

OBJECTIVE:

For the past seven years, the Graphics, Visualization and, Users Department of the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta has conducted an international survey of World Wide Web usage as a public service in order to provide information concerning the demographics and trends of Internet access. The objective of this assignment is to obtain a profile of the “typical” Internet user by applying clustering techniques. Such data mining task can be advantageous to e-commerce marketers so that they may tailor their advertisements to a particular people-set. These tasks may also assist to software engineers and system designers would be interested in understanding why a particular subset of the population is still uncomfortable using computers. In addition, the following tasks have been proposed, what are the typical groups of web users, explain differences and similarities among groups, and suggest methods of better targeting the most important customers. To complete this objective and additional tasks the General Demographics dataset from the GUV's Tenth WWW User Survey (October 1998), R Studio, and Excel will be used.

DESCRIPTION:

The General Demographics dataset is divided into eight sections, including General Demographics, Technology Demographics, Online Privacy and Security, Web and Internet Use, Software Filters and Content Rating (Vanderbilt), Everyday Life (Vanderbilt), Electronic Commerce, and Specialized Questionnaires. Each data section includes a unique user identifier. In preparation for the clustering task the data sections General Demographics and Web and Internet Use were combined. Initially the General Demographics data set contained 5,022 observations and 106 variables of both numeric and nominal value and the Web and Internet Use data set contained 3,291 observations and 126 variables of both numeric and nominal value as well. Once all NAs were removed from the two data sets the General Demographics data set contained 4,767 observations and 105 variables of both numeric and nominal value and the Web and Internet Use data set contained 3,291 observations and 125 variables of both numeric and nominal value as well. The two data sets were then merged into one data set titled “prep” containing 3,084 observations and 229 variables of both numeric and nominal value. The new data set “prep” contains only the users found in both of the original General Demographics and Web and Internet Use data sets since unique users will not help capture trends as smoothly during the clustering analysis.

PREPROCESSING:

The preprocessing tasks are necessary in ensuring less relevant or even error filled data is not used to produce business decisions. Without quality preprocessing several negative factors affecting a dataset such as noise, incomplete, inconsistent, or unmanageable size would never be addressed in the data mining process. Preprocessing ensures an adequate amount and proper format for a dataset is achieved before any substantial analysis is performed.

Task 1: Data Integration

The data integration task is a necessity in the data preprocessing process to ensure any redundancies or inconsistencies in the data are handled, resulting in an increase of the accuracy of the subsequent data mining process. The issues examined in this step were data integration, schema integration, value conflict detection, and redundancy detection. To address this task in the *prep* data set the column titled “who” contained all the individual user IDs. This is great for the identification of user observations during the latter sections of this exam, so, for the initial goal of cluster analysis the variable “who” will be a distraction. As a result, the variable “who” will be removed from the *prep* data set for now, but the user IDs will remain, reducing the total number of variables in the *prep* data set to 228.

Task 2: Data Cleaning

The data cleaning task is a necessity in the data preprocessing process to ensure bias isn't introduced, limit the generalization of findings, and to avoid the result of misleading conclusions. The identification

and handling of missing data was already completed before the preprocessing stage. In addition, the following issues were examined as well, identification of outliers and the smoothing of out noisy data, correction of inconsistent data, and the resolve of redundancy caused by data integration. Variables (or factors) with only 1 level will not contain clusters of observations during the application of clustering techniques, therefore these 1 level variables act as noise within the data set. To address this issue variables with only 1 level were removed from the *prep* data set during this task.

Task 3: Data Transformation

The data transformation task is a necessity in the data preprocessing process to ensure the mapping of the data from its given format into the suitable format for visualization and model generation.

-Smoothing and Discretization-

In order to remove noise and convert continuous variables into nominal range variables binary levels of 0 and 1 were converted into N(no) and Y(yes).

Task 4: Data Reduction

The data reduction task is a necessity in the data preprocessing process to decrease the probability of obtaining an invalid model.

- 1) Merged two files into one = Prep data set now has 3084 observations and 229 variables
- 2) 1 level variable removal = New_Prep data set now has 3084 observations and 226 variables
- 3) User.Id as variable removal = Prep data set now has 3084 observations and 225 variables

Then saved file as csv format and continued pre-processing in Excel. In Excel I removed all apostrophes and converted the numeric instances for the variable Number.of.Children.in.Household to zero, one, two, three, and 4 or more, so that the instances would be recognized as a nominal value. Then uploaded the Prep data set into Weka for further analysis.

Weka Visualizations

The Prep data set has 3084 instances and 225 attributes all of nominal value.



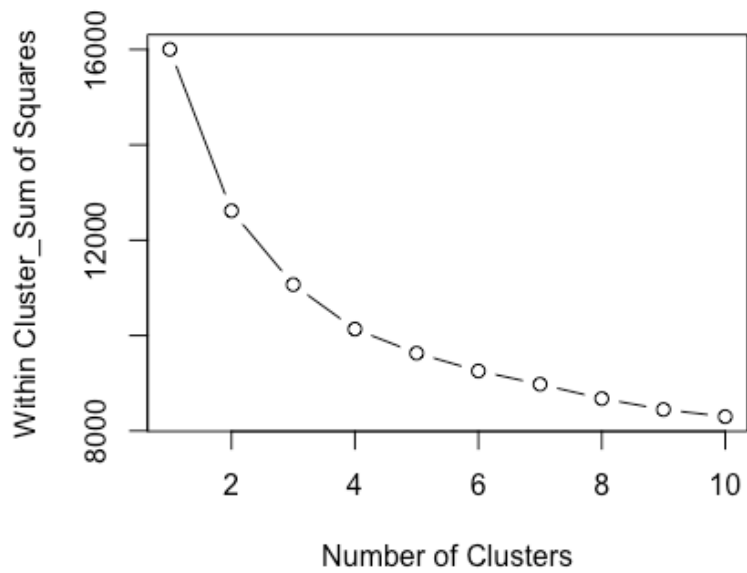


Section 4: Clustering Technique: K-means Algorithm

The K-means Algorithm is a partitional clustering approach that clusters into a predefined number of clusters. The K-means Algorithm associates each cluster with a center point called, centroid, which does not have to be a real point in the data set. For each point in the data set we calculate the distance to each centroid and finally the point is assigned to the cluster with the closest centroid.

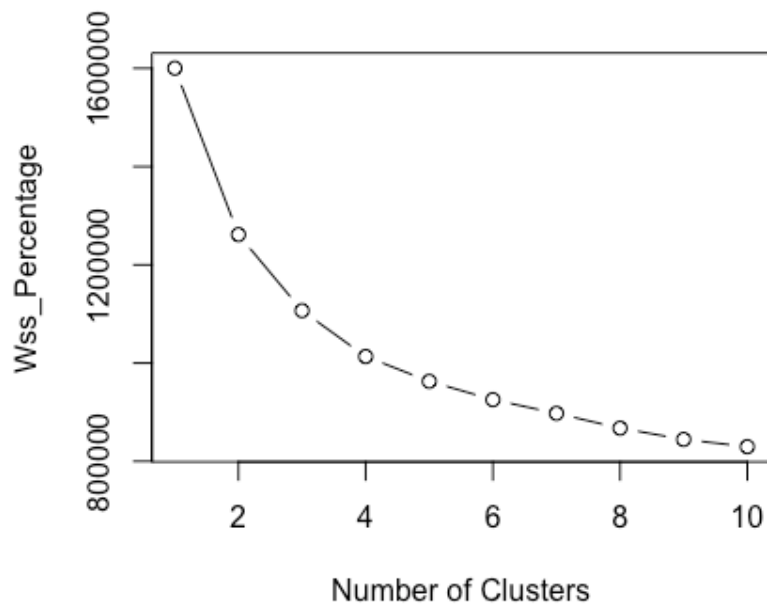
To perform the K-means Algorithm on the Prep dataset the SimpleKMeans operator was used under the Cluster tab in Weka Explorer. This technique was performed on the Prep dataset.

Gower's Distance / KMeans: Within Cluster_Sum of Squares



In this plot it is apparent the elbow occurs at $k = 3$.

KMeans: Wss Percentage Drop



In the plot it appears the best number of clusters is also when $k = 3$ with minimum wss.

Simplified KMeans with Number of Folds Set to 3

=== Run information ===

Scheme: weka.clusterers.SimpleKMeans -init 0 -max-candidates
Relation: prep
Instances: 3084
Attributes: 225
[list of attributes omitted]
Test mode: evaluate on training data

=== Clustering model (full training set) ===

kMeans

=====

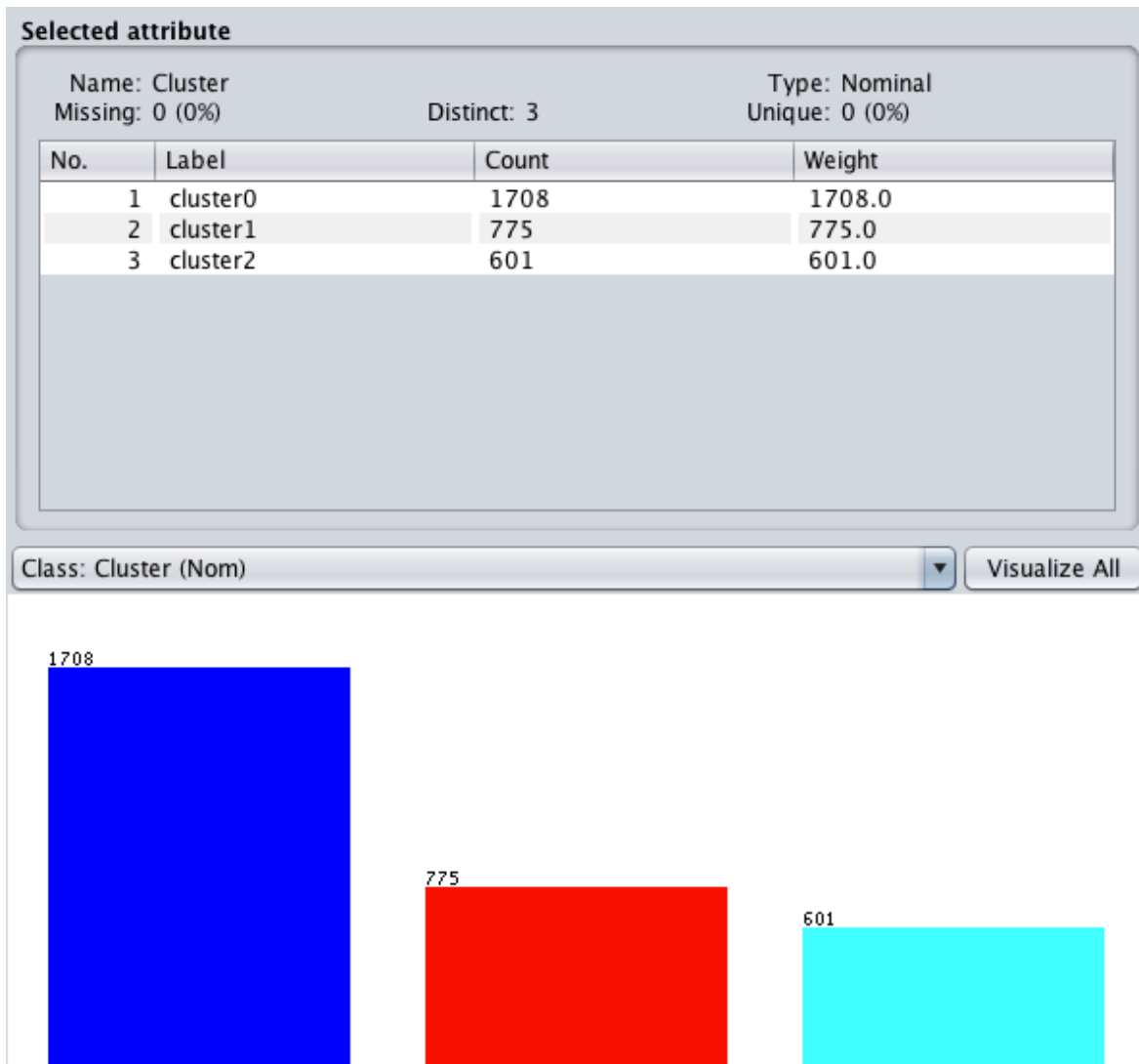
Time taken to build model (full training data) : 0.24 seconds

=== Model and evaluation on training set ===

Clustered Instances

0	1708 (55%)
1	775 (25%)
2	601 (19%)

Therefore, for this analysis 3 clusters were identified with a total of 3084 observations and 226 attributes. Cluster 0 contains 1708 instances making up 55% of the observations from the data set. Cluster 1 contains 775 instances making up 25% of the observations from the data set. Cluster 2 contains 601 instances making up 19% of the observations from the data set.



