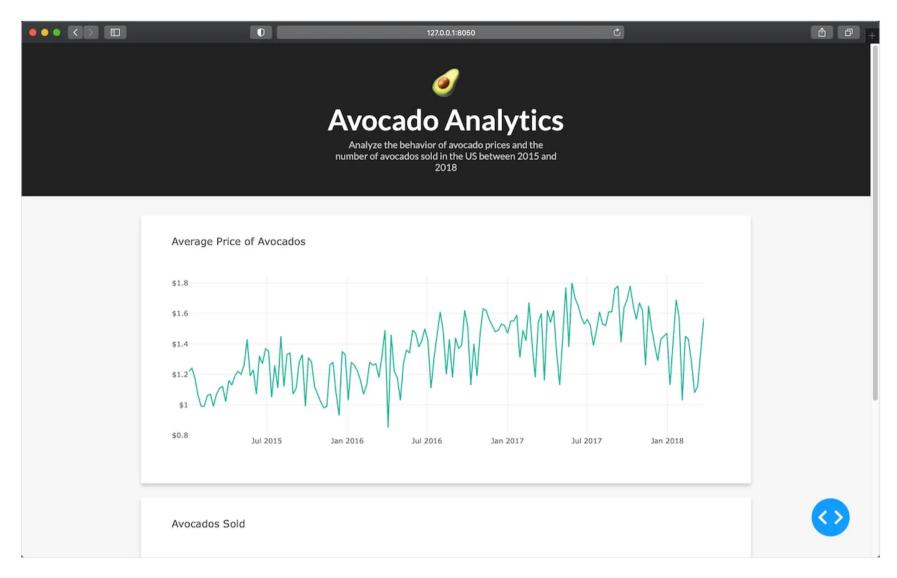
```
Show/Hide
app.py
Python
import dash
import dash_core components as dcc
import dash_html_components as html
import pandas as pd
data = pd.read_csv("avocado.csv")
data = data.query("type == 'conventional' and region == 'Albany'")
data["Date"] = pd.to_datetime(data["Date"], format="%Y-%m-%d")
data.sort_values("Date", inplace=True)
external_stylesheets = [
        "href": "https://fonts.googleapis.com/css2?"
        "family=Lato:wght@400;700&display=swap",
        "rel": "stylesheet",
    },
app = dash.Dash(__name__, external_stylesheets=external_stylesheets)
ann title = "Avocado Analytics: Understand Your Avocados!"
```

```
app.layout = html.Div(
    children=[
        html.Div(
            children=[
                html.P(children="\overline", className="header-emoji"),
                html.H1(
                     children="Avocado Analytics", className="header-title"
                ),
                html.P(
                     children="Analyze the behavior of avocado prices"
                     " and the number of avocados sold in the US"
                     " between 2015 and 2018",
                     className="header-description",
                ),
            ],
            className="header",
        ),
        html.Div(
            children=[
                html.Div(
                     children=dcc.Graph(
                         id="price-chart",
                         config={"displayModeBar": False},
                         figure={
                             "data": [
                                 {
                                     "x": data["Date"],
                                     "y": data["AveragePrice"],
                                     "type": "lines",
                                     "hovertemplate": "$%{y:.2f}"
                                                       "<extra></extra>",
                                 },
                             ],
                             "layout": {
                                 "title": {
                                     "text": "Average Price of Avocados",
                                     "x": 0.05,
                                     "xanchor": "left",
                                 },
                                 "xaxis": {"fixedrange": True},
                                 "yaxis": {
                                     "tickprefix": "$",
                                     "fixedrange": True,
                                 },
                                 "colorway": ["#17B897"],
                            },
                         },
                     ),
                     className="card",
                ),
                html.Div(
                     children=dcc.Graph(
                        id="volume-chart",
                         config={"displayModeBar": False},
                         figure={
                             "data": [
                                     "x": data["Date"],
                                     "y": data["Total Volume"],
                                     "type": "lines",
                                 },
                             ],
                             "layout": {
                                 "title": {
                                     "text": "Avocados Sold",
                                     "x": 0.05,
                                     "xanchor": "left",
                                 "xaxis": {"fixedrange": True},
                                 "yaxis": {"fixedrange": True},
                                 "colorway": ["#E12D39"],
                            },
                        },
                    ),
                     className="card",
                ),
```

```
],
className="wrapper",
),
]

if __name__ == "__main__":
app.run_server(debug=True)
```

