Data-driven web publishing

(without a programmer)



Uploaded to Flickr by smiteme

It's traditional to start with a joke, especially a tried-and-true chestnut. I'll drag out a tried-and-true meme instead. On the internet nobody knows you're a dog, a cat or a dog looking for cats who analyze data. But the picture is apt in another way -- we're all just cats with hands, scratching at a slew of information, trying to make sense of our lives.



Before we address the what, why and where of data, let's start with a little context. Here's a picture of the old publishing model. Real familiar to all of us, I know. There's the big dot in the middle, brokering the conversation with the little dots at the edges.



And here's a visualization of the new model. Every node in the graph has a chance to become a key member of the network. The technologies that comprise the Internet are a decentralizing force, but they're not the first ones.



Uploaded to Flickr by -Kj.

Printing, videotape, cold type, copiers and desktop publishing were others. These are all tools that made it cheaper and easier to communicate with large numbers of people, and made it easier for more people to make their voices heard.

aris Twice.

Ehe New York Eimes

Thursday, March 5, 2009 Last Update: 10:50 PM ET

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Food Safety Problems Slip Past Private Inspectors

MICHAEL MOSS and ANDREW ARTIN 31 minutes ago

ood manufacturers are icreasingly hiring private uditors, but serious ontamination problems are oing undetected.

Cocument File: The Trouble With Food Safety Audits

Post a Comment | Read (17)

Layoffs Without Notice Sting Workers

By STEVE LOHR 26 minutes ago experts say the law requiring warning of certain kinds of



OPINION DOUG GLA Bling Tra A climb up profession inevitably comparable

<u>EMOVES TO GIVE FDIC \$500E</u> DRUDGE REPORT

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"Cheaper and easier" means not only that amateurs get a shot; it also means it's easier to compete with established players.

it Funeral,



Text, video and audio has become easier to produce and publish over time. This is an important point -- by making it easier (as opposed to cheaper), we also enlarge the pool of content creators.

The Net turns everything to 11

Uploaded to Flickr by Bobasonic

Finally, the Internet has turned everything to 11. Large numbers create their own mass, their own gravity.



Uploaded to Flickr by hairymuseummatt



Uploaded to Flickr by listentoreason



Uploaded to Flickr by kokeshi

New tools lead to a content explosion

- MS Word > HTML > blogging software
- Photoshop > Digital cameras > Flickr
- DV > iMovie > YouTube

We have everything in place to do the same with data

• Data apps

- Free or near-free publishing
- Freely-available data

We've had spreadsheets since Visi-Calc, and over time they've become more useful for working with a wider range of data than financial statements. Services like Google Docs and Dabble DB provide free or low-cost ways to publish your data in a way that attracts and serves your audience. And finally, remember the point about scale creating its own gravity? There is more data instantly available for free than ever before -- data you can mix together in new ways in order to make more sense of your world.

So what?



Uploaded to Flickr by rea ℓ ϵ i

Observe your world

LOST: PINK SONY Camera

I lost my pink Sony camera somewhere near **12th and Folsom** streets early morning February 14. The photos are priceless and I will gladly pay for it back, NO QUESTIONS ASKED. I would be soooo happy for it back!!!

Posted to Craigslist on February 17, 2009.

More lost and found postings in the area...





More photos in the area...

Restaurant inspections	Мо
List Map	
Routine inspection at EL NORTENO Score: 100 . Inspected on March 2, 2009.	
Reinspection - Routine inspection at KOH SAMUI & THE MONKEY Inspected on February 27, 2009.	۰
Routine inspection at 330 RITCH Score: 96 . Inspected on February 27, 2009.	
Routine inspection at PAZZO Score: 84 . Inspected on February 26, 2009.	• 21
Routine inspection at A2 CAFE	

Stay informed about your world: EveryBlock grew out of ChicagoCrime.org. It pulls in all kinds of geocoded data, public records and items from across the Net to give you a comprehensive look at your neighborhood.

Visualize your world



Fix your world



Public spending: RGJ public employee salary analysis of overtime pay and its effect on the city budget. Think they spend too much? Too little? You can fix what's broken if you don't even know whether it is or not.