Cluster 0 will be called Blue moving forward at 1708, Cluster 1 will be called Red moving forward at 775, and Cluster 2 will be called Teal moving forward at 601.

Section 5: Evaluation - Profiling Clusters for Analysis

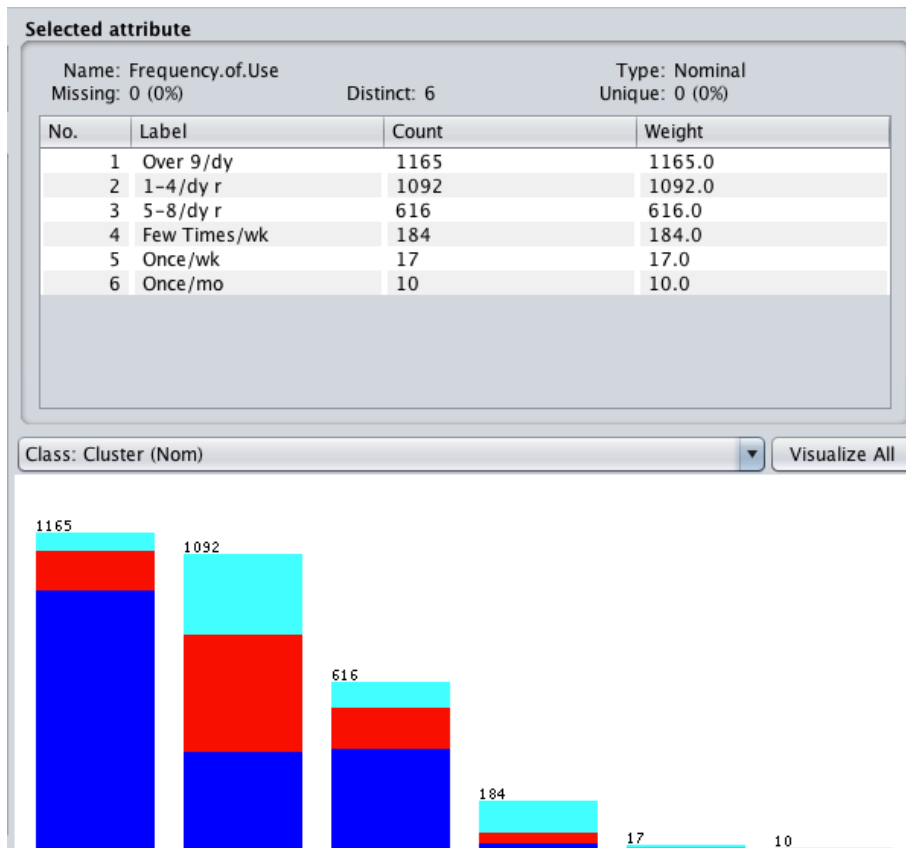
From the 226 attributes the following 7 profiles were identified each containing subsets of information used to develop characteristics of each cluster.

- Profiling Clusters -

1) Web Access Profile

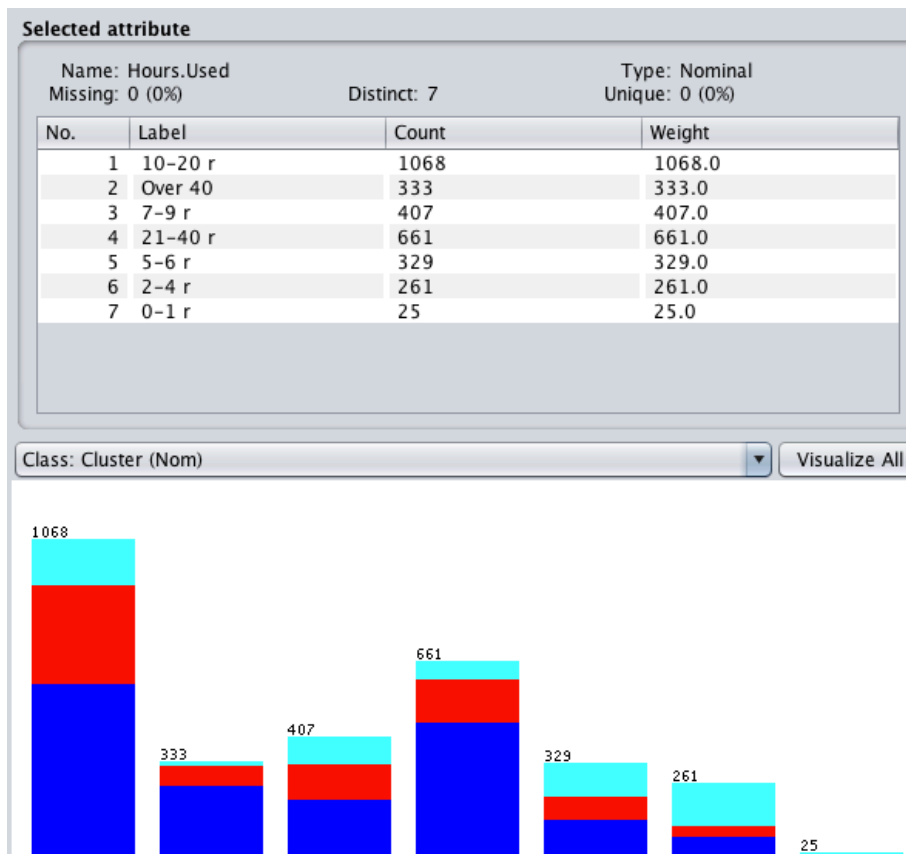
- Subgroups -

A) Frequency of Use



Cluster Blue – High Use, Cluster Red – High Use, Cluster Teal – High Use

B) Hours Used

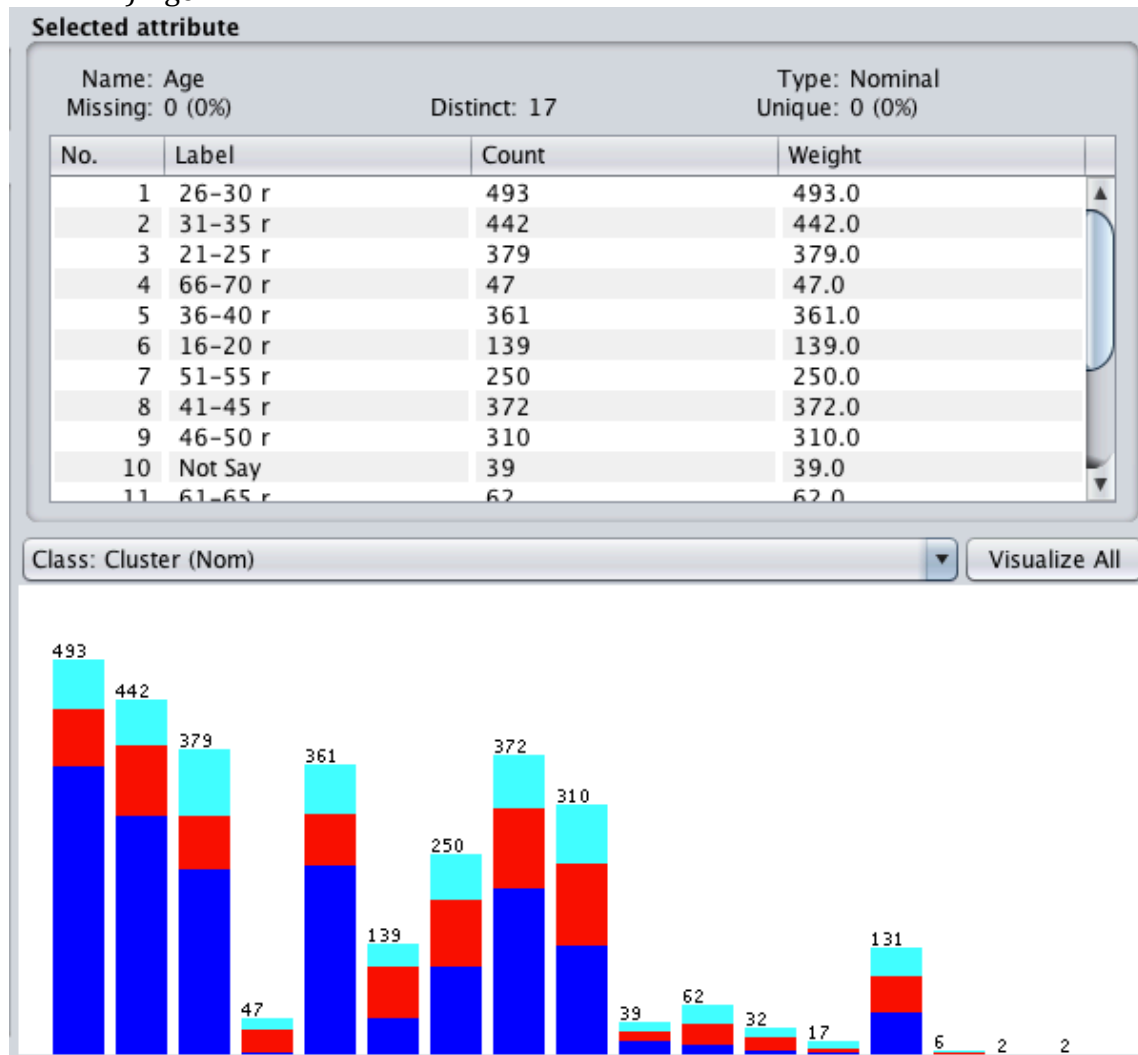


Cluster Blue – High - Moderate Use, Cluster Red – Moderate, Cluster Teal – Low - Moderate

2) User Profile

- Subgroup –

A) Age



Cluster Blue – Ages 21 to 35 and 36 to 40, Cluster Red – Not Clear, Cluster Teal – Not Clear

B) Major Geographical Location

Selected attribute

Name: Major.Geographical.Location

Type: Nominal

Missing: 0 (0%)

