CS 459
Business Intelligence

The Final Chapter!

Data Sources
Staging Area
Warehouse
Users
Operational System
Operational System
Flat Files
Metadata
Summary data
Raw data
Analytics
Reporting
Mining

Data Warehouse or Business Intelligence?

Is the **data warehouse** a component of **business intelligence**?

or

Is **business intelligence** a component of the **data warehouse**?

BI Dashboarding
Best Practices and Techniques

(Examples from Tableau)

CS 459 Business Intelligence

Dashboard Vs Report

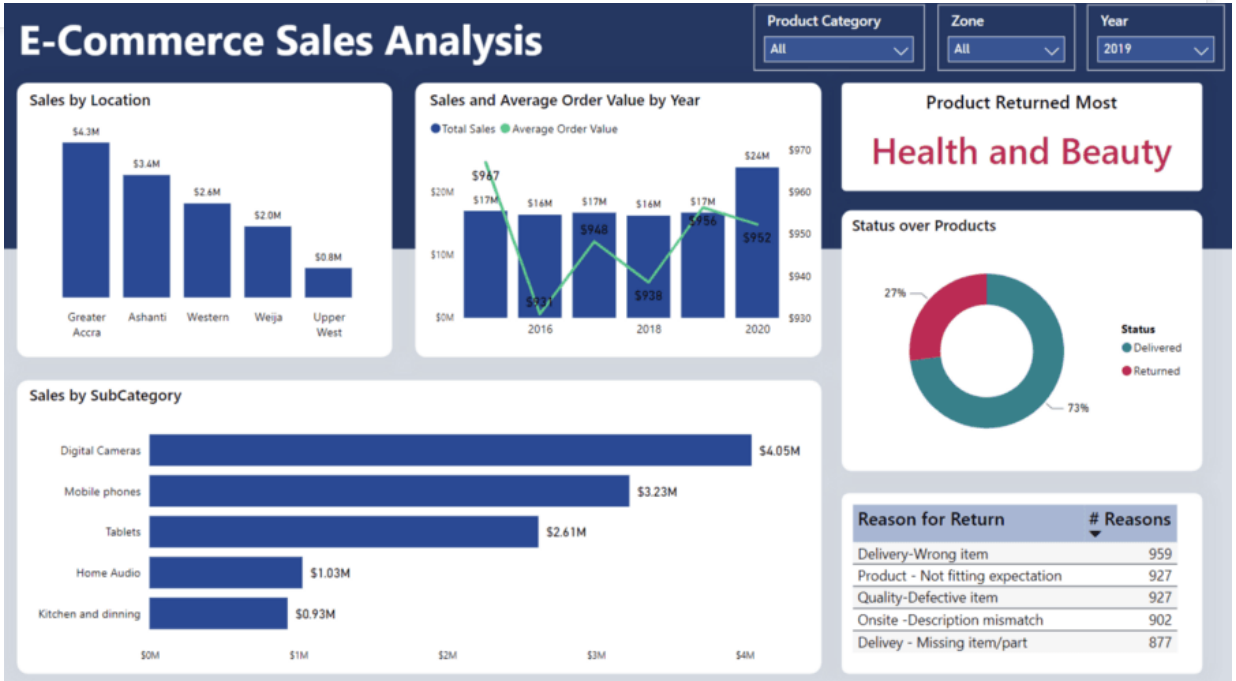
	Dashboard	Report
Purpose	Used for high-level monitoring, often in real-time or near-real-time, providing a consolidated view of business performance	Used for in-depth analysis and exploration of data to answer complex business questions.
Interactivity and Structure	Limited interactivity – single page view at a glance.	Greater interactivity – detailed multi-page analysis.
Updates	Designed for real-time or near real-time updates making monitoring of live data easy.	Focused on historical data and may require periodic updates enabled through PowerBI scheduled refresh capabilities.
Use case	Quick sharing of insights across organization	More suited for detailed analysis allowing for specific aspects of the data.

Dashboard

Monitoring e-Commerce Sales

A quick review of all KPIs.

A well-designed dashboard enable spotting problems quickly.

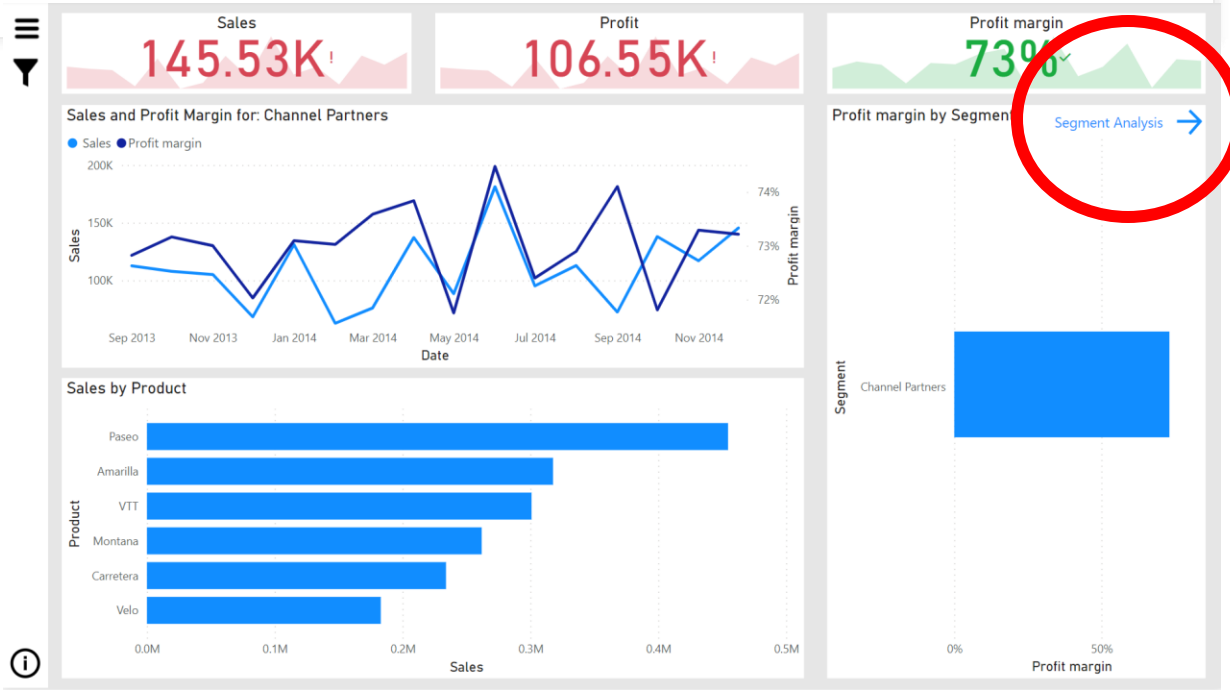


Source: DataCamp

Report

Analyze impact of a recent promotional campaign on sales.

Review the sales by different dimensions.



Source: DataCamp

Data Story Telling

- Data storytelling is the concept of building a compelling narrative based on complex data and analytics that help tell your story and influence and inform a particular audience.

A good story is…

- Relevant to the audience , the business domain and specific problem being solved.
- Uses good data – collected form reputable sources that convey the true story.
- Forms a clear narrative – introduce the topic before diving in.
- Uses Smart visuals (charts/images/etc)– convey the intended purpose. Well labelled, legible, not misleading

What is a dashboard?

- "A dashboard is a visual display of the most important information to achieve one or more objectives; consolidated and arranged on a single screen so the information can be monitored at a glance."

  - Stephen Few

PowerBI, Tableau, Qlik...

- Variety of charts
- Simple Vs Complicated

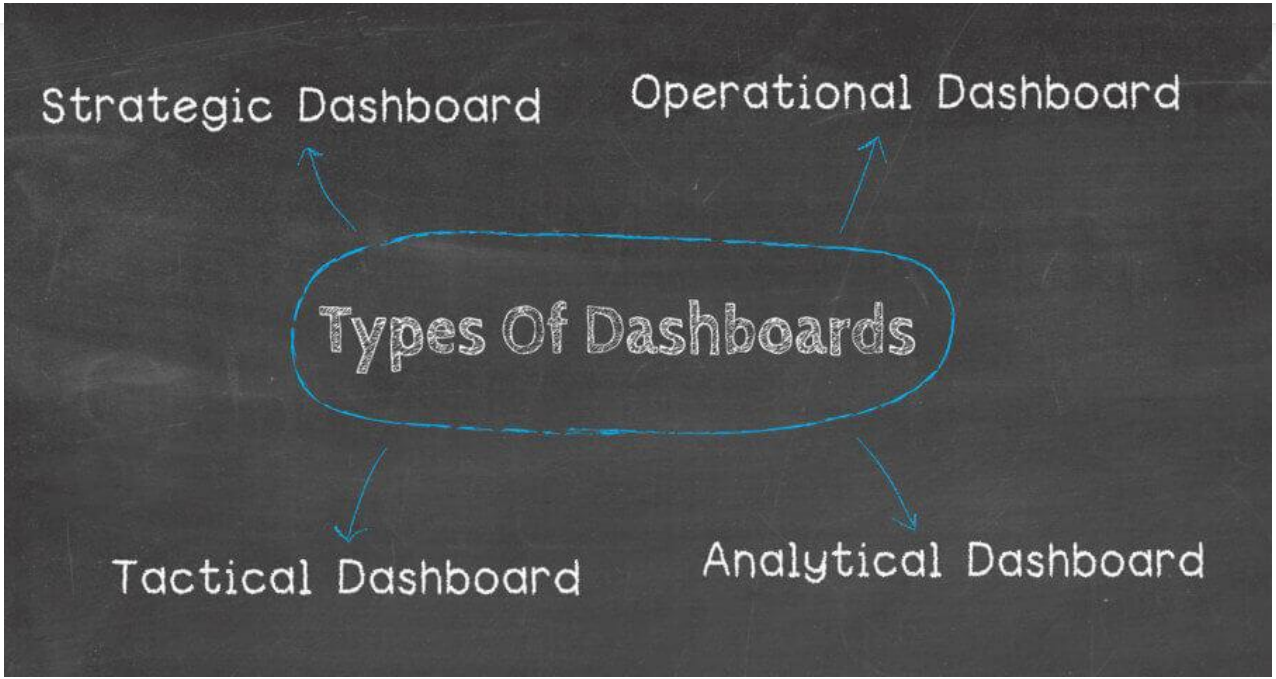
- What should a dashboard have?
- How does it solve a problem?

Dashboard

- A single page solution to a business problem offering insights
- Understand in a matter of seconds
- Includes charts, labels and numbers

Types of Dashboards

Types of Dashboards

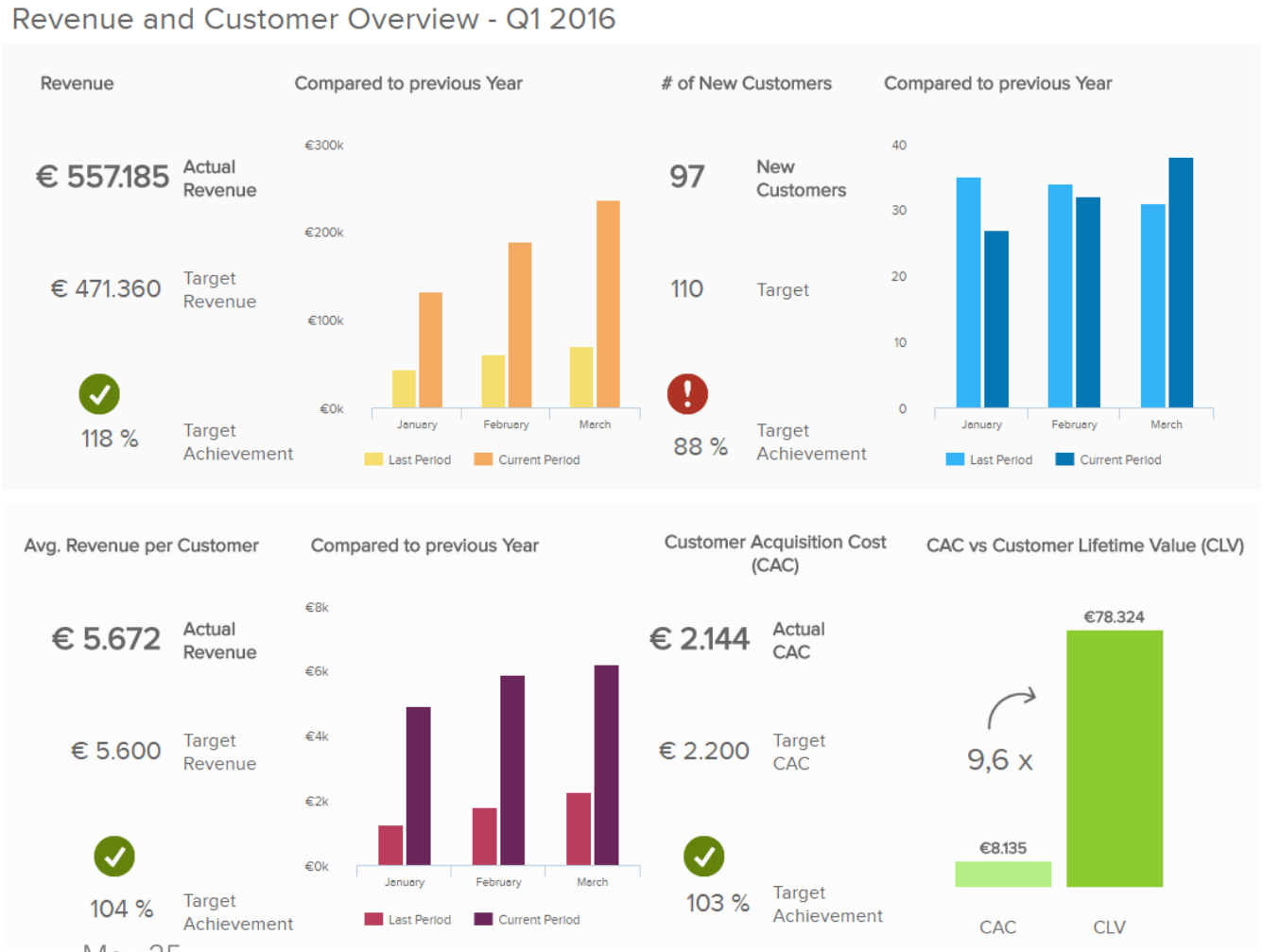


Types of Dashboards

1. **Strategic** - focused on long-term strategies and high-level metrics
2. **Operational** - shows shorter time frames and operational processes.
3. **Analytical** - contains vast amounts of data created by analysts.
4. **Tactical** - used by mid-management to track performance.