This is the updated version of app.py. It has the required changes in the code to add a favicon and a page title, update the font family, and use an external CSS file. After these changes, your dashboard should look like this:



In the next section, you'll learn how to add interactive components to your dashboard.

Add Interactivity to Your Dash Apps Using Callbacks

In this section, you'll learn how to add interactive elements to your dashboard.

Dash's interactivity is based on a <u>reactive programming</u> paradigm. This means that you can link components with elements of your app that you want to update. If a user interacts with an input component like a dropdown or a range slider, then the output, such as a graph, will react automatically to the changes in the input.

Now let's make your dashboard interactive. This new version of your dashboard will allow the user to interact with the following filters:

- Region
- Type of avocado
- Date range

Start by replacing your local app.py with the new version in the collapsible section below.

```
Python

import dash
import dash_core_components as dcc
import dash_html_components as html
import pandas as pd
import numpy as np
from dash.dependencies import Output, Input
```

```
data = pd.read_csv("avocado.csv")
data["Date"] = pd.to_datetime(data["Date"], format="%Y-%m-%d")
data.sort_values("Date", inplace=True)
external_stylesheets = [
    {
        "href": "https://fonts.googleapis.com/css2?"
        "family=Lato:wght@400;700&display=swap",
        "rel": "stylesheet",
    },
app = dash.Dash(__name__, external_stylesheets=external_stylesheets)
app.title = "Avocado Analytics: Understand Your Avocados!"
app.layout = html.Div(
    children=[
        html.Div(
            children=[
                html.P(children="\overline", className="header-emoji"),
                    children="Avocado Analytics", className="header-title"
                ),
                html.P(
                    children="Analyze the behavior of avocado prices"
                    " and the number of avocados sold in the US"
                    " between 2015 and 2018",
                    className="header-description",
                ),
            ],
            className="header",
        ),
        html.Div(
            children=[
                html.Div(
                    children=[
                        html.Div(children="Region", className="menu-title"),
                        dcc.Dropdown(
                            id="region-filter",
                            options=[
                                {"label": region, "value": region}
                                for region in np.sort(data.region.unique())
                            ],
                            value="Albany",
                            clearable=False,
                            className="dropdown",
                        ),
                    ]
                ),
                html.Div(
                        html.Div(children="Type", className="menu-title"),
                        dcc.Dropdown(
                            id="type-filter",
                            options=[
                                 {"label": avocado_type, "value": avocado_type}
                                 for avocado_type in data.type.unique()
                            ],
                            value="organic",
                             clearable=False,
                             searchable=False,
                             className="dropdown",
                        ),
                    ],
                ),
                html.Div(
                    children=[
                        html.Div(
                            children="Date Range",
                             className="menu-title"
                             ),
                        dcc.DatePickerRange(
                            id="date-range",
                            min_date_allowed=data.Date.min().date(),
                            max_date_allowed=data.Date.max().date(),
                            start_date=data.Date.min().date(),
                             end_date=data.Date.max().date(),
                        ),
```

```
),
            ],
            className="menu",
        ),
        html.Div(
            children=[
                html.Div(
                    children=dcc.Graph(
                         id="price-chart", config={"displayModeBar": False},
                     ),
                     className="card",
                ),
                html.Div(
                     children=dcc.Graph(
                         id="volume-chart", config={"displayModeBar": False},
                     ),
                     className="card",
                ),
            ],
            className="wrapper",
        ),
    ]
)
@app.callback(
    [Output("price-chart", "figure"), Output("volume-chart", "figure")],
    [
        Input("region-filter", "value"),
        Input("type-filter", "value"),
        Input("date-range", "start_date"),
        Input("date-range", "end_date"),
    ],
)
def update_charts(region, avocado_type, start_date, end_date):
    mask = (
        (data.region == region)
        & (data.type == avocado_type)
        & (data.Date >= start_date)
        & (data.Date <= end_date)</pre>
    )
    filtered_data = data.loc[mask, :]
    price_chart_figure = {
        "data": [
            {
                 "x": filtered_data["Date"],
                 "y": filtered_data["AveragePrice"],
                 "type": "lines",
                 "hovertemplate": "$%{y:.2f}<extra></extra>",
            },
        ],
        "layout": {
            "title": {
                 "text": "Average Price of Avocados",
                "x": 0.05,
                 "xanchor": "left",
             "xaxis": {"fixedrange": True},
            "yaxis": {"tickprefix": "$", "fixedrange": True},
            "colorway": ["#17B897"],
        },
    }
    volume_chart_figure = {
        "data": [
            {
                 "x": filtered_data["Date"],
                 "y": filtered_data["Total Volume"],
                 "type": "lines",
            },
        ],
        "layout": {
            "title": {"text": "Avocados Sold", "x": 0.05, "xanchor": "left"},
            "xaxis": {"fixedrange": True},
            "yaxis": {"fixedrange": True},
            "colorway": ["#E12D39"],
```

```
return price_chart_figure, volume_chart_figure

if __name__ == "__main__":
    app.run_server(debug=True)
```

