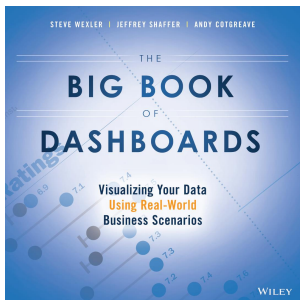


*WHAT THE HECK IS A  
DASHBOARD,  
ANYWAY?*



**ANDY COTGREAVE**

**@acotgreave**



Nov 16, 2007



9:30 AM



Search



Searched for [tableau data analysis](#)

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[Details](#) • [Search](#)

Nov 16,

STEVE WEXLER | JEFFREY SHAFFER | ANDY COTGREAVE

# THE BIG BOOK OF DASHBOARDS

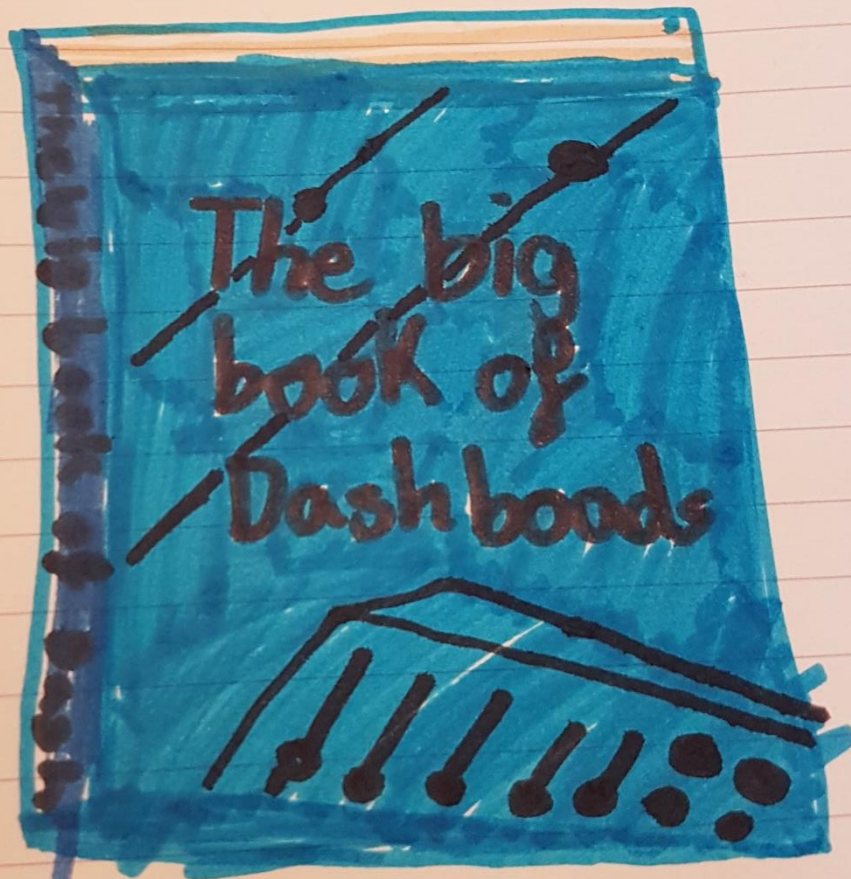
Visualizing Your Data  
Using Real-World  
Business Scenarios

WILEY



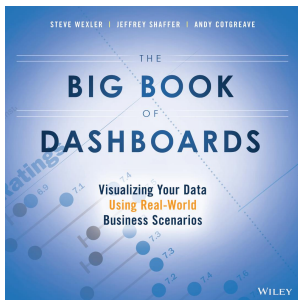
This is my Dad's book.  
And I think it's really  
boring because it's -  
about Dashboards!!!!!!

---





*WHAT THE HECK IS  
A DASHBOARD,  
ANYWAY?*

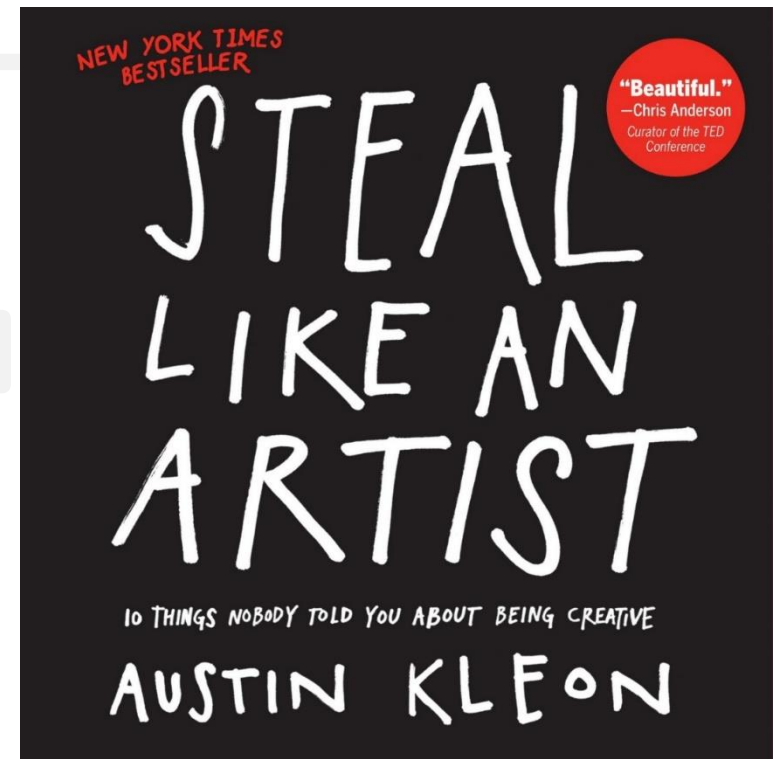
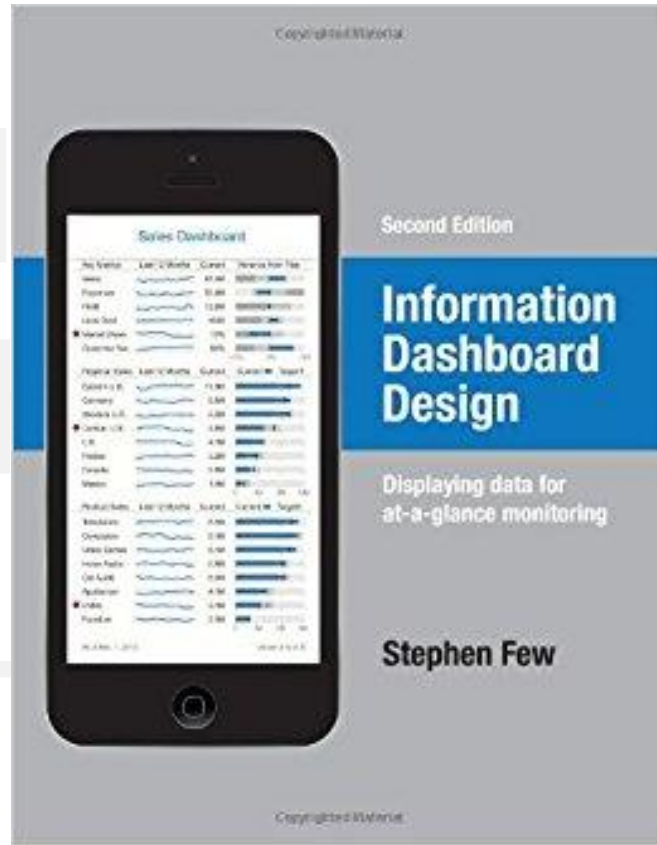
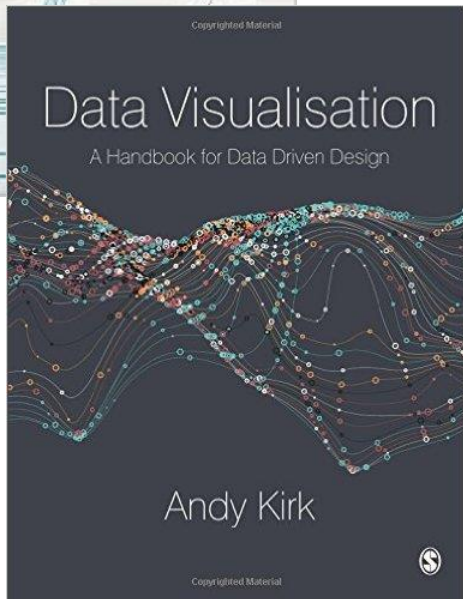
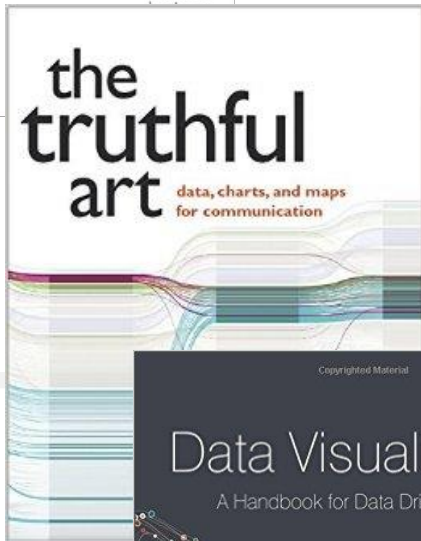
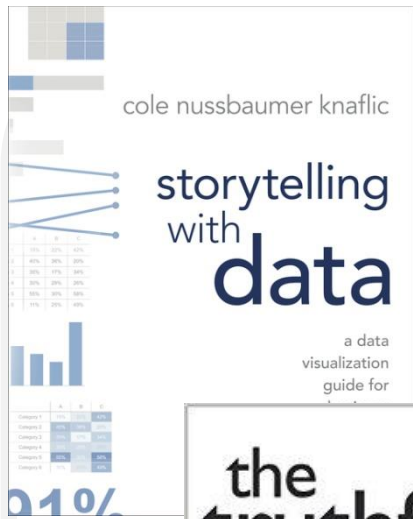


