

# *Thunder & Lightning:* Cognos & Tableau; Info Services & the IR Office

Keith Fortowsky and Miranda Pearson

([www.prairiefirephoto.com](http://www.prairiefirephoto.com))

**CIRPA Conference 2017**



University  
of Regina

# About University of Regina

- Fall 2017: **15,276** total students
  - 13,375 Undergraduate level
  - 1,901 Graduate level
- ERP System: Ellucian Banner
- Metadata: Data Cookbook (iData)
- Analytics and Reporting: new Cognos Analytics 11 implementation (Enterprise); Tableau Desktop for IR; home-built centralized reports via MS Access
- Tableau since v2.1 late 2006 ↔ “Tableau Like” Cognos 11

# Today's Topics

- (What is “Institutional Research / IR”)
- IR / Marketing / Data Scientists – Info Services
- Ad hoc ↔ Enterprise
- Spreadsheets & Pivot Tables => Tableau
- Live Demos: Tableau 10.3 and Cognos Analytics 11
- Feature comparison
- Comparison wrap-up
  
- Questions ??

# IR / Marketing / “Data Scientists”

## ↔ Info Services (IS)

- IR / MARKETING ↔ SALES ↔ OPERATIONS
- MARKETING – predictions of 60% of IT spend?
- Higher Ed Data Warehouse (HEDW) annual conference

*Our office is in somewhat unusual position of leading the University-wide implementation of Cognos 11 ... However, we feel that we are merely at the vanguard of an emerging trend – a much more prominent role for IR Offices in enterprise-wide Data Analytics.*

*For example, the presenter first attended an annual HEDW (Higher Education Data Warehouse) conference in 2014 (Philadelphia), at which only a handful of attendees appeared to have an IR background. In contrast, at the most recent HEDW conference (May 2017 in Tucson), close to a **third** of attendees appeared to be from IR.*

# IS vs IR / “Data Scientists”

## Developers vs Data Scientists – Different Approaches to a Common Goal

*"For [developer] Bryan, project success is all about deliverables that are correct and repeatable, wherein the code correctly executes with unseen data. (Bryan jokes that the data science reproducible standard means the code ran once.)... In the end, it's all about correct, modular, automatable and maintainable."*

Steve Miller & Bryan Senseman

Information Management (blog), March 2016

[www.information-management.com/blogs/big-data-analytics/developers-vs-data-scientists-different-approaches-to-a-common-goal-10028416-1.html](http://www.information-management.com/blogs/big-data-analytics/developers-vs-data-scientists-different-approaches-to-a-common-goal-10028416-1.html)

# Spreadsheets & Pivot Tables

ad  
hoc

Spreadsheet ↔ Pivot Table ↔ Database

Enter-  
prise

- 1979 – VisiCalc (Apple II)
- 1983 – Lotus 1-2-3 (PC DOS)
- 1988 – Quattro Pro (MS Windows) – **pivot tables**
- 1987/1990 – MS Excel (MS Windows)

? 1980 ?

First IT journal article re “death of the spreadsheet”

# Live Demos

- Data Source spreadsheet
- Possible Excel pivot table demo
- Tableau 10.3 – desktop deployment (parts 1 & 2)  
**Keith Fortowsky**
- Cognos Analytics (version 11) – server deployment (pt 1)  
**Filip Drascovic**  
Practice Lead  
Newcomp, Toronto ([www.newcomp.com](http://www.newcomp.com))

# Comparison Chart

	Cognos	Tableau
PRICE	\$200K + \$750	\$750 + \$200k
minimum	\$15k – \$20k	\$750
Implementation costs	Start high	Start low
Community	IBM & commercial	Full ecosystem
Academic program?	No	Yes
Security	Enterprise	Ad hoc +
Enterprise Reporting	Yes but \$\$	** NO reporting **
Ux Architecture	Top down but poor	Bottom up but poor



# Costs

	Cognos	Tableau
PRICE	\$200K + \$750	\$750 + \$200k
minimum	\$15k – \$20k	\$750
Implementation costs	Start high	Start low

- Note that basic \$750 Tableau Desktop can access pretty much any datasource via MS Access, ODBC, etc.

