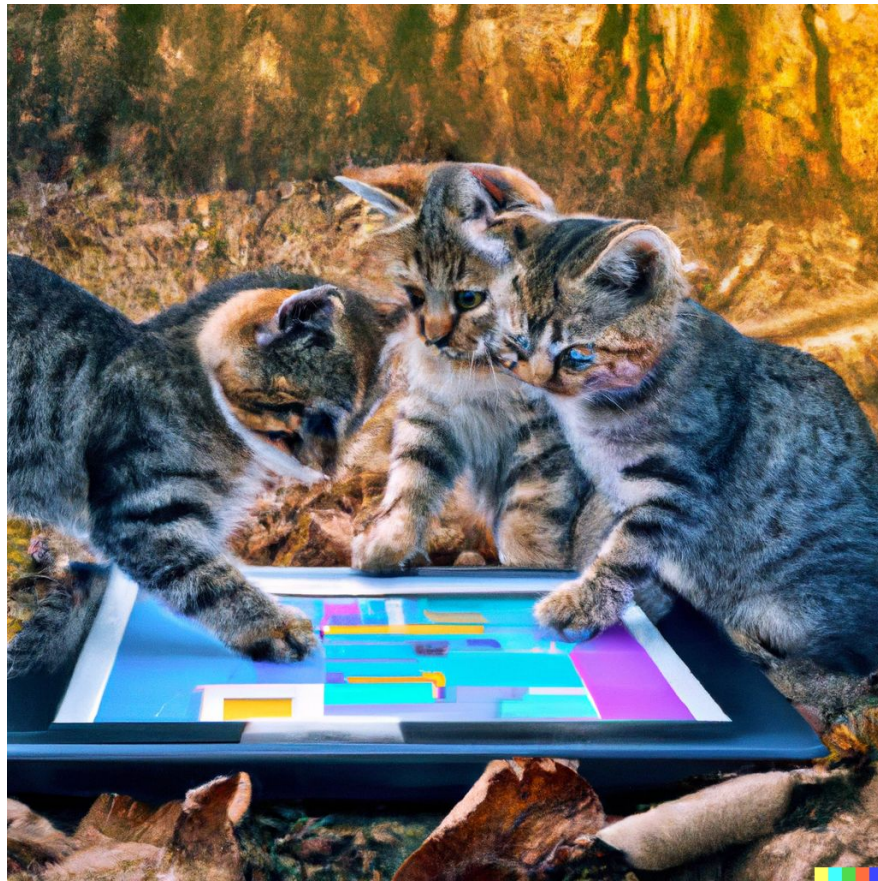


FALL 2023
DSE 12700
VISUAL ANALYTICS

Professor
Madeline Blount
she/her

Week 8
Live data + dashboards



Dall-E2, tabby kittens creating colorful digital charts in a forest, photorealistic style



Shannon Mattern
data/media scholar
Design + Anthropology
University of Pennsylvania

"Dashboard governance"

<https://wordsinspace.net/>

- *The New Downtown Library: Designing with Communities*
- *Deep Mapping the Media City*
- *Code and Clay, Dirt and Data: 5000 Years of Urban Media*
- *A City Is Not a Computer*

“The ideal display offers a big-picture view of *what* is happening in real time, along with information on historical trends, so that users can divine the *how* and *why* and redirect future action.” – Mattern

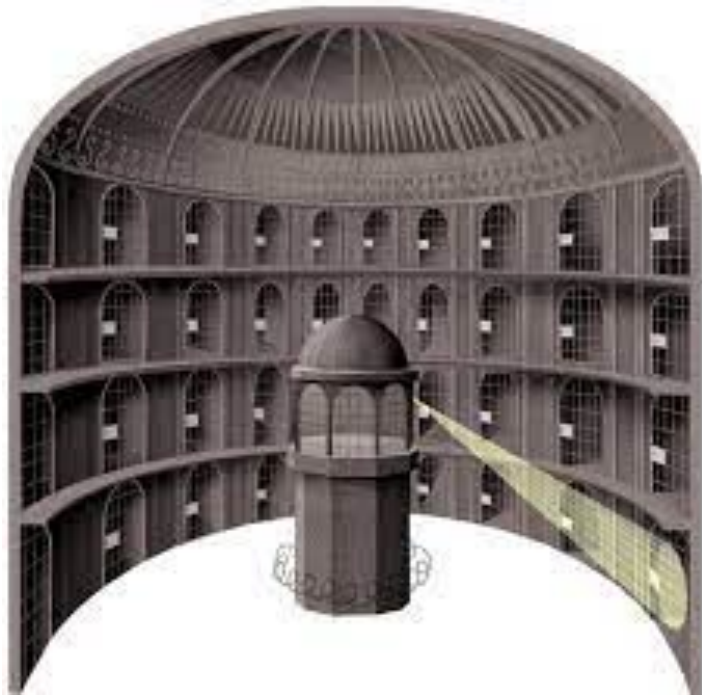




Dashboard platforms “often cultivate a top-down, technocratic vision ... they run the risk of framing the city as a mere aggregate of variables that can be measured and ‘optimized’ to produce an efficient or normative system.” – Mattern

... a city the sum of its variables?