**Andy Cotgreave**  
**Tableau Evangelist**



**WHO NEEDS A  
BOOK ABOUT  
DASHBOARDS?**

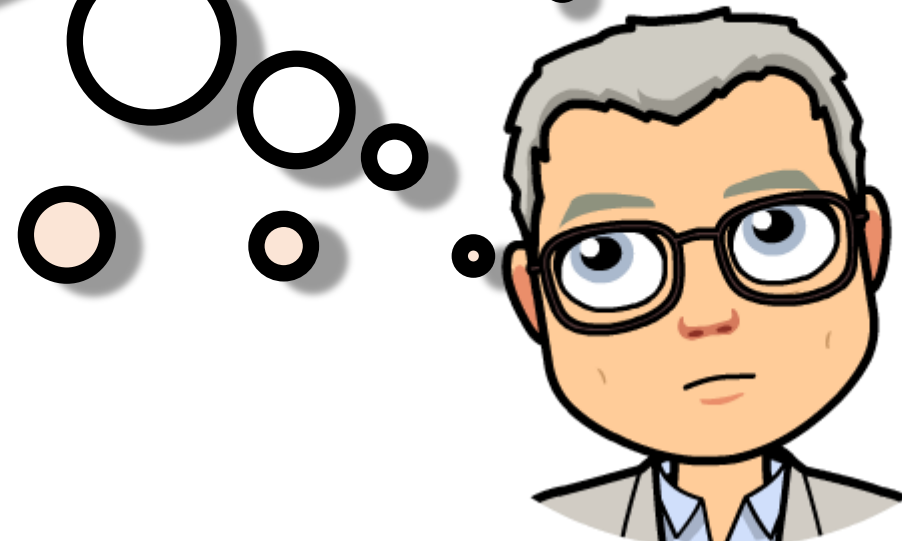




**WHAT IS A  
DASHBOARD?**

**WHAT MAKES A  
GOOD ONE?**

**WHY DO WE  
NEED THEM?**





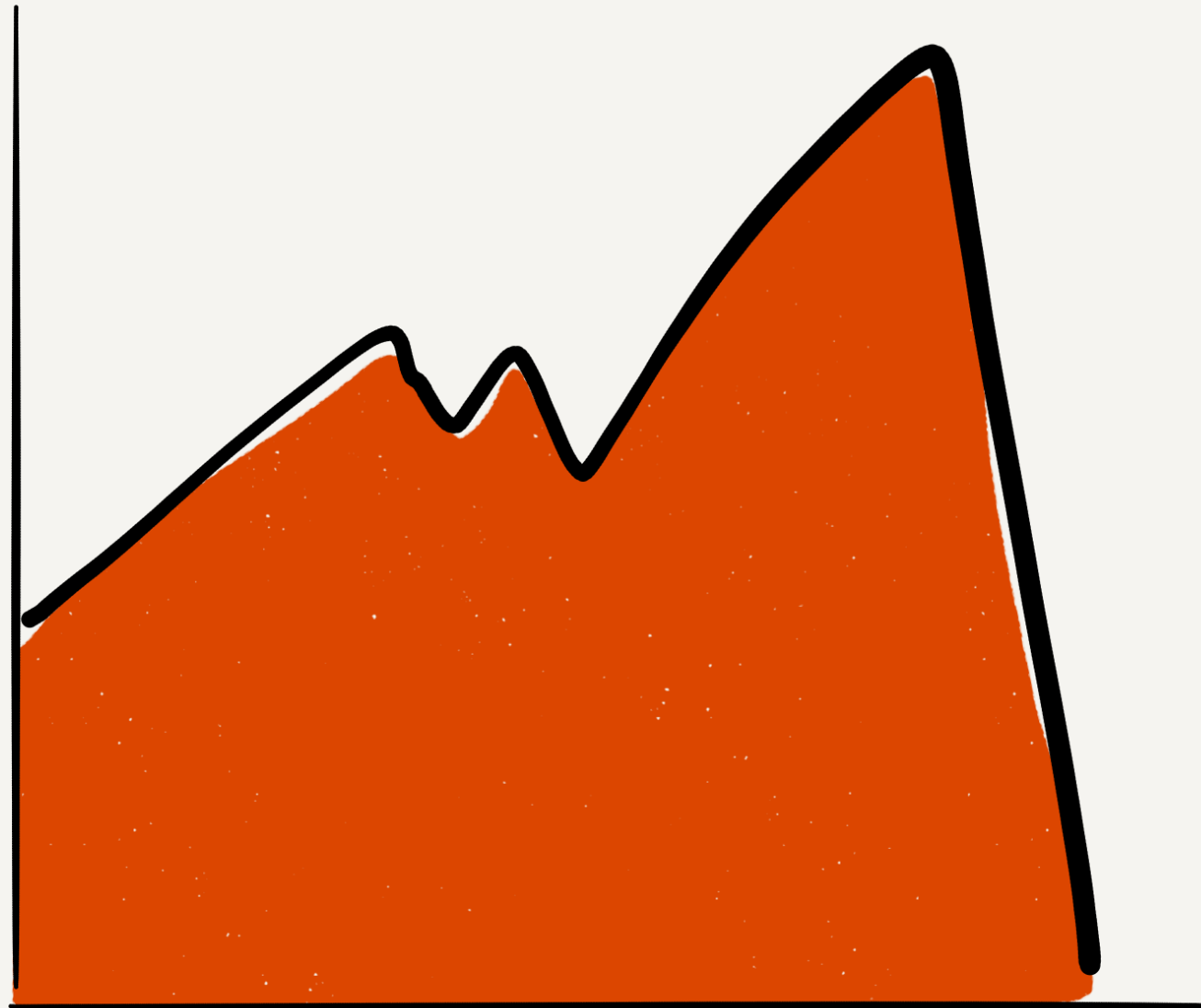
**WHAT IS A  
DASHBOARD?**

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Word  
Count



Time

# one definition of a dashboard

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

- Stephen Few (2004)

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vs. a “faceted analytical display”

A “faceted analytical display” is a set of interactive charts (primarily graphs and tables) that simultaneously reside on a single screen, each of which presents a somewhat different view of a common dataset, and is used to analyze that information.

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STEVE WEXLER | JEFFREY SHAFFER | ANDY COTGREAVE

# THE BIG BOOK OF

Faceted analytical displays

Visualizing Your Data  
Using Real-World  
Business Scenarios

WILEY

NOPE.



## Dashboard Definition

### Final

A dashboard is a visual display of data used to monitor conditions and/or facilitate understanding.

#### Andy's new one (no markup)

A dashboard comprises one or more charts and tables that either explain and/or allow the exploration of a particular data set.

In an exploratory dashboard (also called a static dashboard) the views do not change. While the underlying data may change (i.e., over time there are more data points, more categories, etc.) the structure of the charts do not. The viewer is a reader but not an active participant.

In an exploratory dashboard (also called an interactive dashboard) the viewer is an active participant. The data on display will change based on user actions. Actions include applying a filter, hovering over a mark, or selecting multiple items. These actions impact other charts on the dashboard. Exploratory dashboards allow the viewer to gain further understanding of the data through these interactions.

#### Andy's Collaborative new one (no markup)

A dashboard comprises one or more charts and tables that either explain and/or allow the exploration of a particular situation. Need better word than "situation". Business / organizational challenge.

In an exploratory dashboard (also called a static dashboard) the views ~~visualized representation of the data~~ does not change. While the underlying data may change (i.e., over time there are more data points, more categories, etc.) the structure of the charts do not. The viewer is a reader but not an active participant. Link - suitable for print or online

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#### Andy's new one (no markup)

A dashboard comprises one or more charts and tables that either explain and/or allow the exploration of a particular situation.

on information as one chart changes the other graphs on the dashboard. The idea is that the dashboard invites further understanding of the data by allowing people to examine that data through interactions.

#### Steve's version of Andy's edited (no markup)

A dashboard comprises one or more charts and tables that either explain the state of a particular business / organizational situation or that explain and allow the exploration of a particular situation.

With an exploratory dashboard (also called a static dashboard) the views do not change. While the underlying data may change (i.e., over time there are more data points, more categories, etc.) the fundamental views of the data won't change. The viewer is spectator and not an active participant.

With an exploratory dashboard (also called an interactive dashboard) the views will change based on user actions. This could be applying a filter, hovering over a mark to see details, selecting items which in turn impact other charts on the dashboard, and so on. The idea is that the dashboard invites further understanding of the data by allowing people to examine that data through interactions.

#### Steve's original

A dashboard comprises one or more graphs and tables that either explain the state of a particular business situation or that explain and allow the exploration of a particular business situation.

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With an exploratory dashboard (also called an interactive dashboard) the views will change based on some action by the user. Link - could be applying a filter, hovering over a mark to see details, selecting a column, zooming, scrolling, selecting a mark which in turn changes other graphs on the dashboard, clicking a web link, and so on. The idea is that the dashboard invites further understanding of the data by allowing people to examine that data through interactions.

#### Andy's edited (with markup)

A dashboard comprises one or more people-charts and tables that either explain the state of a particular business situation or that explain and allow the exploration of a particular business situation.

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#### Andy Colquhoun

Formatted: Normal

Andy Colquhoun  
Exploratory wording removed.

**Data Revelations**  
I think we need some type of modifier here, or a better word than "situation". Maybe "scenario" or "challenge". Also, I think the book's focus should be on business cases.

Andy Colquhoun  
I wanted something more specific than "fundamental".

Andy Colquhoun  
With an exploratory dashboard (also called an interactive dashboard) the views will change based on user interactions. These interactions allow people to gain further understanding of the situation.

**Data Revelations**  
Very often the interaction does not involve changing other graphs / charts on the dashboard. Consider "Goooooooo" tooltips. The action is hovering and the hover in this instance needs additional information.

**Data Revelations**  
I think we need some type of modifier here, or a better word than "situation". Maybe "scenario" or "challenge". Also, I think the book's focus should be on business cases.

Andy Colquhoun  
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Andy Colquhoun  
Chart? Do we need to think about the academic definition of each word. Personally, I think in our business world we should be using "chart".

Andy Colquhoun  
I struggle with "business" situation. Most VOTO dashboards are definitely dashboards, but not business. For example, dashboards usually sports fans are for sharing and exploring, but aren't business related.

Andy Colquhoun  
I think this sentence is a contextual clarification of the previous sentence and therefore not necessary in a formal definition.

Andy Colquhoun  
This is harder to include in a generic definition. Jeff and Allen's work is amazing, but of all interactions the % driven by voice is infinitesimally small.

# our definition of a dashboard

A dashboard is a visual display of data used to monitor conditions and/or facilitate understanding.