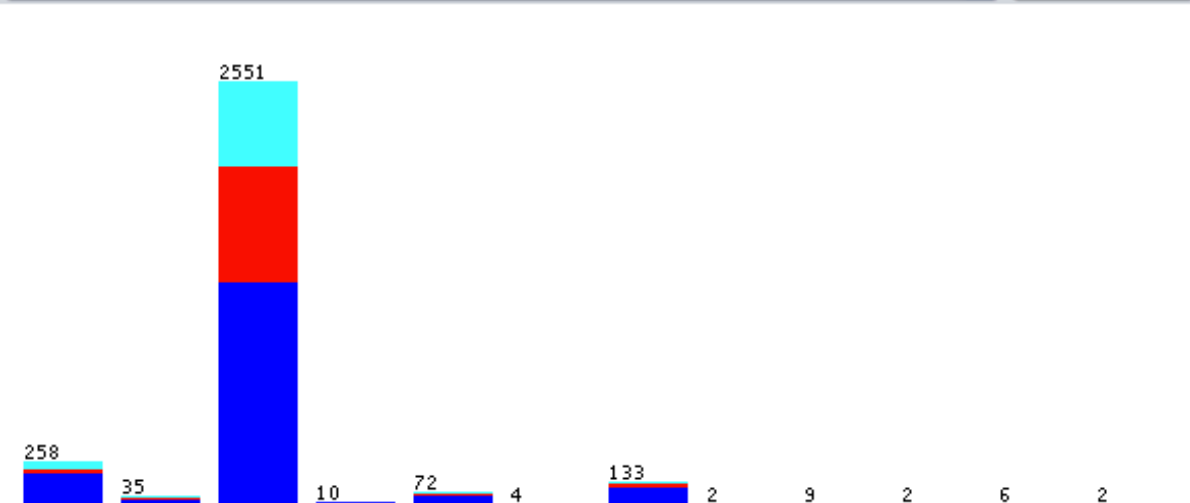
Distinct: 12

Unique: 0 (0%)

No.	Label	Count	Weight
1	Europe	258	258.0
2	Asia	35	35.0
3	USA	2551	2551.0
4	Africa	10	10.0
5	Oceania	72	72.0
6	Mexico	4	4.0
7	Canada	133	133.0
8	Antarctica	2	2.0
9	Middle East	9	9.0
10	West Indies	2	2.0
11	South America	6	6.0

Class: Cluster (Nom)

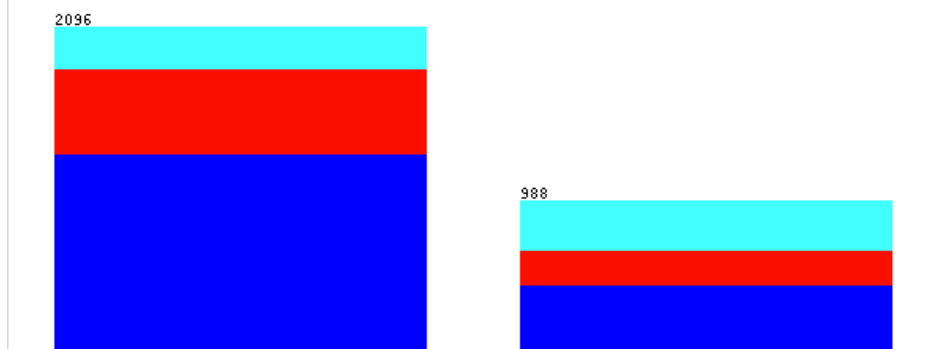
Visualize All



Cluster Blue – USA, Cluster Red – USA, Cluster Teal - USA

C) Gender

Selected attribute			
Name: Gender		Type: Nominal	
Missing: 0 (0%)		Unique: 0 (0%)	
		Distinct: 2	
No.	Label	Count	Weight
1	Male	2096	2096.0
2	Female	988	988.0



Cluster Blue – Mostly Male, Cluster Red – Mostly Male, Cluster Teal – Slightly More Female

D) Education

Selected attribute

Name: Education.Attainment
Missing: 0 (0%)

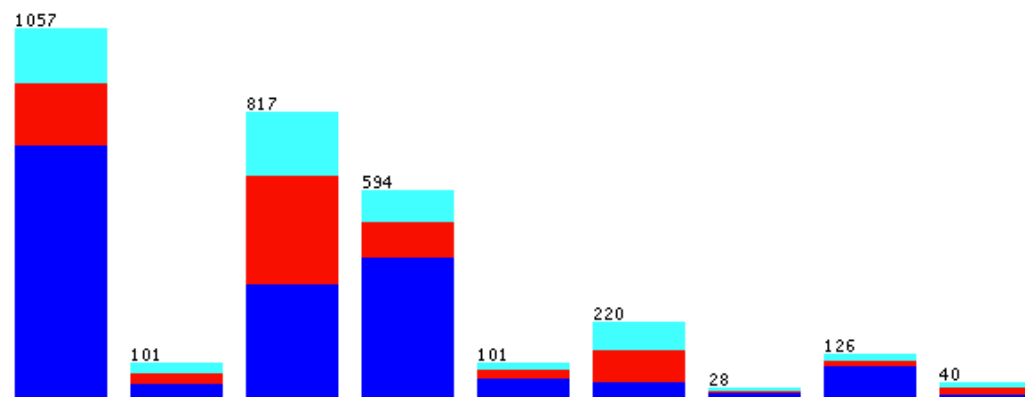
Distinct: 9

Type: Nominal
Unique: 0 (0%)

No.	Label	Count	Weight
1	College	1057	1057.0
2	Voc/Tech	101	101.0
3	Some College	817	817.0
4	Masters	594	594.0
5	Professional	101	101.0
6	High School	220	220.0
7	Other	28	28.0
8	Doctoral	126	126.0
9	Grammar	40	40.0

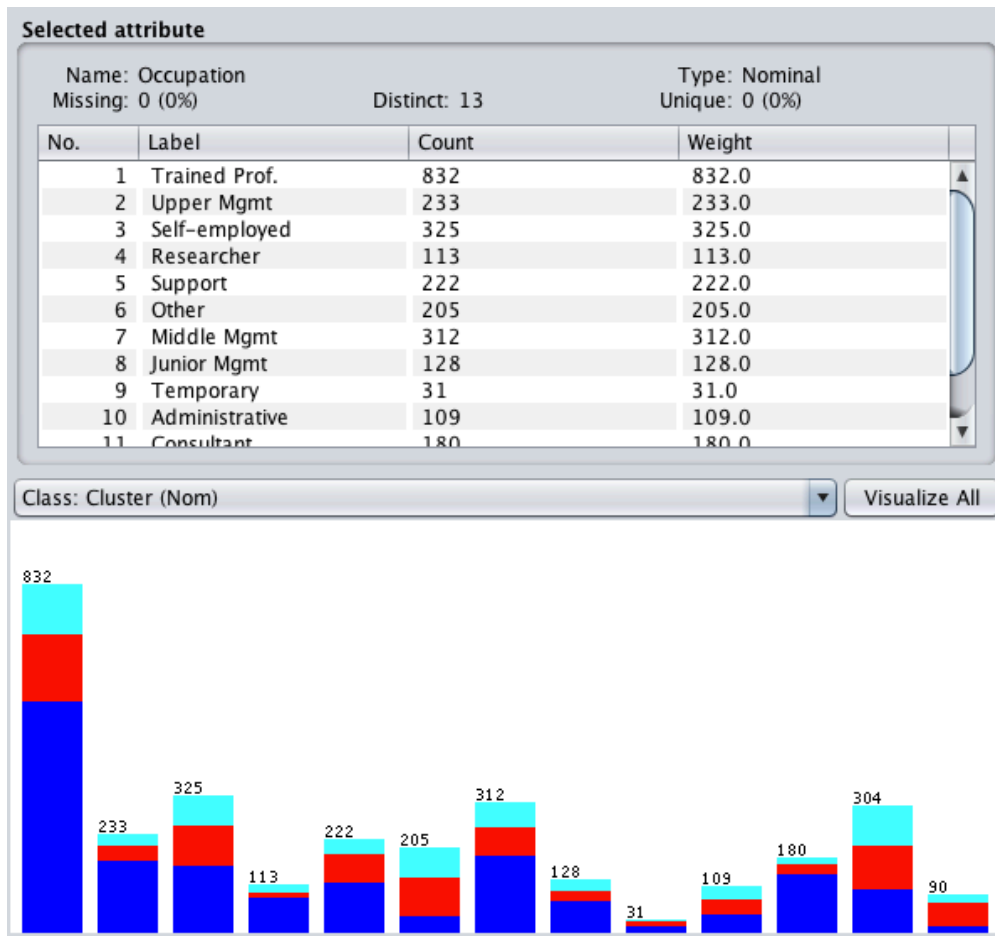
Class: Cluster (Nom)

Visualize All



Cluster Blue – Some College – Masters, Cluster Red – Some College – College , Cluster Teal - Some College – College

E) Occupation



Cluster Blue – Trained Professional, Cluster Red – Trained Professional, Cluster Teal – Not Clear

F) Martial Status

Selected attribute

Name: Marital.Status

Missing: 0 (0%)

Distinct: 7

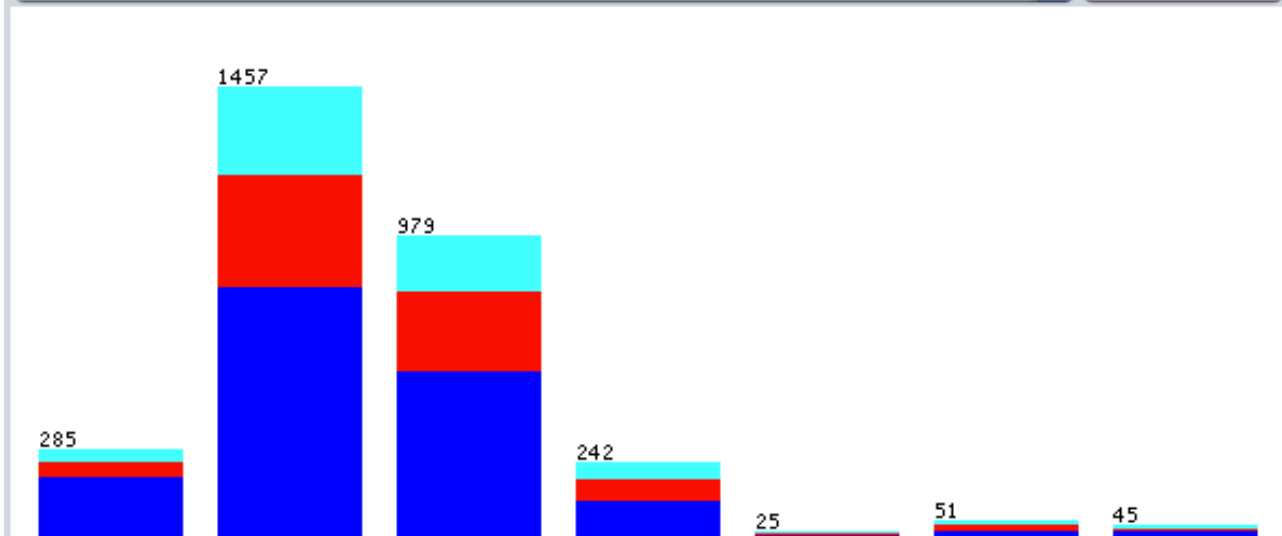
Type: Nominal

Unique: 0 (0%)

No.	Label	Count	Weight
1	Other	285	285.0
2	Married	1457	1457.0
3	Single	979	979.0
4	Divorced	242	242.0
5	Widowed	25	25.0
6	Separated	51	51.0
7	Not Say	45	45.0

Class: Cluster (Nom)

Visualize All



Cluster Blue – Married or Single, Cluster Red - Married or Single, Cluster Teal - Married or Single

