



## Critique of Visualization A

This interactive visualization answers the question of which Google products different countries have asked Google to censor in their respective jurisdictions. On the left, beneath the title, the graph provides the reader with a clear distinction between the censored products by using colors and breaks the statistics down by year. On the graph below the product graph, we can see a similar visualization about the reasons these products were censored, again using the color channel to help the readers distinguish between the separate possible reasons. On the right, we can see a 'Total Removal Requests' graph that shows us how the quantity of these requests has evolved per country from 2010 to 2012. I think the creator was targeting the general public, especially people who are interested in law and intellectual property. He probably wanted to make the data provided by the WB and Google readable and understandable by anyone, regardless of whether they have read the report or not.

Even though I like many things about this visual representation of the data, I definitely think the *lie factor* here is significant. I'm pretty sure the author, Sebastian Sadowski, messed something up during the implementation, because we can see that the number of removal requests on '*Total Removal Requests*' for Jul-Dec 2010 actually corresponds to Jan-Jun 2011 on the *Product* and *Reason* graphs. This is the case for all countries in the list, which in my opinion, is a misleading representation of the data. Another issue that contributes to the *lie factor* on the '*Total Removal Requests*' graph is the lack of integrity between the spacing of the numbers: the gap on the right side between 697 and 321 is smaller than the gap between 60 and 71 (which is about as large as the gap between 71 and 103), so that is another problem that violates graphical integrity.

On a more positive note, I think the data-ink ratio on this graph is great. There is no unnecessary labeling and the transparency channel makes it very clear which country we are looking at on the right side. Personally, I can't think of a way to improve the data-ink ratio. One thing that is not clear to me is the quantification of the color separation of products and reasons. While the colors provide a good separation in getting a general idea, I still don't understand exactly how many removal requests there were on, for example, Blogger, in the UK in 2010. I can see it's a number less than 10 and greater than 0, yet I am confused as to what exactly that number is. Still, I really like the simplicity of this interactive graph and as a minimalist I think that fixing the matching dataset issue is the main tip I would give the author. I do think the graphical integrity and spacing in the graph on the right can be improved, but overall, if the labeling is correct (as it is currently not), this would be a fantastic visual representation.