



The Top 10 Glasstable Design Principles to Boost your Career and your Business

← In order to avoid this

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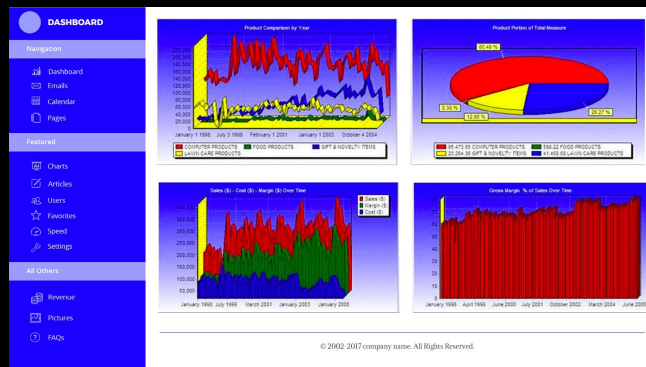
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Glass table design can have the same effect on your boss as on Phoebe

“If you want your career to take off, demonstrate that you don’t need to be a data scientist to be effective. Embracing data visualization and predictive analytics to communicate imaginative business intelligence can propel your career.” PwC

► Lack of design



► Applying basic design principles



Principle #1

Glass Tables & dashboards are not reports



#1 – Glass tables & dashboards are **NOT** reports

	Reports	Glass Tables
Type of data	As much as you can	Most important data
Realtime	no	yes
Presentation	Detailed	Consolidated
Format	Static	Dynamic
Allows quick action	No	Yes
Ease of use	Complex	Simple and easy

Principle #2

Start with paper !



#2 – Start with Paper



- ▶ Define your audience & Understand user requirements
 - What information do you need from me?
 - What form do you need it in?
 - What do you need or want to understand about this data?
- ▶ Content
 - **Keep it relevant.**
 - Less really is more.
 - **Avoid overdesigning.**
 - **Use iconography.** Content isn't limited to text and charts.



Principle #3

Color and fonts matters



#3 Colors and fonts matters

Fonts matters

I☆LL ALWAYS FIND YOU
I'LL ALWAYS FIND YOU

- ▶ Stick to 1 font
- ▶ No more than 3 sizes
- ▶ Need to create visual hierarchy? Bold it or add an accent color (if everything's bold, nothing is)
- ▶ Use Serif fonts for body text (easier to read for longer text)
- ▶ Use sans-serif for headlines, short blocks of text



Colors matters



- ▶ Choose few and stick to them (but play with gradients)
- ▶ Leverage contrast (use the Adobe Color wheel <http://color.adobe.com>)
- ▶ Use color sparingly (each color serve a particular communication goal)
- ▶ Pay attention to meaning - bad kind of bad good
- ▶ Adapt colors to your audience culture (death=black in western countries =white in asia)
- ▶ If using colors, make sure the background color is consistent (make color changes more obvious)

Principle #4

Choose the right visualization for the right data



Data visualization

(choose the right representation of data)

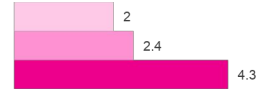
- ▶ *Not all charts are created equal.*
- ▶ Looking good \neq ease of understanding
- ▶ Effective visualizations enables the audience to easily comprehend more data in less time.

Visualizations

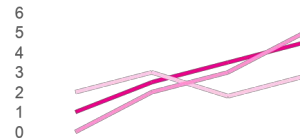
Tabular format

Title 1	Title 2	Title 3
Item 1	Item 3	Item 5
Item 2	Item 4	Item 6

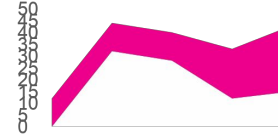
Bar chart



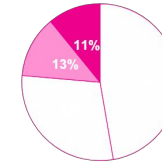
Line chart
/ Sparkline (condensed)



Stacked area chart



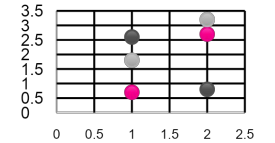
Pie chart



Gauges



Scatter chart



Best used when exact quantities of numbers must be known

Best used when showing comparisons between categories or items in the same category

Best used when trying to visualize continuous data over time

Best used for showing cumulated totals over time via numbers or percentages

Best used to compare parts to the whole

Best used to show a range ideal when you have an absolute floor// ceiling value

Best for showing the overall relationship in a large amount of data



Not conducive to finding trends and comparing sets of data

Less effective than line chart when trying to show trends over time

If consistent scales on the axis aren't used, it might lead to the data of a line graph appearing inaccurate.