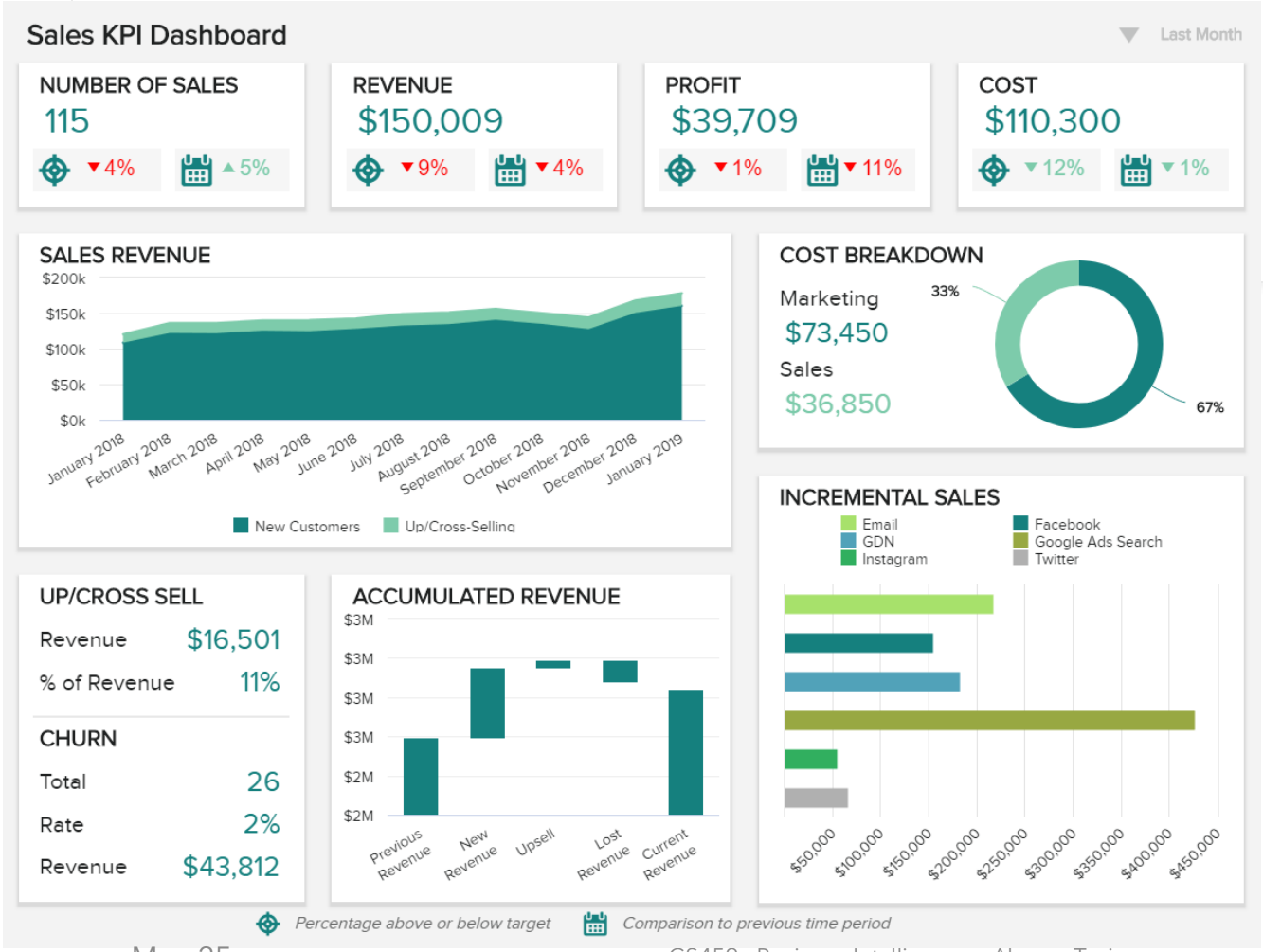
Strategic Dashboards

- **Long-term** organizational strategies
- User**: Senior-level** decision makers
- Track critical KPIs against enterprise-wide strategic goals over set time frames
- Clear picture of strategic issues for efficient decision making
- Help identify concerns quickly
- Use of common qualitative and quantitative language for easy understanding



Management Strategic KPI dashboard

- What is my customer base and revenue compared to this time last year?
- Not cluttered and quick story telling

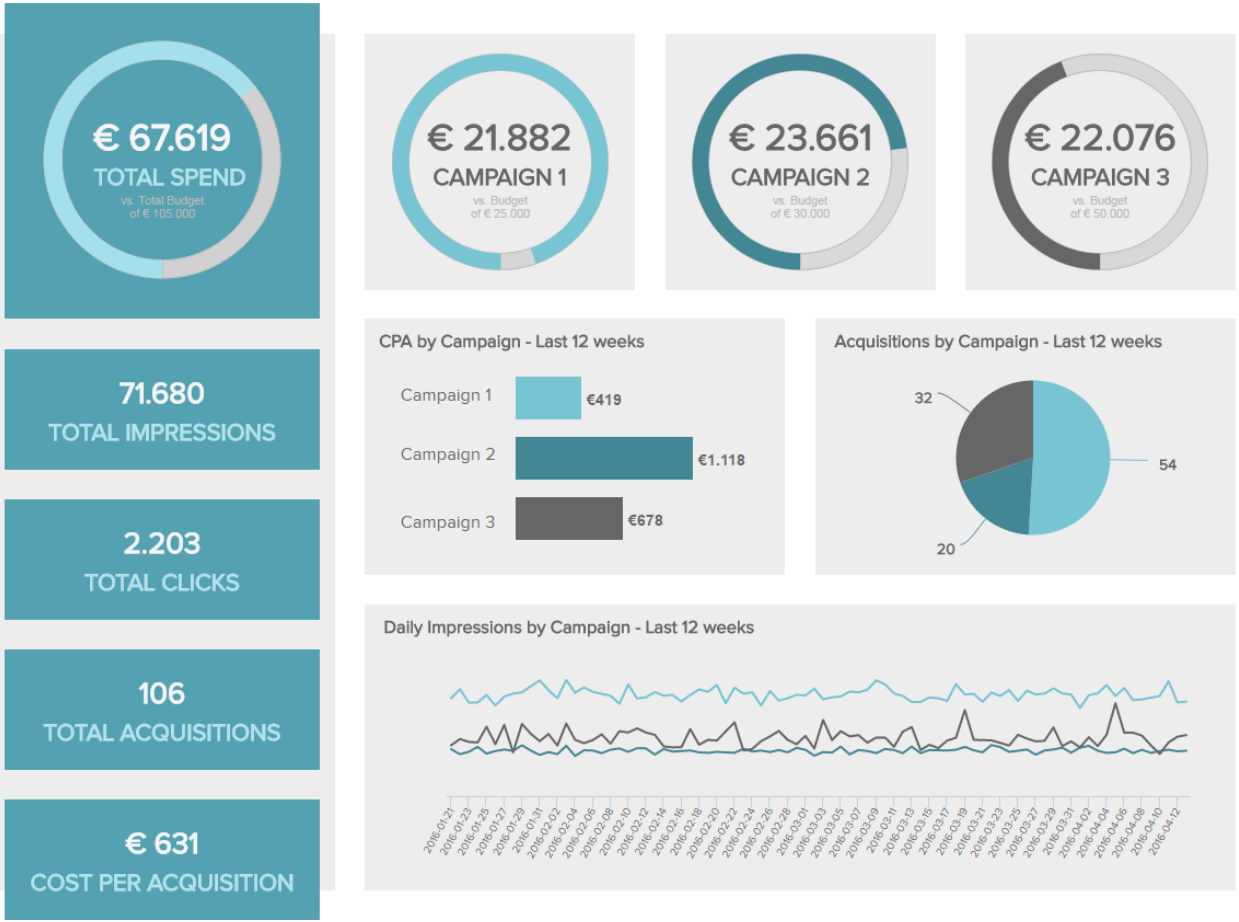


Sales KPI Strategic dashboard

- High-level sales metrics for c-level executives

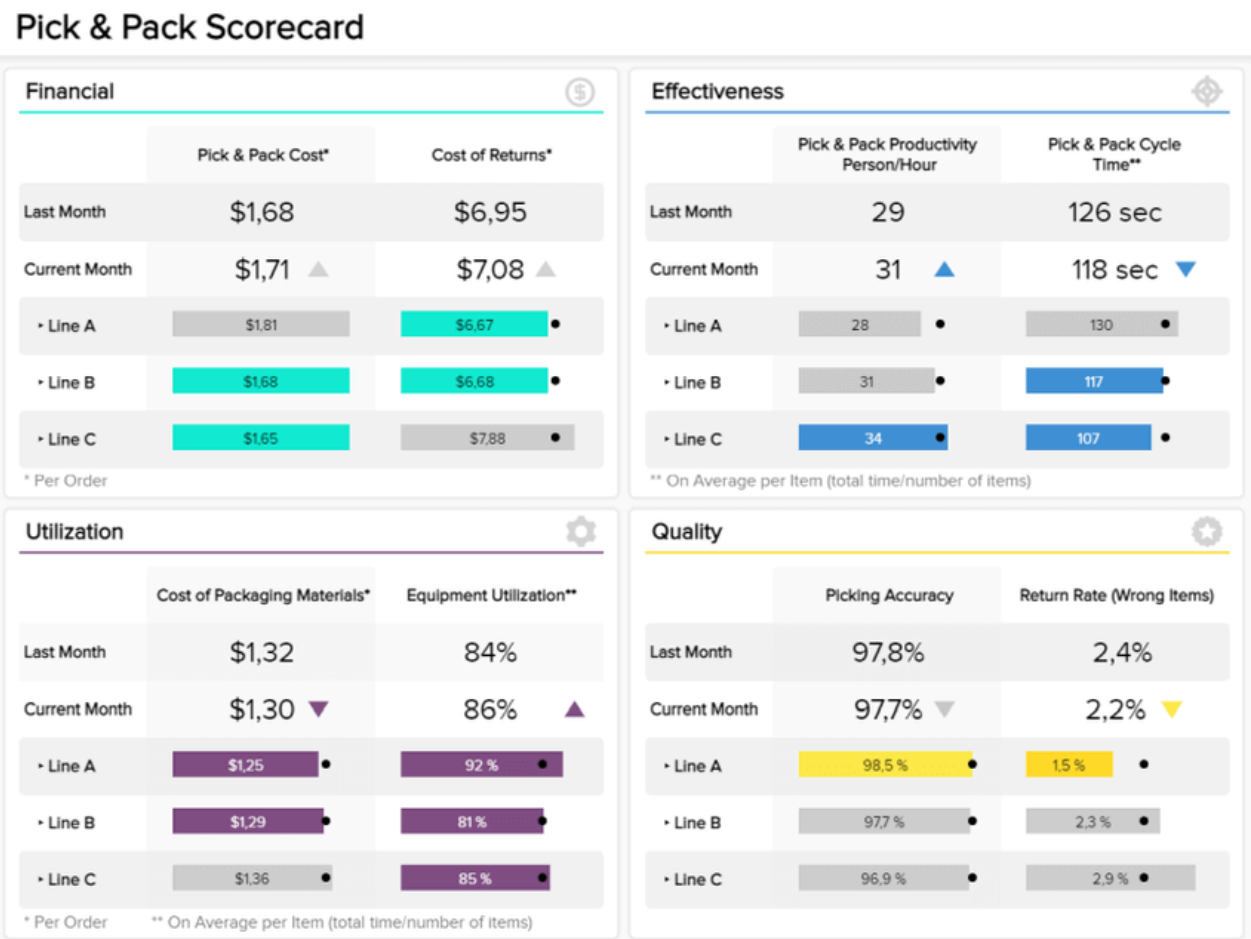
Operational Dashboards

- Optimize **short-term** operations
- Users: **Junior** decision makers
- Track operational processes and facilitate fast and accurate exchange of data between teams
- Identification of real-time issues for swift resolution.
- Common for monitoring business activities in specific areas
- Alert about business exceptions in real time data (Flags)
- More detailed than strategic, detail view of specific data



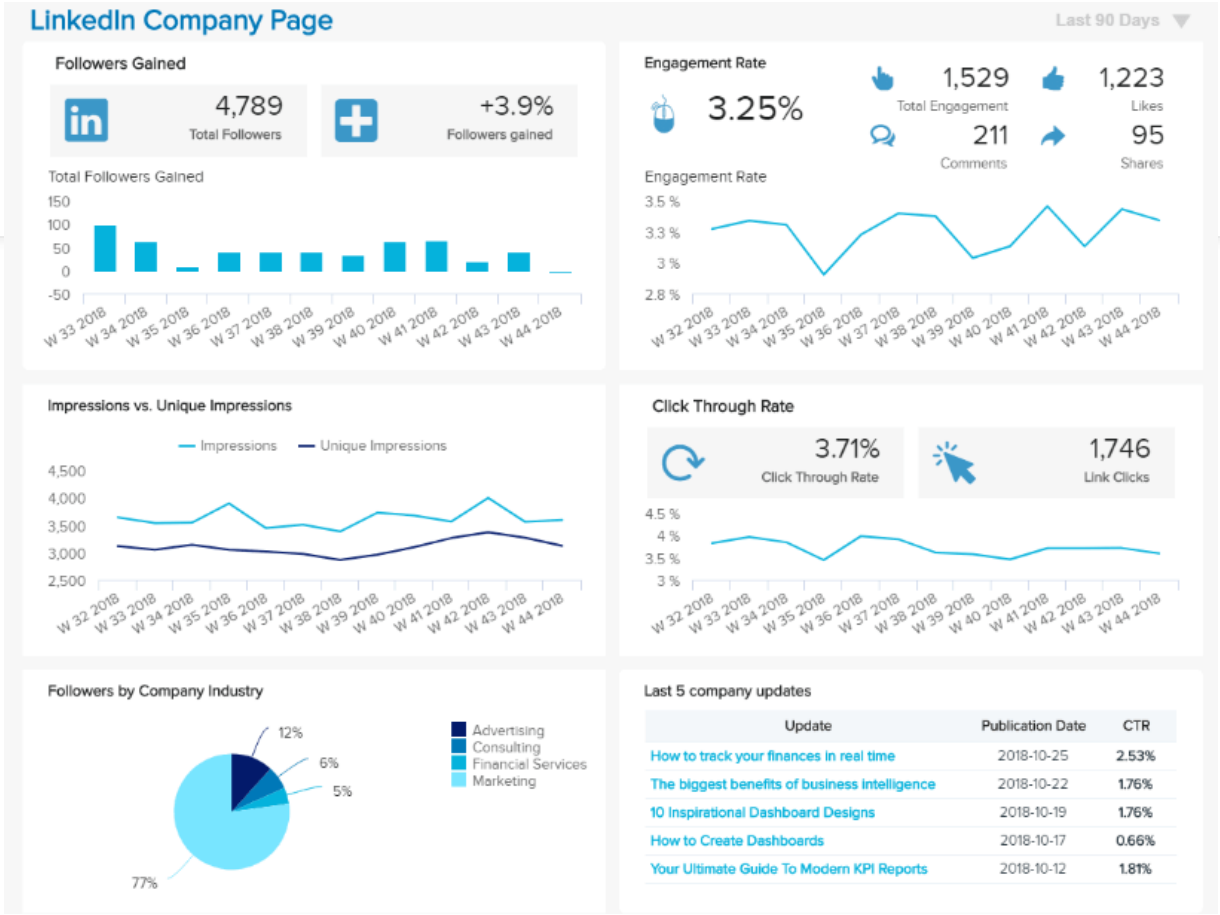
Marketing Operational KPI dashboard

- Monitoring for marketing department
- Performance of a campaign
- Any changes can immediately alert the team and operational activities can be adjusted.



Pick and pack operational dashboard for logistics

- Worker finds an item from an order in the warehouse and puts it in a box to be shipped to the customer.



LinkedIn operations dashboard

- To effectively **manage a company's presence,** companies can use an operational data dashboard that will solve multiple social media problems such as automation, customization of reports, and provide advanced data-driven features.

Tactical Dashboard

- Providing **analytical** recommendations for future strategies.
- Users: **Mid-level** management
- Monitoring processes supporting strategic initiatives
- Detail level falls between strategic and operational dashboards, incorporating more data visualization than operational dashboards.
- For example, a tactical sales dashboard tracks progress toward sales targets using various filters and customer segmentations, whereas an operational dashboard monitors real-time sales performance and compares it against competitors over time.

Social Media Tactical Dashboard

- Tracking 4 main social media channels.
- Tactical Approach. Analysis of targets with additional comparisons

Customer Service Quality Dashboard

- Track key customer service metric and make tactical decisions to increase output and quality for most engaged consumer facing channels.