Transform your world



It's transformative: New ways of analyzing data change the way we look at everything. Who knew what a simple search form could do?

It's easier now

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When I was the online editor over at the Gazette, we had both a need and a corporate mandate to produce more sophisticated treatments of data. Existing CMSes still don't address the issue very well. So right now the main goal is to be able to embed tables, charts and graphs in a way that doesn't involve hand-coding or images.

Tools of the trade: Exce or OpenOffice or Numbers (iWork) or Google Docs

For our purposes, these are pretty much identical. Honest. Assume that when I say "Excel" I mean any halfway decent spreadsheet application. Excel probably has the edge in features. But I like Google Docs for several reasons: It's always available online, it's free, and it's become a little more than just a spreadsheet application.

The Photoshop of data

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7		Keyboards	14.00%	15.00%	17.00%	25.00%										
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Spreadsheets are fabulous data-cleaning tools, and really Microsoft deserves a lot of credit there. Excel has evolved (and other applications have evolved in response) because they started to realize that people were mostly using Excel to manage lists. They weren't just using it as a giant calculator on steroids. They were using it to manage data.

A word on functions

×	🔟 Microsoft Excel - xlfdic02.exe (Read-Only)								
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14	ABS	Mathematical	Built-in	Returns the absolute value of a numbe	er 📃				
15	AND	Logical	Built-in	Returns TRUE if all its arguments are	TRUE				
16	AVERAGE Statistical Built-in Returns the average of its arguments								
17	BIN2DEC	2DEC Engineering Analysis ToolPak Converts a binary number to decimal							
18	CEILING	Mathematical	al Built-in Rounds a number to the nearest integer or to the nearest multiple of s						
19	CELL	Information	Built-in	Returns information about the formatti	ng, location, or contents of a cel				
20	CHAR	Text	Built-in	Returns the character specified by the	e code number				
21	CHOOSE Lookup Built-in Chooses a value from a list of values								
22	CLEAN Text Built-in Removes all nonprintable characters from text								
23	CODE	Text	Built-in	Returns a numeric code for the first ch	naracter in a text string				
24	COMBIN	Mathematical	Built-in	Returns the number of combinations f	or a given number of objects				
25	CONCATENATE	Text	Built-in	Joins several text items into one text i	item				
26	CONVERT	Engineering	Analysis ToolPak	Converts a number from one measure	ment system to another				
27	CORREL	Statistical	Built-in	Returns the correlation coefficient betw	ween two data sets				
28	COUNT	Statistical	Built-in	Counts how many numbers are in the	list of arguments				
29	COUNTA	Statistical	Built-in	Counts how many values are in the lis	t of arguments				
30	COUNTBLANK	Information	Built-in	Counts the number of blank cells with	in a range				
31	COUNTIF	Mathematical	Built-in	Counts the number of nonblank cells v	within a range that meet the give				
32	DATE	Date	Built-in	Returns the serial number of a particu	lar date				
33	DATEDIF	Date	Built-in	Calculates the difference between two	dates. Undocumented in v5/7/97				
34	DATEVALUE	Date	Built-in	Converts a date in the form of text to a	a serial number				
35	DAVERAGE	Database	Built-in	Returns the average of selected datab	ase entries				
36	DAY	Date	Built-in	Built-in Converts a serial number to a day of the month					
37		Instructions /		FunctionList / Time Calculation / 1	TimeSheet For Flexi / 1< 1				
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I've studied enough math and computer science to become immune to it, but when you say the word "function" in this context it usually triggers horrible memories of trig or precalculus, and your inner teen comes forward, sweating and asking you to make it stop.