G) Household Income

Selected attribute

Name: Household.Income
Missing: 0 (0%)

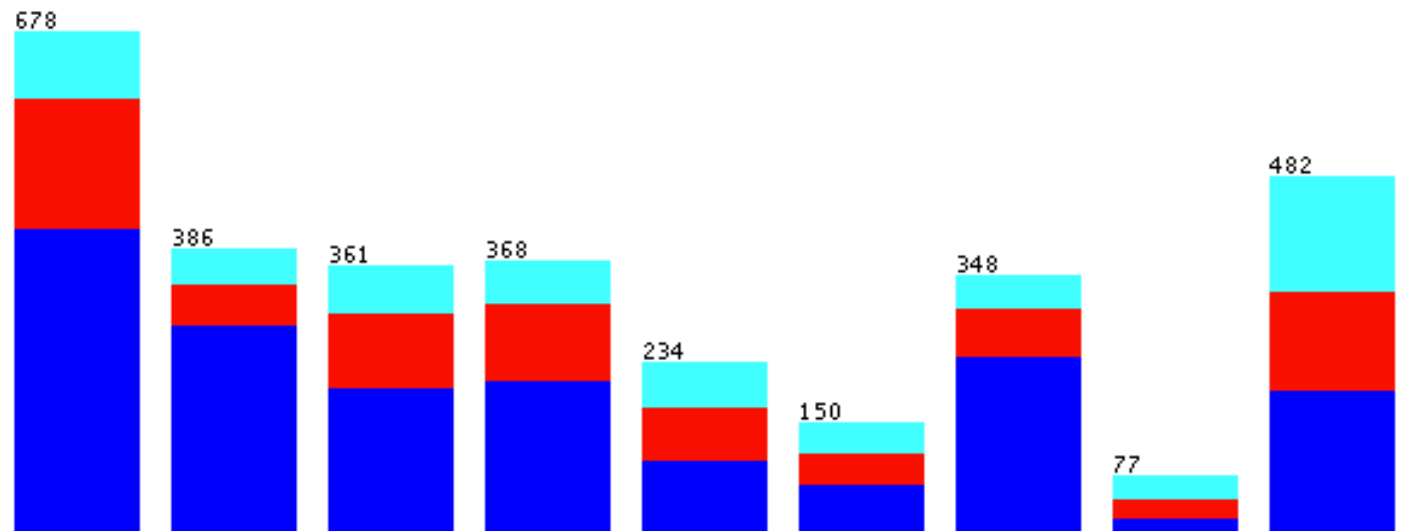
Distinct: 9

Type: Nominal
Unique: 0 (0%)

No.	Label	Count	Weight
1	\$50-74	678	678.0
2	Over \$100	386	386.0
3	\$40-49	361	361.0
4	\$30-39	368	368.0
5	\$20-29	234	234.0
6	\$10-19	150	150.0
7	\$75-99	348	348.0
8	Under \$10	77	77.0
9	Not Say	482	482.0

Class: Cluster (Nom)

Visualize All



Cluster Blue - \$50-74 and Over \$100, Cluster Red - \$50-74 , Cluster Teal – Not Clear

H) Who Pays For Access

Selected attribute

Name: Who.Pays.for.Access_Don.t.Know

Type: Nominal

Missing: 0 (0%)

Distinct: 2

Unique: 0 (0%)

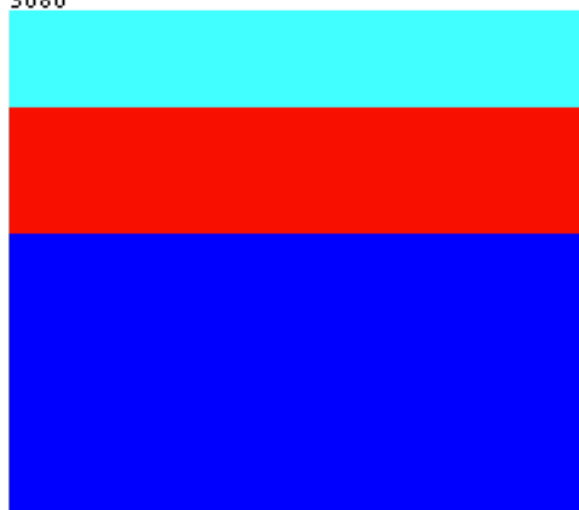
No.	Label	Count	Weight
1	N	3080	3080.0
2	Y	4	4.0

Class: Cluster (Nom)



Visualize All

3080



4

Not a reason for any Cluster

Selected attribute

Name: Who.Pays.for.Access_Other

Missing: 0 (0%)

Distinct: 2

Type: Nominal

Unique: 0 (0%)

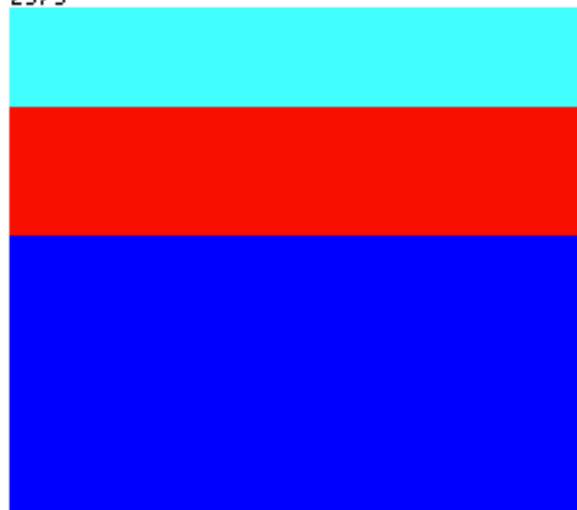
No.	Label	Count	Weight
1	N	2975	2975.0
2	Y	109	109.0

Class: Cluster (Nom)

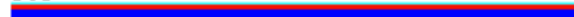


Visualize All

2975



109



Not a Reason For Any Cluster

Selected attribute

Name: Who.Pays.for.Access_Parents

Type: Nominal

Missing: 0 (0%)

Distinct: 2

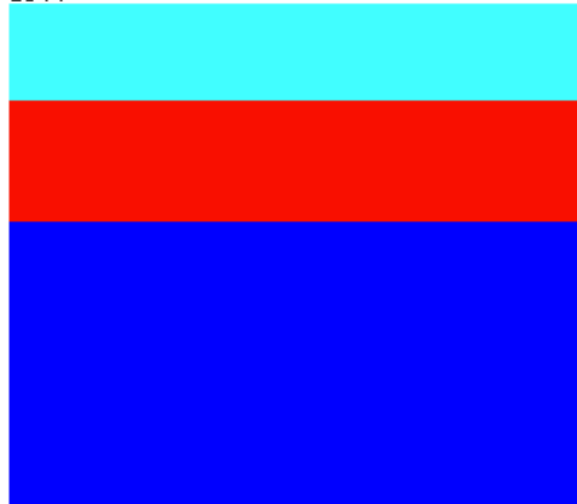
Unique: 0 (0%)

No.	Label	Count	Weight
1	N	2944	2944.0
2	Y	140	140.0

Class: Cluster (Nom)

Visualize All

2944



140



Not a Reason for Any Cluster

Selected attribute

Name: Who.Pays.for.Access_School

Missing: 0 (0%)

Distinct: 2

Type: Nominal

Unique: 0 (0%)

No.	Label	Count	Weight
1	Y	320	320.0
2	N	2764	2764.0

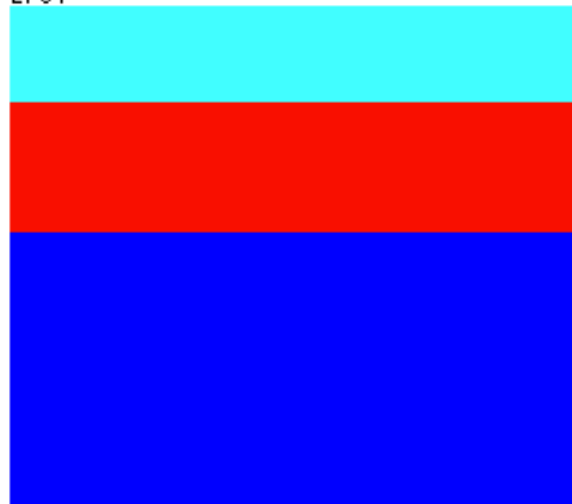
Class: Cluster (Nom)

Visualize All

320



2764



Not a Reason For Any Cluster

Selected attribute

Name: Who.Pays.for.Access_Self

Type: Nominal

Missing: 0 (0%)

Distinct: 2

Unique: 0 (0%)

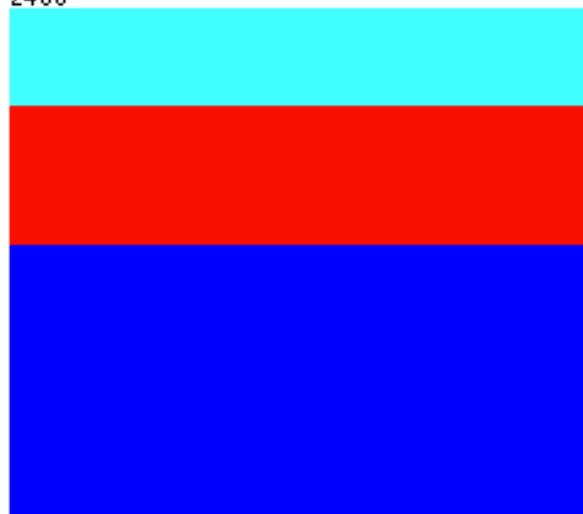
No.	Label	Count	Weight
1	Y	2460	2460.0
2	N	624	624.0

Class: Cluster (Nom)

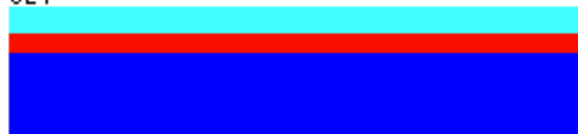


Visualize All

2460



624



All Clusters say Self

Selected attribute

Name: Who.Pays.for.Access_Work

Missing: 0 (0%)

Distinct: 2

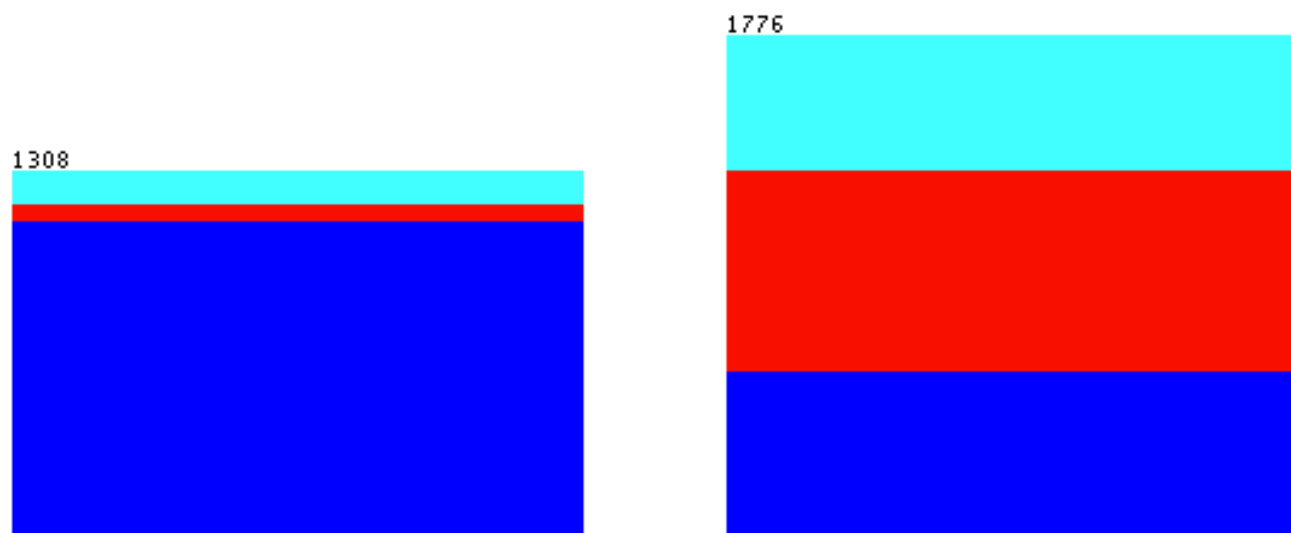
Type: Nominal

Unique: 0 (0%)