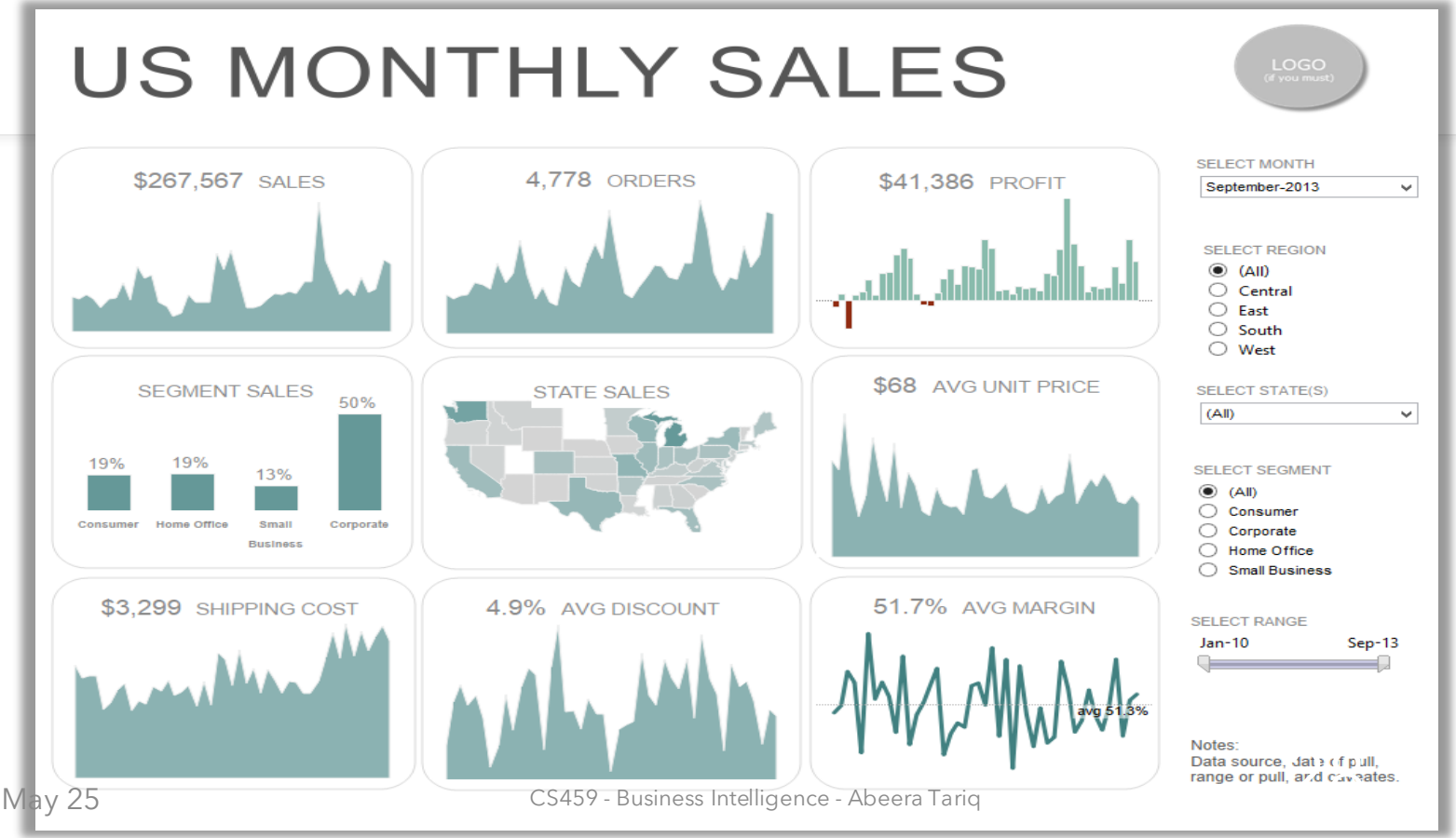
Comparison

TYPE OF DASHBOARD	LEVEL OF SENIORITY	TIME APPLICATION	LEVEL OF COMPLEXITY
STRATEGIC	Senior Management	Long-term	Complex
TACTICAL & ANALYTICAL	Middle Management	Medium-term	Less Complex
OPERATIONAL	Junior Management	Routine	Simple

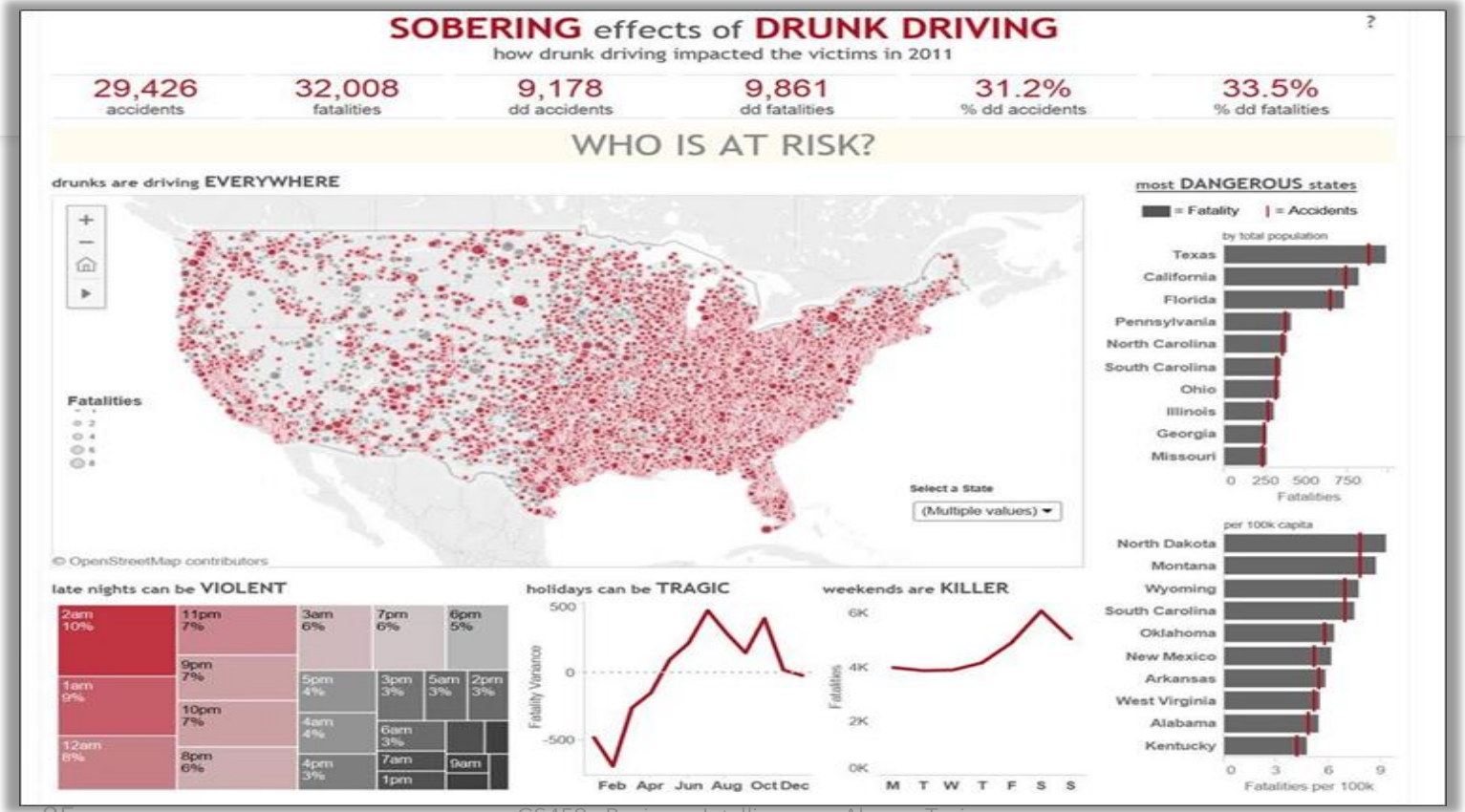
Examples

Good or Bad Dashboards

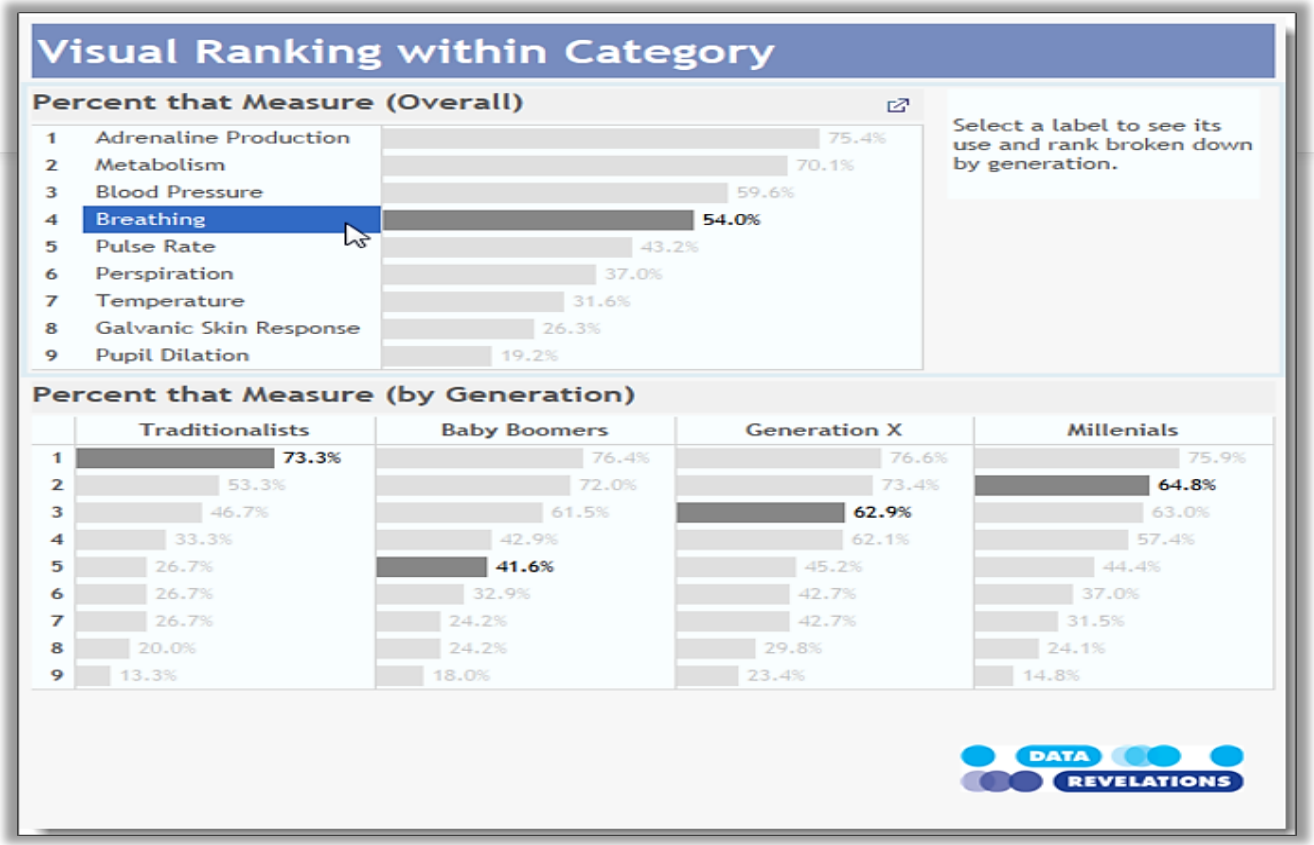
Good Dashboards – Too many charts but organized



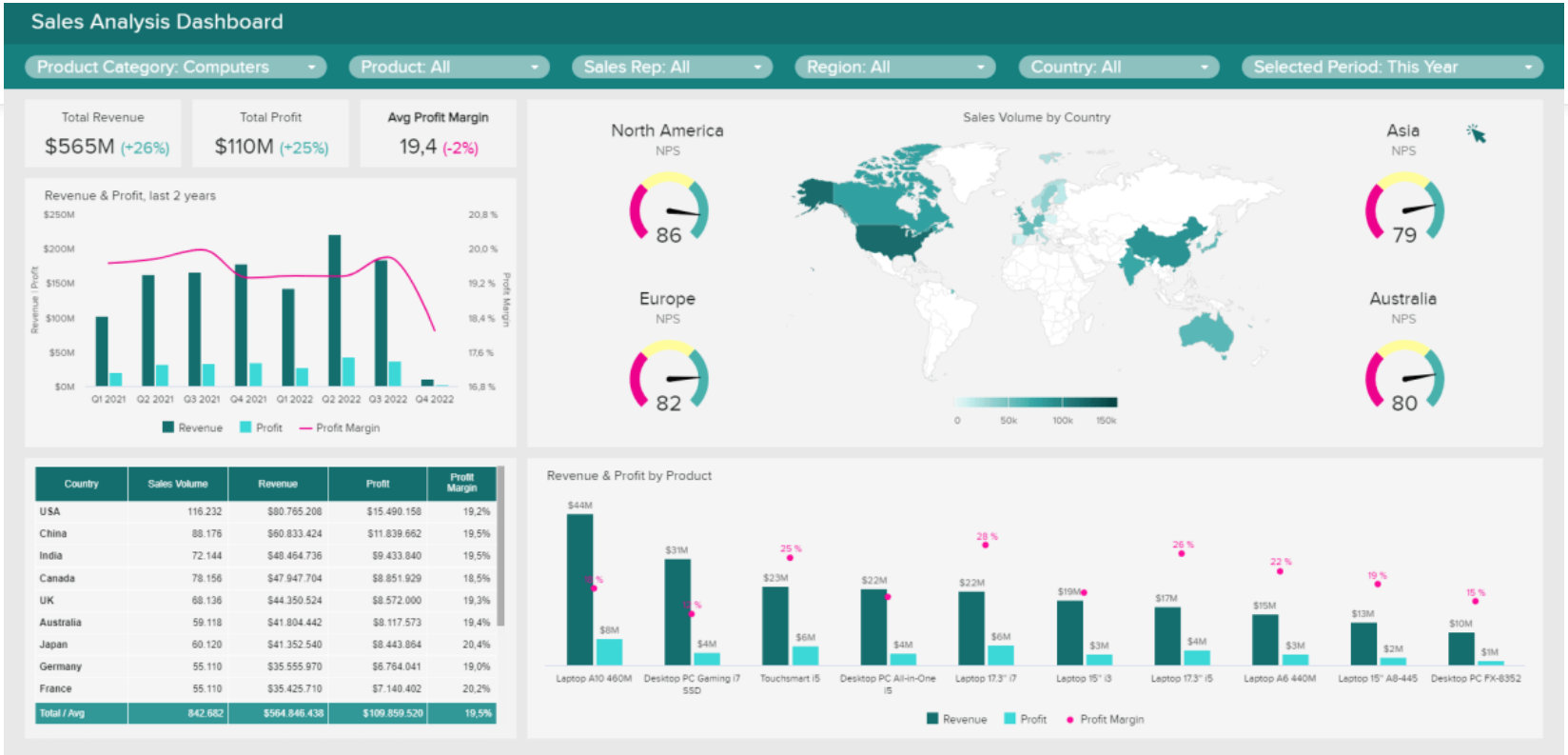
Good Dashboards – Map is the center of attention