“panoptic”



URBAN DASHBOARDS:

NYC DOT LIVE CAMS

<https://webcams.nyctmc.org/map>





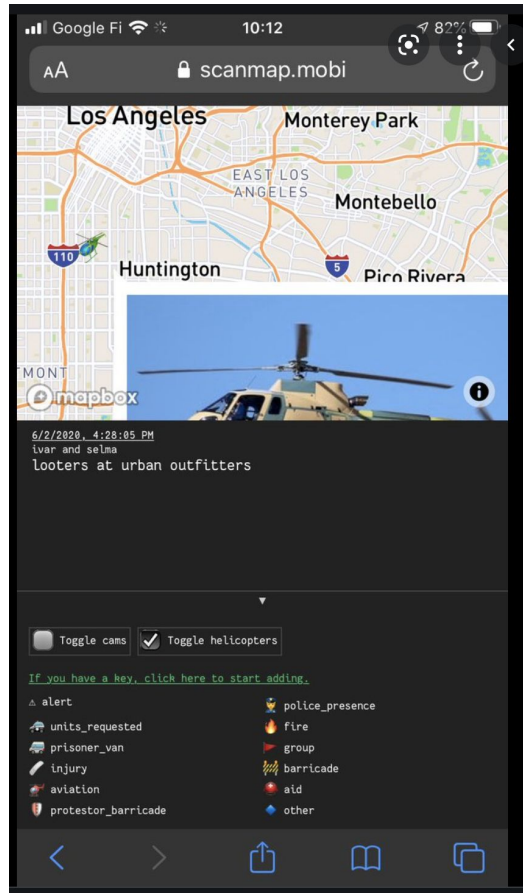
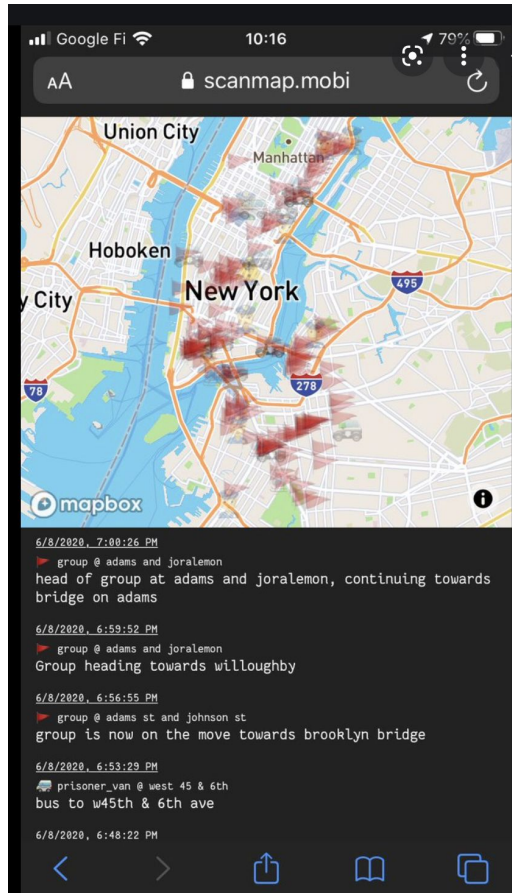
INTERPRETIVE CONTEXT