- *The Big Book of Dashboards* (2017)

**1. RIGHT INFO**

**2. RIGHT AUDIENCE**

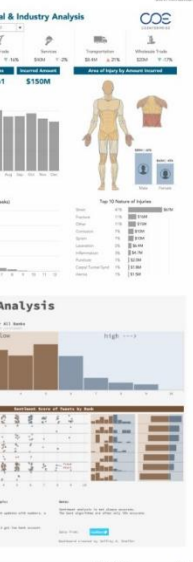
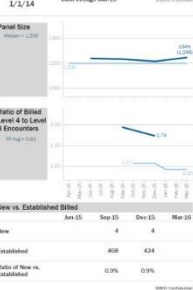
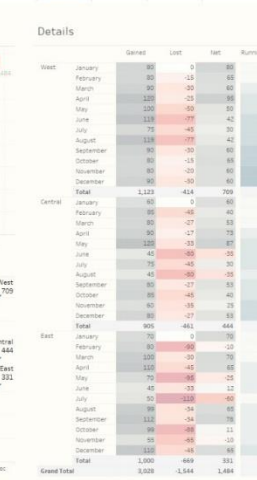
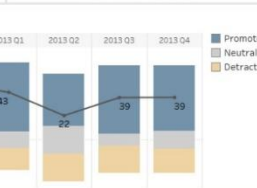
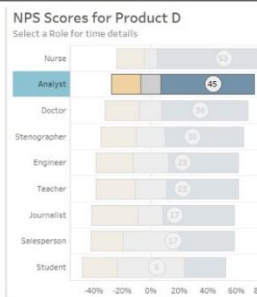
**3. RIGHT MEDIUM**

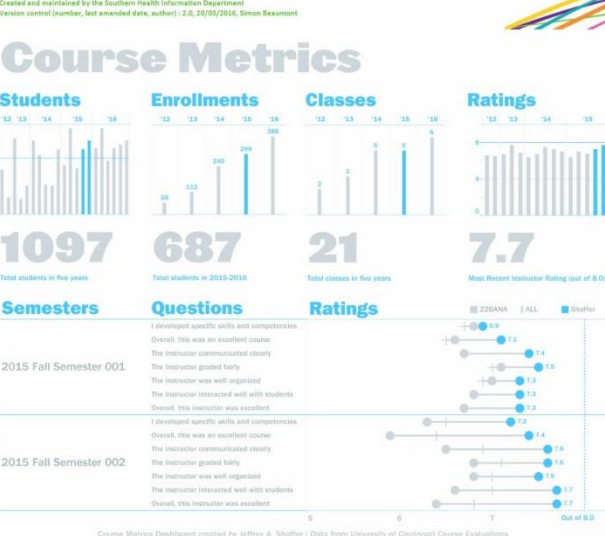
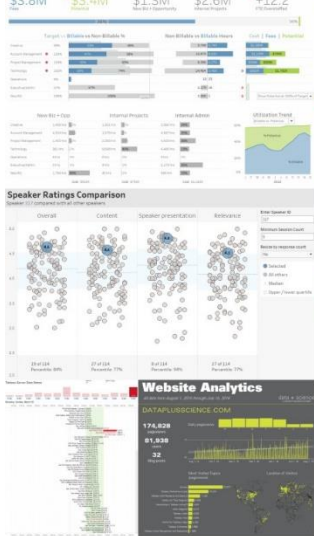
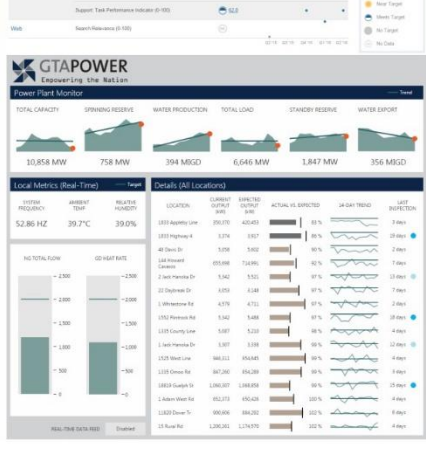
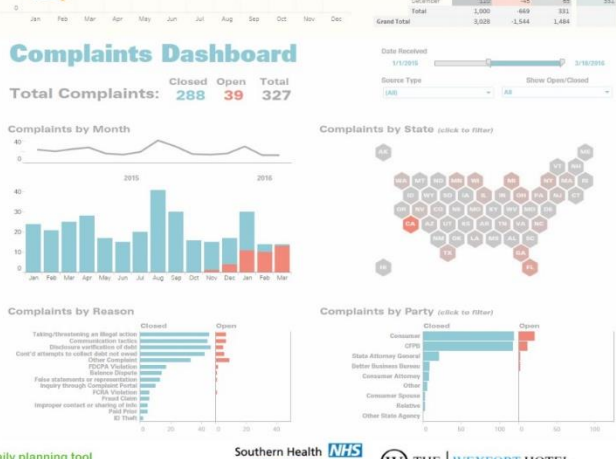
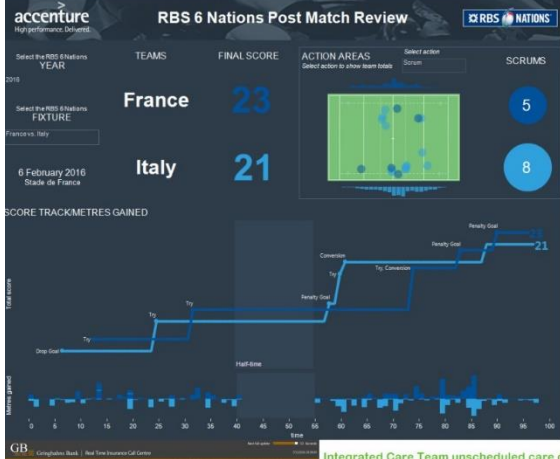
**4. SHORTEST TIME  
POSSIBLE**

**WANNA SEE  
SOME EXAMPLES?**









*LET'S PLAY: IS IT A  
DASHBOARD?*





## Integrated Care Team unscheduled care daily planning tool

Select an Area  
None

Select your Team  
All

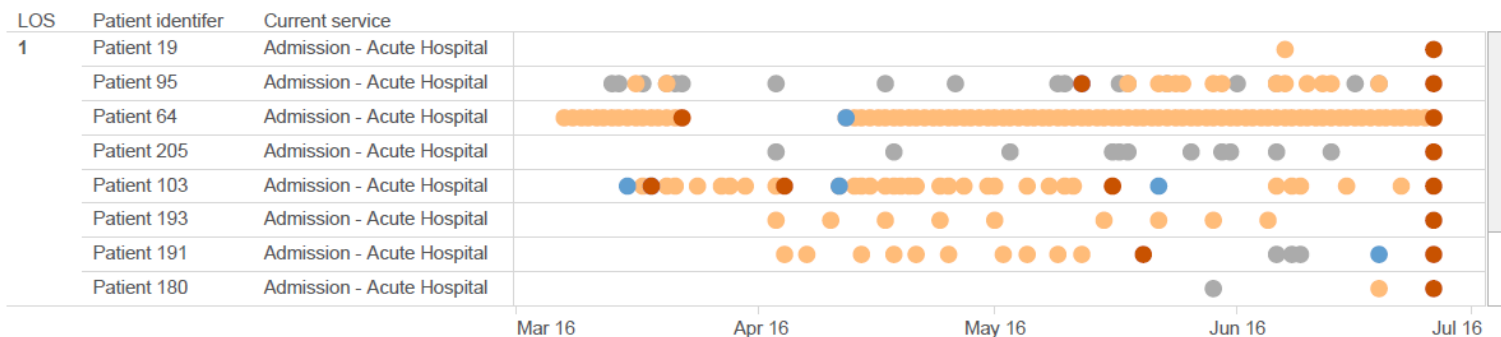
Select a Practice  
None

Select the inpatient provider  
All

Days you wish to view the most recent admissions for  
1

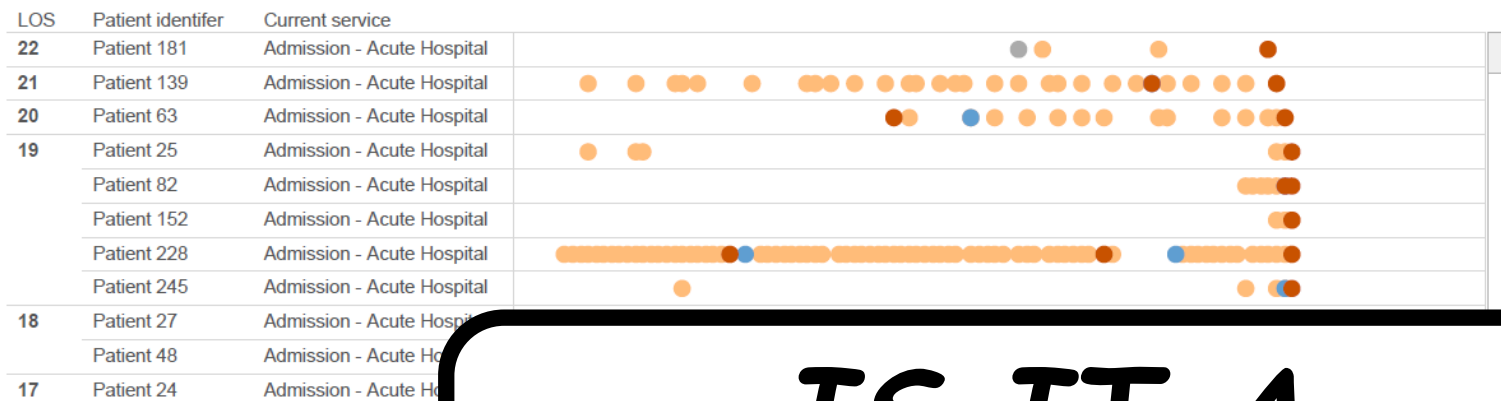
Patients known to the Integrated Care Team (receiving care in the last 30 days); admitted 1 day(s) ago

14



Patients known to the Integrated Care Team (receiving care in the last 30 days) currently in hospital (admitted earlier than 1 day(s) ago)

124



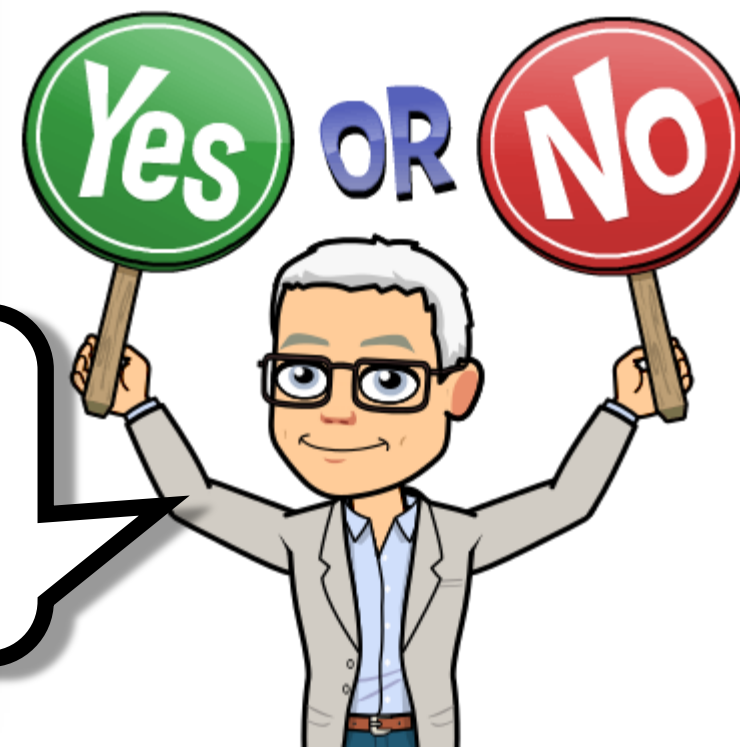
Clinical intervention type colours explained

Admission Discharge

Created and maintained by the Southern Health Information Department

Version control (number, last amended date, author) : 2.0, 20/03/2019

IS IT A  
DASHBOARD?



