CS46N Data Visualization Assignment

Summary

Create an interesting data visualization and share it with the class

Details

You may use any dataset you wish for the assignment. The class website has some datasets we've been using, along with pointers to collections of a wide variety of publicly available datasets. You can find many others on the Web. Pick something that interests you.

The overall goal is to use data visualization to demonstrate a non-obvious insight gleaned from the data, or to make a particular point. You can stick with a single chart or other type of visualization, or you can use multiple displays that together tell a story. To create your visualization(s) you can use the simple RAW tool we used in class, spreadsheet graphing tools (e.g., Google Sheets, Excel), a free trial of the sophisticated Tableau tool, or any other method of creating a visual point or story from the data.

As a rule of thumb, you might budget two hours for finding and exploring your dataset, and another two hours for creating the visualization. Of course, you can go all out and spend much more time if you wish.

Thursday October 8 in class: By this time you should have identified your dataset and have some notion what you would like your insight, point, or story to be. You don't need to have anything running yet. At the start of the class session we'll have each student say what data they're using and describe their general plan. You should also have determined if there are any obvious obstacles, e.g., the data needs to be "cleaned" or otherwise manipulated, the tools don't seem to provide the functionality you need. The second part of the class will be a working session in which students can talk among themselves about their ideas and implementation strategies if they wish, and staff will be available to look at what you have so far and help with obstacles or idea generation.

Tuesday October 13 in class: Each student will share their final visualization. With 16 students, transition time, and time for questions, please plan for a demo of up to two minutes.