

How To Make A Successful **Data Story**



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Teemo Tebest, Yle

- **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');
```

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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

- 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



Successful data story: **3 examples**

1. **Pension** Calculator
2. **Housing** Machine
3. **Municipality** Radar

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

Story When Can You Retire And For How Long

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?**

- 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

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

Story Can you afford an apartment

Motivation First-time home buyers

Implementation Map-based application

Outcome Unique view to the housing markets

» inspiration
» story

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

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

Challenges / Obstacles

- 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

Motivation Upcoming elections

Implementation Municipality Radar

Outcome Noda Awards '17 nominee

» story

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

- 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

- **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

Thank you! **Questions?**



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