Next, replace style.css with the code in the collapsible section below.

```
style.css
                                                                                             Show/Hide
CSS
body {
    font-family: "Lato", sans-serif;
    margin: 0;
    background-color: #F7F7F7;
}
.header {
    background-color: #222222;
    height: 288px;
    padding: 16px 0 0 0;
}
.header-emoji {
    font-size: 48px;
    margin: 0 auto;
    text-align: center;
}
.header-title {
    color: #FFFFFF;
    font-size: 48px;
    font-weight: bold;
    text-align: center;
    margin: 0 auto;
}
.header-description {
    color: #CFCFCF;
    margin: 4px auto;
    text-align: center;
    max-width: 384px;
}
.wrapper {
    margin-right: auto;
    margin-left: auto;
    max-width: 1024px;
    padding-right: 10px;
    padding-left: 10px;
    margin-top: 32px;
.card {
    margin-bottom: 24px;
    box-shadow: 0 4px 6px 0 rgba(0, 0, 0, 0.18);
}
.menu {
    height: 112px;
    width: 912px;
    display: flex;
    justify-content: space-evenly;
    padding-top: 24px;
    margin: -80px auto 0 auto;
    background-color: #FFFFFF;
    box-shadow: 0 4px 6px 0 rgba(0, 0, 0, 0.18);
}
.Select-control {
    width: 256px;
```

```
height: 48px;
}

.Select--single > .Select-control .Select-value, .Select-placeholder {
    line-height: 48px;
}

.Select--multi .Select-value-label {
    line-height: 32px;
}

.menu-title {
    margin-bottom: 6px;
    font-weight: bold;
    color: #079A82;
}
```

Now you're ready to start adding interactive components to your application!

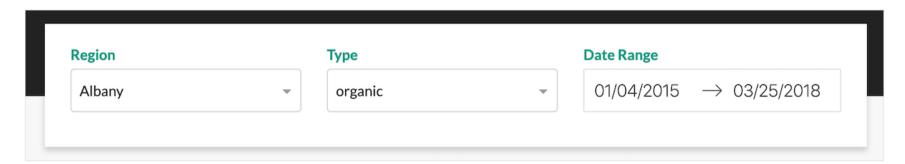
How to Create Interactive Components

First, you'll learn how to create components that users can interact with. For that, you'll include a new html.Div above your charts. It'll include two dropdowns and a date range selector that the user can use to filter the data and update the graphs.

