Learn IT Assignment #4: Making Sense of Big Data through Visualization
Participating in the Third Annual Temple Analytics Challenge: ibit.temple.edu/analyticschallenge

Purpose:
This assignment introduces the concept of Big Data and the opportunities big data provides to gain meaningful insights through data-driven analysis. Big Data Analytics is a critical skill, touching fields as diverse as medicine, chemistry, linguistics, and business. New fields such as "data journalism" and "big humanities" reflect the transformative potential of large, widely available, and trans-disciplinary data sets. Good visualizations are a cornerstone of this new field, as they communicate complex ideas and reveal patterns difficult to see. Proficiency in the visual communication of data will give Temple students a competitive edge in this growing area.

Goals:
• To provide Temple students and our partner institutions an accessible entry point into data analytics.
• To create the opportunity for students across multiple disciplines to work on real-world problems.
• To emphasize critical thinking, visual communication, and oral presentation skills.
• To further Temple University's mission to develop the next-generation workforce.

Task:
Students in MIS 2101 can work individually or in teams (4 students maximum) on one of several industry-driven problems and data sets available in the Challenge. You will create a visualization that provides insight into the data and addresses the key issues of the problem. The deliverable is a graphic and a short summary.   You must submit your entry to the Analytics Challenge by the official deadline to receive credit for the assignment. Instructors will receive a list of students who officially submitted entries. You will also receive an email from the Challenge upon receipt of your entry.   All of the resources and instructional workshops provided by the Analytics Challenge are available to MIS 2101 students to assist in completing your entry.

The Temple Analytics Challenge Advisory and Judging Panel:
In addition to your assignment grade (Fail / Pass / Pass High), a panel of industry professionals and Temple faculty will also judge the entries in two rounds. The first round selects 20 finalists who will present their work in a live Judging and Awards Event in short (5 minute) presentations. Winning entries will receive cash prizes divided among team members. Winners will also be featured in a virtual gallery on the challenge web site (see the 2013 and 2014 winners at ibit.temple.edu/analytics).

Criteria for judging
• Clarity of the visualization
• Novelty/creativity of the design choices
• Meaningful insight into the data
• The integration of multiple data sources
• Utility in aiding decision making

Prizes: ($10,000 total)
First place:	$2,500
Second place:	$1,500 (2)
Third place:	$1,000 (2)
Deans' prizes:	$500 (5)

Timeline:
October 1, 2015	Challenge starts. Students given data set and rules.
October 30, 2015	**Challenge ends. Submissions due. THIS IS THE ASSIGNMENT DUE DATE**
November 9, 2015	Finalists announced.
November 16, 2015	Final Judging and Awards Event

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The Temple Analytics Challenge is Powered by the Institute for Business and Information Technology