Good Dashboards – All bars but meaningful information



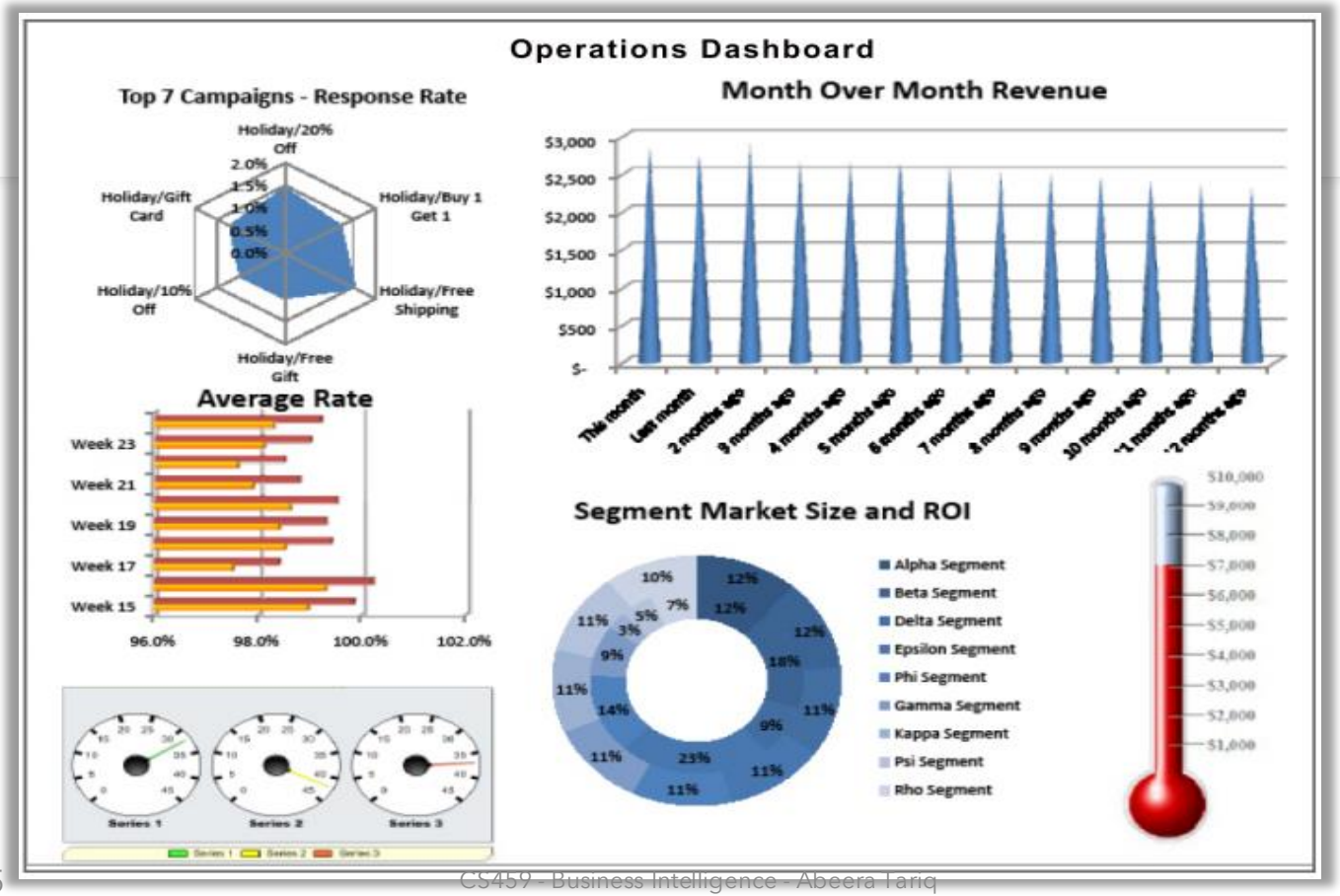
Good Dashboards – KPIs, Filters, colors



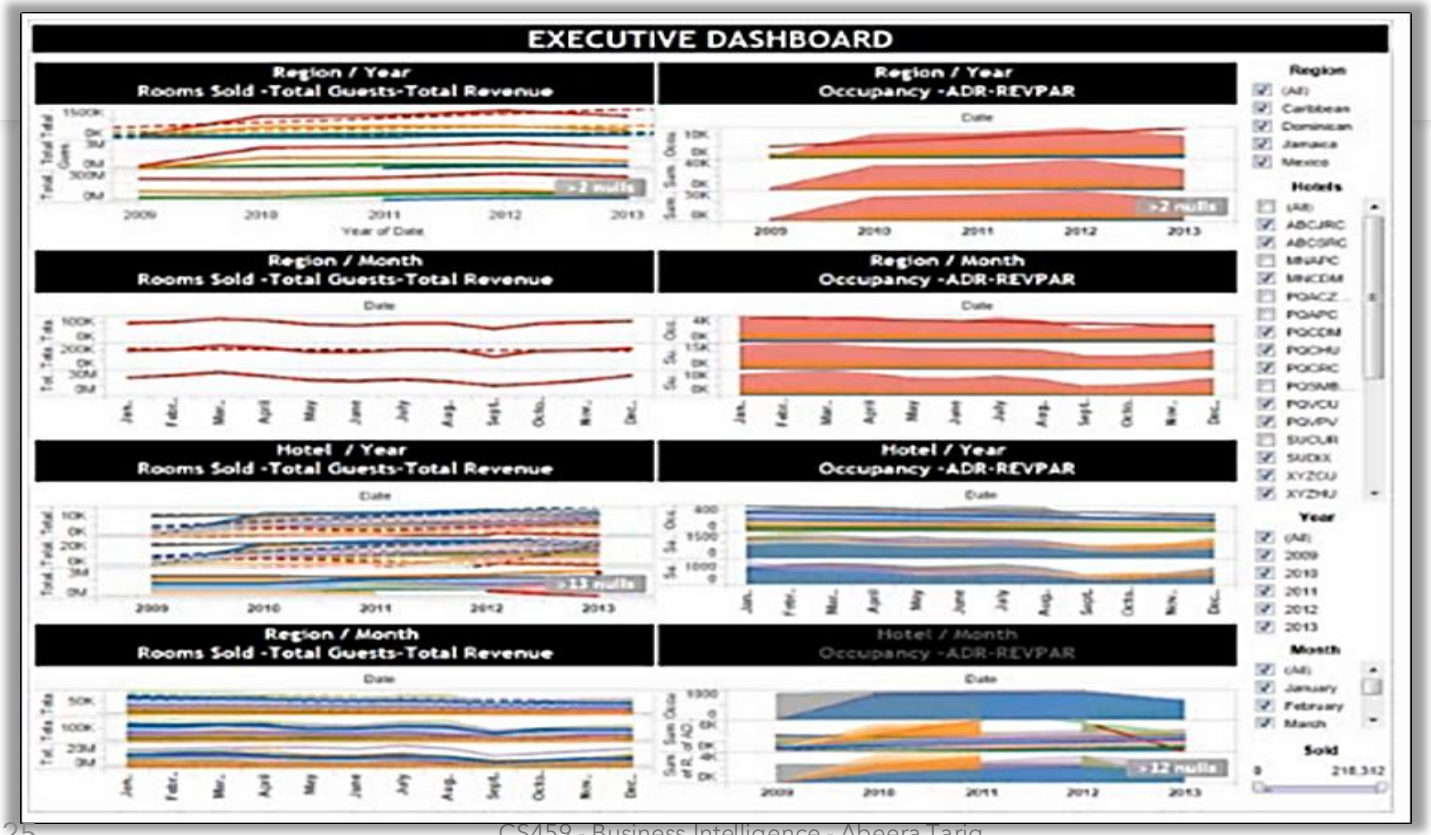
Good Dashboards - Choice of Colors

What not to do…

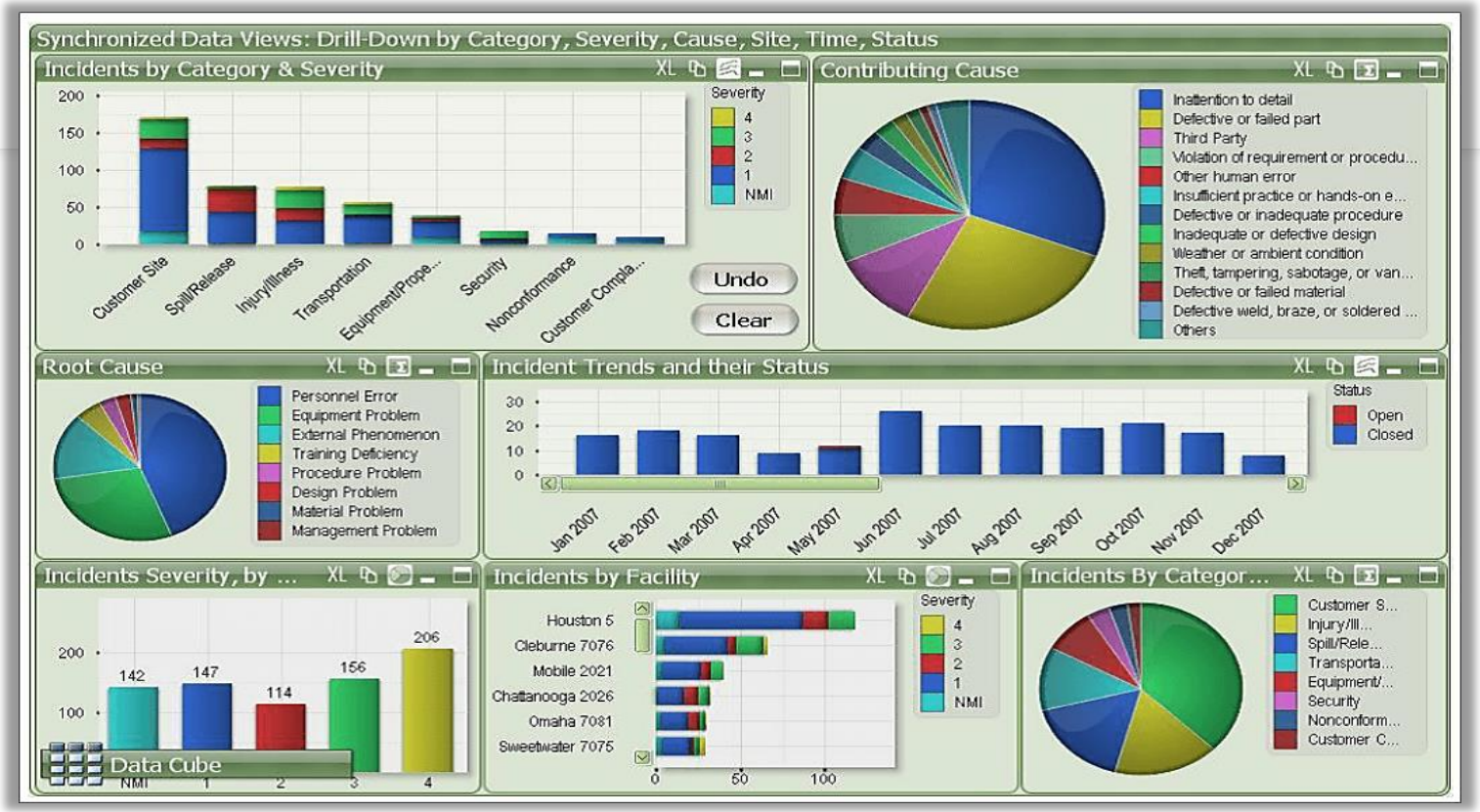
Bad Dashboards



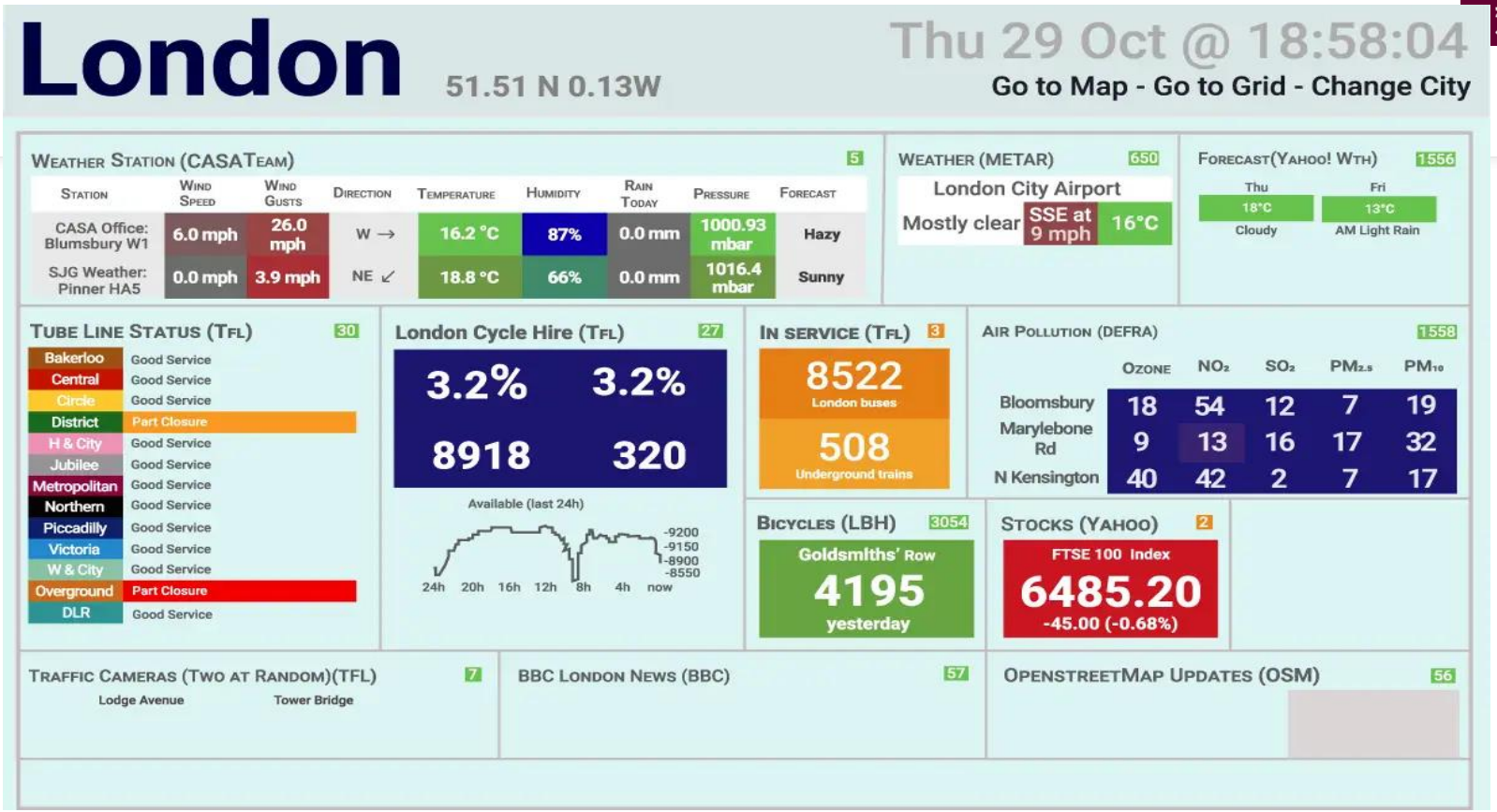
Bad Dashboards



Bad Dashboards



Bad Dashboards



Best Practices - Effective Dashboards

1. Identify your **goal**
2. Design for the real world
3. Choose metrics that matter
4. Keep it visual
5. Build in functionality
6. Avoid chart junk
7. Follow the 4 C's of Visualization
8. Finalize with Tableau's dashboard checklist

1. Identify your goal

- Know your purpose and audience/consumer
- Know your dashboard type
  - Strategic: executive, high-level
  - Operational: immediate use, sales information, pulse
  - Analytic/Tactical: drill-down, highly interactive
- What value will the dashboard add?
  - …help management define what is important?
  - …educate people in the organization about the things that matter?
  - …set goals and expectations for specific individuals or groups?
  - …help executives sleep at night because they know what's going on?
  - …encourage specific actions in a timely manner?
  - …highlight exceptions and provide alerts when problems occur?
  - …communicate progress and success?
  - …provide a common interface for interacting with and analyzing important business data?
- Leverage the most viewed spot

2. Design for the real world

- Author at your final display size
- Limit the number of views to three or four (unless there is an absolute need)
- Implement an iterative improvement process based on user feedback

3. Choose metrics that matter

- Metrics must be relevant to the goal.
- Ask the following questions when deciding which metrics to include in your dashboard:
  i. How does each metric contribute to those **objectives**?
  ii. Do you have data, either internal or external, that can shed light on the objectives?
  iii. Can you design a meaningful metric that measures those contributions?
  iv. Is this metric truly necessary to contribute to the objectives?
  v. Can you build a systematic and on-going means of measurement?

4. Keep it visual

- Cognition & Visual Perception
- Gestalt Theory (the whole of anything is greater than its parts)
  - Color choice
  - Design for Accessibility: avoid red-green and 'stop light' palette (red-yellow-green)
  - Stay on-brand and on-theme (online color palette tools make this easy)
  - Font choice
  - Chart choice
  - White space
  - Information grouping
  - Most important data on X and Y axes; encode less important data in color or shape attributes
- Pre-Attentive Attributes / Enduring Dispositions
- Make it easy for your audience to understand your message

Cognition & Visual Perception

- Vision is among our keenest senses
- Our brains process visual information faster and more efficiently than text
- Our visual system has been processing information long before language was ever developed

Chart v Tabular data presentation – which do you prefer?