Data comes in dirty

A	В	С	D
Name	Street Address	City	State
		BOULDER CITY	NV
FIBERGERGS OF EGRETTLES INCOMPONENTED		BOOLDER OFF	
GOOD HUMOR-BREYERS ICE CREAM	1001 OLSEN ST.	HENDERSON	NV
LASCO BATHWARE	201 NORTH MEADOW VALLEY ROAD	MOAPA	NV
CAPITAL CABINET CORP.	3645 LOSEE RD.	N LAS VEGAS	NV
UNIVERSAL URETHANE INCORPORATED	4201 EAST LONE MOUNTAIN ROAD	N LAS VEGAS	NV
MINERAL RIDGE RESOURCES INCORPORATED MINERAL RIDGE MINE	200 MICA WAY	SILVERPEAK	NV
ANDERSON DAIRY	801 SEARLES AV	LAS VEGAS	NV
UNITED GILSONITE LABORATORIES	20 ENTERPRISE WAY	DAYTON	NV
RTP CO	23 AIRPARK VISTA BLVD.	DAYTON	NV
QUEBECOR WORLD NEVADA INC	2200 EAST NEWLANDS DRIVE	FERNLEY	NV
RMAX OPERATING%2C LLC	210 LYON DRIVE	FERNLEY	NV
ESSENTIAL WEST	15 SALVADORE DR.	FERNLEY	NV
COEUR ROCHESTER INC.	HIGHWAY I-80 EXT 119 23 MILES NE OF CITY	LOVELOCK	NV

Unfortunately, most data comes in the door in need of cleaning. Maybe a field is in ALL CAPS, or a field needs to be broken up, or a field needs to be combined with another, or there is extra space around the data -- you get the picture.

Indispensable Friends

- TRIM(" Something with spaces ")
- PROPER("SHOUTING"),
- UPPER("small") and LOWER("BIG")
- SUBSTITUTE("wine", "beer", "wine-dark")
- CONCATENATE("One", A2, "Three")

Indispensable Friends

► IIII	Ξ=== Σ -			
	В	С	D	E
	Street Address	City	State	Combined Address
	1650 FOOTHILL DRIVE	BOULDER CITY	NV	1650 FOOTHILL DRIVE, BOULDER CITY NV
	1001 OLSEN ST.	HENDERSON	NV	1001 OLSEN ST., HENDERSON NV
	201 NORTH MEADOW VALLEY ROAD	MOAPA	NV	=concatenate(B4, ", ", C4, " ",D4)
	3645 LOSEE RD.	N LAS VEGAS	NV	
	4201 EAST LONE MOUNTAIN ROAD	N LAS VEGAS	NV	4201 EAST LONE MOUNTAIN ROAD, N LAS VEGAS NV
=			NB /	
	200 MICA WAY	SILVERPEAK	NV	200 MICA WAY, SILVERPEAK NV
	801 SEARLES AV	LAS VEGAS	NV	801 SEARLES AV, LAS VEGAS NV
	20 ENTERPRISE WAY	DAYTON	NV	20 ENTERPRISE WAY, DAYTON NV
	23 AIRPARK VISTA BLVD.	DAYTON	NV	23 AIRPARK VISTA BLVD., DAYTON NV
	2200 EAST NEWLANDS DRIVE	FERNLEY	NV	2200 EAST NEWLANDS DRIVE, FERNLEY NV
	210 LYON DRIVE	FERNLEY	NV	210 LYON DRIVE, FERNLEY NV
	15 SALVADORE DR.	FERNLEY	NV	15 SALVADORE DR., FERNLEY NV
	HIGHWAY I-80 EXT 119 23 MILES NE OF CITY	LOVELOCK	NV	HIGHWAY I-80 EXT 119 23 MILES NE OF CITY, LOVELOCK NV
	1680 SPRUCE AVE.	SILVER SPRINGS	NV	1680 SPRUCE AVE., SILVER SPRINGS NV
	1225 EAST GREG STREET	SPARKS	NV	1225 EAST GREG STREET, SPARKS NV
	1475 LINDA WAY	SPARKS	NV	1475 LINDA WAY, SPARKS NV
	1 ERIC CIRCLE	VERDI	NV	1 ERIC CIRCLE, VERDI NV
	2 EDIK CID	VEDDI	NIV	

Rinse, lather, repeat.

