

# How To Make A Successful **Data Story**

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Teemo Tebest, **@teelmo**

# Teemo Tebest, Yle

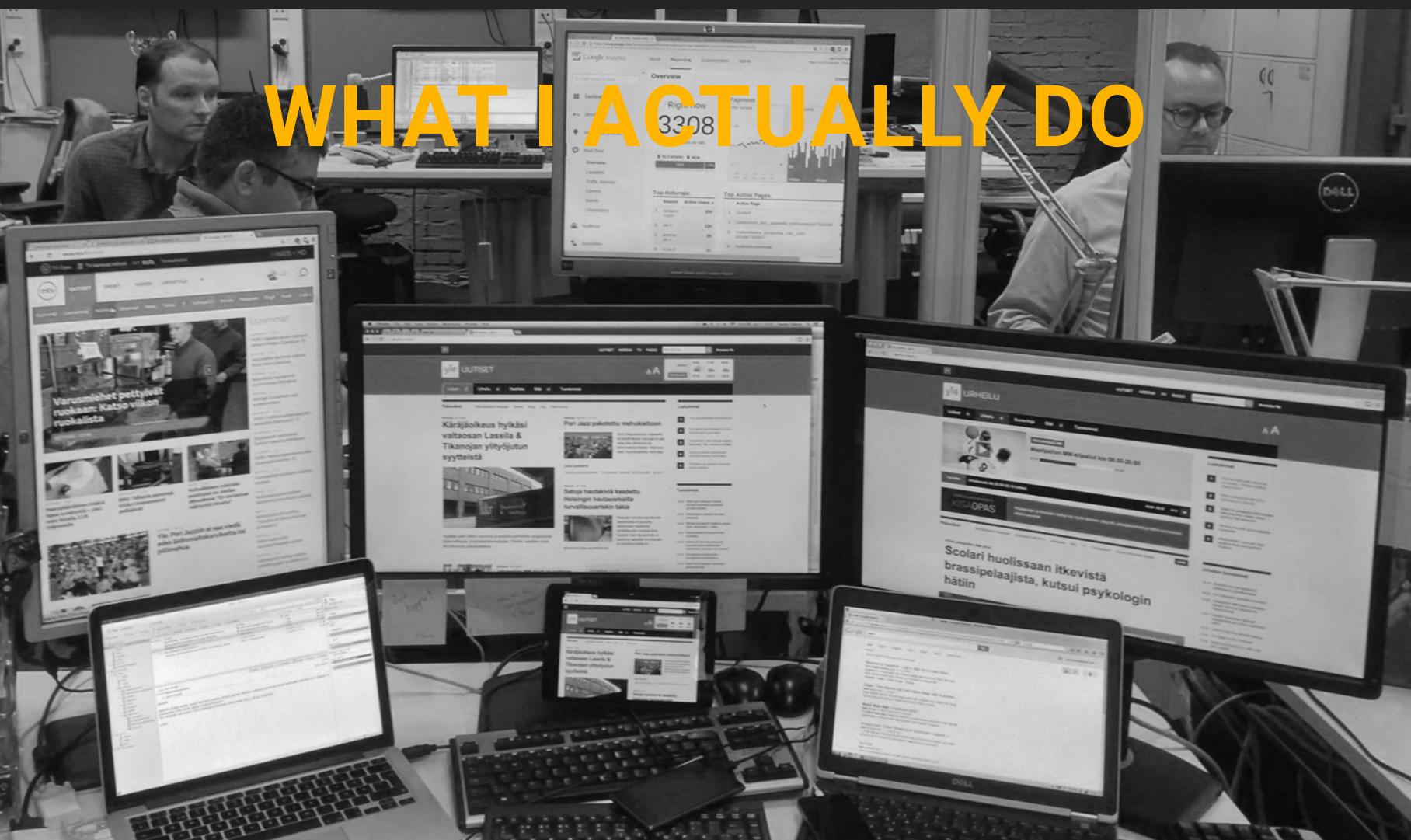
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- **Data Journalist**
- Background in web development and information visualization
- Founding member of Yle's datadesk since 2013

```
require('JS, HTML5, PHP, Python, full-stack, MongoDB, GIS, network analysis');
```

- Twitter: [@teelmo](https://twitter.com/teelmo)
- Homepage: [teelmo.info](http://teelmo.info)

# WHAT I ACTUALLY DO



# Yle Plus Desk Team



**2** Producers

**2** Coders

**3** Graphic Designers

**2** Part-Time Coders

# Yle News



# Plus Desk at Yle News

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- We make online stories in **co-operation** with other teams
- More **bigger** and **investigative** projects, less fast-ones
- From 350 stories in 2013 to 150 in 2016
- Half of **the most read stories** at Yle came from Plus Desk