TABLE 1.2 What are the trends in sales?

Category	2013 Q1	2013 Q2	2013 Q3	2013 Q4	2014 Q1	2014 Q2	2014 Q3	2014 Q4
Furniture	$463,988	$352,779	$338,169	$317,735	$320,875	$287,934	$319,537	$324,319
Office Supplies	$232,558	$290,055	$265,083	$246,946	$219,514	$202,412	$198,268	$279,679
Technology	$563,866	$244,045	$432,299	$461,616	$285,527	$353,237	$338,360	$420,018
Category	**2015 Q1**	**2015 Q2**	**2015 Q3**	**2015 Q4**	**2016 Q1**	**2016 Q2**	**2016 Q3**	**2016 Q4**
Furniture	$307,028	$273,836	$290,886	$397,912	$337,299	$245,445	$286,972	$313,878
Office Supplies	$207,363	$183,631	$191,405	$217,950	$241,281	$286,548	$217,198	$272,870
Technology	$333,002	$291,116	$356,243	$386,445	$386,387	$397,201	$359,656	$375,229

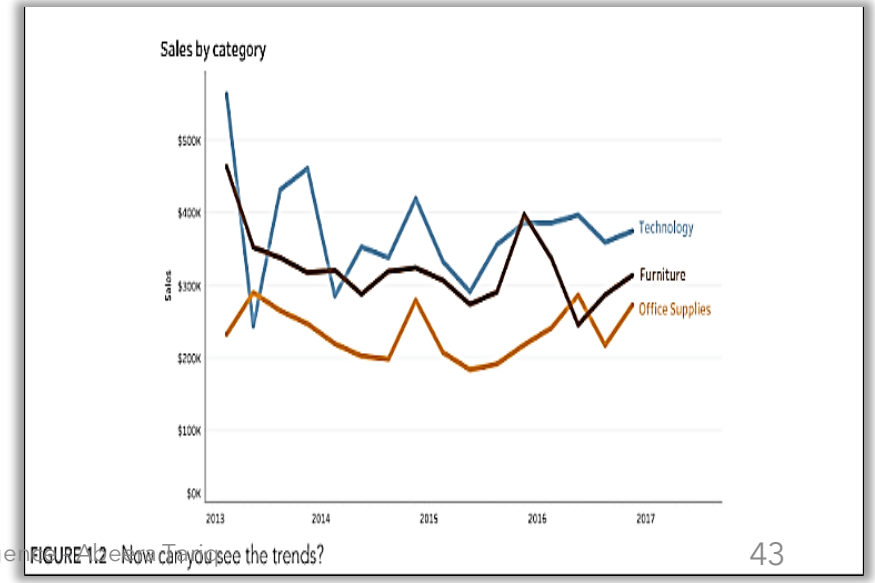
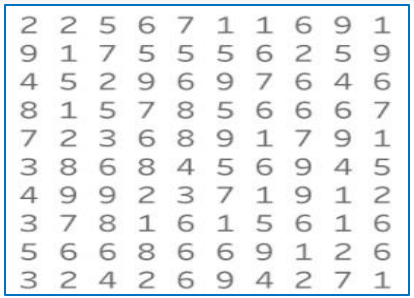


FIGURE 1.2 Now can you see the trends?

Pre-Attentive Attributes / Enduring Dispositions

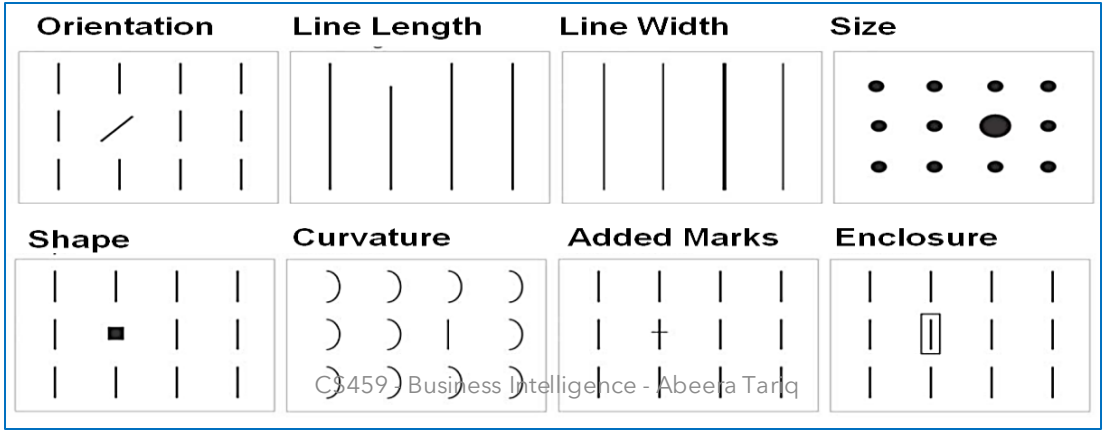
Automatic influence (conscious decision) ,where people direct attention



vs

Color

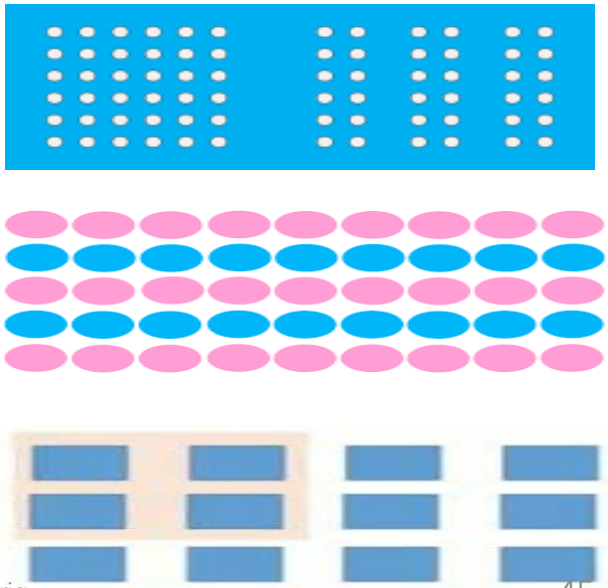
Form



Gestalt Theory & Design Principals

- **Theory**
  - The mind is constantly trying to make sense of the world; when the human mind (perceptual system) forms a percept or "gestalt", the whole has a reality of its own, independent of the parts.

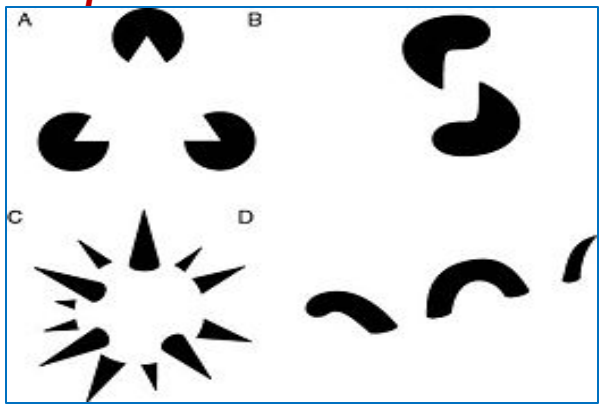
- **Principals (8):**
  - Proximity (objects close to each other are perceived as a group)
  - Similarity (elements tend to be integrated into groups if they are similar to each other)
  - Enclosure (objects with a boundary surrounding them are perceived to belong together)



Gestalt Examples

Reification (abstract to real)

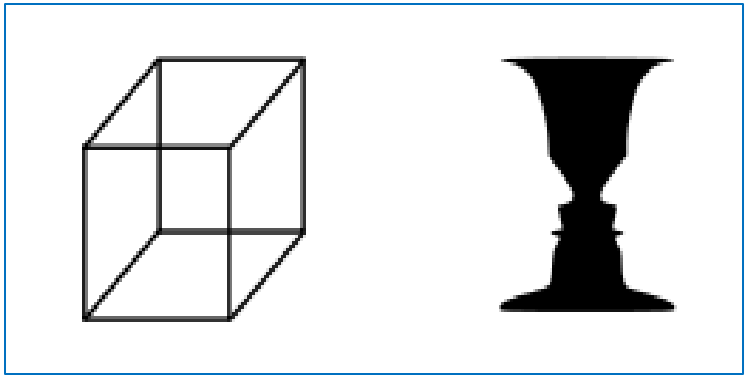
- Illusory contours
- Constructive or generative aspect of perception, by which the experienced percept contains more explicit spatial information than the sensory stimulus on which it is based.
- ***The whole is <u>other</u> than the sum of the parts***



Multistability (Multistable Perception) / Figure-Ground Articulation

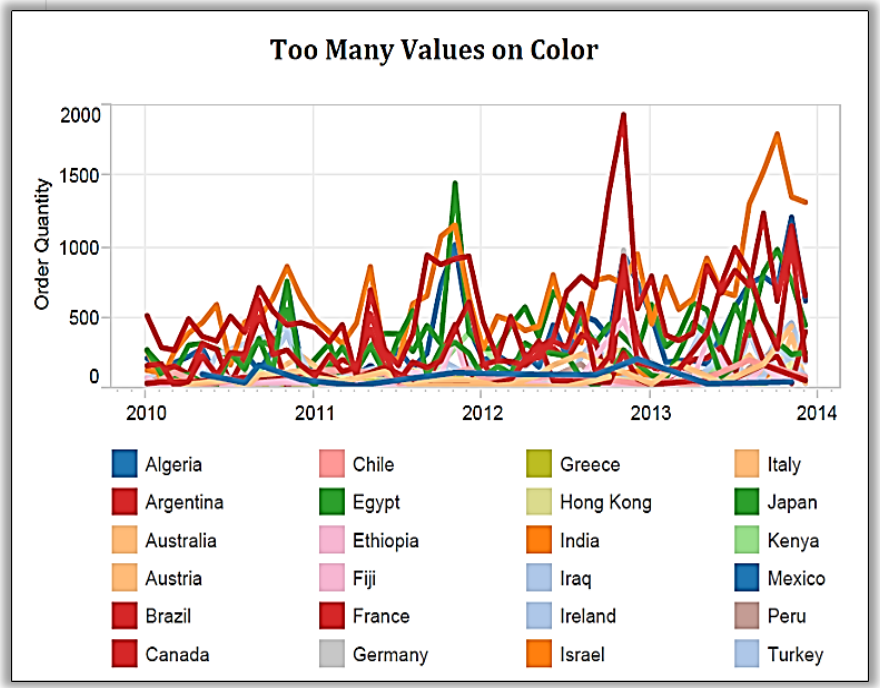
- Tendency of ambiguous perceptual experiences to pop back and forth unstably between two or more alternative interpretations.

- E.g. Necker cube and
  Rubin's Figure/Vase illusion



Color Choice

Limit to 7 or less colors



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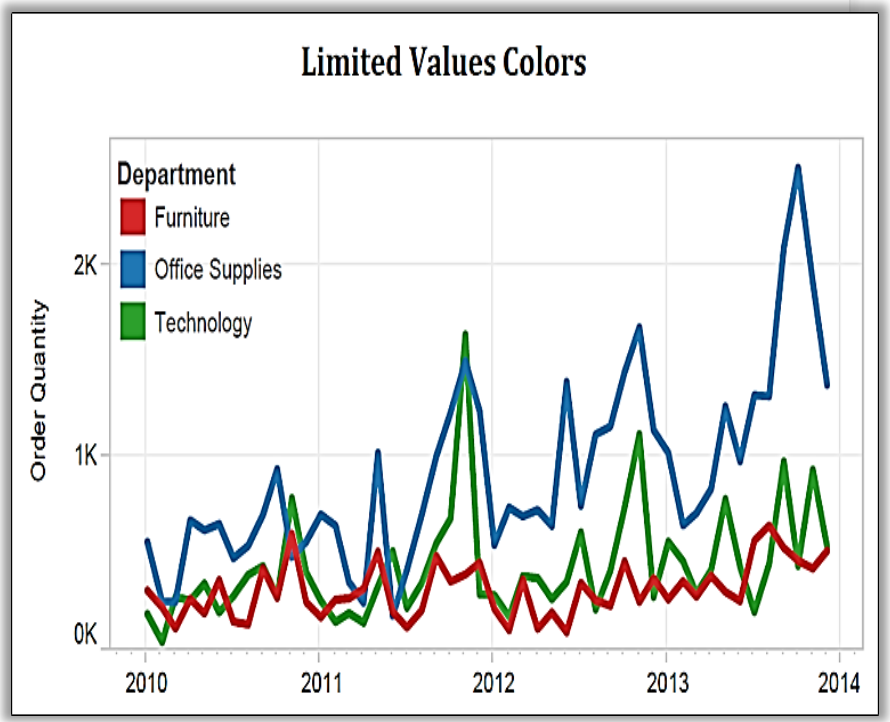
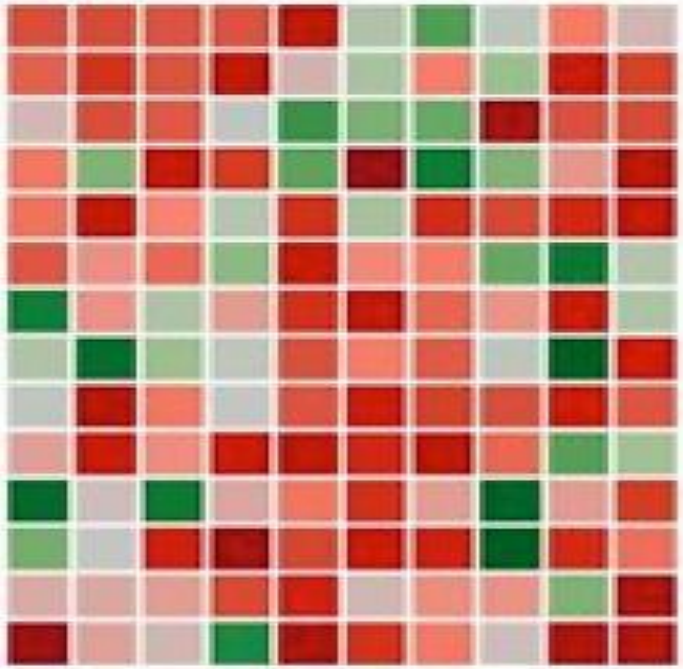
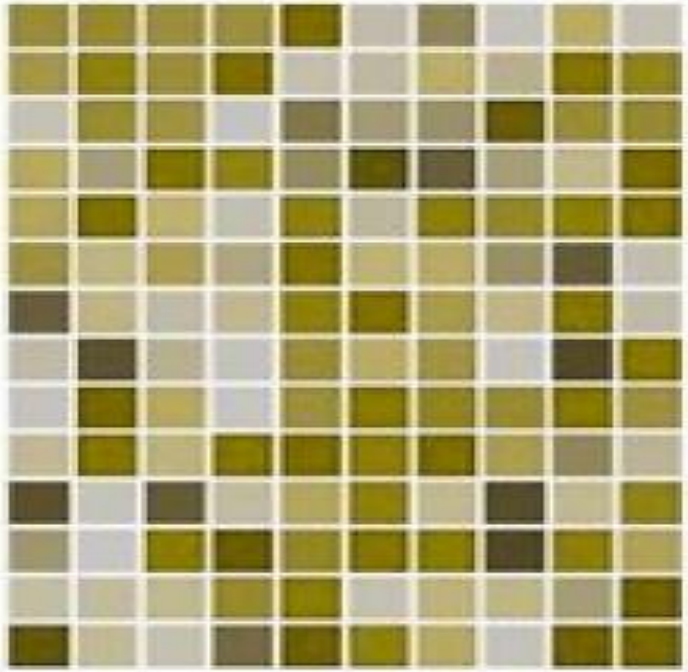