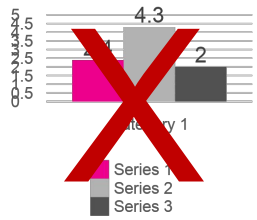
Users yes tend to focus on the tops of each line, leading to misinterpreting the patterns.

Makes comparison of pie slice size difficult. Not great if less than 3 or more than 6 categories

Takes valuable space with limited information (single dimension)

Limited to two variables, they are unable to give the exact extent of correlation

Visualization tips



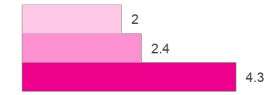
Comparison

- Static
- Over Time

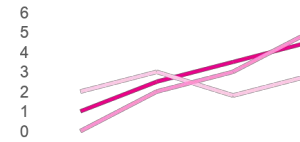
Column chart



Bar chart



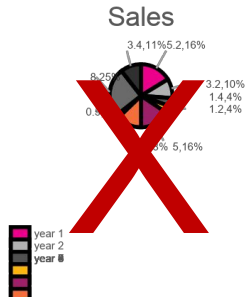
Line chart (several items)



Line chart



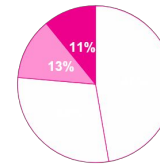
REDUCE CHART-JUNK AND
INCREASE DATA-TO-INK RATIO



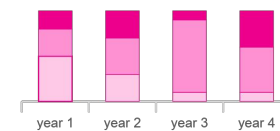
Composition

- Static
- Over Time

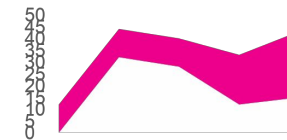
Pie chart



Stacked column chart



Stacked area chart



Principle #5

Follow the eyes



#5 – Follow the eyes



- ▶ What do they have in common?

They are meant to be read from left to right and top to bottom.

- ▶ But remember principle #2 : know your audience

- Some languages uses right to left scripts (Arabic, Hebrew, Kurdish...)
- Some are even more complex (flexible) like ideographic languages (Chinese, Japanese and Korean) : they can be written left to right or vertically top to bottom (with vertical lines proceeding from right to left), sometimes both directions can even be combined on one page.

Example (Armenian)

Բոլոր մարդիկ
 ծնվում են ազատ ու
 հավասար իրենց
 արժանապատվությունով:

Example (Hebrew)

כל בני האדם
 נולדו בני חורין
 ושווים בערכם
 ובזכויותיהם.

Example (Mongolian)

ᠠᠨᠠᠭ ᠤᠯᠤᠰ
 ᠤᠯᠤᠰ ᠤᠯᠤᠰ
 ᠤᠯᠤᠰ ᠤᠯᠤᠰ
 ᠤᠯᠤᠰ ᠤᠯᠤᠰ

Example (Chinese)

人人生而自由，在尊嚴和權利上
 律平等。他們賦有理性 and 良心，並
 應以兄弟關係的精神互相對待。

言宣权人界世

相。係。應。和。們。律。和。由。人
 對。的。以。良。賦。平。權。在。人
 待。精。兄。心。有。等。利。生。而
 神。弟。弟。理。性。他。上。尊。自
 互。關。並。性。一。嚴。而