# Succesful data story: **4 examples**

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1. **Pension** Calculator
2. **Election** Result
3. **Housing** Machine
4. **Municipality** Radar

```
if (Motivation === true) {  
  if (Implemantion === true) {  
    return Outcome  
  }  
}
```

# How many **threes**?

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7	2	5	2	8	3	1	7	4	0	9	7	9	3	5	2	1	7	2	5	6	6	4
4	3	2	6	1	6	8	1	9	1	4	2	5	7	2	1	6	1	4	6	1	6	9
3	6	2	6	3	8	0	5	9	2	6	3	6	5	2	1	8	3	6	2	6	3	6
8	4	7	2	2	6	8	2	1	9	6	4	5	3	2	9	6	0	4	0	4	5	3
7	5	2	4	1	7	3	4	6	8	3	9	2	4	9	6	4	2	8	5	2	1	8
2	8	3	6	1	3	8	0	9	5	7	4	2	4	7	2	9	7	3	6	3	6	3
6	8	3	4	1	8	5	8	5	8	6	3	9	4	7	5	9	2	5	8	4	6	8
5	8	4	2	8	9	5	0	7	8	2	6	4	7	3	6	9	5	8	5	2	4	7

# 20

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7	2	5	2	8	3	1	7	4	0	9	7	9	3	5	2	1	7	2	5	6	6	4
4	3	2	6	1	6	8	1	9	1	4	2	5	7	2	1	6	1	4	6	1	6	9
3	6	2	6	3	8	0	5	9	2	6	3	6	5	2	1	8	3	6	2	6	3	6
8	4	7	2	2	6	8	2	1	9	6	4	5	3	2	9	6	0	4	0	4	5	3
7	5	2	4	1	7	3	4	6	8	3	9	2	4	9	6	4	2	8	5	2	1	8
2	8	3	6	1	3	8	0	9	5	7	4	2	4	7	2	9	7	3	6	3	6	3
6	8	3	4	1	8	5	8	5	8	6	3	9	4	7	5	9	2	5	8	4	6	8
5	8	4	2	8	9	5	0	7	8	2	6	4	7	3	6	9	5	8	5	2	4	7

# **Story** When Can You Retire And For How Long

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**Motivation** Pension system reform

**Implementation** Embedded calculator

**Outcome** One of the most read stories in 2016

» story

# One of most read stories in 2016, **Why?**

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- Calculator **placed on top** of the article
- Had a **default result**
- Easy to use
- Simple and **“Suprising”** message
- **Shareable** result, over 80,000 FB actions
- Funny → **Memorable**

# Challenges / Obstacles

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- From **Excel** to story
- **Two datasets** → pick more relevant
- Use of **understandable language** and terms

# **Story** New City Council

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**Motivation** Municipality elections

**Implementation** Election analysis

**Outcome** Unique view to the result

» data 1 / » data 2  
» story

# Unique view to the election result, **Why?**

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- Combined election result to electees opinions
- Comments gave context
- Compare local status with country level

» another election story

# Challenges / Obstacles

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- **Combining** 17 000 election machine results with 9 000 electees
- Publication **on Monday morning**, 3 hours after final result
- Finding an interesting **representation**
- What and why would I share?

# Exercise

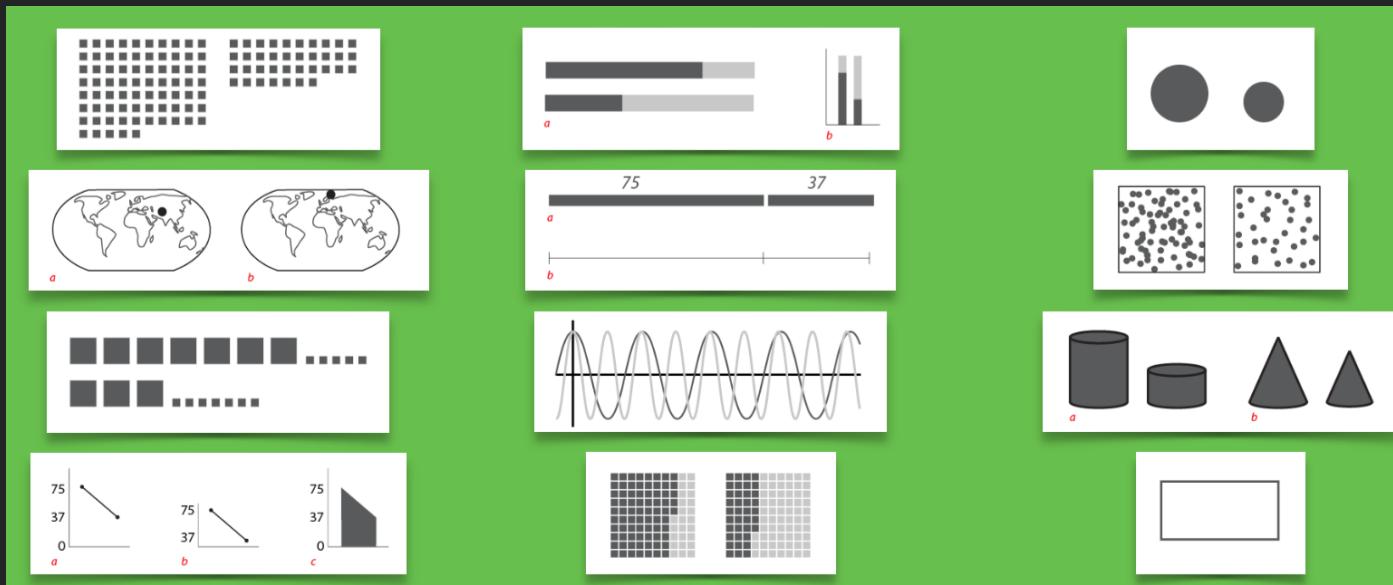
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Make up as many ways to visualize numbers **75** and **37**. Sketch on paper.