Design for Accessibility

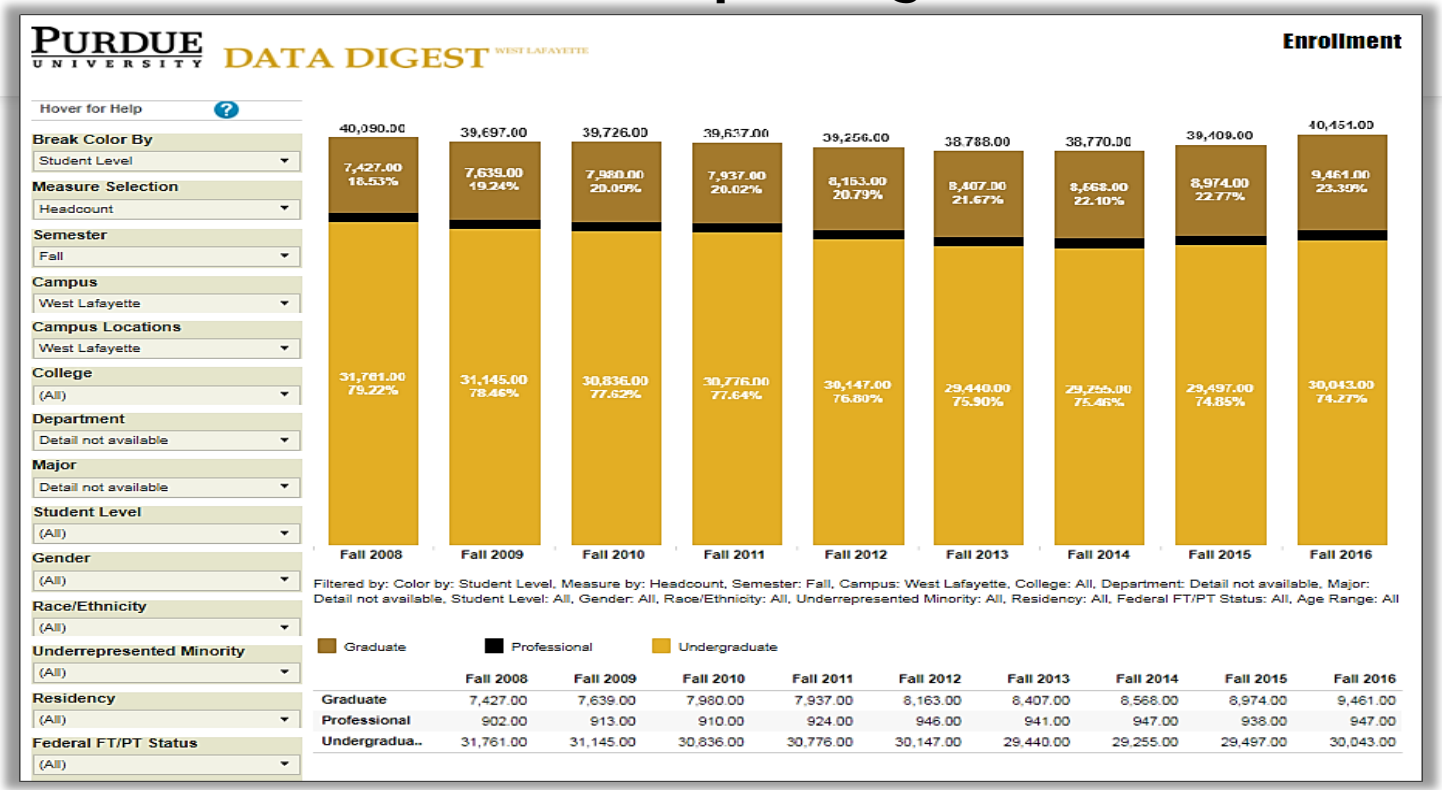
Color Vision Deficiency (color blindness)
affects ~10% population





Stay On-Brand / On-Theme

Utilize online color palette generators



Font Choice

Avoid scripts:

Recommended fonts

Overall Dashboard

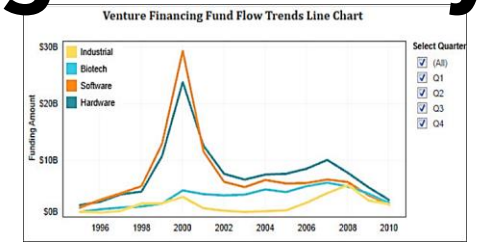
- Trebuchet MS or Verdana (especially for tables and numbers)
- Arial
- Georgia
- Tahoma
- Times New Roman
- Lucida sans

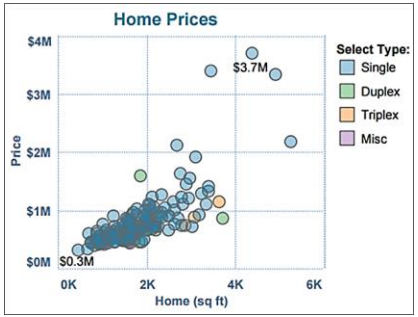
Tooltips

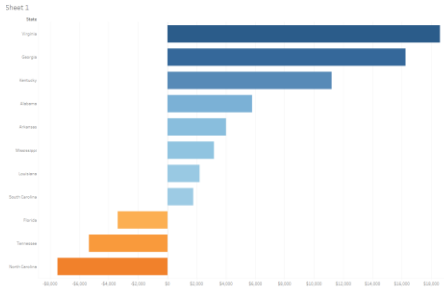
- Calibri
- Cambria

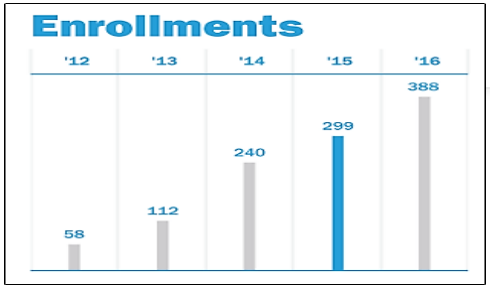
Choose the Right Chart Type

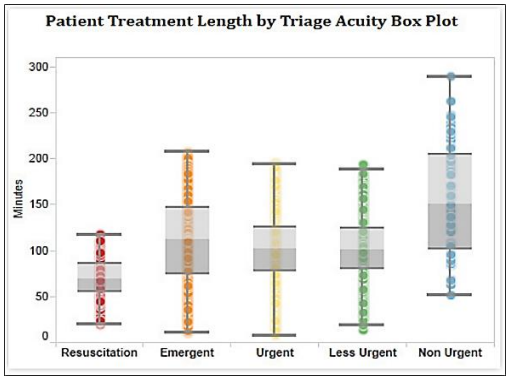
- Trends over Time:
  - line chart
- Comparison & Ranking:
  - bar chart
- Correlation:
  - scatterplot
- Distribution:
  - box plot





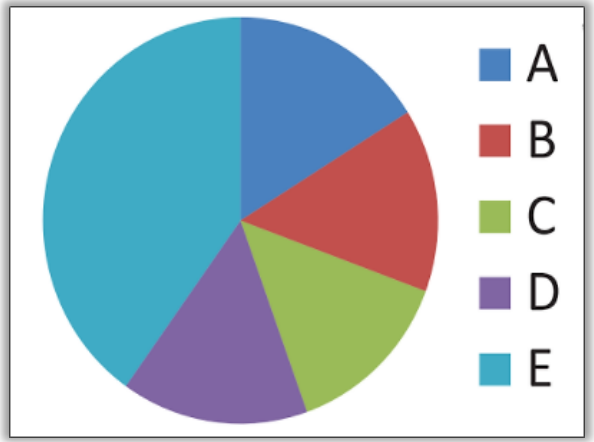






Avoid Pie Charts

Much harder for humans to differentiate differences in circles or angles than lines



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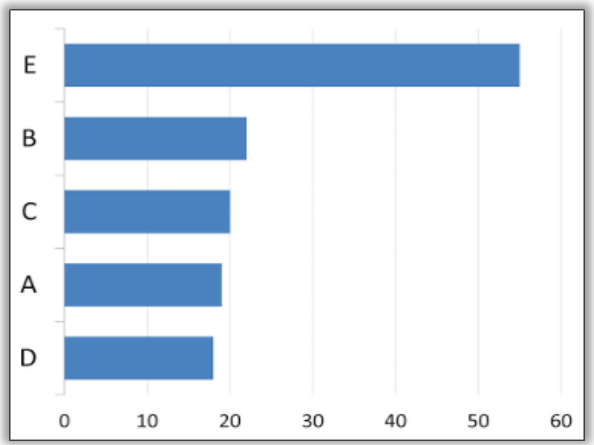
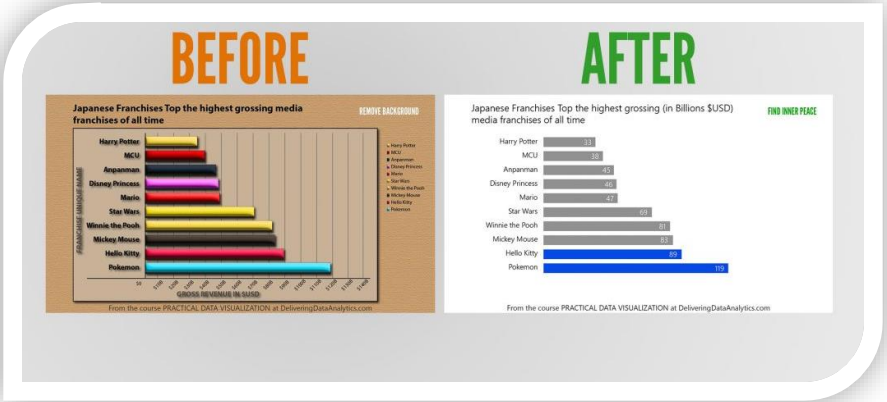


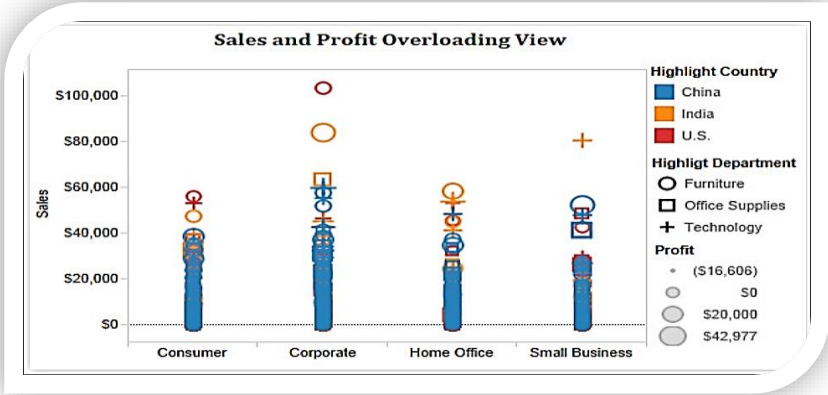
5. Build in functionality

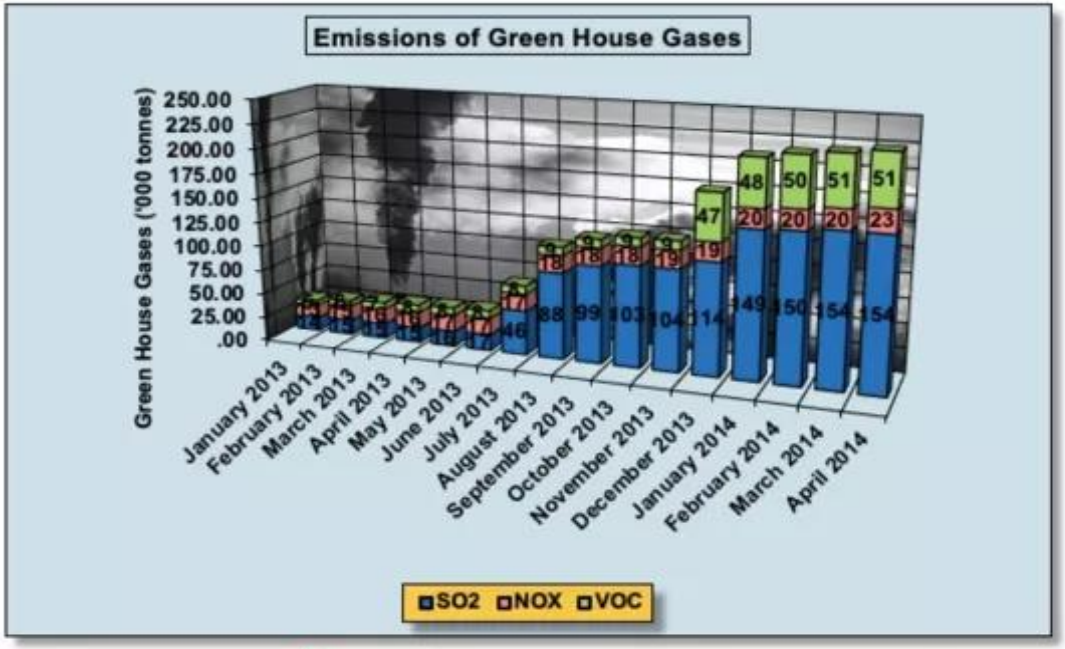
- Add interactivity to encourage exploration
- Drill-downs
  - Allow users to go from a summary metric/view to deeper detail that provides more context and/or breakout of the information.
- Show filters and parameters
- Enable highlighting
- Action filters
- Tooltips

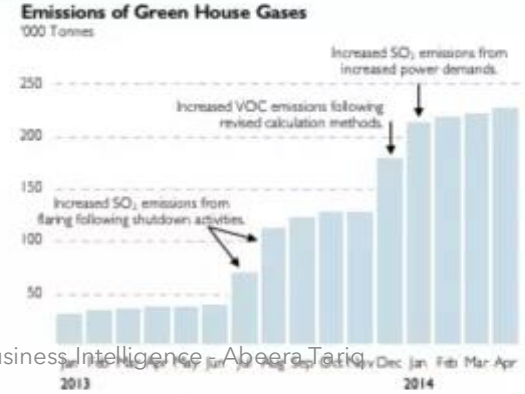
6. Avoid chart junk

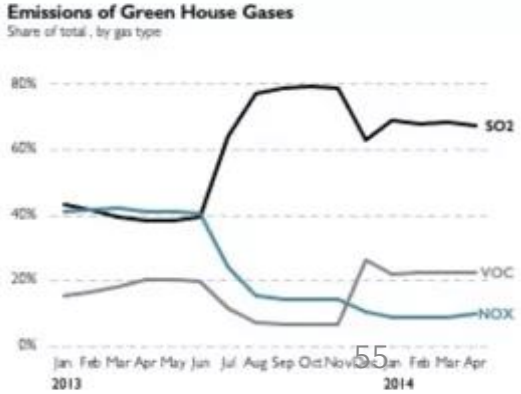
- Avoid chart overload
- Unless it serves a purpose, don't include it, e.g. 3D effects, image overload, chart shading, label overload
- Prioritize data-ink ratio (how much ink used to present as compared to total ink (pixels) used in entire display)
- Resist temptation to use purely decorative chart types