Here's how that looks in app.py:

```
Python
    html.Div(
24
25
        children=[
            html.Div(
26
27
                children=[
                     html.Div(children="Region", className="menu-title"),
28
                     dcc.Dropdown(
29
                         id="region-filter",
30
31
                         options=[
32
                             {"label": region, "value": region}
                             for region in np.sort(data.region.unique())
33
34
                         ],
                         value="Albany",
35
36
                         clearable=False,
                         className="dropdown",
37
38
                    ),
39
                ]
40
            ),
            html.Div(
41
                children=[
42
43
                     html.Div(children="Type", className="menu-title"),
                     dcc.Dropdown(
44
45
                         id="type-filter",
46
                         options=[
                             {"label": avocado_type, "value": avocado_type}
47
48
                             for avocado_type in data.type.unique()
49
                         ],
                         value="organic",
50
                         clearable=False,
51
52
                         searchable=False,
                         className="dropdown",
53
54
                    ),
55
                ],
            ),
57
            html.Div(
                children=[
58
                     html.Div(
59
                         children="Date Range",
60
                         className="menu-title"
61
62
                         ),
                     dcc.DatePickerRange(
63
64
                         id="date-range",
65
                         min_date_allowed=data.Date.min().date(),
                         max_date_allowed=data.Date.max().date(),
66
                         start_date=data.Date.min().date(),
67
                         end_date=data.Date.max().date(),
68
69
                    ),
                ]
70
71
            ),
72
        ],
73
        className="menu",
74 ),
```

On lines 24 to 74, you define an html.Div on top of your graphs consisting of two dropdowns and a date range selector. It will serve as a menu that the user will use to interact with the data:



The first component in the menu is the Region dropdown. Here's the code for that component:

```
Python
    html.Div(
41
42
        children=[
43
            html.Div(children="Region", className="menu-title"),
44
            dcc.Dropdown(
                id="region-filter",
45
46
                options=[
47
                    {"label": region, "value": region}
                    for region in np.sort(data.region.unique())
48
49
                ],
50
                value="Albany",
51
                clearable=False,
                className="dropdown",
52
53
            ),
54
55 ),
```

On lines 41 to 55, you define the dropdown that users will use to filter the data by region. In addition to the title, it has a dcc.Dropdown component. Here's what each of the parameters means:

- id is the identifier of this element.
- options is the options shown when the dropdown is selected. It expects a dictionary with labels and values.
- value is the default value when the page loads.
- clearable allows the user to leave this field empty if set to True.
- className is a class selector used for applying styles.

The Type and Date Range selectors follow the same structure as the Region dropdown. Feel free to review them on your own.

Next, take a look at the dcc. Graphs components:

```
Python
90
     html.Div(
91
         children=[
92
             html.Div(
93
                  children=dcc.Graph(
                      id="price-chart", config={"displayModeBar": False},
94
                 ),
                  className="card",
97
             ),
98
             html.Div(
                  children=dcc.Graph(
                      id="volume-chart", config={"displayModeBar": False},
100
101
                 ),
                  className="card",
102
103
             ),
104
         ],
         className="wrapper",
105
106 ),
```

On lines 90 to 106, you define the dcc. Graph components. You may have noticed that, compared to the previous version of the dashboard, the components are missing the figure argument. That's because the figure argument will now be generated by a <u>callback function</u> using the inputs the user sets using the Region, Type, and Date Range selectors.

How to Define Callbacks

You've defined how the user will interact with your application. Now you need to make your application react to user interactions. For that, you'll use **callback functions**.

Dash's callback functions are regular Python functions with an app.callback <u>decorator</u>. In Dash, when an input changes, a callback function is triggered. The function performs some predetermined operations, like filtering a dataset, and returns an output to the application. In essence, callbacks link inputs and outputs in your app.