# Community & Academic Program

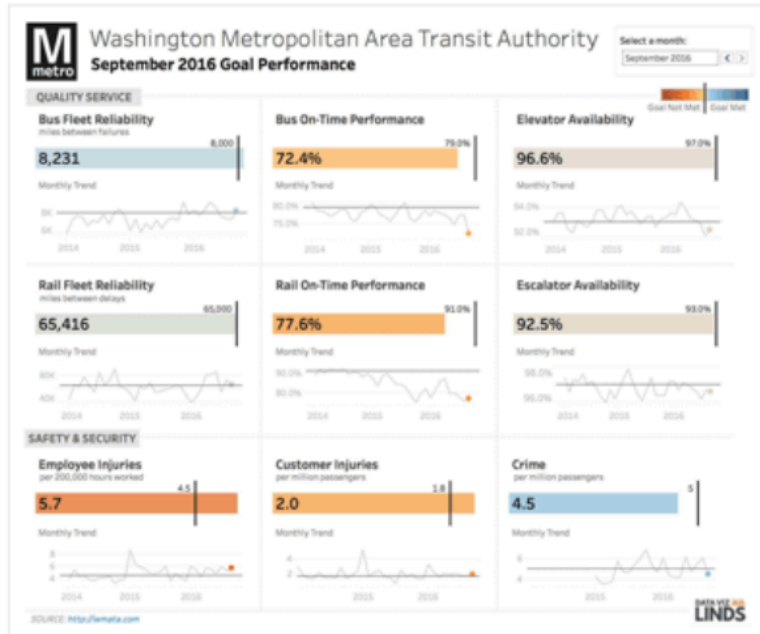
	Cognos	Tableau
Community	IBM & commercial	Full ecosystem
Academic program ?	No *	Yes
Tableau Public ?	-	Yes

- July 2017: **1 million** Tableau Public visualizations
- Tableau Academic – Free 1 year full license; training, etc.  
[www.tableau.com/academic](http://www.tableau.com/academic)

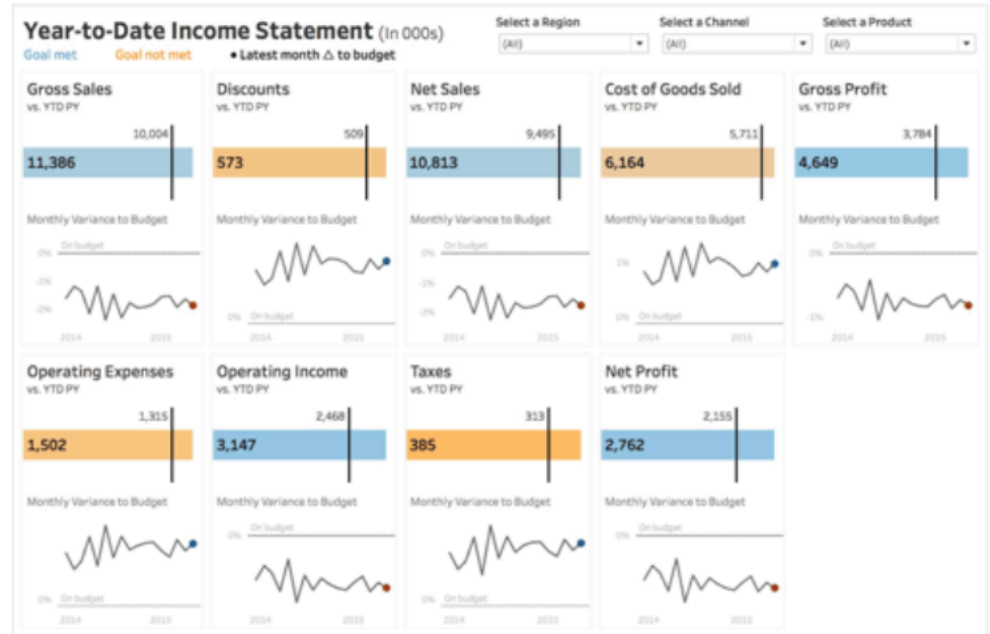
# 1. Steal like an artist

www.tableau.com/about/blog/2017/10/7-tips-and-tricks-dashboard-experts-76821

From public transport data...



... to reimagining financial statements



Austin Kleon, author of [Steal Like an Artist](#), encourages us to embrace the influence of others. This holds true in designing dashboards as much as in any creative endeavor. Don't create your work in a vacuum: Take inspiration from as many places as you can.

A great example is Andy Kriebel's [financial statement dashboard](#), based on the [work of Lindsay Poulter](#). Lindsay's original design was applied to public transport data, and Andy

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## Global Peace Index 2008-2016

Submitted by martiner on Sun, 10/02/2016 - 15:07



This article presents information about the Global Peace Index (GPI), a measure of relative peacefulness across 163 countries and territories from 2008 to 2016.