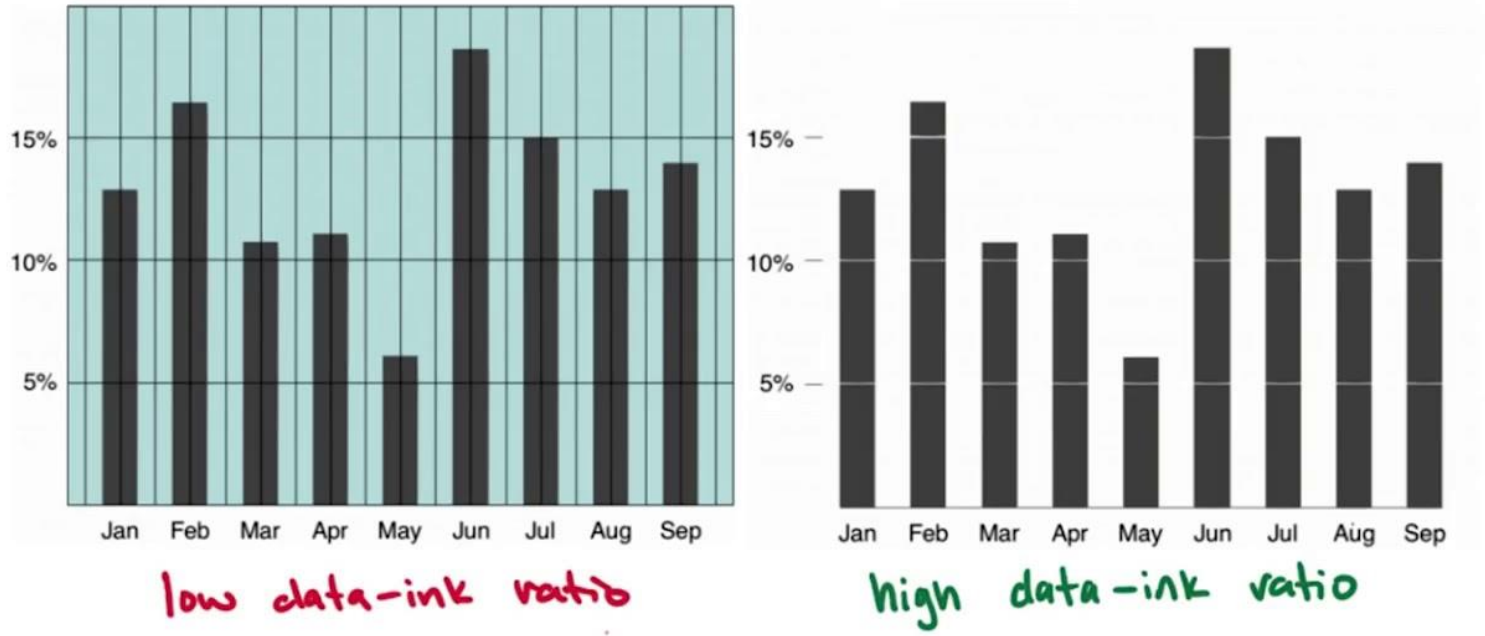





Emissions of Green House Gases
Green House Gases ('000 tonnes)
250.00
225.00
200.00
175.00
150.00
125.00
100.00
75.00
50.00
25.00
.00
January 2013
February 2013
March 2013
April 2013
May 2013
June 2013
July 2013
August 2013
September 2013
October 2013
November 2013
December 2013
January 2014
February 2014
March 2014
April 2014
SO2 NOX VOC

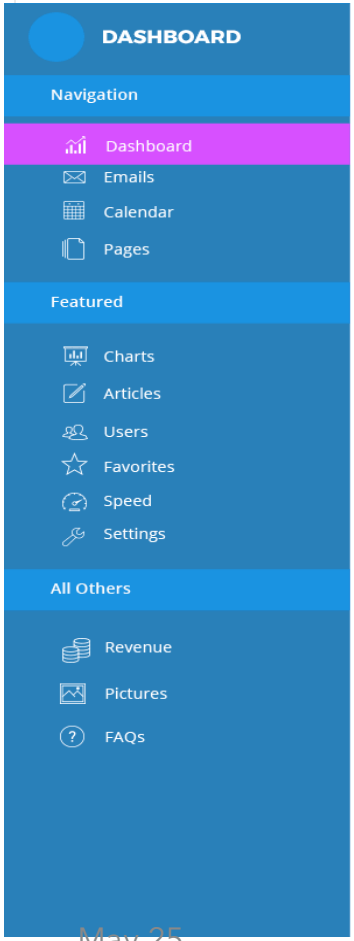

Emissions of Green House Gases
'000 Tonnes
Increased SO2 emissions from increased power demands.
Increased VOC emissions following revised calculation methods.
Increased SO2 emissions from flaring following shutdown activities.
250
200
150
100
50
2013
2014

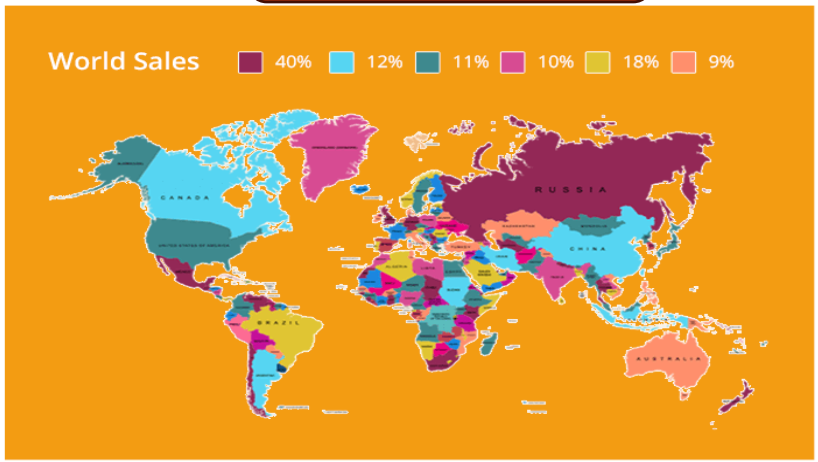

Emissions of Green House Gases
Share of total , by gas type
80%
60%
40%
20%
0%
SO2
VOC
NOX
2013
2014

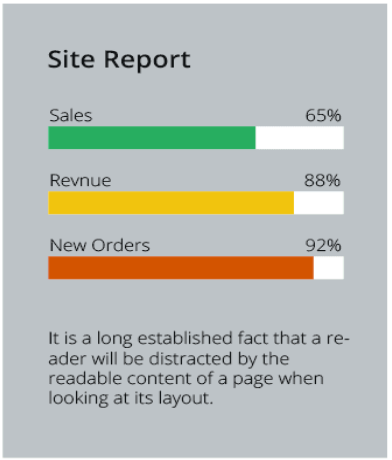

15%
10%
5%
Jan
Feb
Mar
Apr
May
Jun
Jul
Aug
Sep
low data-ink ratio
15%
10%
5%
Jan
Feb
Mar
Apr
May
Jun
Jul
Aug
Sep
high data-ink ratio