Principle #6

Organize content blocks



#6: Organize content blocks

Hierarchy



Proximity



Balance



Size



Position



Contrast



Shape



Color

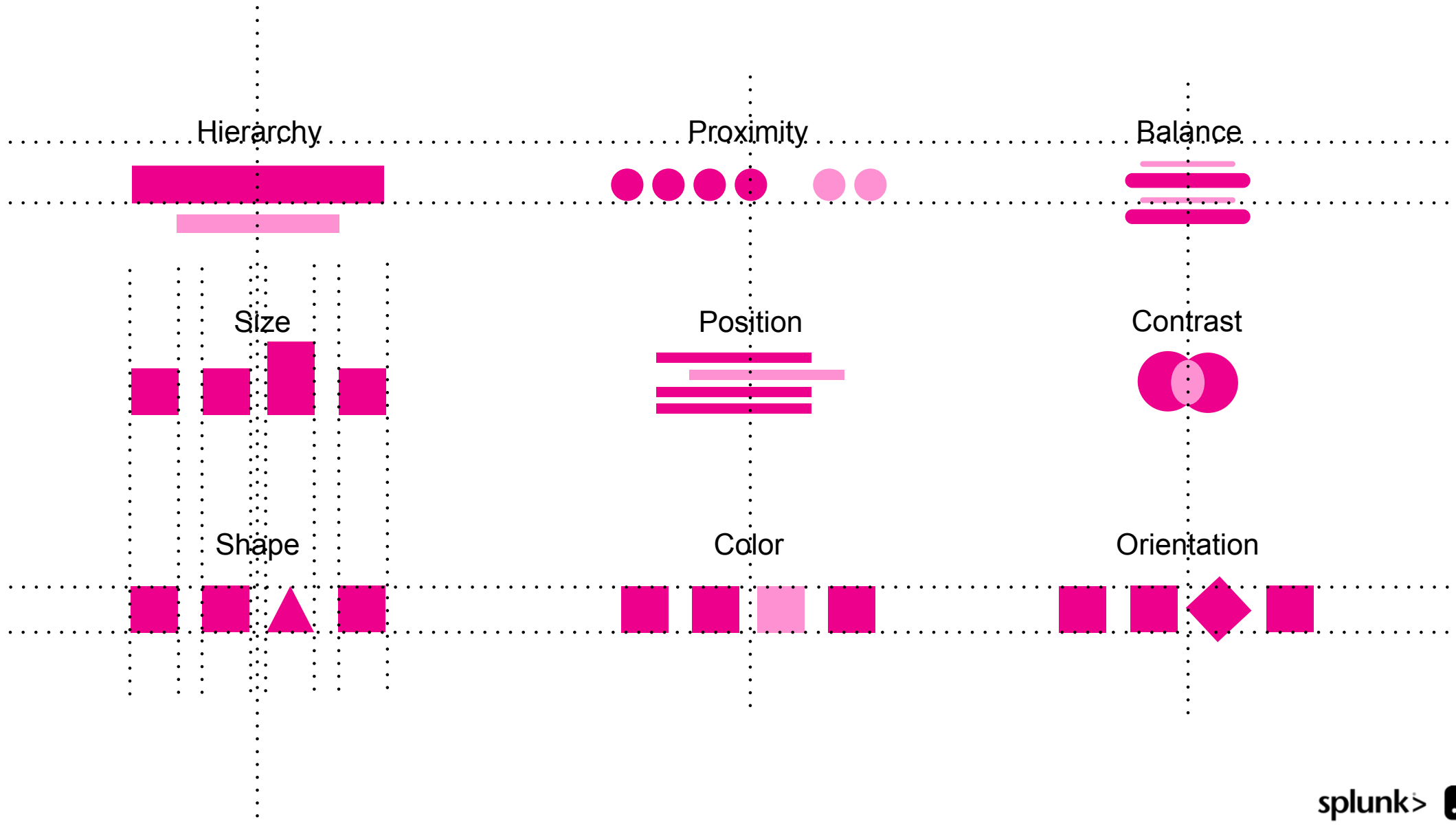


Orientation



White Space

Organize content blocks



Principle #7

The power of diagrams and flows



The power of diagrams and flows

(let's do some basic internal politics ☺)



Need to emphasize a new process ?

Do not underestimate the power of the glass table

- ▶ Glass tables can be a good way to “push” for a new process
- ▶ Draw you process as a glass table background and add KPIs to it
- ▶ A great way to get your teams look at the process every day !

Principle #8

Use the dramatic approach when needed



Alerts and dashboard

(sometimes clean isn't enough; a more dramatic approach is needed)

- ▶ **Shift the focus from the full data to changes** in the most critical data points.
By pulling out the important exceptions, you can make it easier for your audience to digest what matters and take action.
- ▶ **Alerts are one mechanism to turn the focus to the exceptions**, outliers and data highlights.
 - 4 C's:

Context:



Users need to understand how an alert is defined and how it fits into the larger picture.