	CAPITAL CABINET CORP.	3645 LOSEE
6	UNIVERSAL URETHANE INCORPO	F
7		Tooltip Fiberglass Specialities Incorporated
	MINERAL RIDGE RESOURCES INC MINE	Good Humor-Breyers Ice Cream
8	ANDERSON DAIRY	F5 co Bathware
9	UNITED GILSONITE LABORATORIE	=proper(substitute(A5, "%2C", ","))
10	RTP CO	
11	QUEBECOR WORLD NEVADA INC	Mineral Ridge Resources Incorporated Mineral Ridg Anderson Dairy
12	RMAX OPERATING%2C LLC	United Gilsonite Laboratories
13	ESSENTIAL WEST	Dta Ca ID SALVADU
14	COEUR ROCHESTER INC.	HIGHWAY I-8
15	NEVADA WOOD PRESERVING	1680 SPRUC

You can do pretty much anything you want with these and a few others by "chaining" them, which is just a fancy word for asking CONCATENATE to use something from column A along with something PROPER gets from TRIM who gets it from column B.

Gadgets



Google Gadgets are small, self-contained bits of code designed to live not only embedded in another web page, but also in iGoogle or Google Desktop as well. It's a standard that provides you with a window on data living anywhere else on the Net.

Example: EPA sites

Go	gle Docs							
EPA	-regulated sites in Nevada							
File	Edit View Format Insert Tools Form Help							
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	A	В	С	D				
1	Name	Street Address	City	State				
2				olato				
	FIBERGLASS SPECIALITIES INCORPORATED	1650 FOOTHILL DRIVE	BOULDER CITY	NV				
3	GOOD HUMOR-BREYERS ICE CREAM	1001 OLSEN ST.	HENDERSON	NV				
4	LASCO BATHWARE	201 NORTH MEADOW VALLEY ROAD	MOAPA	NV				
5	CAPITAL CABINET CORP.	3645 LOSEE RD.	N LAS VEGAS	NV				
6	UNIVERSAL URETHANE INCORPORATED	4201 EAST LONE MOUNTAIN ROAD	N LAS VEGAS	NV				
7	MINERAL RIDGE RESOURCES INCORPORATED MINERAL RIDGE	200 MICA WAY	SILVERPEAK	NV				
8	ANDERSON DAIRY	801 SEARLES AV	LAS VEGAS	NV				
9	UNITED GILSONITE LABORATORIES	20 ENTERPRISE WAY	DAYTON	NV				
10	RTP CO	23 AIRPARK VISTA BLVD.	DAYTON	NV				
11	QUEBECOR WORLD NEVADA INC	2200 EAST NEWLANDS DRIVE	FERNLEY	NV				
12	RMAX OPERATING%2C LLC	210 LYON DRIVE	FERNLEY	NV				
13	ESSENTIAL WEST	15 SALVADORE DR.	FERNLEY	NV				
14	COEUR ROCHESTER INC.	HIGHWAY I-80 EXT 119 23 MILES NE OF CITY	LOVELOCK	NV				
15	NEVADA WOOD PRESERVING	1680 SPRUCE AVE.	SILVER SPRINGS	NV				
16	ELITE SPICE INC.	1225 EAST GREG STREET	SPARKS	NV				

Let's get started on an example of something that's easy to do now. I grabbed some data off the EPA's site. This is a list of EPA-regulated sites in Nevada. Let's see how easy it is to publish online. The data came across in CSV format, which is easy to import into Google Docs. Since this is a list of addresses, my first thought is to map them. Now, this data set isn't a great choice for an interactive map because there are about 300 rows, and Google Maps gets real poky around 100. But I like maps, so let's give it a whirl.