No.	Label	Count	Weight
1	Y	1308	1308.0
2	N	1776	1776.0

Class: Cluster (Nom)

Visualize All



Cluster Blue – Yes Work, Cluster Red – No Work Doesn't Pay, Cluster Teal - No Work Doesn't Pay

3) User Prior Experience

- subgroup –
- A) Years on Internet

Selected attribute

Name: Years.on.Internet
Missing: 0 (0%)

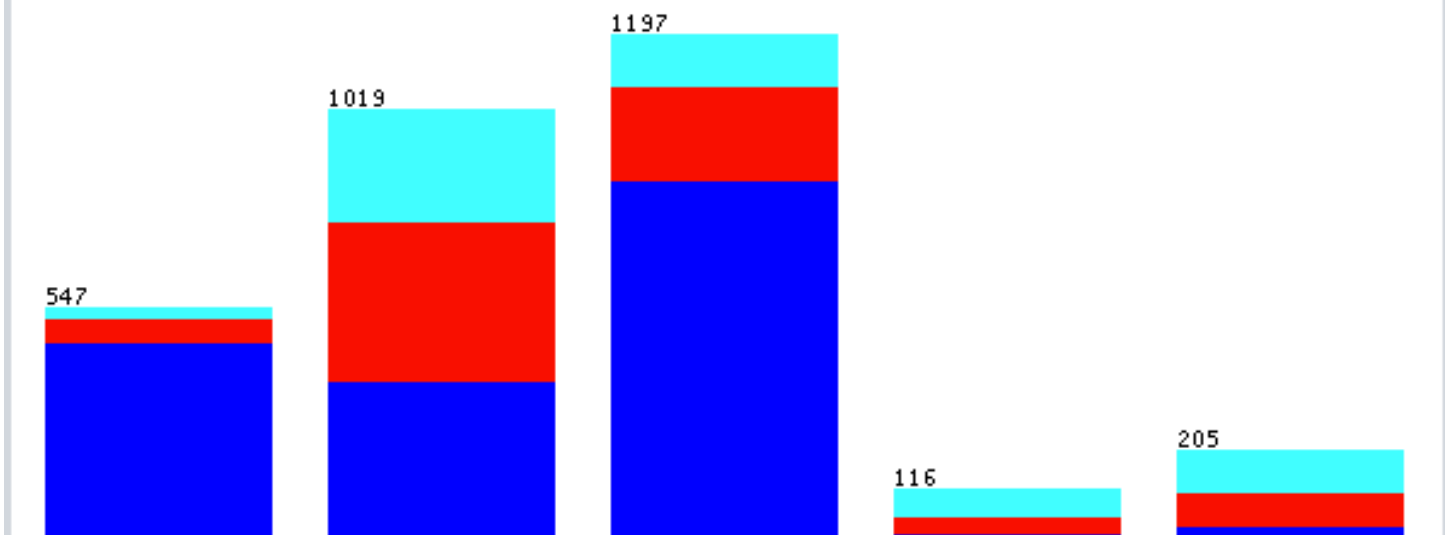
Distinct: 5

Type: Nominal
Unique: 0 (0%)

No.	Label	Count	Weight
1	Over 7 yr	547	547.0
2	1-3 yr r	1019	1019.0
3	4-6 yr r	1197	1197.0
4	Under 6 mo	116	116.0
5	6-12 mo r	205	205.0

Class: Cluster (Nom)

Visualize All



Cluster Blue - High to Moderate Time, Cluster Red - Moderate, Cluster Teal - Moderate

B) Comfort With Computers

Selected attribute

Name: Comfort.With.Computers

Missing: 0 (0%)

Distinct: 5

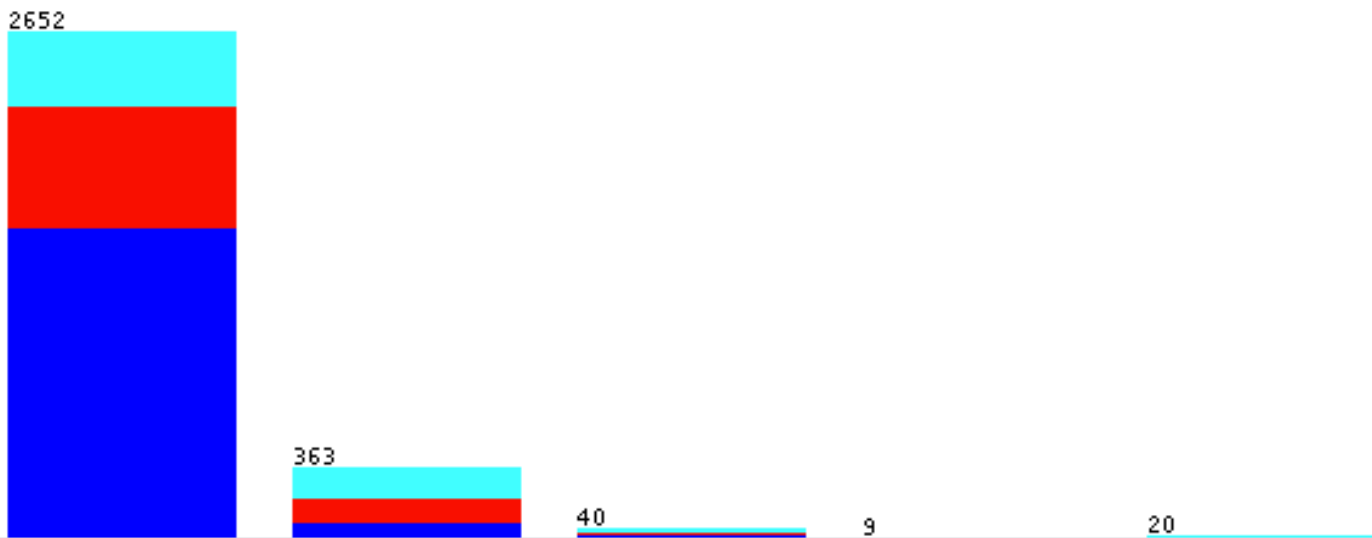
Type: Nominal

Unique: 0 (0%)

No.	Label	Count	Weight
1	Very Comfortable	2652	2652.0
2	Somewhat Comfortable	363	363.0
3	Neither	40	40.0
4	Very Uncomfortable	9	9.0
5	Somewhat Uncomfortable	20	20.0

Class: Cluster (Nom)

Visualize All



Cluster Blue – Very Comfortable, Cluster Red - Very Comfortable, Cluster Teal - Very Comfortable

4) User Opinions

A) Most Important Issues Facing The Internet

Selected attribute

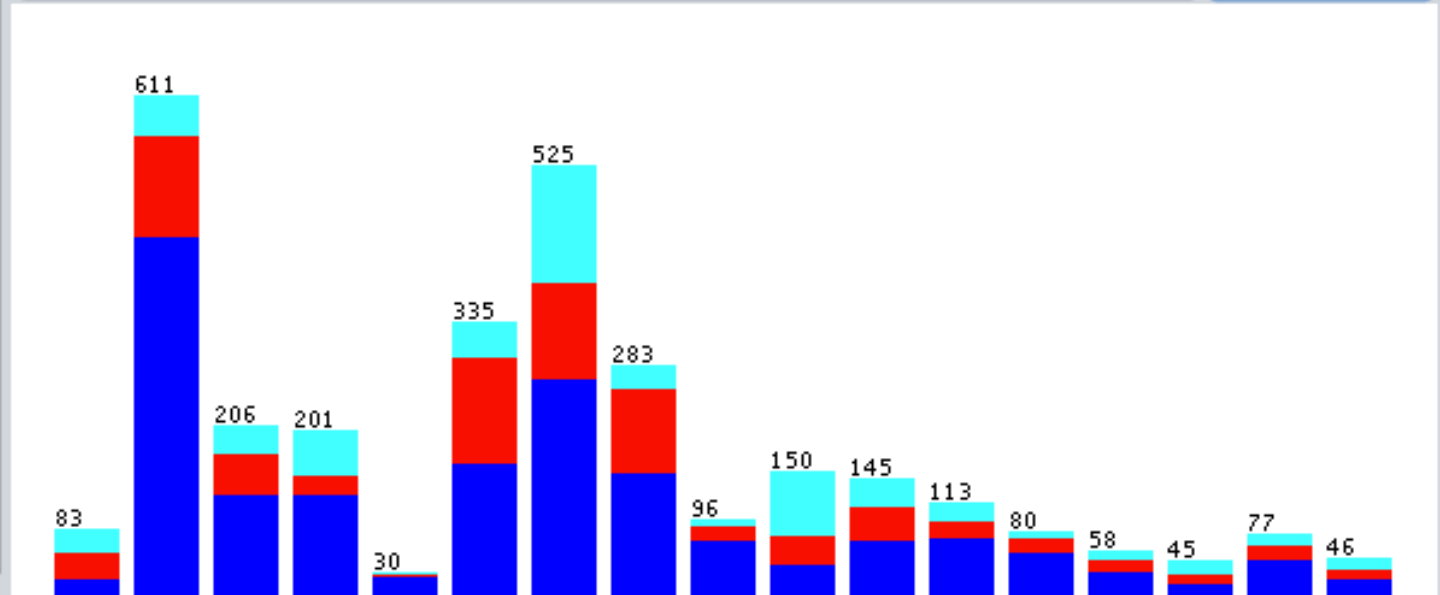
Name: Most.Important.Issue.Facing.the.Internet
Missing: 0 (0%) Distinct: 17

Type: Nominal
Unique: 0 (0%)

No.	Label	Count	Weight
7	Privacy	525	525.0
8	Censorship	283	283.0
9	Equal Access	96	96.0
10	Pornography	150	150.0
11	Security of Ecommerce	145	145.0
12	Content Accuracy	113	113.0
13	Intellectual Property	80	80.0
14	Paying	58	58.0
15	Dont know	45	45.0
16	Commercialization	77	77.0
17	Junk sites	46	46.0