# US economy: statistics at a glance

The FT's one-stop overview of key US economic data and trends, including [GDP](#), [inflation](#), [unemployment](#), [consumer](#) indicators, and the outlook for US [interest rates](#) and [mortgage rates](#)

By Sam Fleming , Gemma Tetlow , Steven Bernard , Tom Pearson and Jennifer Bissell



## GDP growth

The US recorded its slowest economic growth in five years in 2016, as poor trade data dragged on the economy in the fourth quarter.

The recovery remains steady, rather than spectacular.

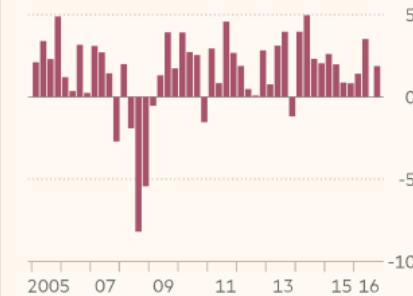
Annualised Q1 2017 GDP growth

1.4%

## Growth rates

### US GDP growth

Quarter-on-quarter rate, annualised



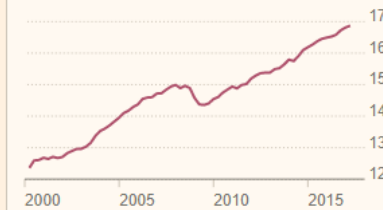
Source: Macrobond, ONS, January 27

A robust jobs market and still rising house prices are providing the ballast for an economy that is facing poor trade data, weaker growth overseas and retrenchment in the once booming oil industry.

## Size of the economy

### The size of the US economy

\$tr, constant prices



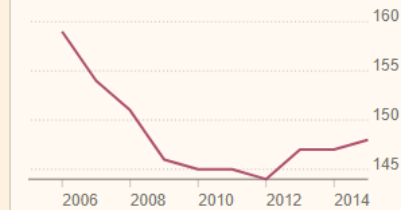
Source: BEA/Bloomberg, 29 Jun 2017

While the US economy returned to its pre-recession size in 2011, three years ahead of the UK, the pace of acceleration has been slower than in previous recoveries.

## Growth per head

### US GDP per person

Purchasing power parity, EU28=100



Source: Bloomberg, 21 Jan 2016

## Where is the US going?

The US economy is expected to continue growing steadily over the next few years, outpacing many other western countries.

### About the nowcast

now-casting.com uses statistical modelling to determine what individual economic data points tell us about the rate of growth. The nowcast

## Prediction for Q2

### Predicted quarterly growth rate

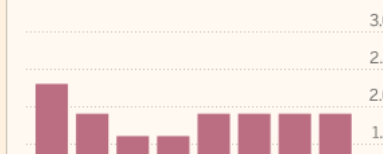
Quarter-on-quarter rate, annualised



## Economists' forecasts

### Predicted US economic growth

Annual real GDP % change

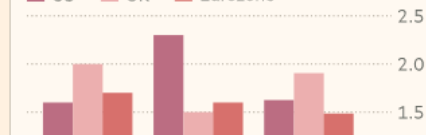


## International context

### Predicted economic growth

Annual % change

■ US ■ UK ■ Eurozone





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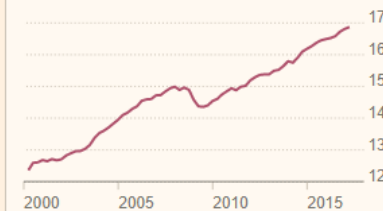
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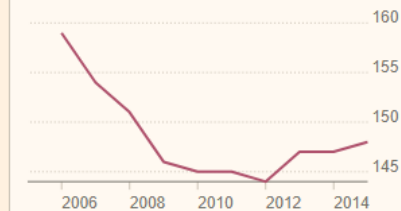
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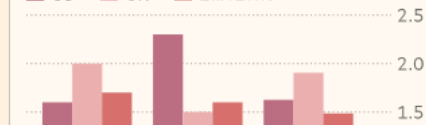


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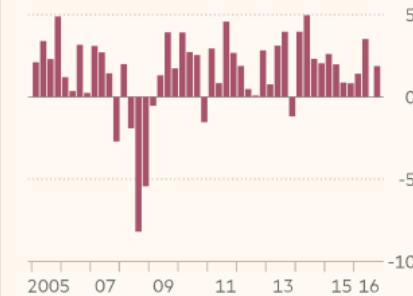
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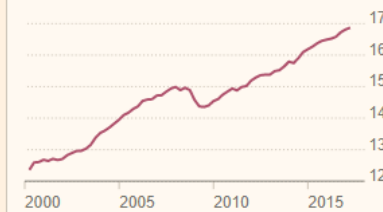
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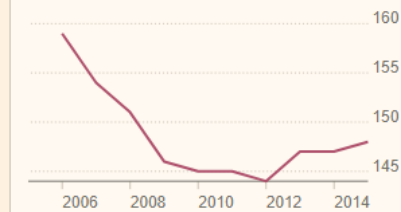
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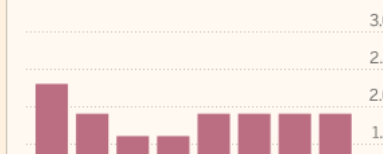
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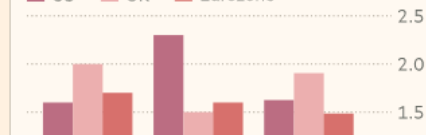


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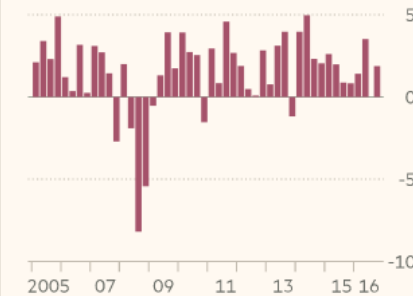
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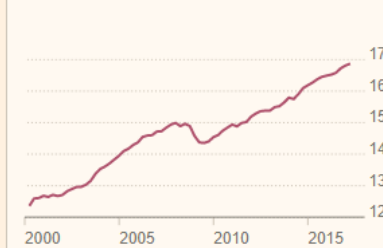
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Purchasing power parity, EU28=100



Source: BEA/Bloomberg, 29 Jun 2017

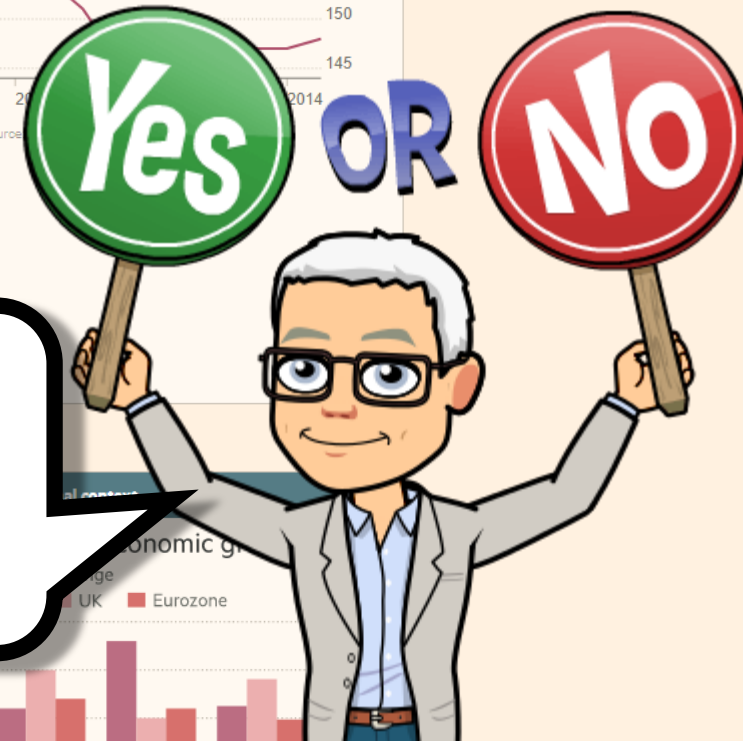
**IS IT A  
DASHBOARD?**

### Where is the US economy?

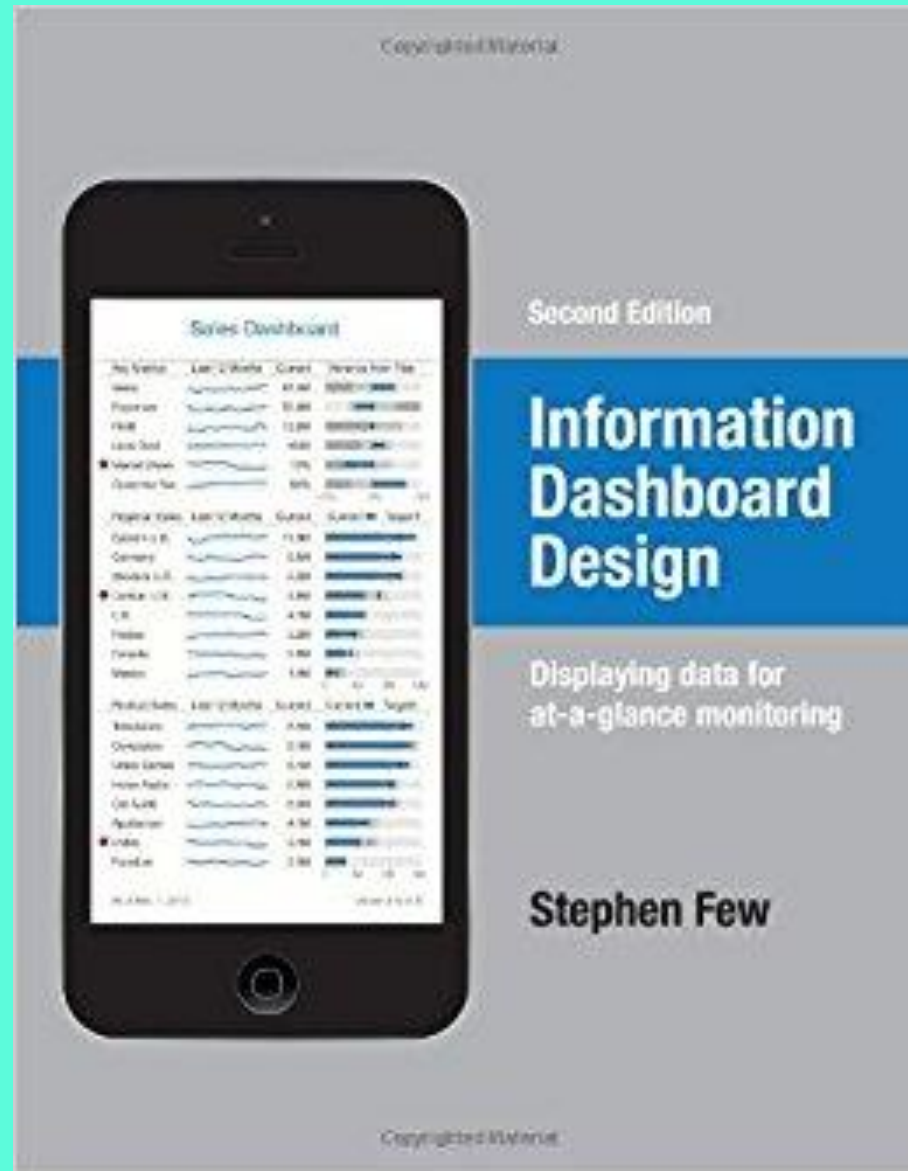
The US economy is expected to grow steadily over the next few years, outperforming other western countries.