Cleaning data

	С	D	E	F
	a			
	City	State	Combined Address	Tooltip
	BOULDER CITY	NV	1650 FOOTHILL DRIVE, BOULDER CITY NV	Fiberglass Specialities Incorporated
	HENDERSON	NV	1001 OLSEN ST., HENDERSON NV	Good Humor-Breyers Ice Cream
	MOAPA	NV	201 NORTH MEADOW VALLEY ROAD, MOAPA NV	Lasco Bathware
	N LAS VEGAS	NV	3645 LOSEE RD., N LAS VEGAS NV	Capital Cabinet Corp.
	N LAS VEGAS	NV	4201 EAST LONE MOUNTAIN ROAD, N LAS VEGAS NV	Universal Urethane Incorporated
	SILVERPEAK	NV	200 MICA WAY, SILVERPEAK NV	Mineral Ridge Resources Incorporated Mineral Rid
	LAS VEGAS	NV	801 SEARLES AV, LAS VEGAS NV	Anderson Dairy
	DAYTON	NV	20 ENTERPRISE WAY, DAYTON NV	United Gilsonite Laboratories
	DAYTON	NV	23 AIRPARK VISTA BLVD., DAYTON NV	Rtp Co
	FERNLEY	NV	2200 EAST NEWLANDS DRIVE, FERNLEY NV	Quebecor World Nevada Inc
	FERNLEY	NV	210 LYON DRIVE, FERNLEY NV	Rmax Operating, Llc
	FERNLEY	NV	15 SALVADORE DR., FERNLEY NV	Essential West
F CITY	LOVELOCK	NV	HIGHWAY I-80 EXT 119 23 MILES NE OF CITY, LOVELOCK NV	Coeur Rochester Inc.
	SILVER SPRINGS	NV	1680 SPRUCE AVE., SILVER SPRINGS NV	Nevada Wood Preserving
	SPARKS	NV	1225 EAST GREG STREET, SPARKS NV	Elite Spice Inc.
	SPARKS	NV	1475 LINDA WAY, SPARKS NV	Master Bilt Engineered Structures
	VERDI	NV	1 ERIC CIRCLE, VERDI NV	Viking Metallurgical
	VERDI	NV	2 ERIK CIR., VERDI NV	Wells Manufacturing Co.
	WADSWORTH	NV	6000 ST. RTE. 447, WADSWORTH NV	Alta Gold Company Olinghouse Project
	WINNEMUCCA	NV	5505 CYANCO DRIVE, WINNEMUCCA NV	Cyanco
	YERINGTON	NV	1000 SIERRA WAY, YERINGTON NV	Fort Churchill Power Station
	YERINGTON	NV	102 BURCH DR., YERINGTON NV	Arimetco Incorporated Yerington Mine
	RENO	NV	4855 LONGLEY LN., RENO NV	Bts Group
	RENO	NV	7970 SECURITY CIRCLE, RENO NV	Sun Chemical Corp
в	RENO	NV	14551 INDUSTRY CIRCLE%2C SUITE B, RENO NV	Michelin North America Inc
	DENO	NIV/	14221 LEAD DIVID DENO NIV	Maatas Halas Ing Bang

We're going to use the Google Docs Map Gadget to produce an interactive map. In order to do that, we have to create two new columns: One for the full address, and one for the tooltip, which is the little balloon that pops up when you click on a point on the map.

Nitty-gritty

В	С	D	E
Street Address	City	State	Combined Address
1650 FOOTHILL DRIVE	BOULDER CITY	NV	1650 FOOTHILL DRIVE, BOULDER CITY NV
1001 OLSEN ST.	HENDERSON	NV	1001 OLSEN ST., HENDERSON NV
201 NORTH MEADOW VALLEY ROAD	MOAPA	NV	=concatenate(B4, ", ", C4, " ",D4)
3645 LOSEE RD.	N LAS VEGAS	NV	
4201 EAST LONE MOUNTAIN ROAD	N LAS VEGAS	NV	4201 EAST LONE MOUNTAIN ROAD, N LAS VE
200 MICA WAY	SILVERPEAK	NV	200 MICA WAY, SILVERPEAK NV
801 SEARLES AV	LAS VEGAS	NV	801 SEARLES AV, LAS VEGAS NV
20 ENTERPRISE WAY	DAYTON	NV	20 ENTERPRISE WAY, DAYTON NV

F
Tooltip
Fiberglass Specialities Incorporated
Good Humor-Breyers Ice Cream
F5 co Bathware
 =proper(substitute(A5, "%2C", ","))
Mineral Ridge Resources Incorporated Mineral Ridge Mine
Anderson Dairy
United Gilsonite Laboratories
Rtp Co
Oucheser World Neveda Inc.

We're going to use the Google Docs Map Gadget to produce an interactive map. In order to do that, we have to create two new columns: One for the full address, and one for the tooltip, which is the little balloon that pops up when you click on a point on the map. We're using some of the functions we mentioned earlier to assemble and clean up those two columns. And this is one of the nice things about spreadsheets: You can transform your data one column at a time, and see each intermediate step. So you can easily see it when you screw up.

