14.4.1

Introduction to Dashboards

> **Kate** calls you with exciting news: the potential investors have agreed to an in-person pitch!! You quickly review your findings and decide they aren't quite polished enough for a full-fledged, real-time, big-deal pitch. You want to put something together that both eloquently answers investors' questions and that really pops. So it's on to the next Tableau tool: dashboards.

Now that we've started to answer some questions with our data, we need to begin piecing it all together. Each of these pieces will lead us closer to being able to tell a story with our data. Let's explore the role of Tableau dashboards in the data storytelling process.

In Tableau, dashboards can help us identify areas that might need to be explored more deeply. For example, if one map seems to have more popular locations, we may need to look more closely at how many bikes are stationed in those areas and whether there are enough of them. Let's review how dashboards will help us accomplish these kinds of tasks.

Dashboard Overview

Dashboards in Tableau are simply collections of worksheets. You can arrange the worksheets however you like within the dashboard. Dashboards allow you to simultaneously view multiple worksheets. When you modify a worksheet, it automatically updates the dashboard.

Benefits of Dashboards

In Tableau, dashboards and stories are similar, so it's important to understand their key differences and functions.

The primary function of dashboards is not necessarily to tell a story, but rather to organize and view data in a central location. Dashboards allow us to share data in a way our audience will easily understand, rather than simply showing them a bunch of worksheets.

Now let's cover some best practices for creating and using dashboards.