### About the nowcast

now-casting.com uses statistical modelling to determine what individual economic data points tell us about the rate of growth. The nowcast







# US economy: statistics at a glance

The FT's one-stop overview of key US economic data and trends, including [GDP](#), [inflation](#), [unemployment](#), [consumer](#) indicators, and the outlook for US [interest rates](#) and [mortgage rates](#)

By [Sam Fleming](#) , [Gemma Tetlow](#) , [Steven Bernard](#) , [Tom Pearson](#) and [Jennifer Bissell](#)



## GDP growth

The US recorded its slowest economic growth in five years in 2016, as poor trade data dragged on the economy in the fourth quarter.

The recovery remains steady, rather than spectacular.

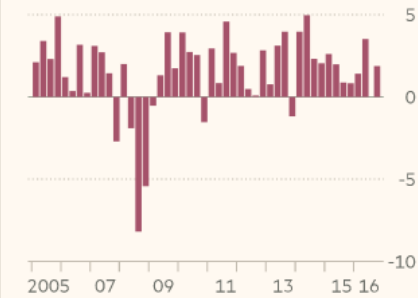
Annualised Q1 2017 GDP growth

1.4%

## Growth rates

### US GDP growth

Quarter-on-quarter rate, annualised



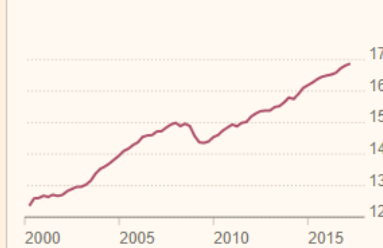
Source: Macrobond, ONS, January 27

A robust jobs market and still rising house prices are providing the ballast for an economy that is facing poor trade data, weaker growth overseas and retrenchment in the once booming oil industry.

## Size of the economy

### The size of the US economy

\$tr, constant prices



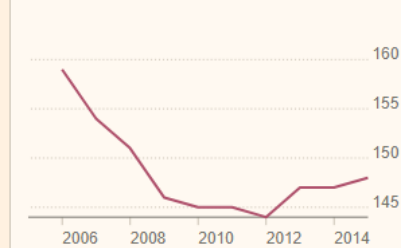
Source: BEA/Bloomberg, 29 Jun 2017

While the US economy returned to its pre-recession size in 2011, three years ahead of the UK, the pace of acceleration has been slower than in previous recoveries.

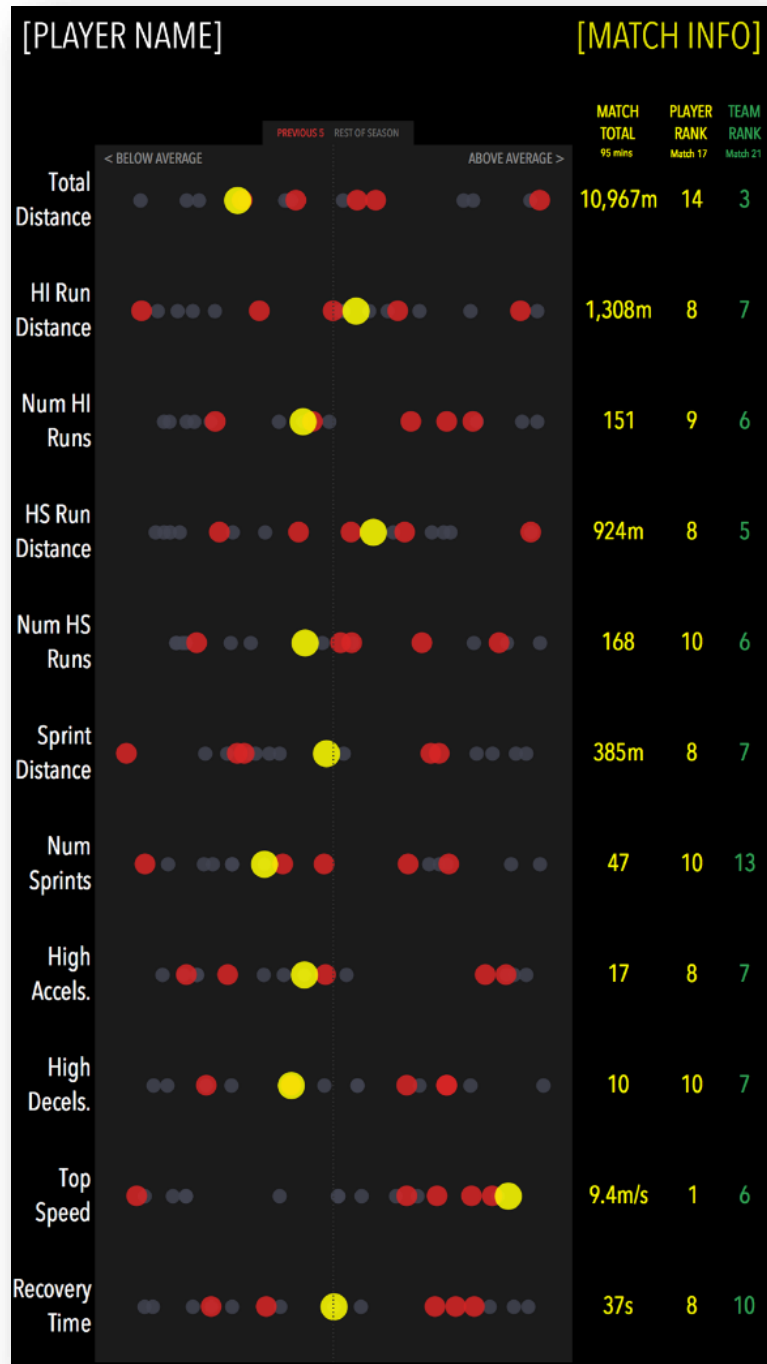
## Growth per head

### US GDP per person

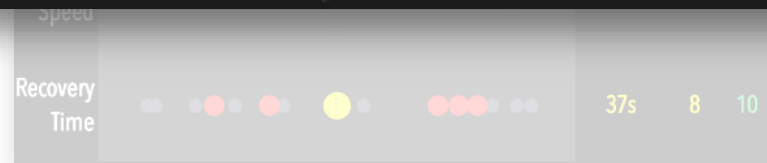
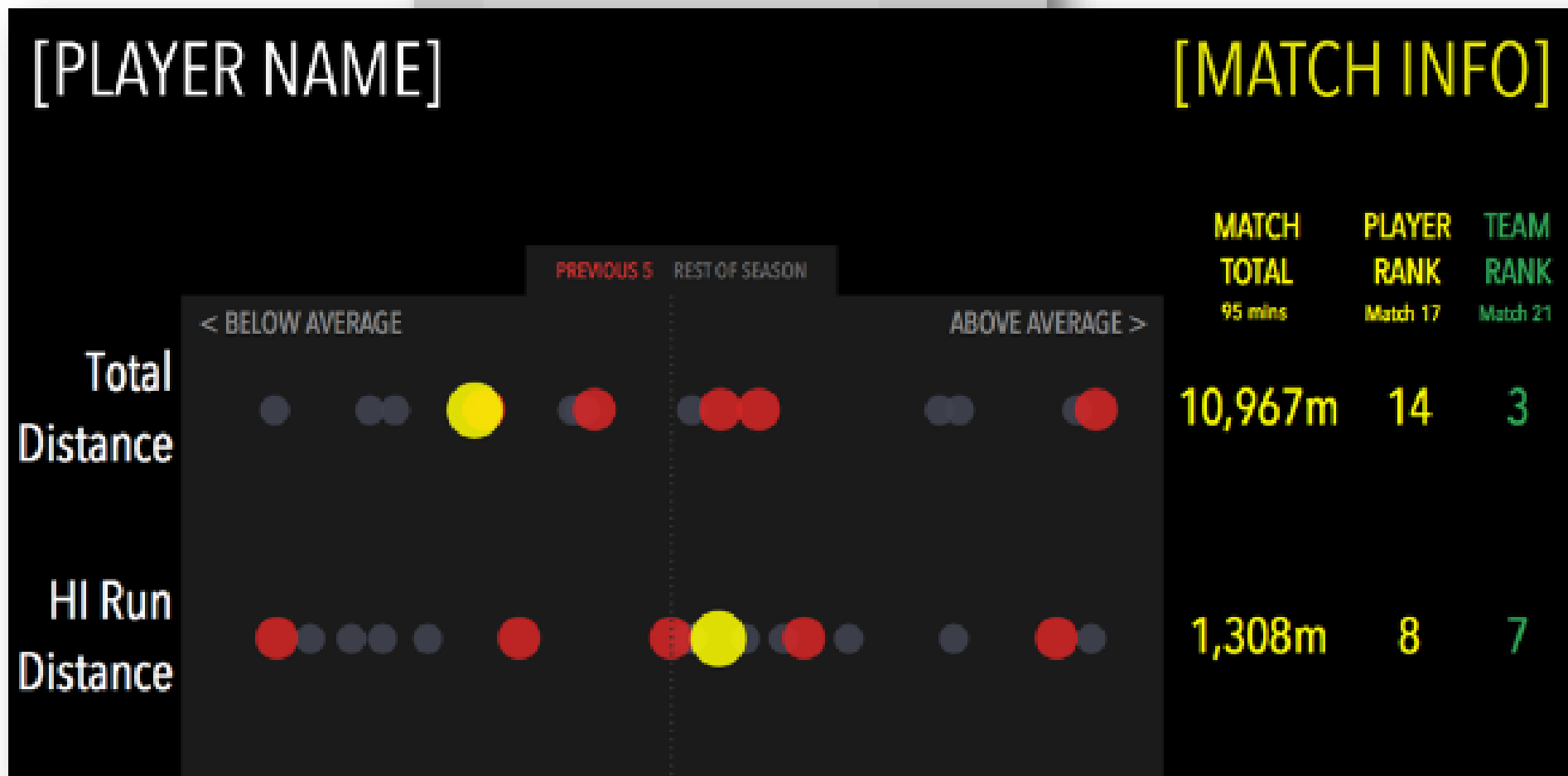
Purchasing power parity, EU28=100