The gadget



So, once we have those columns set up, we can bring in the gadget, which you do under the "Insert" menu. You have a few options here. It expects two columns of data, which you can select in the usual way if you've used Excel before -- you click and drag. Note that we've checked the "tooltip" box to use the last column as the text in the balloon that pops up when you click on the map pin. It's not real obvious, but there's a tiny little button in the top right-hand corner of the gadget that gives you the option to publish the map as an embedded element on another page.

Copy...

X

Done

Publish Gadget

Paste this into any HTML page:

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Last edited by Marcel on March 4, 2009 at 11:22 pm

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Presto!

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Home About Example: An embedded map

Example: An embedded map

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PICTURES



Pie, anyone?

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BEOWAWE	2						
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EUREKA	1				DAYTON		
FALLON	7				ELKO		
FERNLEY	13				FERNLEY		
GARDNERVILLE	1				HENDERSON		
GOLCONDA	3				LAS VEGAS MINDEN		
HAWTHORNE	3				MOUND HOUS	E	
HENDERSON	18				NORTH LAS V	EGAS	
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JEAN	1				Other		
LAS VEGAS	59						
LAUGHLIN	2						
LOCKWOOD	1						
	4						

Let's say we have some data suitable for a pie chart. I've taken the EPA sites and grouped them by city, along with the number of sites in that city. I did it fairly easily in Google Docs -- I'm not going to cover how to do it in great detail, so if you're interested ask me and I'll send you the spreadsheet so you can see the formulas.

l like pie.

PICTURES

www.flickr.com

Example: An embedded chart

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And just as with the mapping gadget, we can embed this anywhere we want. One important point to keep in mind is that the embedded chart will stay in sync with the original data on the Google spreadsheet. So if you change something there, it'll be reflected here. Note that Google makes a distinction between Charts and Gadgets. This is created as a chart, not a gadget.

Well, not that pie.

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Here we see the difference, side by side. The one on the right is made as a Gadget, and shows up as a little Flash object. I'm not a huge fan, although obviously the chart has a small issue as well. But you can work with the slices; I have them sorted by name, even though it would make more sense to sort them by size. It all depends on the data.

Just the facts, ma'am.

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Instant database

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BTS GROUP	RENO
SUN CHEMICAL CORP	RENO
MICHELIN NORTH AMERICA INC	RENO
MASTER HALCO INC RENO	RENO
PRECISION ROLLED PRODUCTS INC	RENO
RR DONNELLEY & SONS CO	RENO
AMERICAN WATER HEATER COMPANY	RENO
INTERNATIONAL GAME TECHNOLOGY	RENO
CRUMRINE MFG JEWELERS	RENO
TRUCKEE MEADOWS WATER RECLAMATION FACILITY	RENO
STEAD WWTP	RENO
HAMILTON COMPANY	RENO
UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA%2C RENO	RENO
DUPONT RENO WESTERN DISTRIBUTI ON CENTER	RENO
REIMAGING INC DBA SIERRA XRAY SVCS	RENO
SIEDDA CHEMICAL CO	DENO

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BLOGROLL

Adrian Holovaty

beatnik sidearm

Just Jake

Reno vs. Vegas

City	Year	GDP	Population est.
Las Vegas	2001	54720	1457069
Las Vegas	2002	58041	1516604
Las Vegas	2003	63303	1573930
Las Vegas	2004	73188	1647734
Las Vegas	2005	83366	1708758
Las Vegas	2006	91500	1777168
Reno	2001	14477	355203
Reno	2002	14880	365352
Reno	2003	15505	374841
Reno	2004	17167	385150
Reno	2005	17751	394823
Reno	2006	18915	402245

Maps and charts are fine and all, but some of the visualizations we've discussed are fun because they move -- they show something happening in time. Again, this is easy. I put together a small data set comparing Reno and Las Vegas from 2001 to 2006 on two measurements: GDP and population. I got the GDP figures from the Commerce Department, and the population figures are estimates from the Census department.

Make it move!

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So now that we have the data, we're going to use the Motion Chart gadget to visualize the difference. There's a lot of cruft here on the screen, but once I click through to the live version everything should make sense.

Where to find data?

