

# VR3 Assignment 1 - Goals

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## Background:

I have 20+ years of experience analyzing data. My first 15+ years were spent finding data, scrubbing, formatting, and finally analyzing - to be able to make sense of it and convert it to usable information, presenting the findings in static reports. In the last five years, I have been able to add another dimension, visualization, to my arsenal.

## Current Tools:

Still, 80-90% of my time is spent scrubbing, formatting, and validating data. The data lives in SQL databases or MS Excel worksheets. For visualization - I use Tableau for financial and sales dashboards and TreeMap© <http://www.treemap.com/> for telecom analyses.

Strengths	Weaknesses
Data Prep	R
Using the tools I know for visualiztion	Phython
Finding patterns in the underlying data	English

## Goals:

Make time to learn how to tell better stories with data. Learn about new tools, add them to my tool kit, so I can be more effective data sense maker. Why visualization? Visualization enriches the experience. It lets the audience to go into the story, explore it, and allows them to come to their own conclusions.

## Beautiful/interesting visualizations:

- <http://circos.ca/> => interesting tool, beautiful visualizations
- <http://dataremixed.com/> => interesting story
- <http://www.richblockspoorblocks.com/blog/20-most-expensive-u-s-metro-areas-for-homeownership/> => good start for an interesting story
- <http://insights.dice.com/2015/07/01/dice-data-how-tech-skills-connect/> => another interesting story
- <https://github.com/mbostock/d3/wiki/Gallery> => eye candy from github
- <http://www.edwardtufte.com/tufte/index> => more from Tufte

## Good to know:

- <http://www.perceptualedge.com/blog/> => my favorite visualization blog
- <http://colorbrewer2.org/> => picking right colors, considering color blind