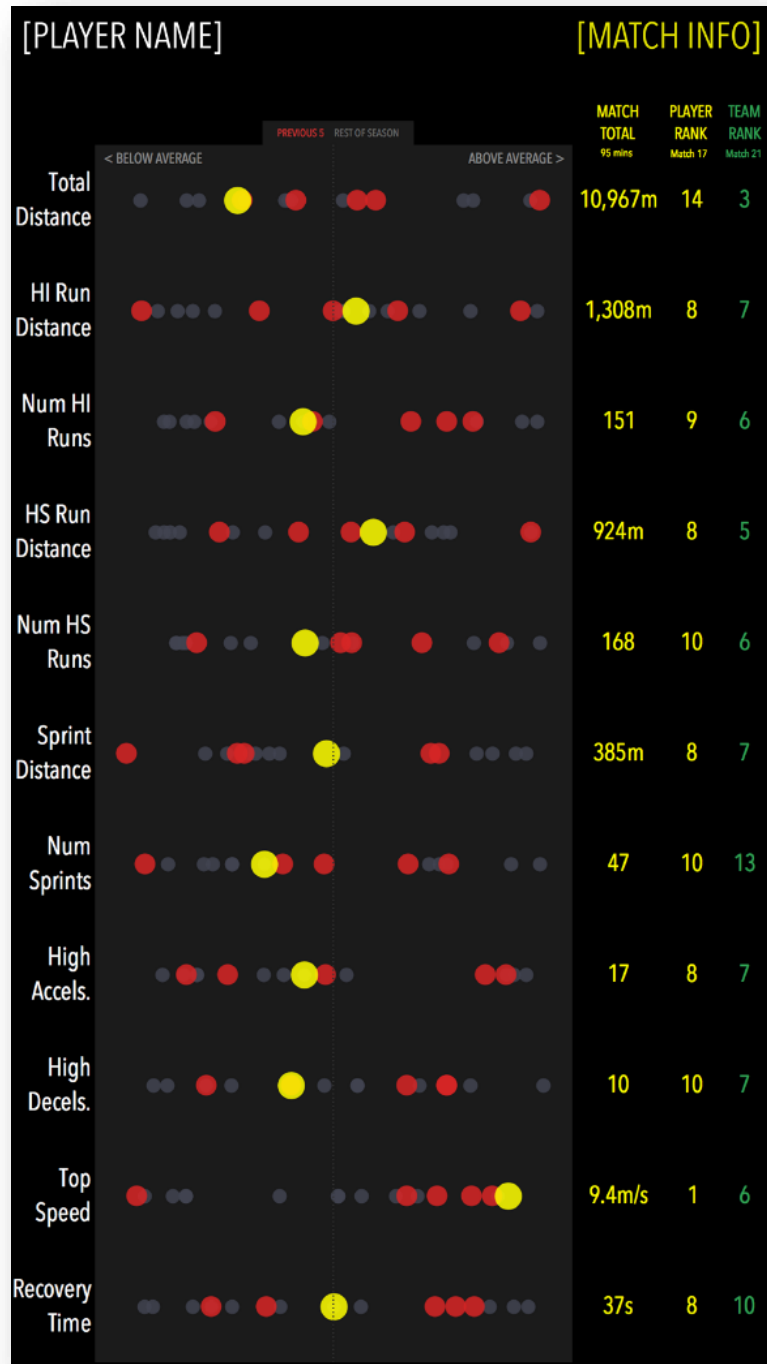
Source: Bloomberg, 21 Jan 2016



Andy Kirk

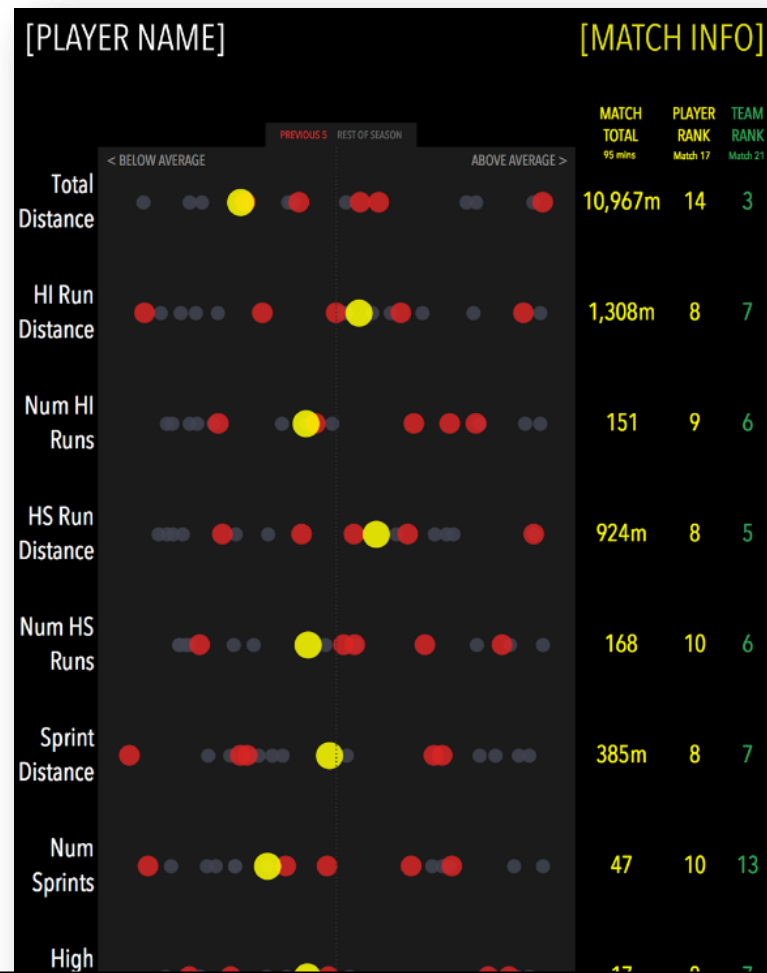




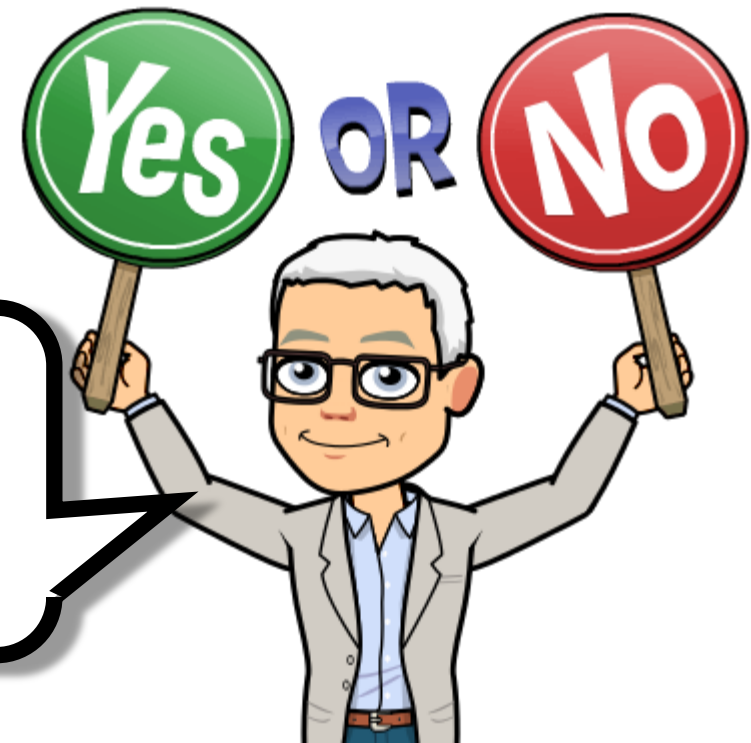


Andy Kirk

# Andy Kirk

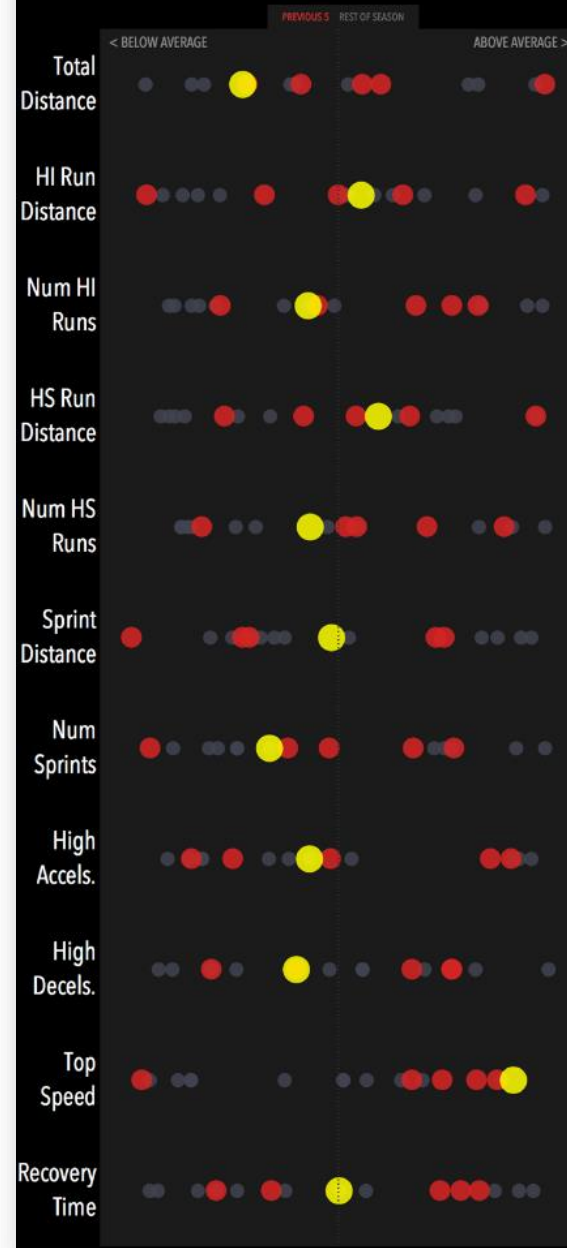


# IS IT A DASHBOARD?



[PLAYER NAME]