- The government, of course
- Freebase
- Geocommons
- Many Eyes (IBM research project)

OK, but what if you don't have any data handy? Where can you find it? Well, for a lot of applications the federal government is your friend, because they generate vast quantities every year. They have everything from economics to crime. For more prosaic but equally useful topics, you may want to check out Freebase -- the data used to generate the Wal-Mart visualization came from there. And then there are other sites like Geocommons and Many Eyes that offer a collaborative way to share both the data sets and the visualizations created from them.

Or, get it yourself

Rate my presentation, please

I'd like to know what you thought of my presentation, "Data-driven web publishing without a programmer," given at the 2009 Nevada Interactive Media Summit. I would appreciate it if you could answer a few questions so I can improve my presentations in the future. At the very least, please leave some amusing comments.

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Or you could gather your own data with a form. This is something else Google makes extremely easy. As an example, I've whipped up a working evaluation form for this presentation. You can find a link to the live version on my blog at loslevys.com.

Ask 'em questions

Rate my presentation, please

I'd like to know what you thought of my presentation, "Data-driven web publishing without a programmer," given at the 2009 Nevada Interactive Media Summit. I would appreciate it if you could answer a few questions so I can improve my presentations in the future. At the very least, please leave some amusing comments.

Secret Password * If you were at the talk, you'd know it.		
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How would you rate Marcel's presentation abilities?	Help Text	
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Here's a view of the form editing interface. I've included a closer look at how you edit a multiple-choice question.

Ready for action

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A form, so what?



Uploaded to Flickr by rea $\ell \epsilon^i$

Here's what!









Form

Database

Views

We've created a form, which feeds into a database, which then lets you visualize or report in near real-time. We've created a lightweight database application, suitable for presentation in a number of different ways. So forget about surveys for a second -- you can use the same model for all kinds of applications where you need to keep track of something over time.

More cool toys

You are on day 22 of your free trial, with 8 days remaining. Click here to upgrade now.

LOSLEVYS Help

Applications User Account Admin Logout

New application (step 2)

You have 313 rows of data. To finish, confirm the names and types of your fields.

To help you, the first few rows of your data are shown below. The first row may contain names for each column which Dabble can re-use.

CATEGORY NAME					
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	001-200-40		3720 TASHA CT	January 26, 2009	150000
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Here are some things I didn't even touch: Dabble DB has more of the features you'd expect of a "real" database application, with multiple tables, users, reports, etc. It's truly impressive. They sell it as a service under an interesting "freemium" model.

Geocoding overload



What's so cool about Geocommons is that they give you both the data and the tools to make neat maps with it. And you can download the results in a format suitable for use elsewhere, like Google Earth or Microsoft Virtual Earth.

Magic!

Column editor

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Table preview

Save changes

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372-60-3186	Benji		Matasaru	1972/03/03	matasaru@example.com	503 555-1214
462-13-1761	Luke	Skywalker	Anderson	1973/04/04	SkyWalker@example.com	555-1215
170-85-0515	John	N	Tasha	1974/05/05	tasha@example.com	
465-96-5227	Beau		Daddy	1980/06/10	Bo@example.com	(415) 555-1216
888-18-8942	Paddy		Collision	2000/07/12	pc@example.com	
928-05-6464	Tony		Gray	1965/01/01	gray@example.com	

Then there's Magic/Replace, which is one of the coolest applications I've seen in a while. It lets you clean tabular data by example. No messing with functions in a spreadsheet, you just edit an exemplar at the top there, and then it applies those edits to the rest of the data in an amazingly smart way. It's a free application from Dabble DB.

Linkage

- Google Docs docs.google.com
- <u>Freebase</u> freebase.com
- <u>Geocommons</u> geocommons.com
- FlowingData flowingdata.com
- <u>Many Eyes</u> manyeyes.alphaworks.ibm.com
- <u>Magic/Replace</u> cleanupdata.com
- <u>Dabble DB</u> dabbledb.com

We've only scratched the surface here, really. Here is a list of some worthwhile sites to visit if you're interested in doing more, or if you want some inspiration. I've put this list online, so if you go to my site to fill out the survey, you can get the links there.

Thanks!

Visit <u>http://loslevys.com/</u> to let me know how I did. <u>Secret password: Goat</u>



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