**5 minutes**

# Examples

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# **Story** Can you afford an apartment

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**Motivation** First-time home buyers

**Implementation** Map-based application

**Outcome** Unique view to the housing markets

» inspiration  
» story

# Unique view to housing markets, **Why?**

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- Combined housing prices with income
- Size instead of price
- Showed the segregation between cities and rural areas

# Challenges / Obstacles

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- Maps with data on **mobile devices**
- Lack of sales data in most areas
- No data from houses, only apartments
- Application ↔ Story
- Why and what would I share?



# **Story** What is the status of your municipality

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**Motivation** Upcoming elections

**Implementation** Municipality Radar

**Outcome** Noda Awards '17 nominee

» data  
» story  
» numbers

# Noda Awards '17 nominee, **Why?**

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- Quick **Overview** → **Details** on Demand
- **Personalized** and **Familiar** feel
  - Municipality arms, Subtitle, Background map, Street view, Municipality text
- We **crowdsourced** Valkompassen questions
- Was adopted by municipalities and by public
- Data and process was opened

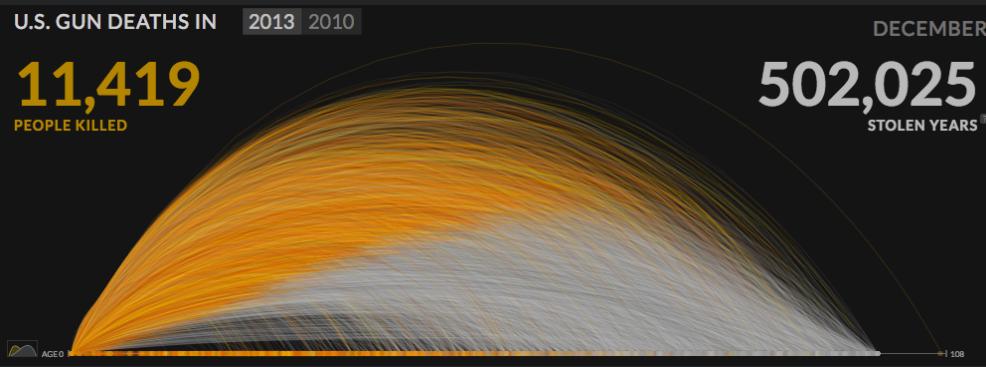
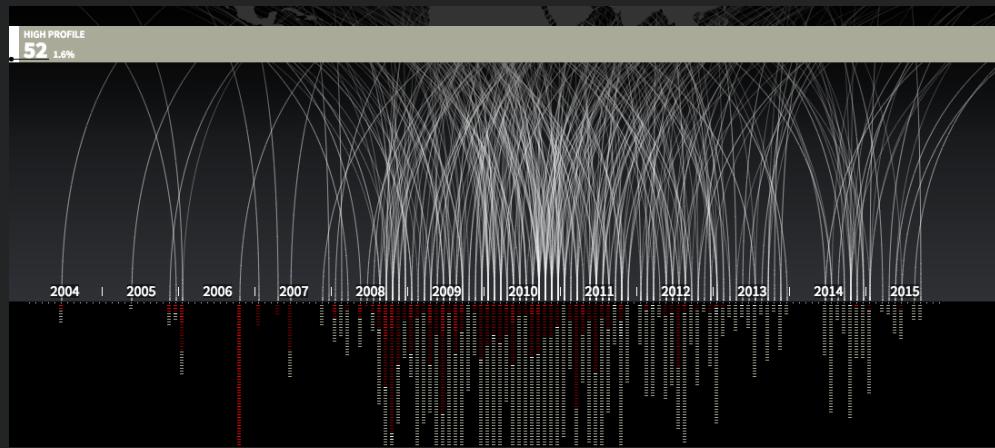
# Challenges / Obstacles