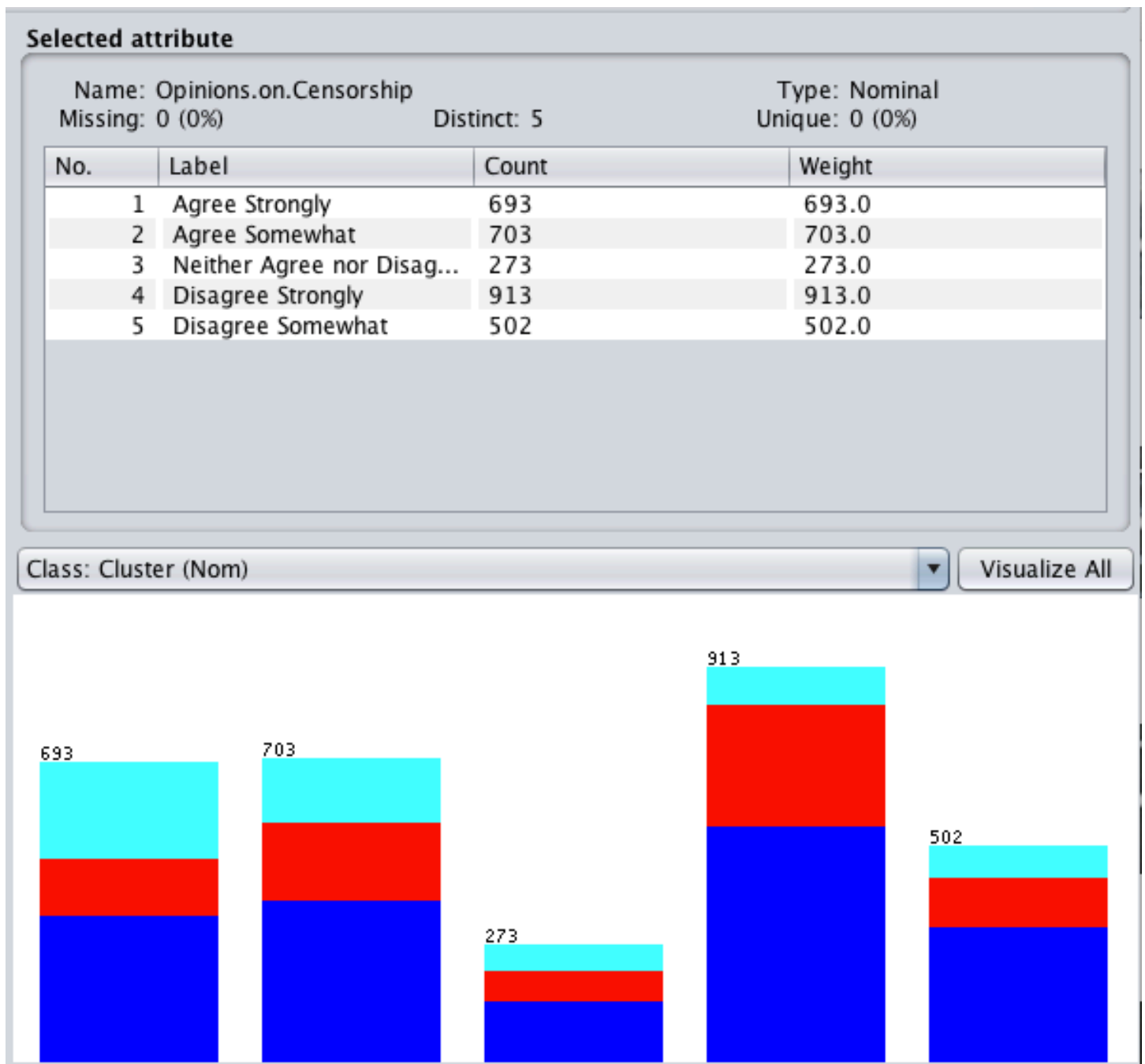
Class: Cluster (Nom)

Visualize All



Cluster Blue – Speed and Government Regulation, Cluster Red – Speed, Government Regulation, Privacy, Censorship, Cluster Teal – Privacy and Pornography

B) Opinions on Censorship



Cluster Blue – Disagree, Cluster Red – Disagree, Cluster Teal – Agree

5) User Web Settings/Applications

A) Primary Computing Platform

Selected attribute

Name: Primary.Computing.Platform

Missing: 0 (0%)

Distinct: 14

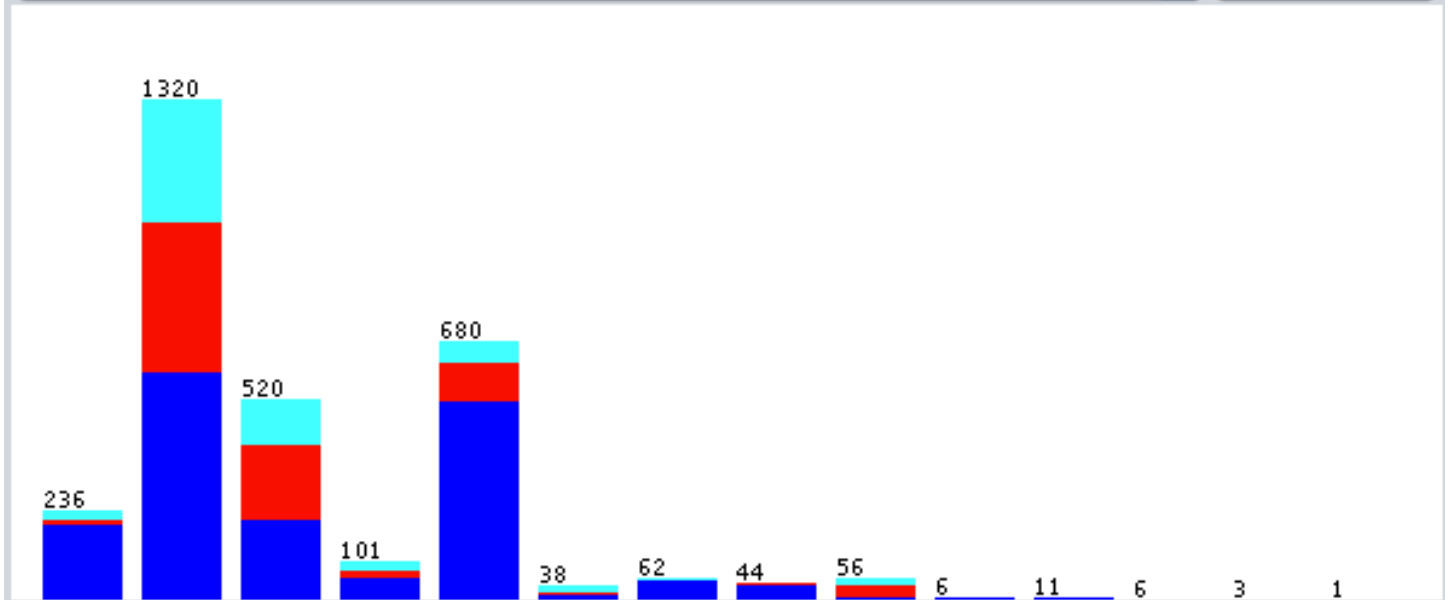
Type: Nominal

Unique: 1 (0%)

No.	Label	Count	Weight
1	NT	236	236.0
2	Win95	1320	1320.0
3	Win98	520	520.0
4	Macintosh	101	101.0
5	Mac/Sys 8	680	680.0
6	Windows	38	38.0
7	Unix	62	62.0
8	PC Unix	44	44.0
9	WebTV	56	56.0
10	OS2	6	6.0
11	Other	11	11.0

Class: Cluster (Nom)

Visualize All



Cluster Blue – Win95 and Mac/Sys8, Cluster Red – Win95 and Win98, Cluster Teal – Win 95 and Win98

B) Image Loading

Selected attribute

Name: Image.Loading
Missing: 0 (0%)

Distinct: 4

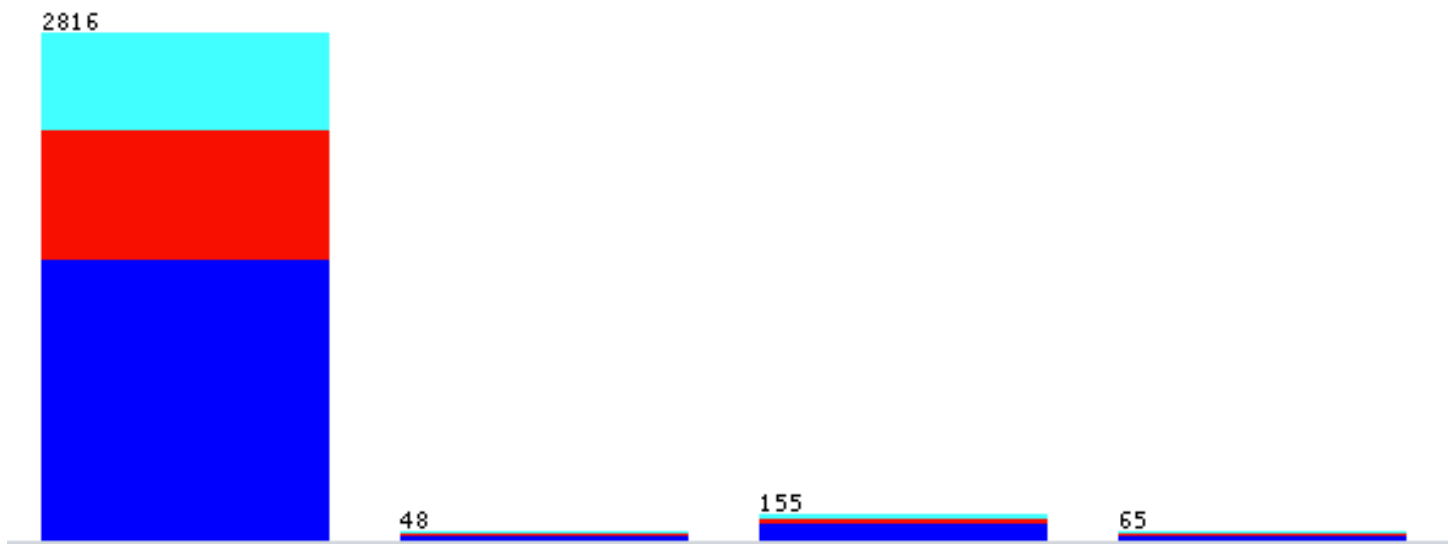
Type: Nominal
Unique: 0 (0%)

No.	Label	Count	Weight
1	Under 25	2816	2816.0
2	51-75 r	48	48.0
3	26-50 r	155	155.0
4	Over 75	65	65.0

Class: Cluster (Nom)



Visualize All



All clusters have low image loading frequency

C) Cookies Policy

Selected attribute

Name: Cookie.Policy

Missing: 0 (0%)

Distinct: 7

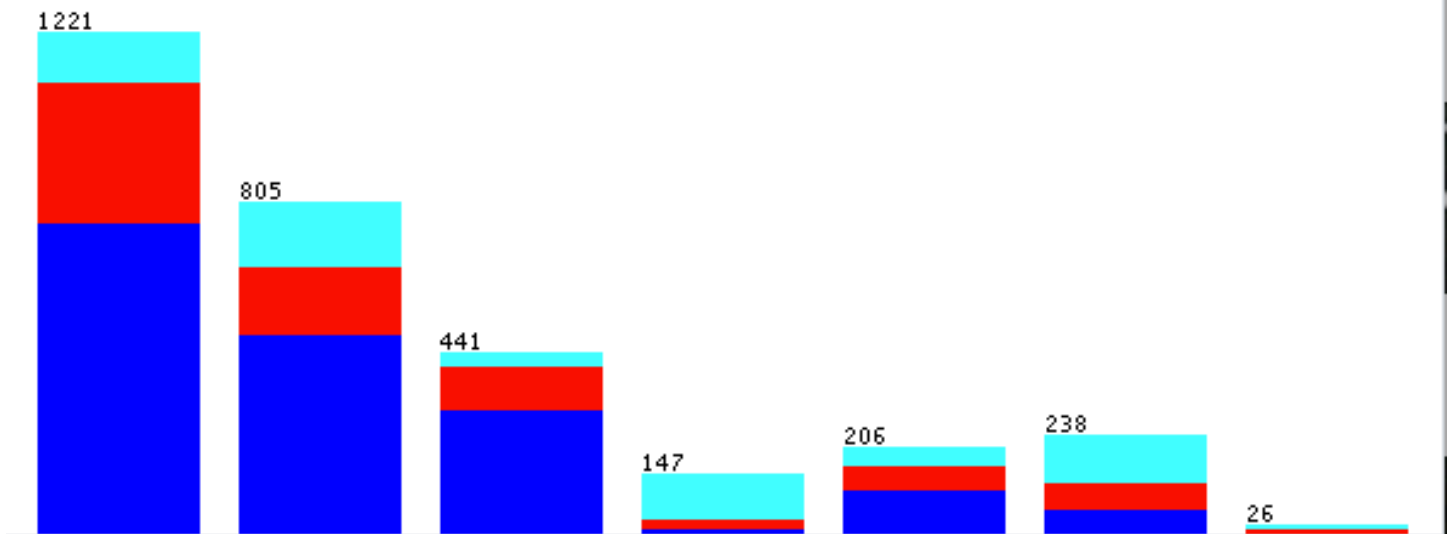
Type: Nominal

Unique: 0 (0%)

