

CSC-395: Group Discussion

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This is the summary from our group discussion concerning the proposal given by Larry Boateng Asante, Ruth Wu, and Uzodinma Nwike for CSC 395, Data Visualizations in the spring of 2017 at Grinnell College.

During our discussion we were all in agreement to the comments below. There were no disagreements. In terms of strengths the design that is currently proposed is intuitive, simplistic, and visually appealing. This is largely due to the simple and non-dominating design as well as not being cluttered. It focuses on the data instead of extraneous details. With regard to weaknesses we all were concerned about the data that is being used and how reliable the data is. Due to the inherent bias and the confounding variables present we believe some significant cleansing of data is necessary. Some of the specific concerns we had were how to handle base salaries in the sense that different countries have different currencies and do they directly translate to one another in the data? Since education is not as easily accessible in some countries compared to others, is it valid/reasonable to compare countries with the same criteria? How are you going to handle the various titles of software developers since the term “software developer” is a nebulous term? With the preprocessing, such as leaving out certain countries, could lead to a loss of potentially crucial data. Lastly, we were wondering if the topographical representation of the data is the most efficient method. We were thinking a pie chart or some other graph or chart might lend itself better to the data and the questions that you aim to answer rather than a map of the globe. Both can work but the graph/chart might be more intuitive than just clicking on different countries to get a more detailed summary of the data. We think that you should be able to glance at the visualization and get a big picture without much interaction instead of the data coming purely from interaction which, from what we got the proposal, is the main mod of answering the questions which were given.