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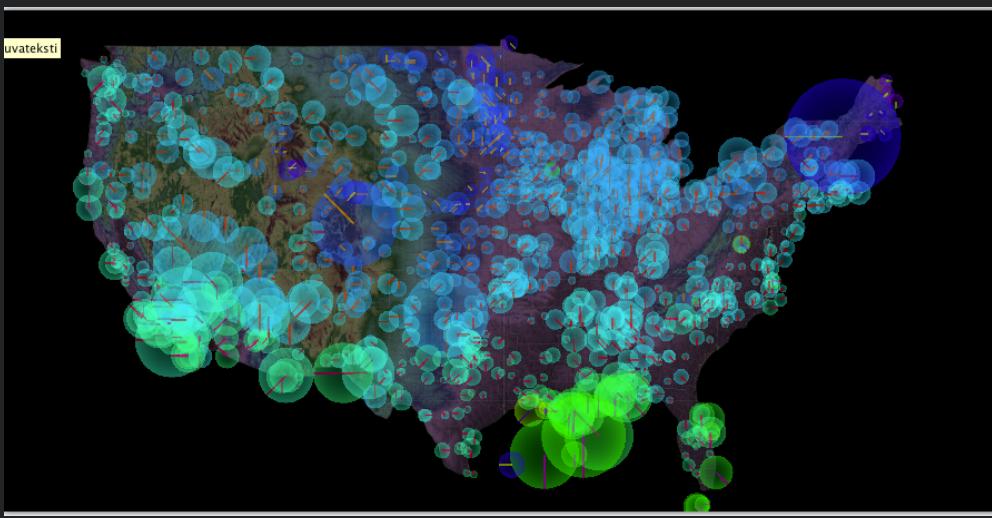
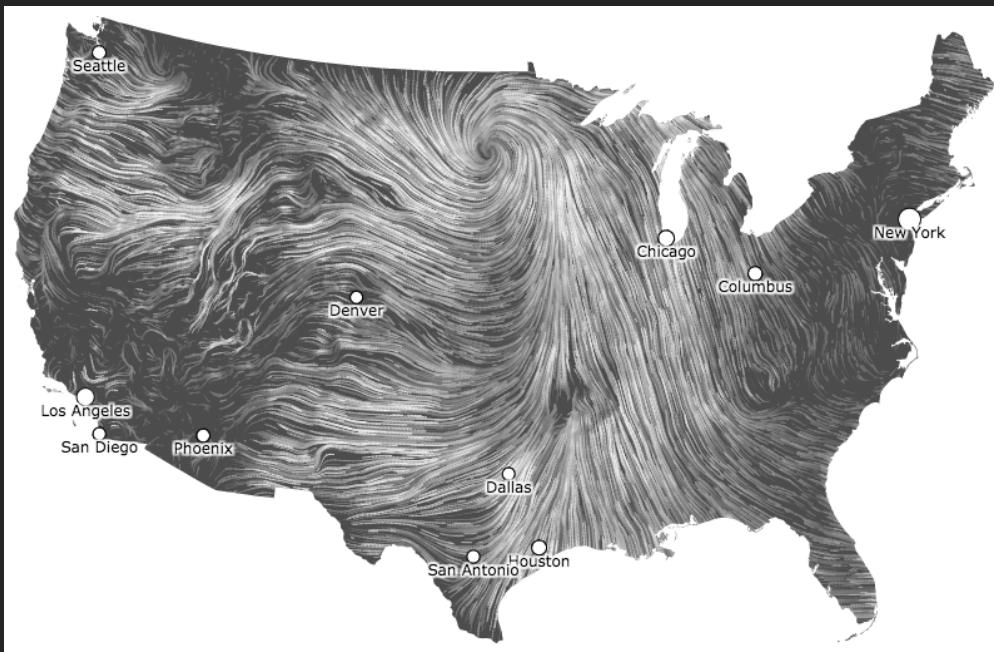
- **Getting data** for current municipalities
- Merging various data sources and formats into one sheet
- Learning **statistical analysis** and standard deviation
- Getting unified municipality texts and handling updates
- **Finishing and polishing**
- Changes in Google API usage limitations
- Lack of HTTPS → No automated location

Let's stretch one's legs

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Thank you! **Questions?**

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