Here's the callback function used for updating the graphs:

```
Python
     @app.callback(
111
112
         [Output("price-chart", "figure"), Output("volume-chart", "figure")],
113
             Input("region-filter", "value"),
114
115
             Input("type-filter", "value"),
             Input("date-range", "start_date"),
116
             Input("date-range", "end_date"),
117
118
         ],
119
120
     def update_charts(region, avocado_type, start_date, end_date):
121
         mask = (
122
             (data.region == region)
123
             & (data.type == avocado_type)
             & (data.Date >= start_date)
124
125
             & (data.Date <= end_date)</pre>
126
         )
         filtered_data = data.loc[mask, :]
127
128
         price_chart_figure = {
129
              "data": [
130
                 {
131
                      "x": filtered_data["Date"],
132
                      "y": filtered_data["AveragePrice"],
                      "type": "lines",
133
                      "hovertemplate": "$%{y:.2f}<extra></extra>",
134
135
                 },
136
             ],
             "layout": {
137
                  "title": {
138
                      "text": "Average Price of Avocados",
139
140
                      "x": 0.05,
141
                      "xanchor": "left",
142
                 },
143
                  "xaxis": {"fixedrange": True},
144
                  "yaxis": {"tickprefix": "$", "fixedrange": True},
145
                  "colorway": ["#17B897"],
             },
146
         }
147
148
149
         volume_chart_figure = {
              "data": [
150
151
                 {
152
                      "x": filtered_data["Date"],
153
                      "y": filtered_data["Total Volume"],
                      "type": "lines",
154
155
                 },
             ],
156
              "layout": {
157
158
                  "title": {
                      "text": "Avocados Sold",
159
160
                      "x": 0.05,
                      "xanchor": "left"
161
                 },
162
163
                  "xaxis": {"fixedrange": True},
                  "yaxis": {"fixedrange": True},
164
                  "colorway": ["#E12D39"],
165
166
             },
167
168
         return price_chart_figure, volume_chart_figure
```

On lines 111 to 119, you define the inputs and outputs inside the app.callback decorator.

First, you define the outputs using Output objects. These objects take two arguments:

- 1. The identifier of the element that they'll modify when the function executes
- 2. The property of the element to be modified

For example, Output ("price-chart", "figure") will update the figure property of the "price-chart" element.

Then you define the inputs using Input objects. They also take two arguments:

- 1. The identifier of the element they'll be watching for changes
- 2. The property of the watched element that they should take when a change happens

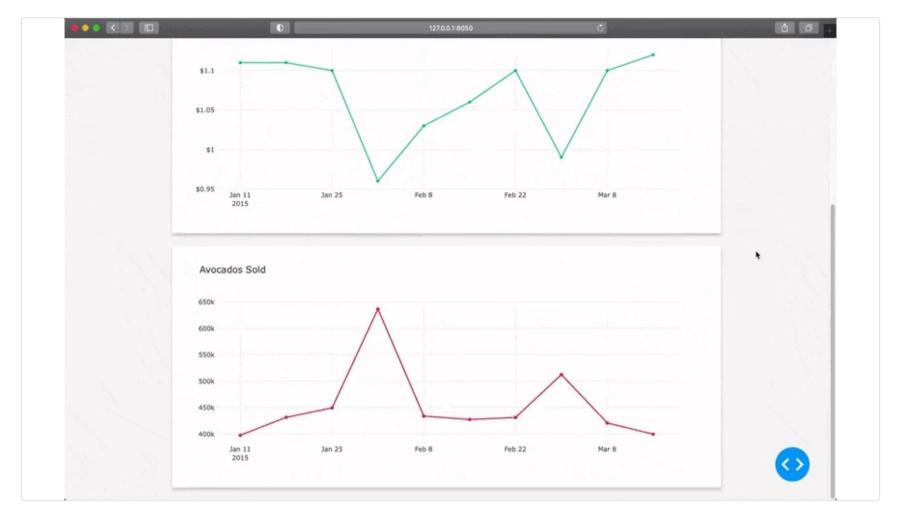
So, Input("region-filter", "value") will watch the "region-filter" element for changes and will take its value property if the element changes.

