

2014

Practical Work with Report

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Title: Practical Work with Report

Lecturer: Brian MacNamee

Programme and year on which assessment was offered

MSc Computing

Description

Practical visualisation work and writing a short report.

What have you found are the advantages of using this form of assessment?

- Tests students skills to develop visualization solutions for datasets with all of the issues they are likely to encounter in real data in their careers.
- Lots of flexibility in the work that students could do
- Connects classroom work to the bigger practice and research communities

What have you found are the dis-advantages of using this form of assessment?

- Flexibility was a challenge for some students
- Some students found it difficult to settle on a dataset to use and wasted a lot of time flip-flopping between multiple sources.
- Marking visualizations is quite challenging as there is a risk of the marker being overly subjective.

Alternatives

Essay type assessments can be separated into collection /review of relevant resources, development of plan/schedule/synopsis of proposed work, concept map/flow chart of work in progress, executive summaries, bibliographies etc

Assessment in Practice

- Not suitable for very large classes due to the report nature of the submission and the marking burden.
- Suitable for group work.

Assessment Time

- Preparation time: ~5 hours
- Student time to complete: ~18 hours
- Marking time: ~8 hours
- Ease of Feedback: Written feedback to each group

Additional Resources

MSc Visualisation Assignment: *Visualise This!*

Semester 1 2012 - 2013

Introduction

In this assignment you must create a series of visualisations from one of the following sources:

- The property prices register (<http://www.propertypriceregister.ie/>)
- A download of events from a Google calendar account with multiple calendars (<http://support.google.com/calendar/bin/answer.py?hl=en&answer=371111>)
- A download of an email dump from an email account (<http://support.google.com/mail/bin/answer.py?hl=en&answer=12103&ctx=mail>)
- The Manchester City Football Club dataset (<http://www.mfcfc.co.uk/the-club/mfcfc-analytics/data-available>)
- Call records dataset (ask me for this one)
- Other dataset (as long as you check it with me first)

These series of visualisations should show interesting characteristics within the dataset and include at least:

- At least five visualisations
- One trend over time
- One set of proportional comparisons
- One set of changing proportions over time
- Any two of the following:
 - Something spatially located on a map
 - A network structure
 - A hierarchical structure
 - A piece of visual art
- At least one **informative** visualisation and one **persuasive** visualisation
- At least one **exploratory** visualisation and one **explanatory** visualisation
- A short explanation for each visualisation explaining what it is trying to achieve, the questions it is built to answer, and characterising the type of visualisation

Marking

Marking will be based on:

75% awarded for:

- All required visualisations described above
- Choosing the appropriate visualisation method for each visualisation created

- Using appropriate encodings in all visualisations

25% awarded for:

- Jazz! Do something impressive.

Submission

- **Submission date:** Thursday 6th December 2012
- **Submission method:** Submissions should be made through the programme Webcourses site (don't wait until the last minute to check if you can get into Webcourses)
- **Submission format:** Submissions can be in the form of a PDF document or web page (or any other format you like as long as you check it with me first)
- **Late submissions:** Late submissions will be penalised at 5% per day.

[Assessment Rubric](#)