

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 6<sup>th</sup> 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](#)