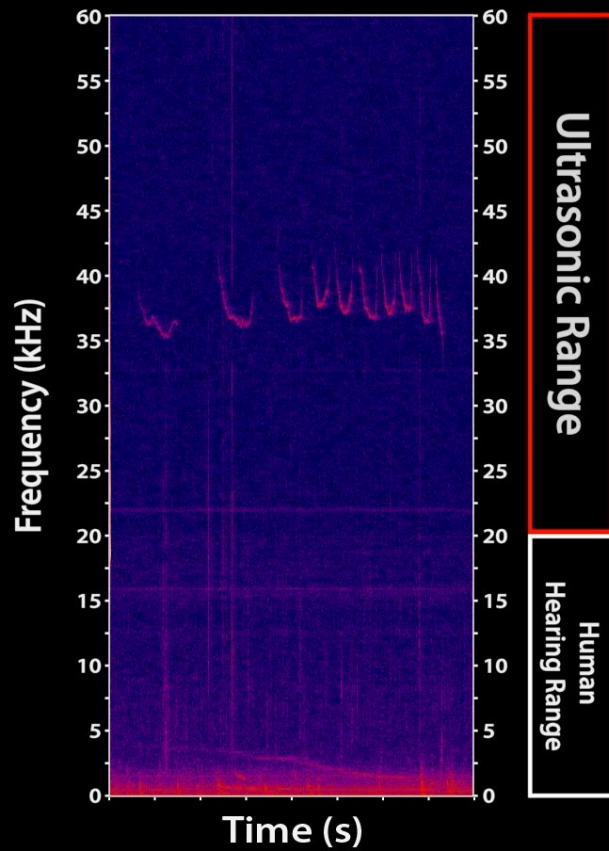
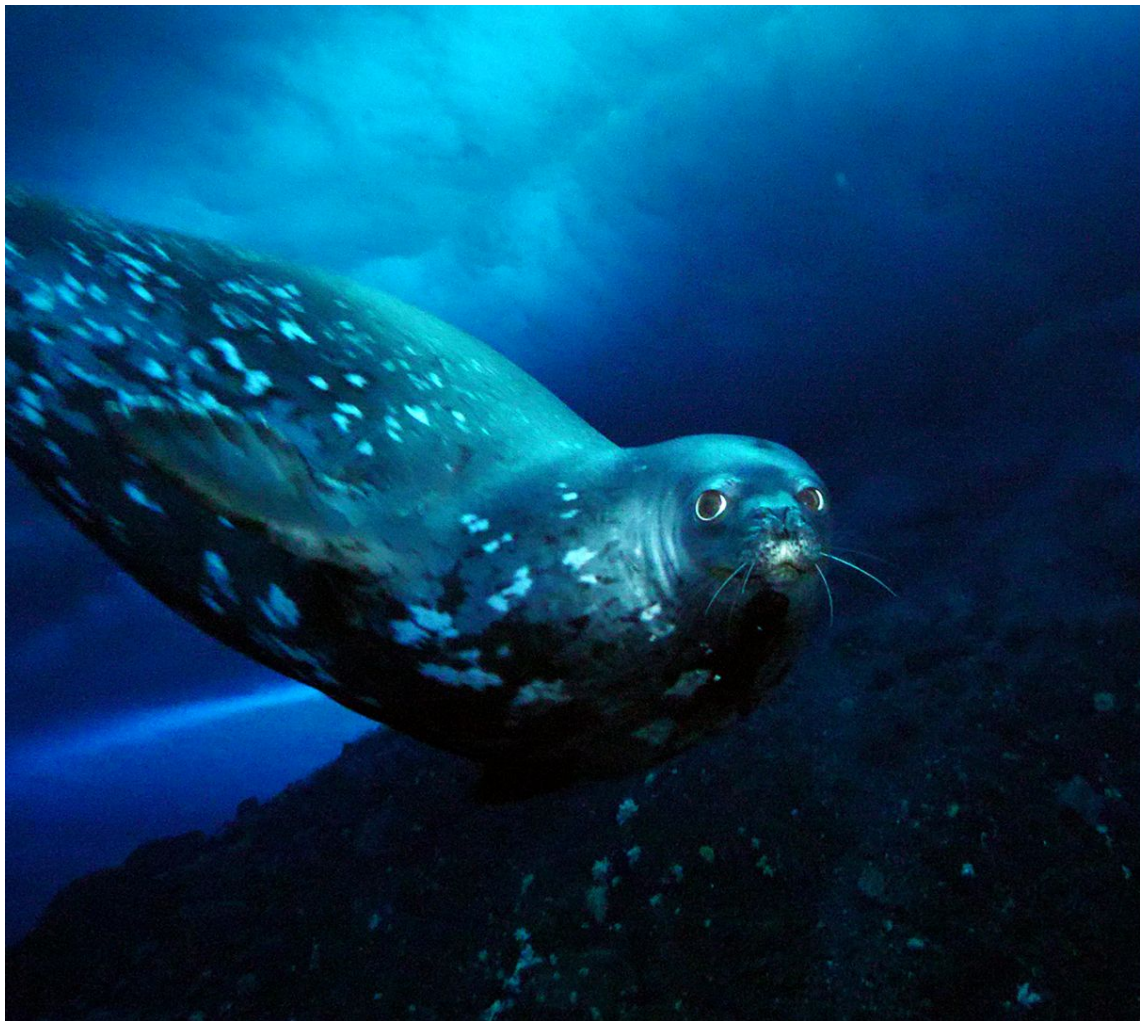
“the dashboard frame — designed, we must recall, to keep out the mud — also does little to educate those users about where the data comes from, or about the politics of information visualization and knowledge production.”

Does the **user** understand the data? (And the limits of that data?)

"Correlation isn't causation, but that's a nicety that may be lost on a mayor or a municipal administration that wants to be seen as vigorously proactive. If fires disproportionately seem to break out in neighborhoods where lots of poor people live, hey, why not simply clear the poor people out and take credit for doing something about fire? After all, the city dashboard you've just invested tens of millions of dollars in made it very clear that neighborhoods that had the one invariably had the other. But maybe there was some underlying, unaddressed factor that generated both fires and the concentration of poverty. (If this example strikes you as a tendentious fabulation, or a case of *reductio ad absurdum*, trust me: the literature of operations research is replete with highly consequential decisions made on grounds just this shoddy.)" - Adam Greenfield (quoted in Mattern)

scanmap.mobi, 2020 - also <https://whitecollar.thenewinquiry.com/#dr5rus2>





Recorded underwater in McMurdo Sound, Antarctica

WHAT IS A REST API?