Note: The Input object discussed here is imported from dash.dependencies. Be careful not to confuse it with the component coming from dash_core_components. These objects are not interchangeable and have different purposes.

On line 120, you define the function that will be applied when an input changes. One thing to notice here is that the arguments of the function will correspond with the order of the Input objects supplied to the callback. There's no explicit relationship between the names of the arguments in the function and the values specified in the Input objects.

Finally, on lines 121 to 164, you define the body of the function. In this case, the function takes the inputs (region, type of avocado, and date range), filters the data, and generates the figure objects for the price and volume charts.





Way to go! That's the final version of your dashboard. In addition to making it look beautiful, you also made it interactive. The only missing step is making it public so you can share it with others.

Deploy Your Dash Application to Heroku

You're done building your application, and you have a beautiful, fully interactive dashboard. Now you'll learn how to deploy it.

Dash apps are Flask apps, so both share the same <u>deployment options</u>. In this section, you'll deploy your app on Heroku.

Before you get started, make sure you've installed the <u>Heroku command-line interface (CLI)</u> and <u>Git</u>. You can verify that both exist in your system by running these commands at a command prompt (Windows) or at a terminal (macOS, Linux):

```
$ git --version
git version 2.21.1 (Apple Git-122.3)
$ heroku --version
heroku/7.42.2 darwin-x64 node-v12.16.2
```

The output may change a bit depending on your operating system and the version you have installed, but you shouldn't get an error.

First, there's a small change you need to make in app.py. After you initialize the app on line 18, add a new <u>variable</u> called server:

```
Python

18 | app = dash.Dash(__name__, external_stylesheets=external_stylesheets)
19 | server = app.server
```

This addition is necessary to run your app using a <u>WSGI server</u>. It's not advisable to use Flask's built-in server in production since it won't able to handle much traffic.

Next, in the project's root directory, create a file called runtime.txt where you'll specify a Python version for your Heroku app:

```
Text

python-3.8.6
```

When you deploy your app, Heroku will automatically detect that it's a Python application and will use the correct buildpack. If you also provide a runtime.txt, then it'll pin down the Python version that your app will use.

Next, create a requirements.txt file in the project's root directory where you'll copy the libraries required to set up your Dash application on a web server:

```
Python Requirements

dash==1.13.3
pandas==1.0.5
gunicorn==20.0.4
```

You may have noticed that there's a package in requirements.txt you haven't seen until now: gunicorn. Gunicorn is a WSGI HTTP server that is frequently used for deploying Flask apps to production. You'll use it to deploy your dashboard.

Now create a file named Procfile with the following content:

```
Shell

web: gunicorn app:server
```

This file tells the Heroku app what commands should be executed to start your app. In this case, it starts a gunicorn server for your dashboard.

Next, you'll need to initialize a <u>Git</u> repository. To do that, go to your project's root directory and execute the following command:

```
Shell

$ git init
```

This will start a Git repository in avocado_analytics/. It'll start tracking all the changes you make to the files in that directory.

However, there are files you don't want to track using Git. For example, you usually want to remove Python compiled files, the contents of your virtual environment folder, or metadata files such as <code>.DS_Store</code>.

To avoid tracking unnecessary files, create a file called .gitignore in the root directory. Then copy the following content in it:

```
venv
*.pyc
.DS_Store # Only if you are using macOS
```

This will make sure your repository doesn't track unnecessary files. Now commit your project files:

```
$ git add .
$ git commit -m 'Add dashboard files'
```

Before the final step, make sure you have everything in place. Your project's structure should look like this:

Finally, you need to create an app in Heroku, push your code there using Git, and start the app in one of Heroku's free server options. You can do that by running the following commands:

```
$ heroku create APP-NAME # Choose a name for your app
$ git push heroku master
$ heroku ps:scale web=1
```

The first command will create a new application on Heroku and an associated Git repository. The second will push the changes to that repository, and the third will start your app in one of Heroku's free server options.

