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Chart and image gallery: 30+ free tools for data visualization and analysis

By Sharon Machlis

November 21, 2012 08:19 AM ET Add a comment Recommended (0)

The chart below originally accompanied our story 22 free tools for data visualization and analysis (April 20, 2011). We're updating it as we cover additional tools, including 8 cool tools for data analysis, visualization and presentation (March 27, 2012), Startup offers 1-click data analysis (Aug. 29, 2012), Infogr.am offers quick Web charts (Oct. 16, 2012) and Create simple, free charts with Datawrapper (Nov. 21, 2012). Click through to those articles for full tool reviews.

Features: You can sort the chart by clicking on any column header once to sort in ascending order and a second time to sort by descending (browser JavaScript required).

Skill levels are represented as numbers from easiest to most difficult to learn and use:

- 1. Users who are comfortable with basic spreadsheet tasks
- 2. Users who are technically proficient enough not to be frightened off by spending a couple of hours learning a new application
- 3. Power users
- 4. Users with coding experience or specialized knowledge in a field like GIS or network analysis. Next page: Screenshots of several tools

Data visualization and analysis tools

Tool	Category	Multi- purpose visualization	Mapping	Platform	Skill level	Data stored or processed	Designed for Web publishing?
Data Wrangler	Data cleaning	No	No	Browser	2	External server	No
Google Refine	Data cleaning	No	No	Browser	2	Local	No
R Project	Statistical analysis	Yes	With plugin	Linux, Mac OS X, Unix, Windows XP or later	4	Local	No
Google Fusion Tables	Visualization app/service	Yes	Yes	Browser	1	External server	Yes
Impure	Visualization app/service	Yes	No	Browser	3	Varies	Yes
Many Eyes	Visualization app/service	Yes	Limited	Browser	1	Public external server	Yes
Tableau Public	Visualization app/service	Yes	Yes	Windows	3	Public external server	Yes
VIDI	Visualization app/service	Yes	Yes	Browser	1	External server	Yes
Zoho Reports	Visualization app/service	Yes	No	Browser	2	External server	Yes
Choosel	Framework	Yes	Yes	Chrome, Firefox, Safari	4	Local or external server	Not yet

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Tool	Category	Multi- purpose visualization	Mapping	Platform	Skill level	Data stored or processed	Designed for Web publishing?
Exhibit	Library	Yes	Yes	Code editor and browser	4	Local or external server	Yes
Google Chart Tools	Library and Visualization app/service	Yes	Yes	Code editor and browser	2	Local or external server	Yes
JavaScript InfoVis Toolkit	Library	Yes	No	Code editor and browser	4	Local or external server	Yes
Protovis	Library	Yes	Yes	Code editor and browser	4	Local or external server	Yes
Quantum GIS (QGIS)	GIS/mapping: Desktop	No	Yes	Linux, Unix, Mac OS X, Windows	4	Local	With plugin
OpenHeatMap	GIS/mapping: Web	No	Yes	Browser	1	External server	Yes
OpenLayers	GIS/mapping: Web, Library	No	Yes	Code editor and browser	4	local or external server	Yes
OpenStreetMap	GIS/mapping: Web	No	Yes	Browser or desktops running Java	3	Local or external server	Yes
TimeFlow	Temporal data analysis	No	No	Desktops running Java	1	Local	No
IBM Word-Cloud Generator	Word clouds	No	No	Desktops running Java	2	Local	As image
Gephi	Network analysis	No	No	Desktops running Java	4	Local	As image
NodeXL	Network analysis	No	No	Excel 2007 and 2010 on Windows	4	Local	As image
CSVKit	CSV file analysis	No	No	Linux, Mac OS X or Linux with Python installed	3	Local	No
DataTables	Create sortable, searchable tables	No	No	Code editor and browser	3	Local or external server	Yes
FreeDive	Create sortable, searchable tables	No	No	Browser	2	External server	Yes
Highcharts*	Library	Yes	No	Code editor and browser	3	Local or external server	Yes
Mr. Data Converter	Data reformatting	No	No	Browser	1	Local or external server	No
Panda Project	Create searchable tables	No	No	Browser with Amazon EC2 or Ubuntu Linux	2	Local or external server	No
PowerPivot	Analysis and charting	Yes	No	Excel 2010 on Windows	3	Local	No
Weave	Visualization app/service	Yes	Yes	Flash-enabled browsers; Linux server on backend	4	Local or external server	Yes
Statwing	Visualization app/service	Yes	No	Browser	1	External server	Not yet
Infogr.am	Visualization app/service	Yes	Limited	Browser	1	External server	Yes
Datawrapper	Visualization app/service	Yes	No	Browser	1	Local or external server	Yes

^{*}Highcharts is free for non-commercial use and \$80 for most single-site-wide licenses.

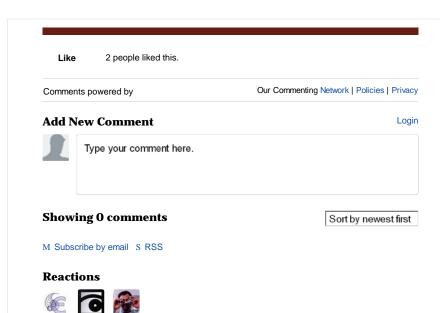
Return to 22 free tools for data visualization and analysis or 8 cool tools for data analysis, visualization and presentation

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