No.	Label	Count	Weight
1	Always accept	1221	1221.0
2	Warn	805	805.0
3	Same domain	441	441.0
4	What is cookie	147	147.0
5	Never accept	206	206.0
6	Dont know policy	238	238.0
7	No support	26	26.0

Class: Cluster (Nom)

Visualize All



Cluster Blue- Mostly Always Accept Cookies, Cluster Red- Mostly Always Accept Cookies, Cluster Teal- No clear trend

6) Primary Use of The Web

A) Work

Selected attribute

Name: Primary.Uses.of.the.Web_Work

Missing: 0 (0%)

Distinct: 2

Type: Nominal

Unique: 0 (0%)

No.	Label	Count	Weight
1	Y	2035	2035.0
2	N	1049	1049.0

Class: Cluster (Nom)

Visualize All

2035

1049

Cluster Blue- Yes. The web is primarily used for work, Cluster Red- No. The web is not primarily used for work, Cluster Teal- No. The web is not primarily used for work.

B) Time Wasting

Selected attribute

Name: Primary.Uses.of.the.Web_Time.wasting
Missing: 0 (0%)

Distinct: 2

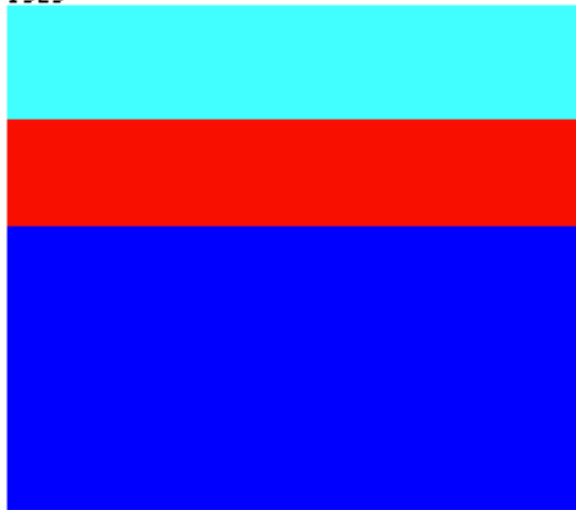
Type: Nominal
Unique: 0 (0%)

No.	Label	Count	Weight
1	N	1929	1929.0
2	Y	1155	1155.0

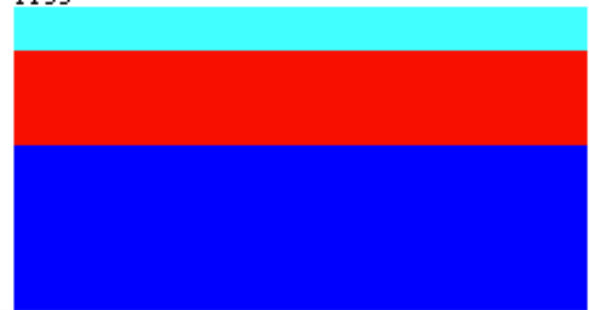
Class: Cluster (Nom)

Visualize All

1929



1155



Cluster Blue- Mostly No, the web is not primarily used for to waste time, Cluster Red- No clear trend, Cluster Teal- No, the web is not primarily used for to waste time

C) Shopping

Selected attribute

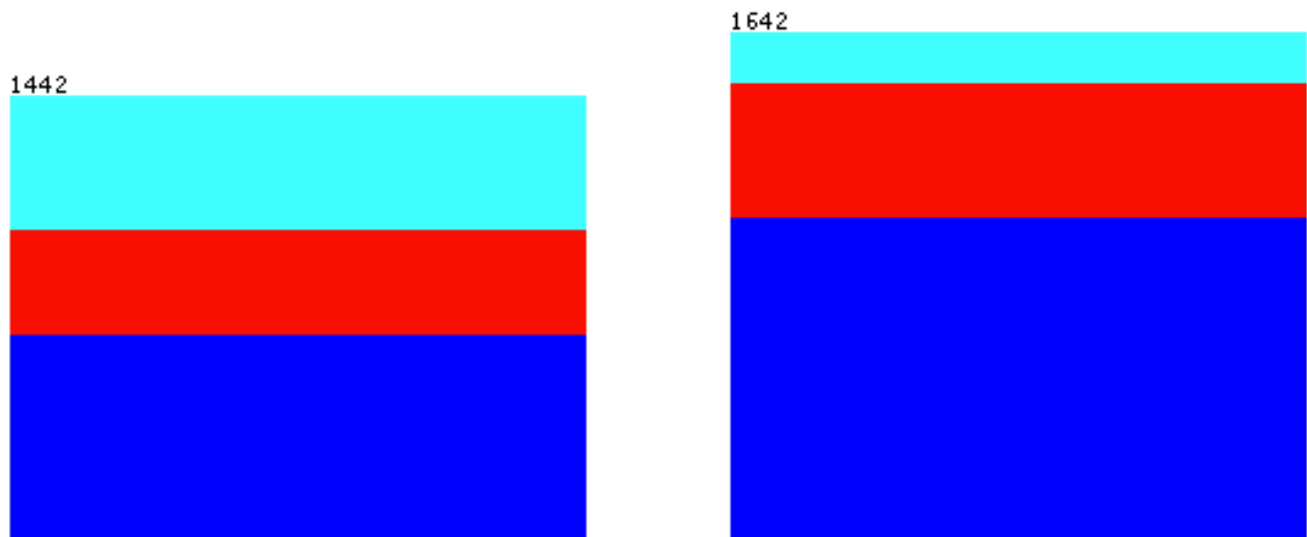
Name: Primary.Uses.of.the.Web_Shopping
Missing: 0 (0%) Distinct: 2

Type: Nominal
Unique: 0 (0%)

No.	Label	Count	Weight
1	N	1442	1442.0
2	Y	1642	1642.0

Class: Cluster (Nom)

Visualize All



Cluster Blue- Yes, the web is primarily used for shopping, Cluster Red- No clear trend, Cluster Teal- No, the web is not primarily used for shopping

D) Personal Information

Selected attribute

Name: Primary.Uses.of.the.Web_Personal.info
Missing: 0 (0%) Distinct: 2

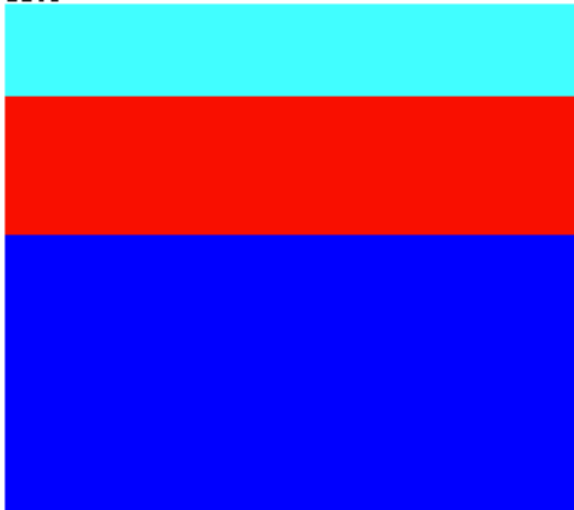
Type: Nominal
Unique: 0 (0%)

No.	Label	Count	Weight
1	Y	2283	2283.0
2	N	801	801.0

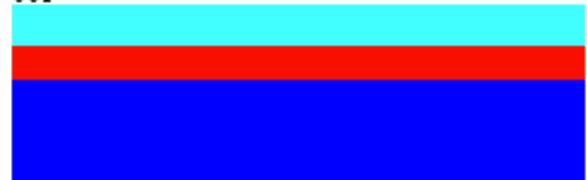
Class: Cluster (Nom)

Visualize All

2283



801



All clusters primarily use the web for personal information.

E) Other

Selected attribute

Name: Primary.Uses.of.the.Web_Other

Type: Nominal

Missing: 0 (0%)

Distinct: 2

Unique: 0 (0%)

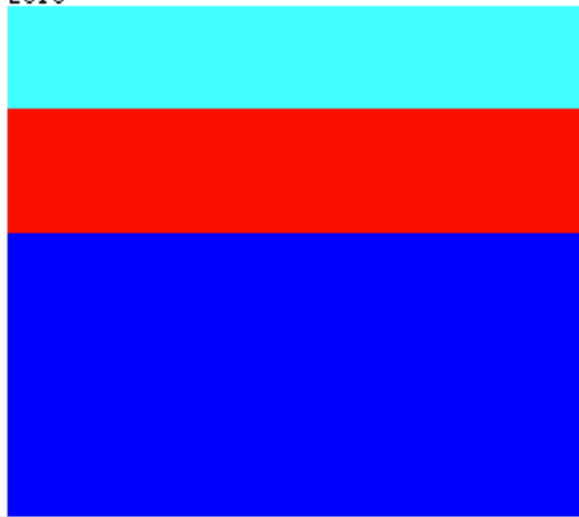
No.	Label	Count	Weight
1	N	2816	2816.0
2	Y	268	268.0

Class: Cluster (Nom)



Visualize All

2816



268



All clusters primarily use the web for reasons other than those specified in this survey.