**Tags:**  
GPI peace SDG

[Read more](#)

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## Are You Really Tall?

Submitted by martiner on Sun, 08/07/2016 - 22:42



This article introduces a visualization tool that helps you to see if you are taller or shorter than the mean height of people of your year of birth and country.

**Tags:**  
adult height NCD NCDRisC

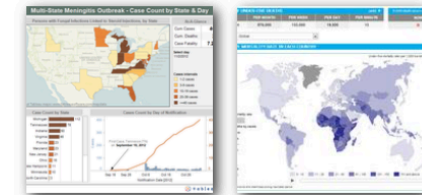
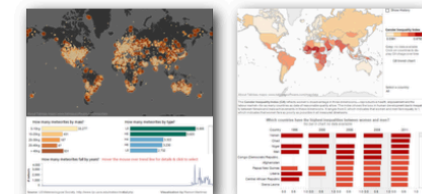
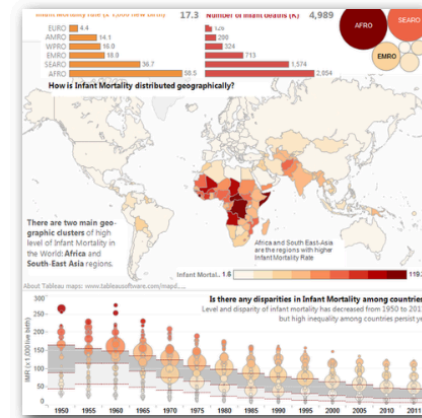
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# Tableau Reference Guide

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## Graphing

[Creating a Lollipop Chart](#) by Andy Kriebel

[Creating a Lollipop Chart- How to \(with Viz and Video\)](#) by Andy Kriebel

[Dual Axis Chart with Overlapping Bars and a Line](#) by Andy Kriebel

[Moving Reference Line](#) by Andy Kriebel

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[Network Graphs with NodeXL](#) by Allan Walker

[Parallel Coordinates](#) by Joe Mako

[www.dataplusscience.com/TableauReferenceGuide/index.html](http://www.dataplusscience.com/TableauReferenceGuide/index.html)



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### Tagged Interests

11.0.3 11.0.4 11.0.5  
11.0.6 11.0.7 active report

- [www.ibm.com/communities/analytics/cognos-analytics/blog/](http://www.ibm.com/communities/analytics/cognos-analytics/blog/)
- [www.ibm.com/communities/analytics/cognos-analytics/](http://www.ibm.com/communities/analytics/cognos-analytics/)
- <https://developer.ibm.com/dwblog/2017/cognos-analytics-resource-guide/>
- [www.envisn.com/envisn-cognos-blog](http://www.envisn.com/envisn-cognos-blog)

webinar delivered by the IBM Analytics SaaS

# Cognos Analytics

# Enterprise Features

	Cognos	Tableau
Security	Enterprise	Ad hoc +
Enterprise Reporting	Yes but \$\$	** NO reporting **
Ux Architecture	Top down but poor	Bottom up but poor

- Security = Licensing costs
- Enterprise = Dev costs
- (discuss Ux Architecture on final summary slide)

# The Cathedral & the Bazaar



- Eric Raymond, 1997  
re open source vs  
closed source

- “market towns” lead to  
Cathedrals ...
- Cathedrals lead to  
markets ....
- Infrastructure in both





# “Why IT Fumbles Analytics” (HBR)

*Deploying analytical IT tools is relatively easy. Understanding how they might be used is much less clear. At the outset, no one knows the decisions the tools will be asked to support and the questions they will be expected to help answer. Therefore, a big data or analytics project can't be treated like a conventional, large IT project, with its defined outcomes, required tasks, and detailed plans for carrying them out.*

Harvard Business Review, Jan-Feb 2013

Donald A. Marchand and Joe Peppard

<https://hbr.org/2013/01/why-it-fumbles-analytics>

# Comparison Chart – Questions?

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Summary: current Cognos & Tableau at U Regina

# Contact Us



Miranda Pearson

Institutional Data Quality Analyst

[miranda.pearson@uregina.ca](mailto:miranda.pearson@uregina.ca)

306-585-5446

Keith Fortowsky

Director, Institutional Research

& Data Governance Officer

[keith.fortowsky@uregina.ca](mailto:keith.fortowsky@uregina.ca)

306-585-5438

University of Regina, Office of Resource Planning:

[www.uregina.ca/orp](http://www.uregina.ca/orp)