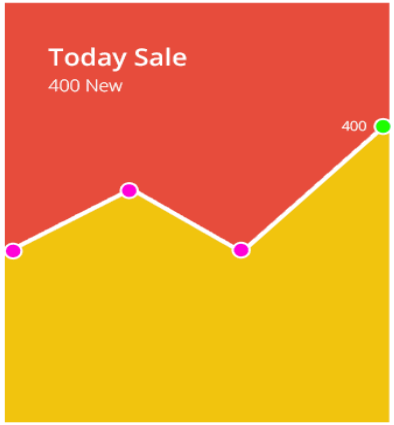
Too much clutter

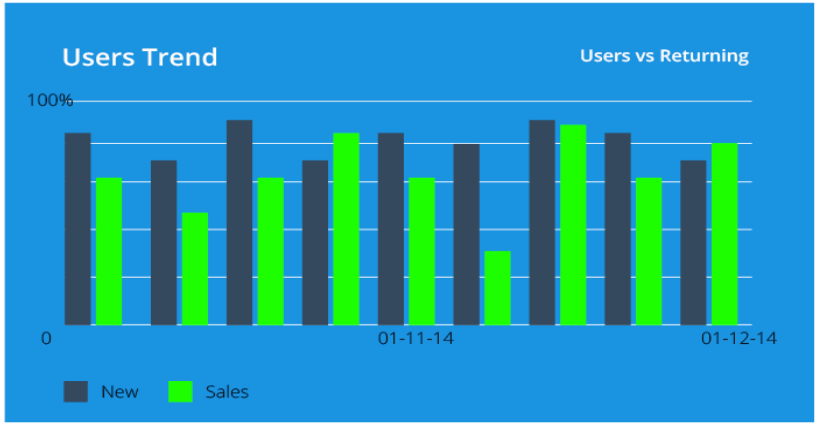
Too many colors



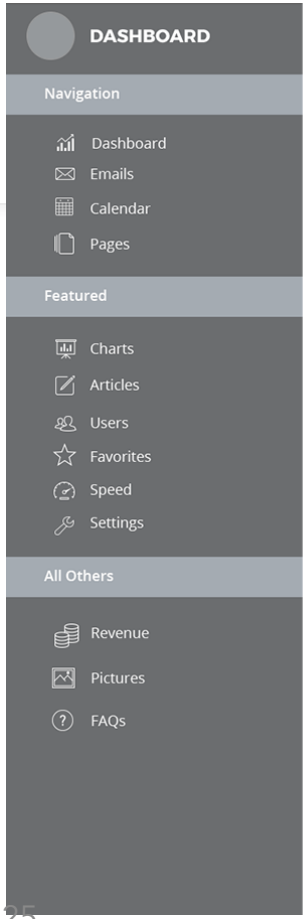


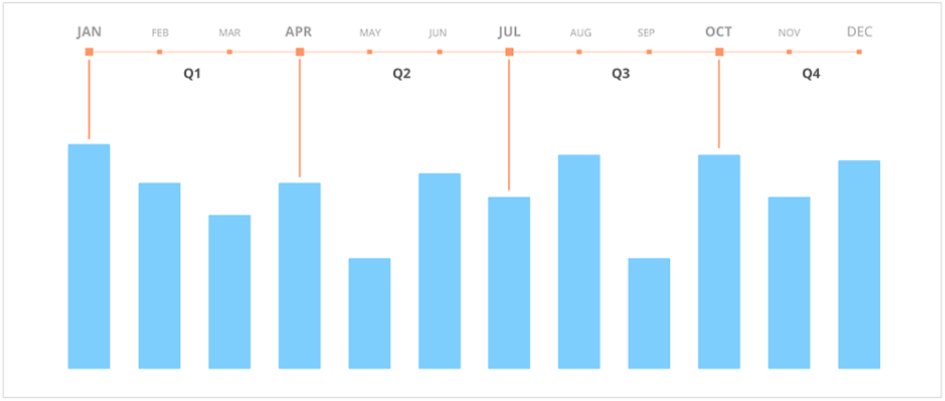


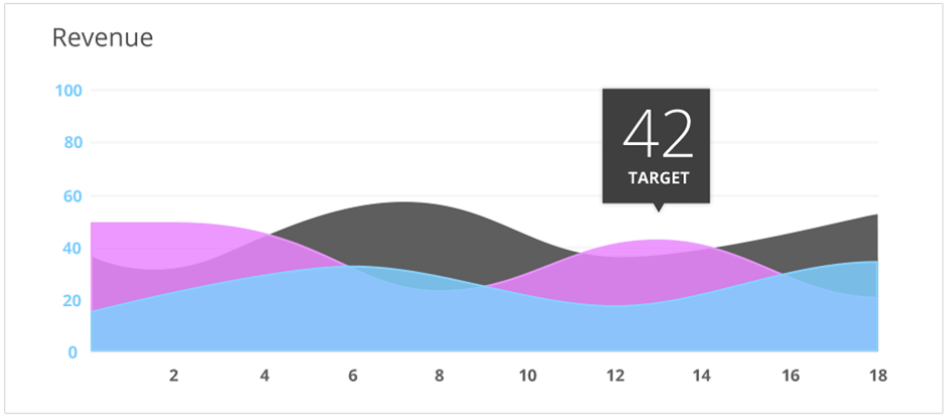




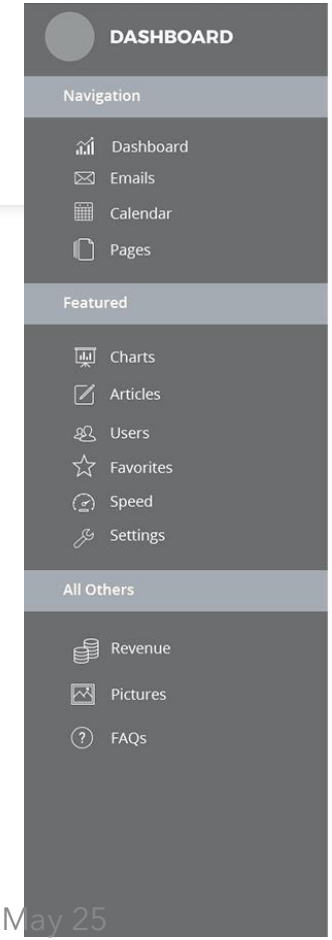
Lack of context

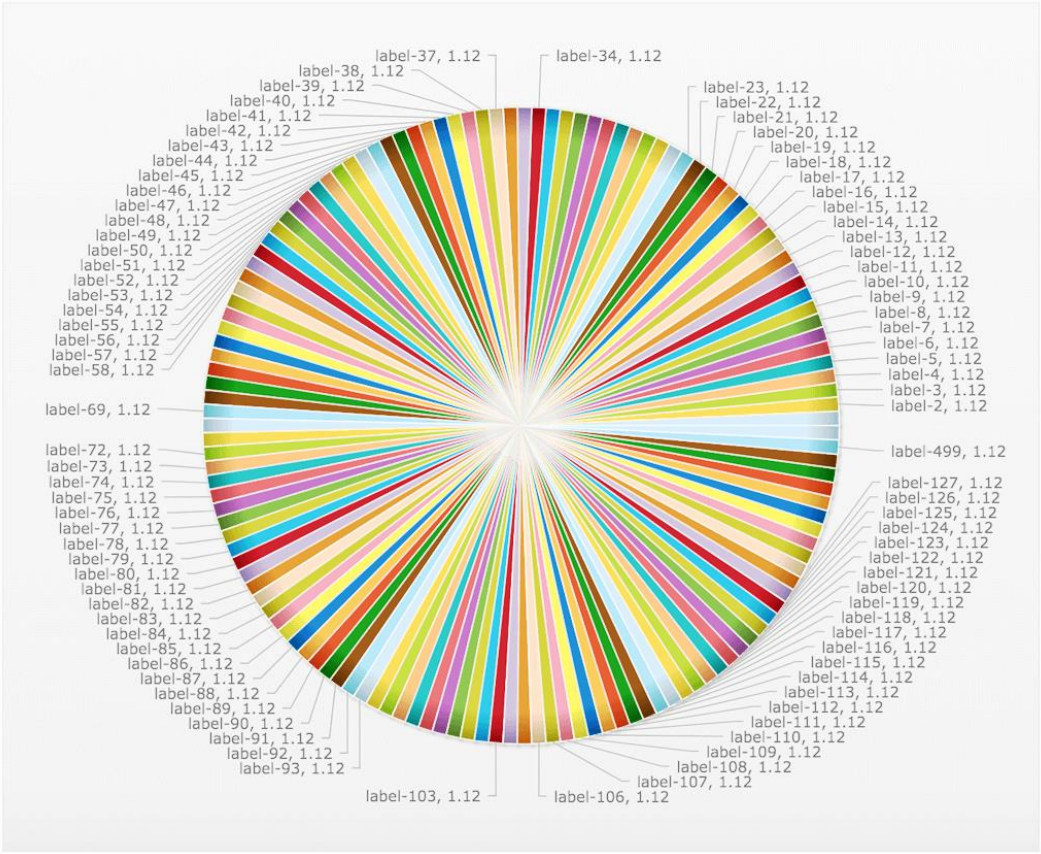




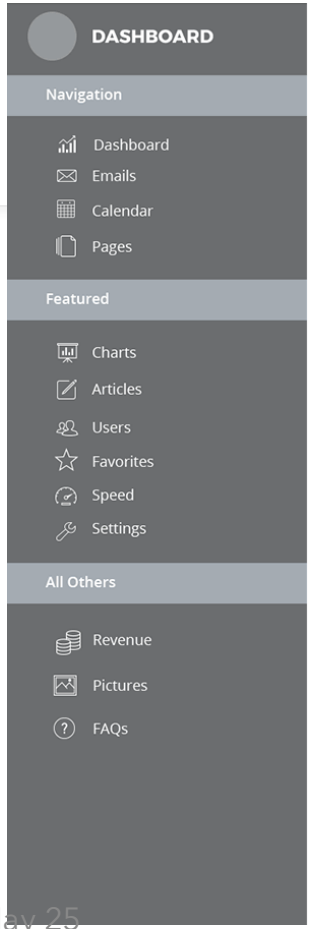


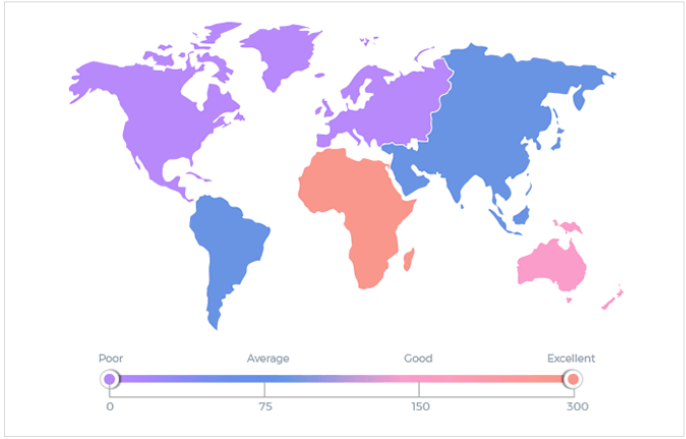
Bad Data-to-Vis Pairing

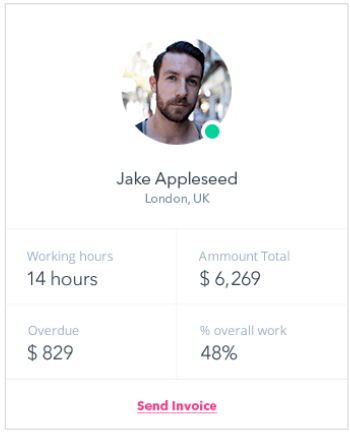




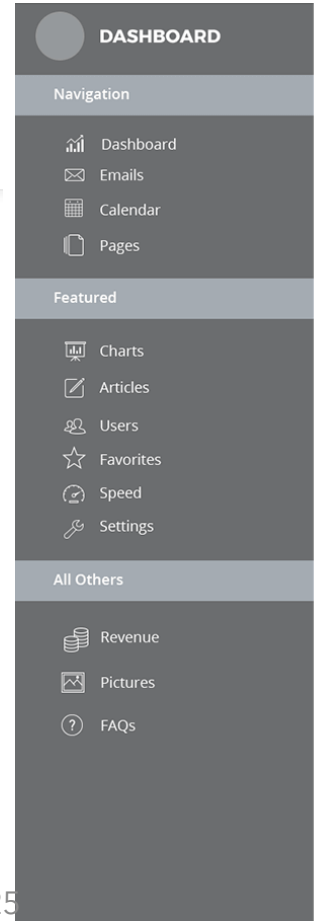
Careless Arrangement

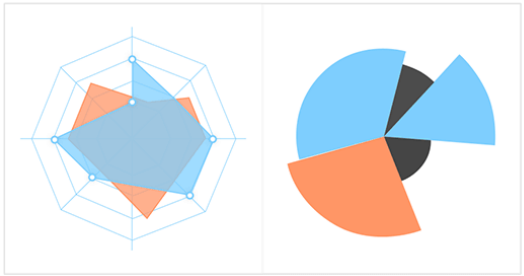


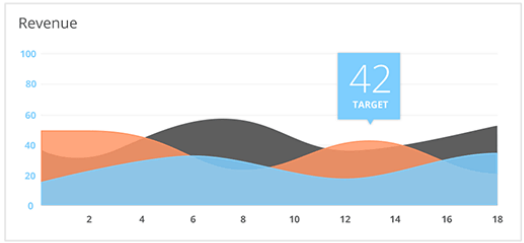


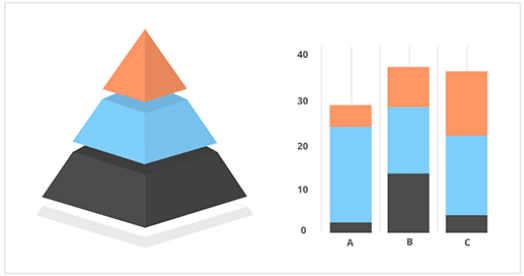


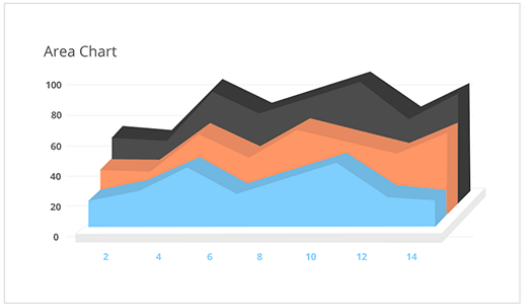
Unnecessary Variety

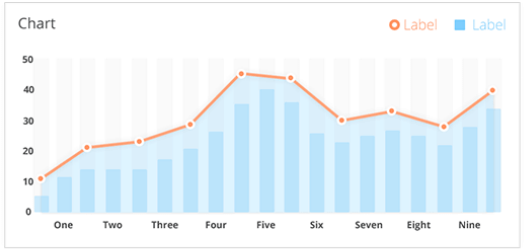


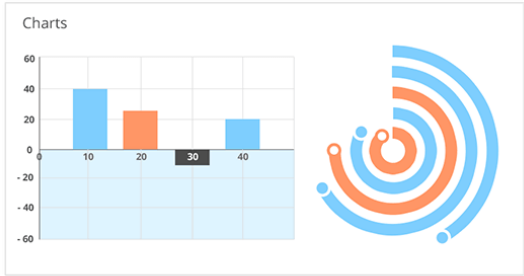




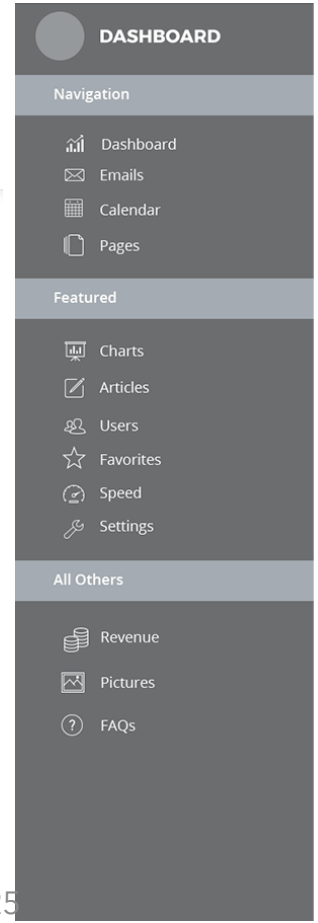


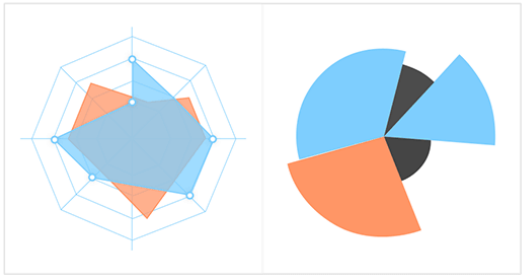


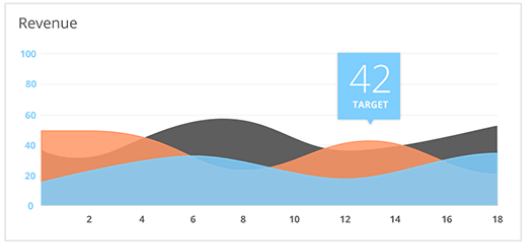


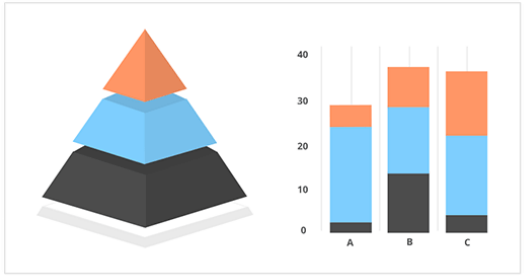


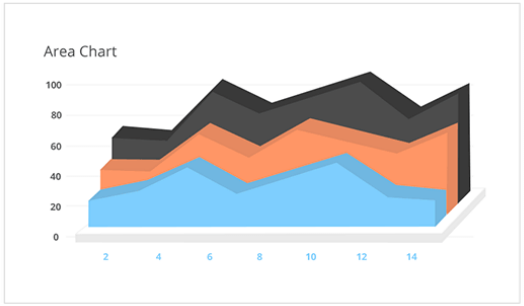
Confusing Resemblance

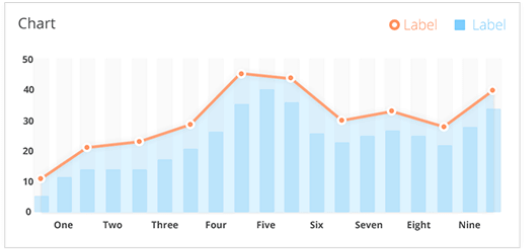


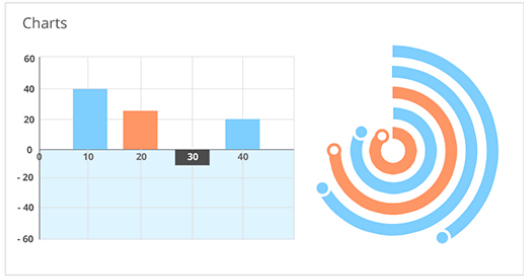




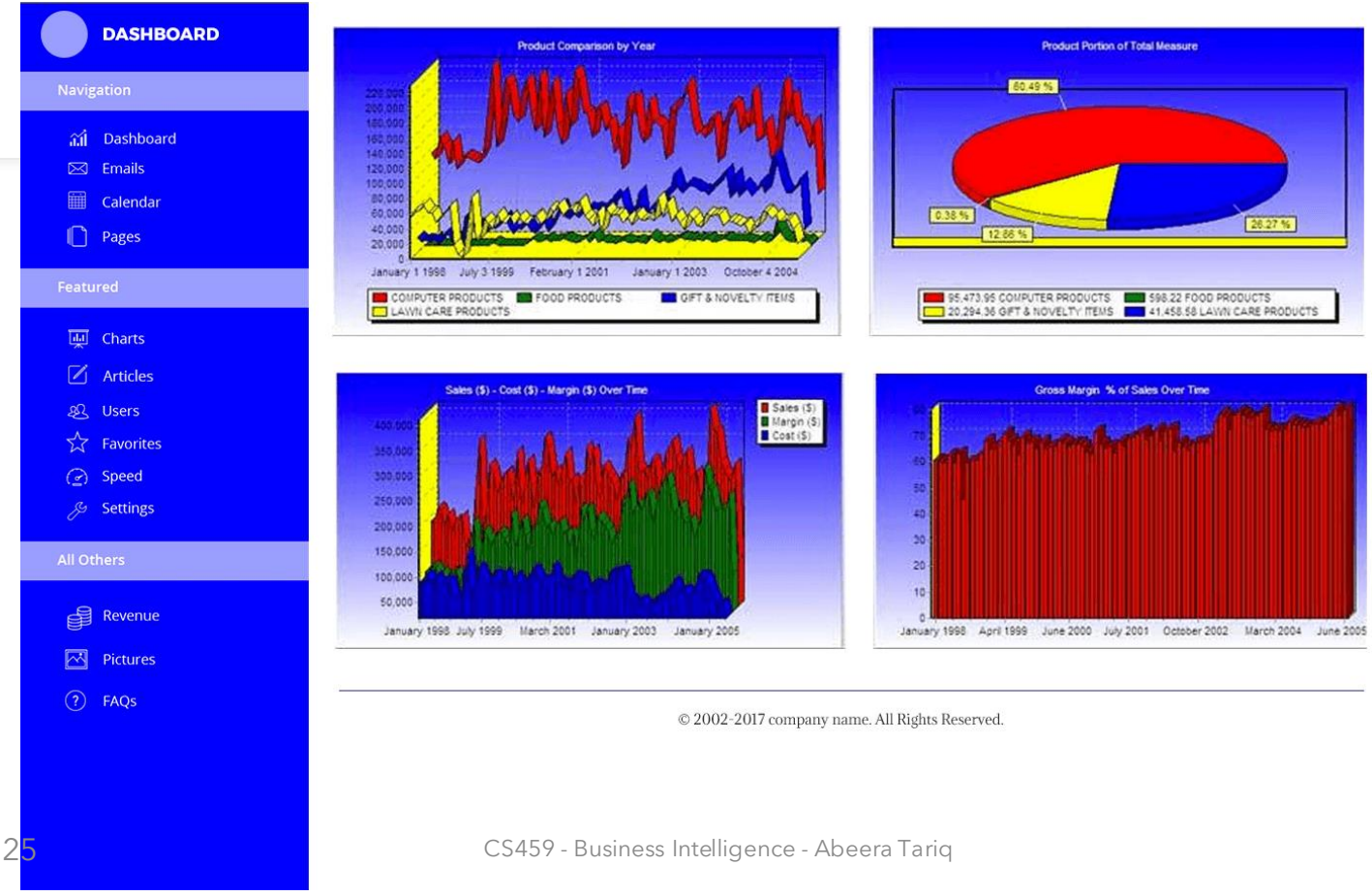








Ugly



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7. Follow the 4 C's of Visualization

1. **Clarity**
   - Defined audience, clear message, ease of understanding
2. **Concise**
   - Balance minimalism with detail, brevity with comprehensiveness
3. **Captivating**
   - Attracts and holds attention, is interesting
4. **Catalyst**
   - Prompts action

8. Tableau check list

1. **What questions are you trying to answer?**
    - Does this visualization answer all of your questions?
    - Is the purpose of the visualization clearly explained in its title or surrounding text?
    - Can you understand the visualization in 30 seconds or less, without additional information?
    - Does your visualization include a title? Is that title simple, informative, and eye-catching?
    - Does your visualization include subtitles to guide your viewers?

8. Tableau check list

2. Do you have the right chart type for your analysis?

- What types of analysis are you performing?
- Have you selected the most suitable chart type(s) for your types of analysis?
- Have you considered alternative chart types that could work better than the ones you have chosen?

3. Are your views effective?

- Are your most important data shown on the X- and Y-axes and your less important data encoded in color or shape attributes?
- Are your views oriented intuitively—do they cater to the way your viewers read and perceive data?
- Have you limited the number of measures or dimensions in a single view so that your users can see your data?
- Have you limited your usage of colors and shapes so that your users can distinguish them and see patterns?

8. Tableau check list

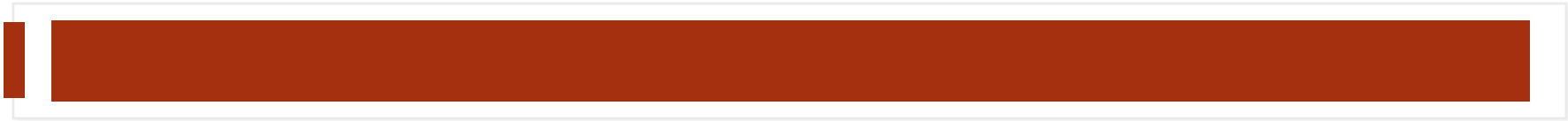
4. Is your dashboard holistic?

- Do all your views fit together to tell a single story?
- Do all your views flow well from one to the next? Are they in a good order?
- Do your most important views appear in the top or top-left corner?
- Are secondary elements in your dashboard placed well so they support the views without interrupting them?
- Are your filters in the right locations?
- Do your filters work correctly? Do views become blank or downright confusing if you apply a filter?
- Do your filters apply to the right scope?
- Are your filter titles informative? Can viewers easily understand how to interactive with your filters?
- Are your legends close to the views they apply to?
- Is your legend highlight button set to “on” or “off” according to your preference?
- Do you have filter, highlight or URL actions? If so, do they work?
- Are your legends and filters grouped and placed intuitively?
- Do you have scrollbars in your views? If so, are they acceptable ones?
- Are your views scrunched?
- Do your views fit consistently well when you apply filters?

8. Tableau check list

5. Did you perfect your work?

- Do all the colors on your dashboard go together without clashing?
- Do you have less than 7-10 colors on your dashboards?
- Do you use fonts consistently in all of your views and no more than three different fonts on one dashboard?
- Are your labels clear and concise? Are they placed optimally to help guide your viewers? Make sure subtitles are formatted to be subordinate to the main title.
- Are your tooltips informative? Do they have the right format so that they're easy for viewers to use?

Prepare for BI Design Activity on Wednesday!

Sit with your project team members, bring in some extra pens and markers with you, ensure to download your dataset