That's it! You've built and deployed your dashboard. Now you just need to access it to share it with your friends. To access your app, copy https://APP-NAME.herokuapp.com/ in your browser and replace APP-NAME with the name you defined in the previous step.

If you're curious, take a look at a <u>sample app</u>.

Conclusion

Congratulations! You just built, customized, and deployed your first dashboard using Dash. You went from a barebones dashboard to a fully interactive one deployed on Heroku.

With this knowledge, you can use Dash to build analytical applications to share with others. As more companies put more weight on the use of data, knowing how to use Dash will increase the impact you have in your workplace. What used to be a task only experts could perform, you can now do in an afternoon.

In this tutorial, you've learned:

- How to create a dashboard using Dash
- How to **customize** the styling of your Dash application
- How to make your app **interactive** by using Dash components
- What **callbacks** are and how you can use them to create interactive applications
- How to **deploy** your application on Heroku

Now you're ready to develop new Dash applications. Find a dataset, think of some exciting visualizations, and build another dashboard!

You can download the source code, data, and resources for the sample applications you made in this tutorial by clicking the link below:

Get the Source Code: <u>Click here to get the source code you'll use</u> to learn about creating data visualization interfaces in Python with Dash in this tutorial.

About **Dylan Castillo**



Dylan is a Data Scientist and self-taught developer specialized in Natural Language Processing (NLP). He has experience working on large-scale Machine Learning projects and enjoys writing about data-related topics.

» More about Dylan

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```
Dipanwita Mallick • 6 days ago
This is amazing...Thanks Dylan :)
1 ↑ | ✓ • Reply • Share >
```



Liam Arbuckle • a month ago

Hey, great tutorial but I'm having a bit of a problem :(

```
I've got the code up to this point:
```py
import dash
import dash core components as dcc
import dash_html_components as html
import pandas as pd
data = pd.read_csv("avocado.csv")
data = data.query("type == 'conventional' and region == 'Albany'")
data["Date"] = pd.to_datetime(data["Date"], format="%Y-%m-%d")
data.sort_values("Date", inplace=True)
app = dash.Dash(__name__)
app.layout = html.Div(
children=[
html.H1(children="Avocado Analytics",),
html.P(
children="Analyze the behavior of avocado prices"
" and the number of avocados sold in the US"
" between 2015 and 2018",
),
dcc.Graph(
figure={
"data": [
"x": data["Date"],
"y": data["AveragePrice"],
"type": "lines",
},
],
"layout": {"title": "Average Price of Avocados"},
},
),
dcc.Graph(
figure={
"data": [
"x": data["Date"],
"y": data["Total Volume"],
"type": "lines",
},
],
"layout": {"title": "Avocados Sold"},
},
),
if __name__ == "__main__":
app.run_server(debug=True)
```

However I'm having a few issues when trying to run it: https://realpython-members....

The slack link with more info about this issue is here: https://realpython-members....

```
1 ^ | V • Reply • Share >
```



chandrashekhar → Liam Arbuckle • a month ago

You have to convert Date to day,month,year columns and then do it using date.dt.year,date.dt.month,date.dt.day



I'm facing this problem I don't know why. Someone know something?

Thi lacing this problem ruon't know why. Someone know something:

pandas.errors.ParserError: Error tokenizing data. C error: Expected 1 fields in line 50, saw 3



Dylan Castillo → Eduardo • 16 days ago • edited

That's weird. Is it possible that you are not using the same dataset? Did you download the data from the GitHub repo?

^ | ✓ • Reply • Share ›



Emmanuel Michel • 17 days ago

Good Job. It is possible to combine Dash and Django? And Can I deploy Dash in my own VPS? Thank!

^ | ✓ • Reply • Share ›



Dylan Castillo → Emmanuel Michel • 16 days ago

Yes, it's possible. There's a popular package for that: https://github.com/GibbsCon...



