

Personal Finance Dashboard

Introduction

These are the requirements you need to follow when designing your dashboard and visual analysis interface for the Dashboard Design Contest.

Backdrop

You have been tasked to create a personal finance dashboard for Sheila. She is an ambitious 25 year old woman who wishes to retire by the age of 55. In addition, she wants to maintain her current lifestyle when she retires. She estimates it will require **two million dollars** to do so.

Sheila will use her personal finance dashboard to monitor her budget and expenses. In addition, she wants to be able to explore the data to identify spending habits and expenditures that could be reduced or removed.

The Data

The data provided is as follows:

- **Chequing_Account** - this provides detail records of where available funds are being spent and where funds are coming from
- **Credit_Card** - this provides details on purchases made through a credit card
- **Mortgage** - this provides details on the mortgage. She has a mortgage at 2.1%. The minimum semi-monthly payment is 676 dollars. The current value of the property is 325,000.
- **Expense_Details** - consolidated list of expenses
- **Savings** - the monthly contribution is usually 1,000 broken up into two deposits. The interest rate is 5.5% per year.
- **Monthly_Budget** - this is a breakdown of the fund allocations based by ActivityType
- **ActualExpense_vs_Budget** - shows the actual amount spent on an ActivityType versus what was original budgeted for the month.
- **ActivityType** - There are 13 different types of financial activities for this dataset with self explanatory descriptions.

The Measures

These measures are at the core of the dashboard and they will help you determine the data to explore in your visual analysis interface.

The Key Performance Indicator

Expenses vs. Budget by ActivityType

This needs to be monitored on a daily basis as it helps her decide on whether or not Sheila should be buying a new laptop or going out for a fancy dinner. Although the budget is provided on a monthly basis, you can breakout the budget by day and compare that against the month to date expenses.

Tables to use: ActualExpense_vs_Budget

Performance Indicators (Measures)

Retirement Savings (Current and Projected)

Sheila wants to retire in 30 years so she will want to monitor if she will reach her goals based on her existing investment plan. *Projected is optional for this contest.

Tables to use: Savings

Expenses by ActivityType, Day

Spending trends and patterns help quickly identify areas that need to be cut down on.

Tables to use: ExpenseDetails

Existing Debt by Financial Product

This displays the outstanding debt for Sheila. The financial products in this contest include a credit card and mortgage.

Tables use: Credit_Card, Chequing_Account

Tips

Here are some tips that will help you get started.

- You can extend and modify the measures as long as you use the data provided by Dashboard Insight.
- You can add more measures to the dashboard if you would like. In fact, we encourage it. However, you must use the data provided by Dashboard Insight.
- If you are creating a dashboard, make sure you follow these simple principals.
 - All visualizations must fit on one screen. Dashboard Insight recommends using an aspect ratio of 4:3 (similar to that of most standard computer monitors).
 - There is no interactivity in a dashboard.
 - Don't have large empty spaces in your design.
 - Group visualizations together where you can.
- If you are creating a visual analysis interface, make sure to follow these simple principals.
 - Make the interactivity options easy to find.
 - Analysis interfaces show dynamic data (you don't know how many data points you will see); be sure to take an iterative approach at choosing the right visualization for the data.
 - Visual analysis tools generally help to find correlations, trends, outliers, patterns, and business conditions in data. Make sure your interface is doing that.

Questions?

If you have any questions with regards to the requirements, please email Alexander Chiang at alexander.chiang@dashboardinsight.com