Cogency:



An alerting system needs to avoid causing unnecessary alarm while delivering easy-to-understand information that can be acted upon.

Communication:



Alerts must be designed to effectively capture attention and inform.

Control:



Advanced alert system should give users the ability to customize and manage alerts.

Principle #9

Use simple tools like Powerpoint (or equivalent) and an image search engine (Google, Qwant...)

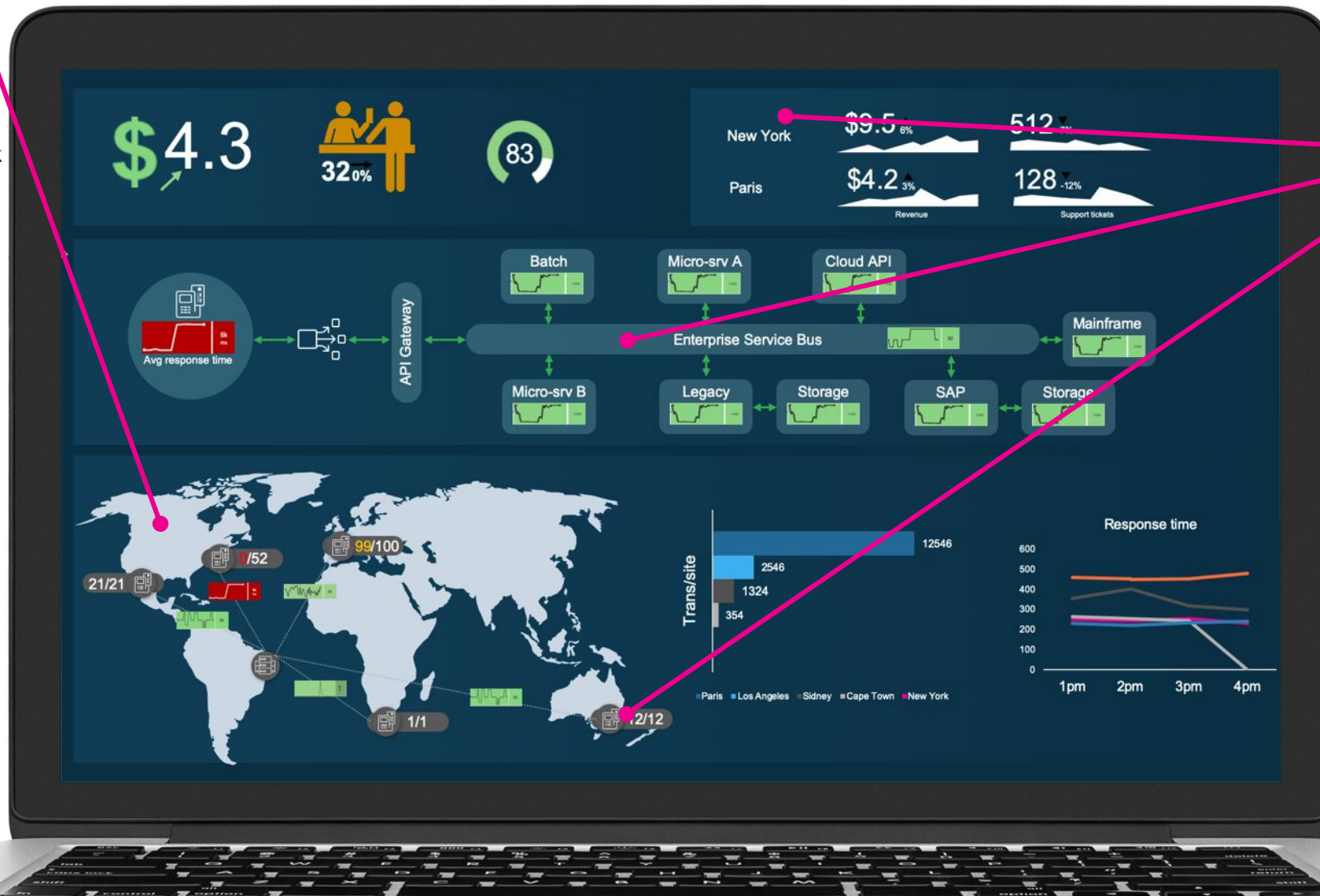


How to create a background image for your glass table

Step 1: design it on PowerPoint using Google/Qwant... or any other image search engine