Michel → Dylan Castillo • 4 days ago

Thank you!

^ | ✓ • Reply • Share ›



chandrashekhar • a month ago

Good afternoon sir,

My doubt is if i want 2 graphs in a single chart like reliance actual stock price and reliance predicted stock price how do i get it in html.Div i mean where should I make the change in code so that I get the same ?.....Thanks.

^ | ✓ • Reply • Share ›



Dylan Castillo → chandrashekhar • a month ago

**@chandrashekhar** Hi, if you want multiple plots per graph, the best approach would be to use plotly's subplots: https://plotly.com/python/s...

Let me know if that's what you're looking for!

^ | ✓ • Reply • Share ›



chandrashekhar → Dylan Castillo • a month ago

thanks



chandrashekhar → Dylan Castillo • a month ago

Yes this was what i was looking for sir.

^ | ✓ • Reply • Share ›



Leo Matyushkin • a month ago • edited

For those who encounter the same error as me, I would clarify that it would be more correct to specify the host when starting the server:



Dylan Castillo → Leo Matyushkin • a month ago

Hi Leo,

Thanks. By default, the host variable will default to '127.0.0.1' unless you have a global environment variable named HOST (which is rare). So It's very common to use the app.run\_server method without specifying the host.

Did you have a HOST environment variable pointing to another address?

Best,

Dylan

^ | ✓ • Reply • Share ›



anudeep arkala • a month ago

I"m seeing following error:

(visualization) AAA-a01:vpc\_flow\_log aarkala\$ python app.py /Users/aarkala/Documents/Programming/datavisualization/vpc\_flow\_log/visualiz packages/pandas/compat/\_\_init\_\_.py:117: UserWarning: Could not import the Izma module. Your installed Python is incomplete. Attempting to use Izma

compression will result in a RuntimeError. warnings.warn(msg) /Users/AAA/Documents/Programming/datavisualization/vpc\_flow\_log/visualization/ packages/future/moves/\_\_init\_\_.py:8: DtypeWarning: Columns (1,5,6,7,8,9) have mixed types. Specify dtype option on import or set low memory=False. import\_top\_level\_modules() /Users/AAA/Documents/Programming/datavisualization/vpc flow log/visualization/ packages/numpy/lib/arraysetops.py:580: FutureWarning: elementwise comparison failed; returning scalar instead, but in the future will perform elementwise comparison mask = (ar1 == a)Traceback (most recent call last): File "/Users/AAA/Documents/Programming/datavisualization/vpc\_flow\_log/visualizat packages/pandas/core/indexes/base.py", line 2646, in get\_loc return self. engine.get loc(key) File "pandas/ libs/index.pyx", line 111, in pandas.\_libs.index.IndexEngine.get\_loc File "pandas/\_libs/index.pyx", line 138, in pandas.\_libs.index.IndexEngine.get\_loc File "pandas/\_libs/hashtable\_class\_helper.pxi", line 1619, in pandas.\_libs.hashtable.PyObjectHashTable.get\_item File "pandas/ libs/hashtable class helper.pxi", line 1627, in pandas.\_libs.hashtable.PyObjectHashTable.get\_item KeyError: 'start' During handling of the above exception, another exception occurred: ^ | ✓ • Reply • Share › Dylan Castillo → anudeep arkala • a month ago

Hi Anudeep,

It looks like there might be several issues. Could you share your code in GH gist?

As first steps, I'd recommend the following:

- 1. Are you looking for a "start" key in the pandas dataframe? The dataset doesn't have that column. Make sure you're looking for the same columns specified in the examples.
- 2. It seems your Python installation is not complete. Are you able to run other ecrinte without iccuse?

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#### **Table of Contents**

- What Is Dash?
- Get Started With Dash in Python
- Style Your Dash Application
- Add Interactivity to Your Dash Apps Using Callbacks
- <u>Deploy Your Dash Application to Heroku</u>
- Conclusion



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