Andy Kirk



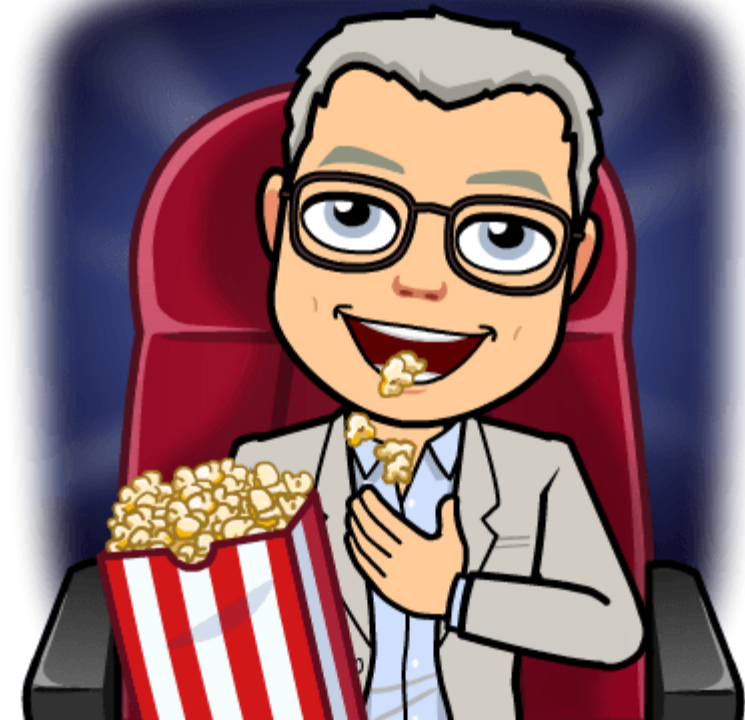
STEVE WEXLER | JEFFREY SHAFFER | ANDY COTGREAVE

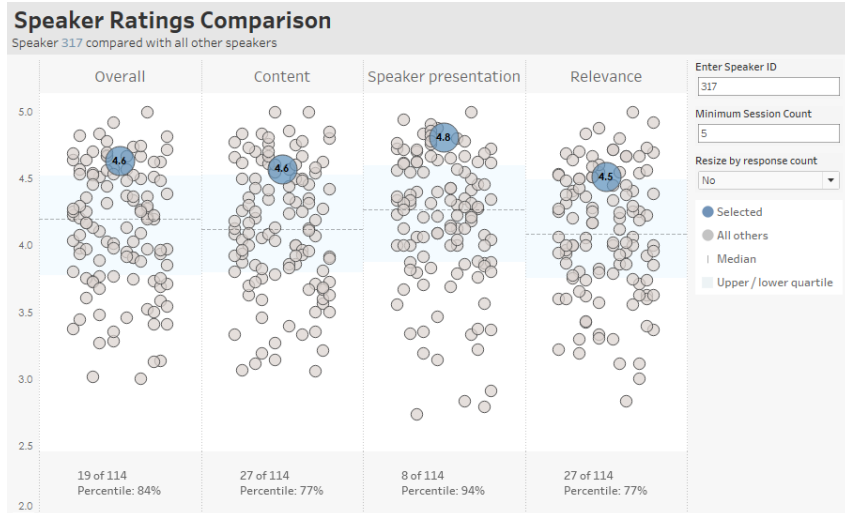
# THE BIG BOOK OF DASHBOARDS

Visualizing Your Data  
Using Real-World  
Business Scenarios

The Director's Cut

WILEY





## Author Commentary

**JEFF:** This dashboard has a very simple approach to visualize the data but, at the same time, has the complexity of having lots of data. It's easy to see the single session versus all of the others. It shows the scope of how many sessions there were in total, not in a precise way for comparison, but in a way that we can quickly determine the scope. The use of jitter is key here, because otherwise the dots would all be on top of each other.

**STEVE:** If you are working with aggregated data—that is, where you don't have access to individual responses—make sure you check out Jeffrey Shaffer's Course Metrics dashboard. (See Chapter 2.) Jeff has built what is my go-to way to compare an individual with a peer group and with the overall population. Even if you're not working with aggregated data, you should check it out as the dot plot technique is very valuable.

**ANDY:** While writing this book, we discovered that Steve doesn't like box plots! I agree with Steve's point that laypeople often don't know what they are. But, as with all charts, people can be trained to understand them. Consider the waterfall plot in Chapter 24. That's by no means a straightforward chart, but once you learn how to read it, it reveals a great deal of information. A box plot is the same.

Perhaps it's their appearance? We can make box plots look better, by narrowing the width/height of the box. (See Figure 3.16.)

Steve's also right that if you want to see every dot, the box plot prevents that. However, not all analytical questions need us to see all the dots.

### Speaker rating comparison

Speaker 323 compared with all other speakers.

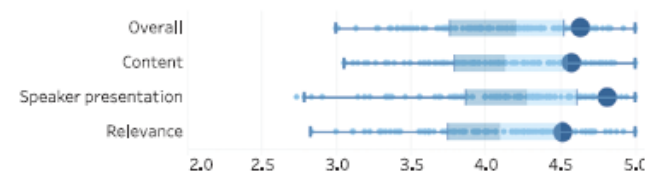


FIGURE 3.16 A more attractive box plot?

The box plot's very design is intended to overcome the issue of overlaid dots. The whiskers extend to 1.5 times the interquartile range. That sounds like scary statistical language, but it is just a way of describing how spread out the values are. What about the box? Its center point is the median, and its edges represent one quartile on either side of it. In other words, half of all the dots are within the box. Since the box, by definition, tells you where the quartiles and outliers are, do you still need to see all the dots when the primary question is just to see where your mark (the big blue dot in Figure 3.16) sits?

The box plot has additional strengths in that you can compare distributions very easily among different categories. In Figure 3.16, it's easy to see that the spread of values in each category is similar.

**STEVE:** What if there are a million dots?

**ANDY:** Steve presents a very nice way of showing the data in a histogram (in Figure 3.15). A box plot will work just as well with a million dots: As long as you learn to look primarily at the box, not the dots, a box plot is a great way to see a summary of the spread of data within a category.



STEVE WEXLER | JEFFREY SHAFFER | ANDY COTGREAVES

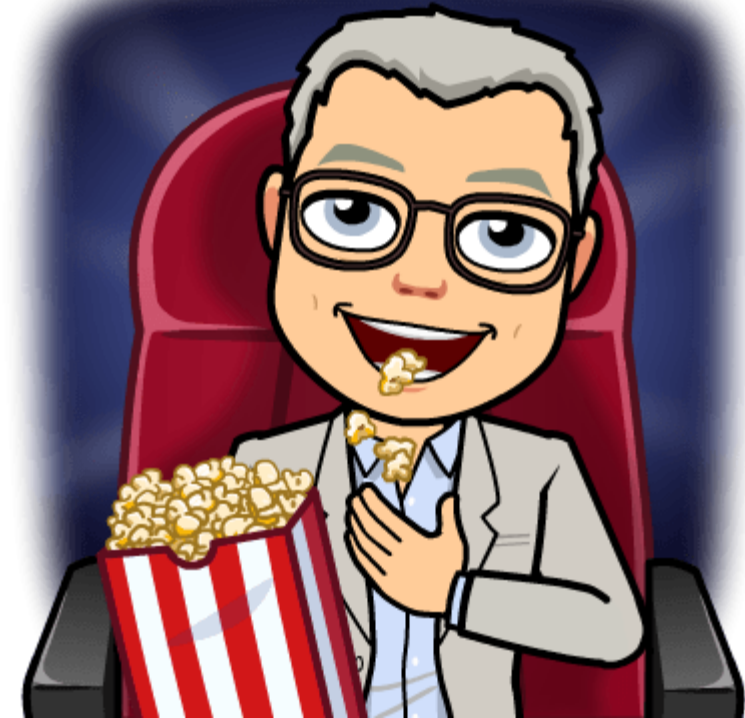
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INCLUDES  
DELETED  
SCENES



# Showing KPIs

## Showing KPIs in a messaging app

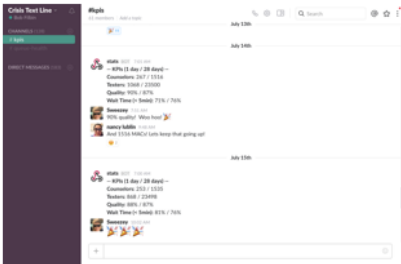


Figure 1.1 A text-only set of KPIs delivered in Slack [AC CTL Dashboard.png]

Dashboard Designer: Bob Filbin, Chief Data Scientist  
Company: Crisis Text Line  
<http://www.crisistextline.org/>



Figure 1.3 Active Rescues. On July 8th 2016, Crisis Text Line had called the Emergency Services to assist in 3,263 active suicide attempts [AC CTL Active Rescue State.png]

Active Rescues shows the recent impact of the organization. An active rescue is when Crisis Text Line send out emergency services to intervene in an active suicide attempt. At the time of the screenshot in Figure 1.4 Crisis Text Line had intervened in 3,263 attempted suicides. This number is a very real indicator of the impact of the organization.

The final dashboard shows queue health: are people waiting for too long? This updates every 30 seconds: decisions on queue health need to be made in real-time. It is shown in Figure 1.4

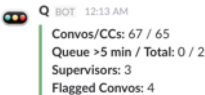


Figure 1.4 Queue Health Stats. [AC CTL Queue Health State.png]

The Queue Health Stats show four pieces of info:

## Scenario

### Big Picture

You run a business which helps people in crisis. Instead of a traditional, telephone-based service, you use text messages. Anyone, anywhere in the US can send a text to your service, and quickly receive a reply, from a human being. People experiencing problems want help as quickly as possible. In possible suicide attempts, fast action saves lives. To run a responsive business, you need to know information about your business in the moment, in recent periods, and over your entire history.

### Specifics (these are examples)

- In any given moment, what is the current state of the queue? If we see a sudden increase in people texting in, do we need more Crisis Counselors to jump on our texting platform and respond?
  - In the last 24 hours, and in the last month:
  - How many Crisis Counselors have been available?
  - On average, how long do people wait to be connected with a Crisis Counselor?
  - How satisfied were **texters** with the service?
- Overall, how many suicides have been averted because of your Crisis Counselors' interventions?

### Related Scenarios (these are examples)

- All scenarios which focus on KPIs.

How many conversations (**Convos**) are taking place with people in crisis and how many volunteer Crisis Counselors (CCs) are active?

How many people have been in a queue for over 5 minutes? In the figure, this is reading 0/2 which means 2 people are in the queue but neither have been in the queue for more than 5 minutes.

How many staff supervisors are available to support our Crisis Counselors?

How many conversations have been flagged? A conversation gets flagged if the Crisis Counselor thinks that **texter** might attempt suicide in the near future. This assessment is done following a strict procedure, in conjunction with supervisors.

A sign of declining queue health is long wait times for **texters**. A traffic light (the vertical bar alongside the text) changes from green to **red** to orange to red if queue health is declining. In Figure 1.3, the bar is green, indicating good response times. At each traffic light color, there are specific actions that all staff and volunteers know to take to reduce **texter** wait times.

## Why This Works

### It's delivered to where the people are

One of the biggest challenges with all dashboards is getting people to look at them. A barrier can be the need to switch to a different platform in order to see the dashboard. Instead of asking users to switch applications, why not send the data to the people? Several other dashboards in this book are delivered by email. People spend more and more time in conversation channels such as Slack, **Convos**, **Slack**. If your organization has moved there, why not send the data to that channel?

### It allows conversation

You can see in figure 1.2 that two employees have reacted to that day's metrics. When people see the data in the same channel they have conversations, they are more likely to engage.

## How People use the Dashboard

There are three different dashboards available. All are delivered in Slack. These dashboards are automated messages that appear at the same time each day. Using the messaging app keeps comments and the data together in one place.