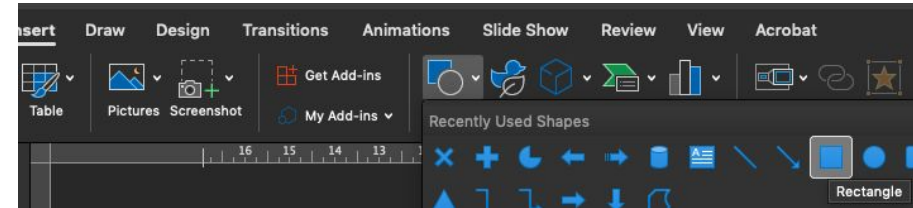
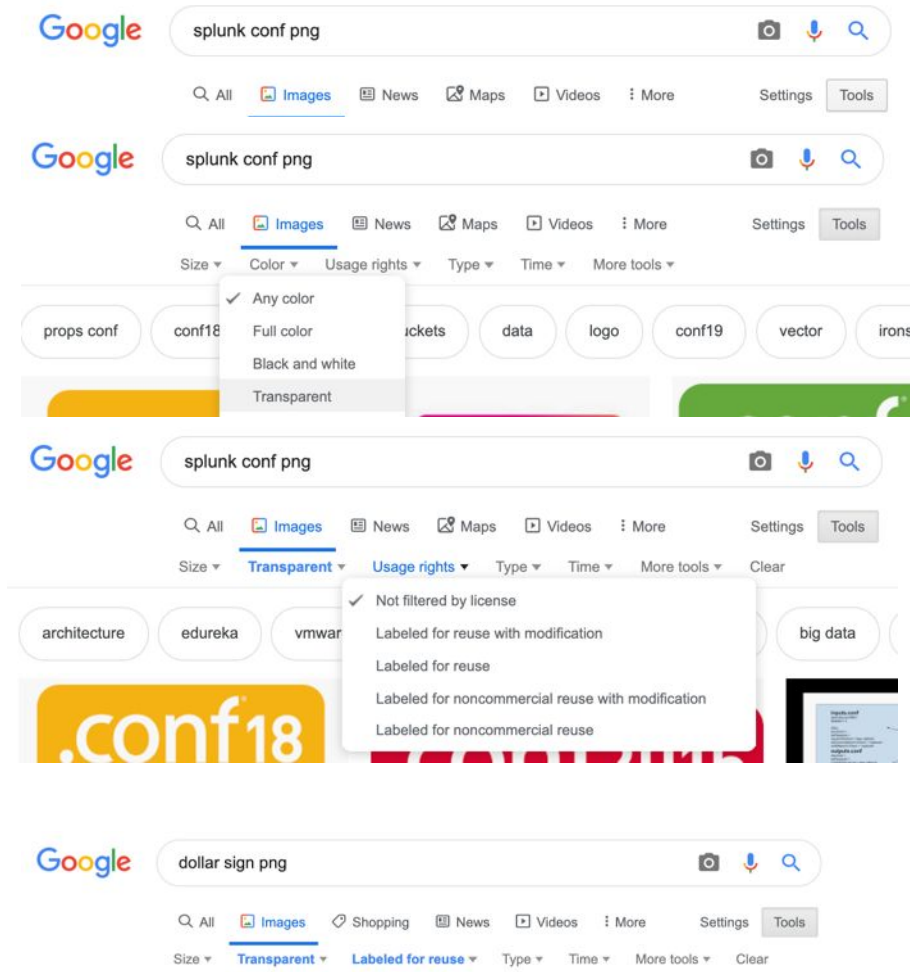
Search for PNG transparent images (labeled for re use or ask your marketing team)



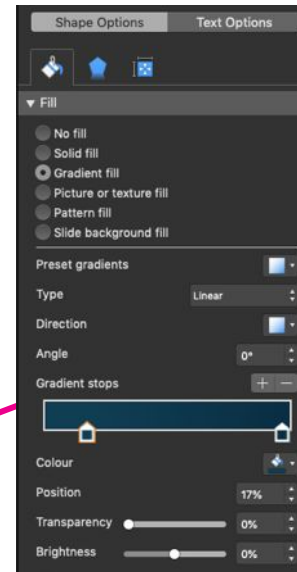
Shapes and icons

How to create a background image for your glass table

step 1: design it on PowerPoint using Google/Qwant... or any other image search engine