F) Entertainment

Selected attribute

Name: Primary.Uses.of.the.Web_Entertainment
Missing: 0 (0%) Distinct: 2

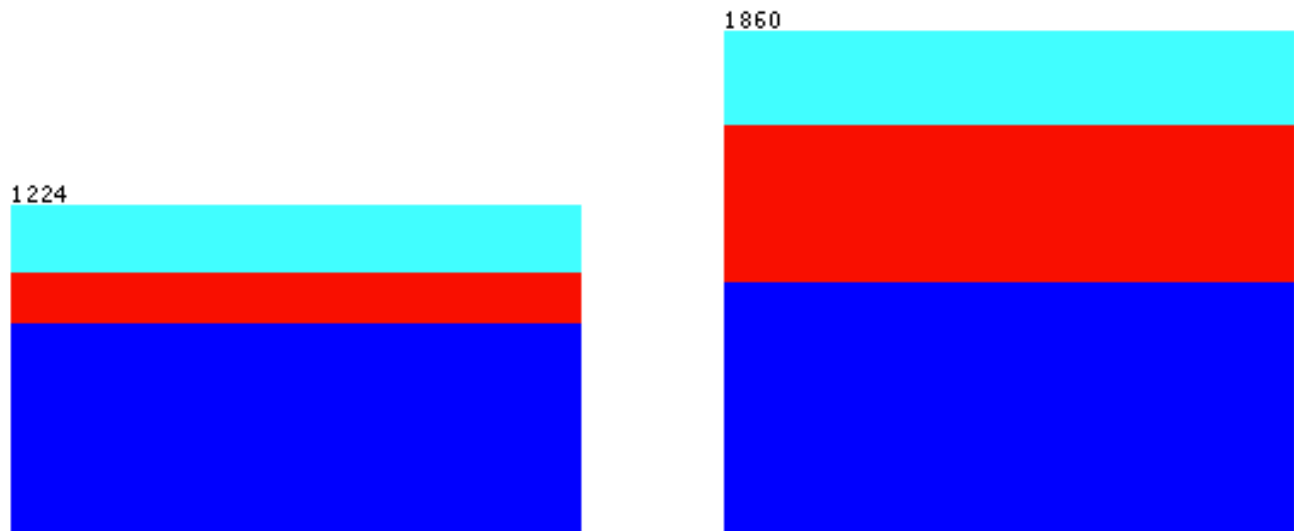
Type: Nominal
Unique: 0 (0%)

No.	Label	Count	Weight
1	N	1224	1224.0
2	Y	1860	1860.0

Class: Cluster (Nom)



Visualize All



Cluster Blue- No clear trend, Cluster Red- Mostly Yes, the web is primarily used for entertainment. Cluster Teal- No clear trend

G) Education

Selected attribute

Name: Primary.Uses.of.the.Web_Education

Missing: 0 (0%)

Distinct: 2

Type: Nominal

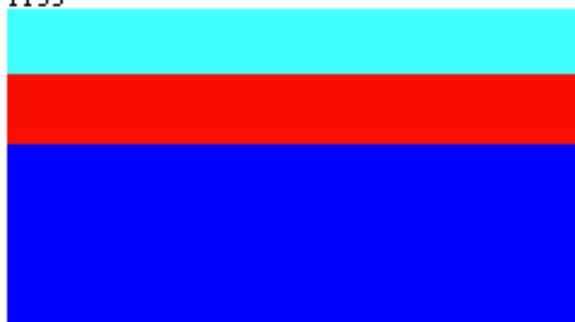
Unique: 0 (0%)

No.	Label	Count	Weight
1	N	1193	1193.0
2	Y	1891	1891.0

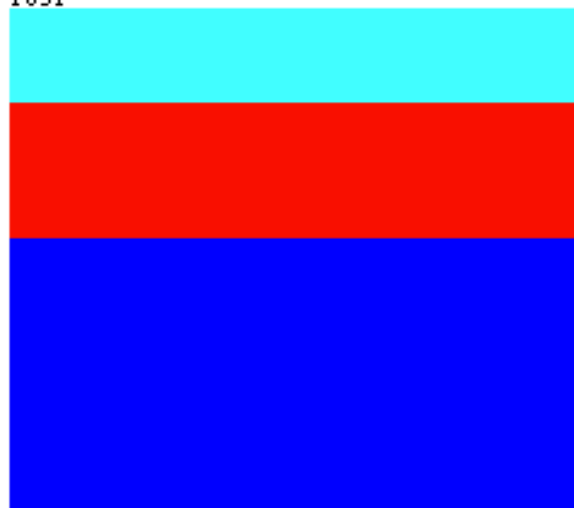
Class: Cluster (Nom)

Visualize All

1193



1891



Cluster Blue- Yes, the web is primarily used for education, Cluster Red- Yes, the web is primarily used for education, Cluster Teal- No clear trend

H) Communication

Selected attribute

Name: Primary.Uses.of.the.Web_Communication
Missing: 0 (0%) Distinct: 2

Type: Nominal
Unique: 0 (0%)

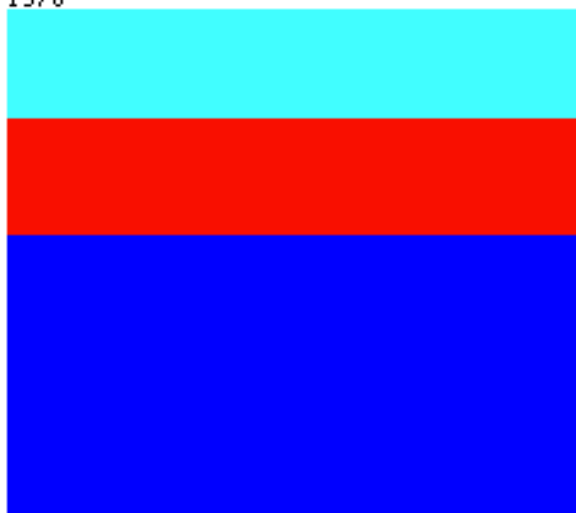
No.	Label	Count	Weight
1	N	1978	1978.0
2	Y	1106	1106.0

Class: Cluster (Nom)

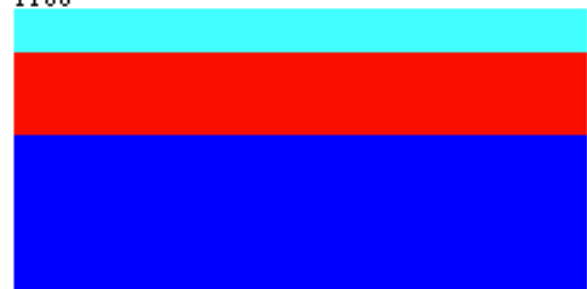


Visualize All

1978



1106



Cluster Blue- Yes, the web is primarily used for communication, Cluster Red- No clear trend, Cluster Teal- Yes, the web is primarily used for communication

7) Organization Use Profile

Selected attribute

Name: Organization.Uses.Web.Effectively

Type: Nominal

Missing: 0 (0%)

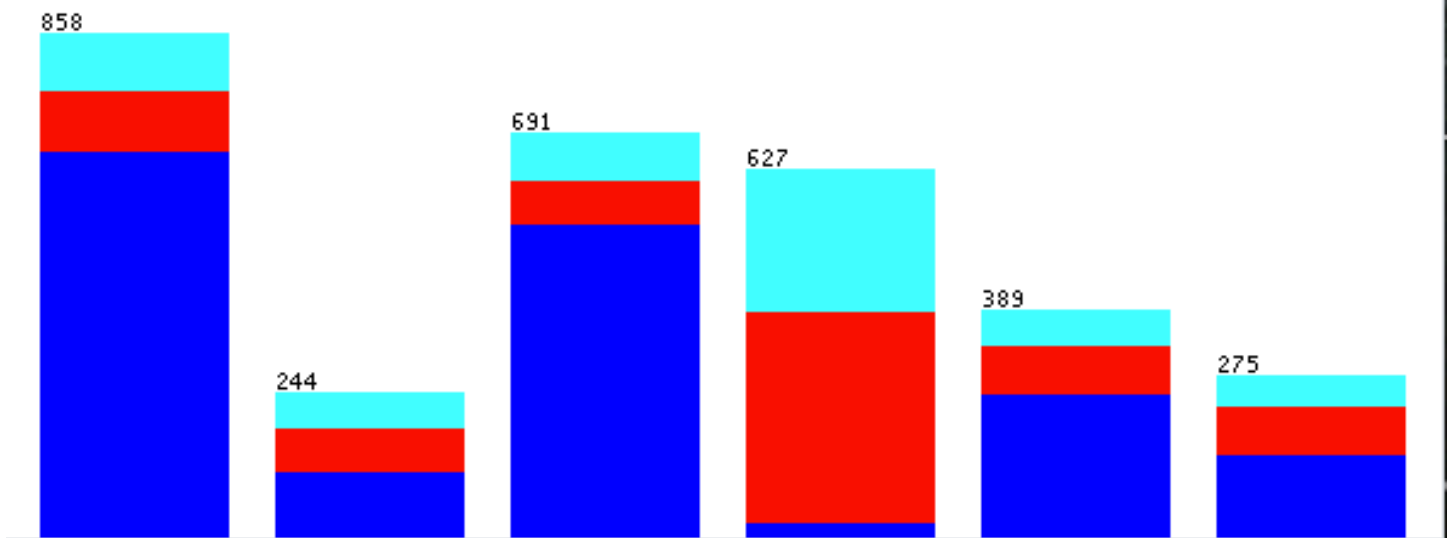
Distinct: 6

Unique: 0 (0%)

No.	Label	Count	Weight
1	Somewhat Agree	858	858.0
2	Neither Agree nor Disag...	244	244.0
3	Strongly Agree	691	691.0
4	Not applicable	627	627.0
5	Somewhat Disagree	389	389.0
6	Strongly Disagree	275	275.0

Class: Cluster (Nom)

Visualize All



Cluster Blue- Agrees that the organization uses the web effectively, Cluster Red- No clear trend, Cluster Teal- No clear trend

Section 6: Summary – Answering Question 1 & 2

The typical groups of web users are as follows:

Cluster Blue (Originally Cluster 0):

- High Frequency of Use of the Web
- Ages 21 to 35 and 36 to 40
- Lives in the USA and Europe
- Mostly Male
- Some College to Masters Degree
- Trained Professional as Occupation
- Most Likely Married or Possibly Single

- Household Income of \$50-74k or Over \$100k
- Pays for Their Own Access to the Web
- Has High to Moderate Experience With the Internet
- Very Comfortable Using the Internet
- Speed and Government Regulation Are Important to Them
- Disagree With Censorship
- Uses Computing Platform Win95 and Mac/Sys8
- Low Image Loading Frequency
- Mostly Always Accepts Cookies
- The Web is Primarily Used for Work, Shopping, Personal Information, Education, and Communication
- Feels their Organization Uses the Web Effectively

Cluster Red (Originally Cluster 1):

- High Frequency of Use of the Web
- Age 41 to 50
- Lives in the USA
- Mostly Male
- Some College to College Degree
- Trained Professional as Occupation
- Most Likely Married or Possibly Single
- Household Income of \$50-74k
- Pays for Their Own Access or Work Pays for Their Access to the Web
- Has Moderate Experience With the Internet
- Very Comfortable Using the Internet
- Speed, Government Regulation, Privacy, Censorship Are Important to Them
- Disagree With Censorship
- Uses Computing Platform Win95 and Win98
- Low Image Loading Frequency
- Mostly Always Accepts Cookies
- The Web is Primarily Used for Personal Information, Entertainment, and Education

Cluster Teal (Originally Cluster 2):

- High Frequency of Use of the Web
- Age 21 to 25
- Lives in the USA
- Slightly More Female than Male
- Some College to College Degree
- Trained Professional as Occupation
- Most Likely Married or Possibly Single
- Household Income Not Available or \$50-74k
- Pays for Their Own Access or Work Pays for Their Access to the Web
- Has Moderate Experience With the Internet
- Very Comfortable Using the Internet
- Privacy and Pornography Are Important to Them
- Agrees With Censorship
- Uses Computing Platform Win95 and Win98
- Low Image Loading Frequency
- Cookie Patterns Unclear

- The Web is Primarily Used for Personal Information and Communication

Suggestions for Targeting the Most Important Customers:

After identifying the characteristics of the three clusters it is apparent that Cluster Blue (originally Cluster 0) is the cluster containing the most important customers. Marketing and advertising strategies that emphasize work productivity and personal and work organization since these customers are highly educated, trained professionals. In addition, most customers in this group are married so family or children based products and marketing should be considered as well. Lastly, with high and frequent internet usage online marketing strategies and advertisements would also prove to be effective.