The first is the daily KPI stats dashboard, shown in Figure 1.2; it also has some comments from staff beneath them.

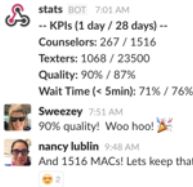


Figure 1.2 The KPI stats and 2 responses from staff [AC CTL Dashboard Detail.png]

Staff at Crisis Text Line get an immediate snapshot of the performance of the organization and can respond and discuss the data. This shows the four main KPIs the company uses to measure success.

The second dashboard is Active Rescues, also delivered daily. It is shown in Figure 1.3.

## Traffic lights indicate performance levels

The queue health dashboard has a traffic light side bar - it's very easy for staff to recognize when things are good or bad by glancing at the **colour** of the bar. If it's amber or red, it's time to take action.

## Data moves at the speed of decision making

Each dashboard is sent to Slack at the speed at which decisions need to be made. The KPI and Active Rescue KPIs need to be checked daily: they are delivered at the same time every day. The Queue Health, however, needs to be tracked in real time.

## Designer / Author commentary

BOB FILBIN, Chief Data Scientist at Crisis Text Line:

When I started at CTL, I believed that reporting should allow anyone to find their own insights. I was creating 30-40 page reports that tried to bridge the data-to-insight divide. But those didn't solve the problem. Staff either asked questions that required further analysis by the data team or didn't read the reports.

On any given day, too many pages didn't have insights, and no one wanted to hunt through them to find the needles in the haystack. Data insights which did drive organizational change still came from deep-dive analyses by the data team.

Reporting can be expensive to produce and maintain. They can be time consuming for users if there are too many metrics.

So I stopped the reporting and simplified things by moving to Slack. Why?

- The distance to the data is small.** There's no separate data tool to log into. This means everyone on staff sees our Slack dashboards daily.
- The data becomes habitual.** Our data enters Slack at 7am each morning, and sends a notification to staff. This automatic data feed turns our data into a habit. The numbers are our version of checking the weather.

## Crisis Text Line

● Bob Filbin



CHANNELS (128)



# kpis

# queue-health

DIRECT MESSAGES (183)



## #kpis

61 members | Add a topic



🔍 Search



July 13th



July 14th



**stats** BOT 7:01 AM

-- KPIs (1 day / 28 days) --

Counselors: 267 / 1516

Texters: 1068 / 23500

Quality: 90% / 87%

Wait Time (< 5min): 71% / 76%



**Sweezey** 7:51 AM

90% quality! Woo hoo! 🎉



**nancy lublin** 9:48 AM

And 1516 MACs! Lets keep that going up!



July 15th



**stats** BOT 7:00 AM

-- KPIs (1 day / 28 days) --

Counselors: 253 / 1535

Texters: 868 / 23498

Quality: 88% / 87%

Wait Time (< 5min): 81% / 76%



**Sweezey** 10:02 AM





## Crisis Text Line

● Bob Filbin

CHANNELS (128)

# kpis

# queue-health

DIRECT MESSAGES (183)

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Wait Time (< 5min): 71% / 76%



Sweezey 7:51 AM

90% quality! V



nancy lublin 9

And 1516 MAO



2



stats BOT 7:02 AM

-- Active Rescues --

Total: 3,263

Yesterday: 7

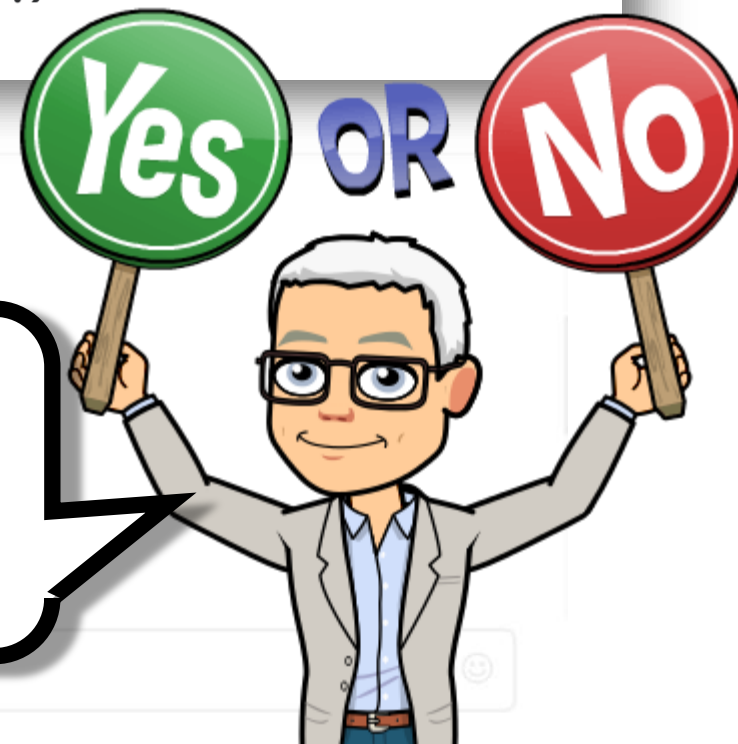
7 day avg: 7.9

28 day avg: 7.9

July 8th

July 15th

*IS IT A  
DASHBOARD?*



## Crisis Text Line:

### Daily/Monthly Targets

Choose date

23/07/2016

KPI	1 Day	28 Day
-----	-------	--------

Counselors	267↓	1,516
------------	------	-------

Quality (%)	90	87
-------------	----	----

Texters	1,068	23,500
---------	-------	--------

Wait <5 min (%)	71↓	76
-----------------	-----	----

*Click value for more details.*



**stats** BOT 7:01 AM

-- KPIs (1 day / 28 days) --

Counselors: 267 / 1516

Texters: 1068 / 23500

Quality: 90% / 87%

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90% quality! Woo hoo! 🎉



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2

### Crisis Text Line:

Daily/Monthly Targets

Choose date

23/07/2016

KPI	1 Day	28 Day
Counselors	267↓	1,516
Quality (%)	90	87
Texters	1,068	23,500
Wait <5 min (%)	71↓	76

[Click value for more details.](#)

*WHAT THE HECK IS  
A DASHBOARD,  
ANYWAY?*



*IT DEPENDS.*



**1. Right Info**

**2. Right audience**

**3. Right medium**

**4. Shortest time  
possible**

**1. Right In**

**ht audience**



**3. Right medium**

**ortest time  
possible**

**1. Right Info**

**2. Right audience**

**3. Right medium**

**4. Shortest time  
possible**



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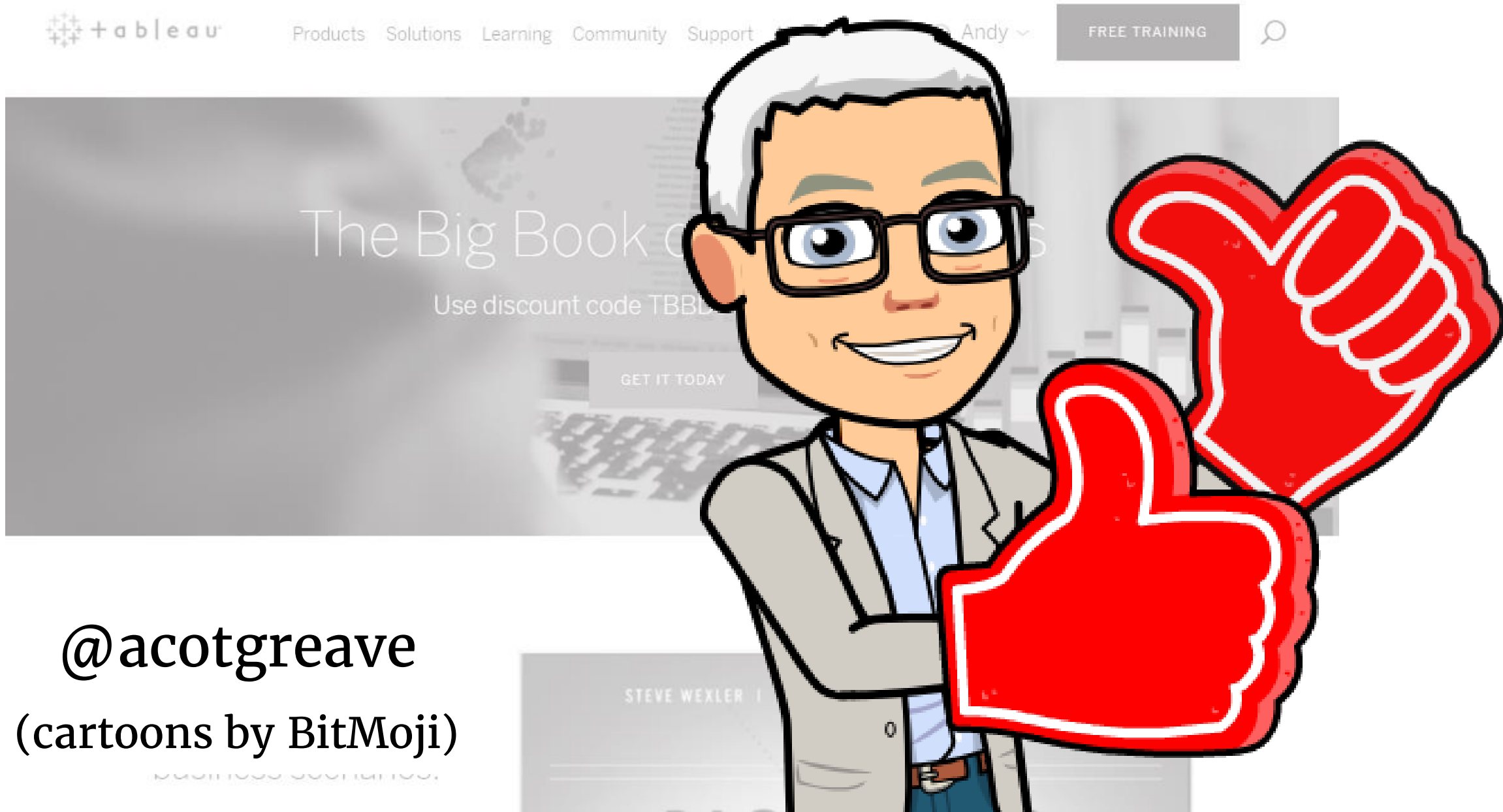
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Visualize your data  
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business scenarios.

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The image shows a screenshot of the Tableau website's 'The Big Book of Dashboards' landing page. The page features the Tableau logo, navigation links (Products, Solutions, Learning, Community, Support), a user profile 'Andy', and a 'FREE TRAINING' button. The main headline reads 'The Big Book of Dashboards' with the subtext 'Use discount code TBBD3' and a 'GET IT TODAY' button. A cartoon character of a man with white hair, glasses, and a grey blazer is overlaid on the right side of the page. He is holding two large, red, 3D-style thumbs-up icons. The background of the website is a blurred image of a laptop screen displaying a dashboard.

@acotgreave  
(cartoons by BitMoji)