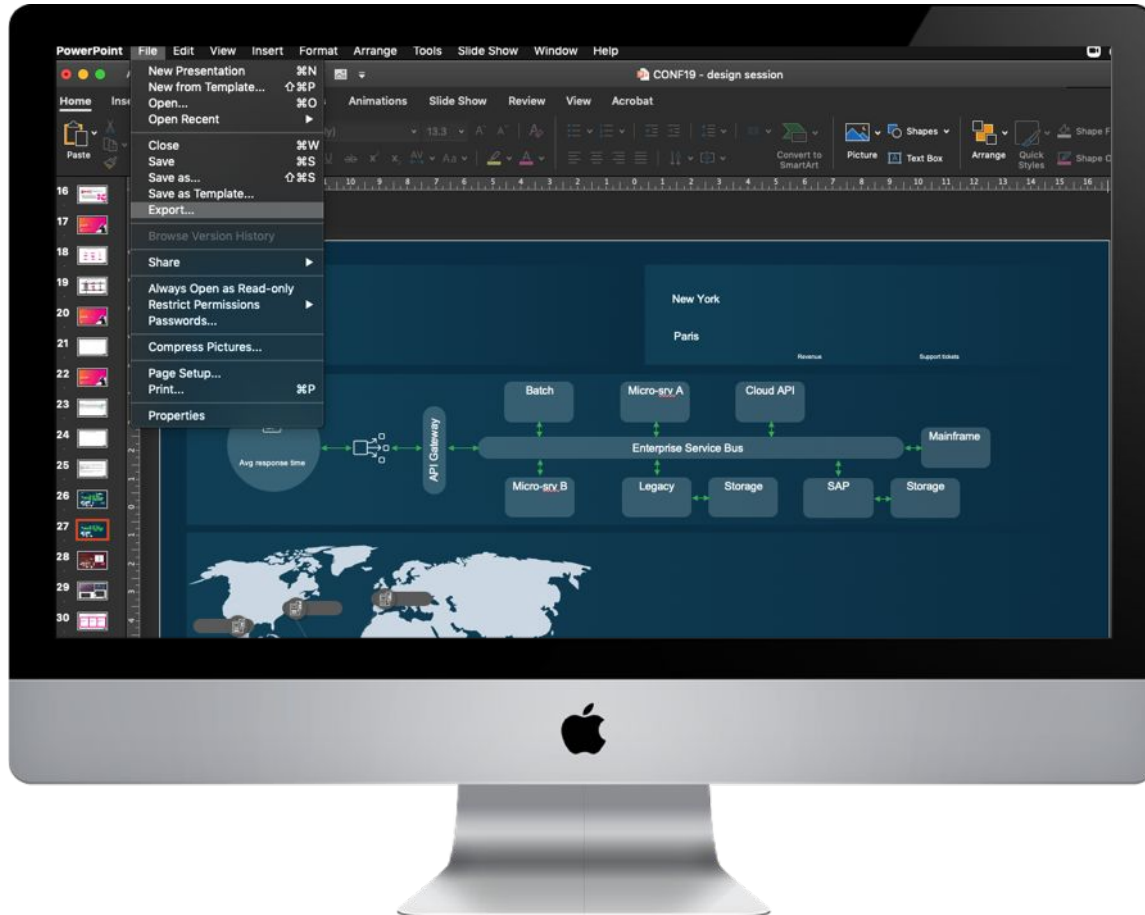


Right click on shape



How to create a background image for your glass table

Delete the widgets
(will be added later on ITSI)



Export as PNG
(will be added later on ITSI as background)



Principle #10

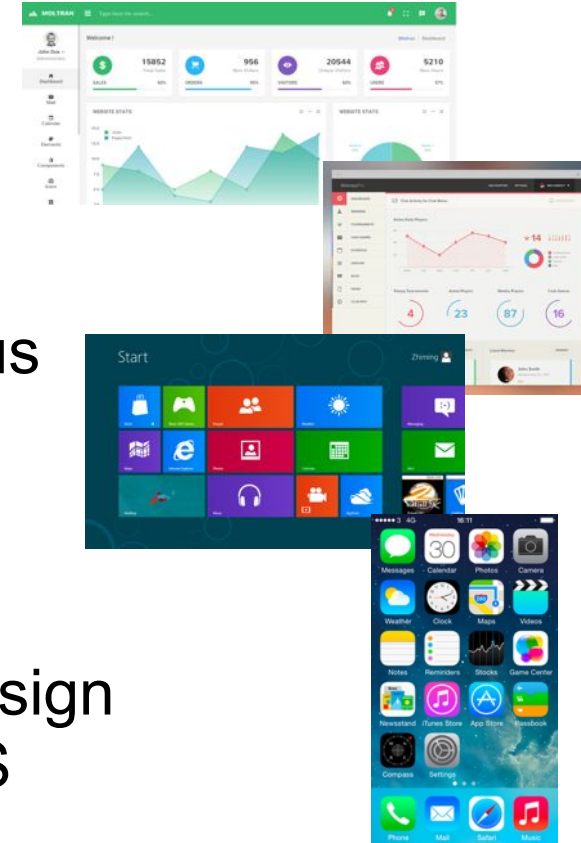
Be trendy



Flat Design



1. Minimalist
2. Influenced by the International Typographic Style and Bauhaus
3. Uses sans-serif typography ;)
4. Examples : Microsoft Metro design language (Xbox, Office...), iOS

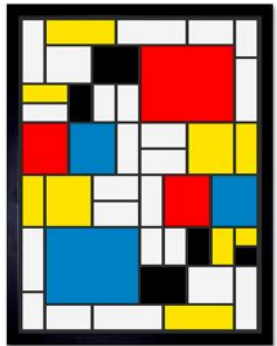


Color-blocking g

Thank you Mr Piet Mondrian

“ The exploration of taking colors that are opposites on the color wheel and pairing them together to make interesting and complementary color combinations” (wikipedia)

We see a growing problem with the use of color on dashboards/ glasstables these days. There's often either too much of it, making the dashboard visually overwhelming, or too little of it, producing a boring dashboard. The best way to engage users is through “colorblocking”: **balancing monochromatic background colors against bright colors to highlight important insights or anomalies in the data.**



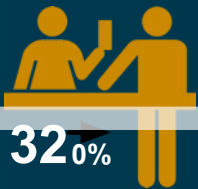
Overlapping



Landing page by Saepul Rohman

1. A technique likely to become more popular in the near future
2. the overlapping effect consists of colors, text or image
3. Overlaps can create a sense of space and a more structured interface
4. gradients add realism and depth to the platform (feels more natural)

\$4.3



New York
Paris

\$9.5

6%

\$4.2

3%

Revenue

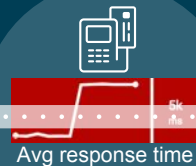
512

-7%

128

-12%

Support tickets



API Gateway

Batch



Micro-srv A



Cloud API



Enterprise Service Bus

Mainframe



Micro-srv B



Legacy



Storage



SAP



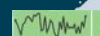
Storage



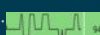
21/21

0/52

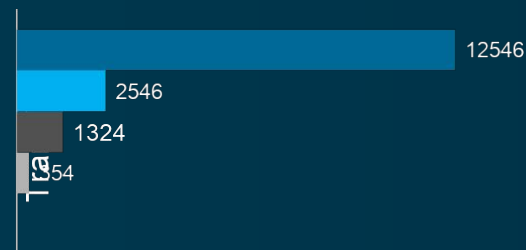
99/100



1/1

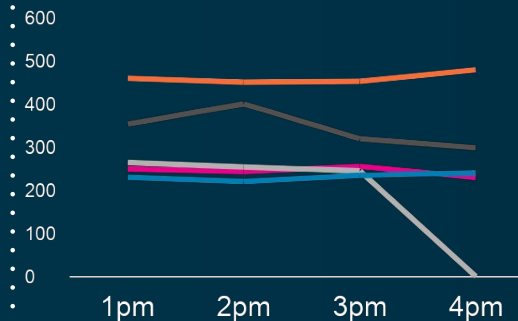


12/12



New York
Cape Town
Sidney
Los Angeles
Paris

Response time





**Thank
You!**

Q&A

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