# 6 WAYS TO
# ADD VALUE
## TO YOUR DASHBOARD
## WITH MAPS

Article from Revalsys Technologies

This article explains about the ways to add value to your dashboard with maps

In today's business environment, data plays a vital role to the success of any business. Though organisations know how valuable data is but not all have realized that just having loads of data is not enough. Data should be used the proper way so that people actually know its value. Data visualization is great to derive the best result out of data. Communicating information through your data becomes much easier.

However, your effort to visualize data becomes effective only when you have a well-designed dashboard. Having an effective dashboard lets users uncover key insights, speed up the process of decision making, make informed and better business decisions etc. Maps are also useful to add value to your dashboard.

Let's check some tips that will help in improving the value of maps:

- **Context is key**

When you use maps for data visualization, use the map that allows you to use the right amount of context. You shouldn't end up with visual clutter that distracts the viewers from the data. If you want the map to be the most vital visualization on the dashboard, you have to do some extra thing to make it pop out. You can consider using relevant colours, layers, text etc. However, the dashboard should look clean and sharp.

- **Use highlighting actions**

You can take advantage of highlighting actions in your maps and dashboards. For example, if you want your viewers to remain oriented on five different maps with different boundaries to make them understand how political districts have changed over a certain period of time, highlighting actions are helpful. When you set up a highlighting action based on the district number, the user can explore the districts one at a time.

- **Use maps as a filter**

You can consider using maps as a filter to make easier exploration on the dashboard. In comparison to the dropdown lists of text, geographic shapes can serve as better filters. Along with offering a better visual cue of the region selected, it allows users to select neighbouring regions of interest easily if they wanted to explore deeper.

- **Make use of colours**

When you have multiple worksheets on a dashboard, you can make use of the design tools that are available to integrate the map better. Make sure that the colours for the data complement the overall design of the dashboard.

- **Be creative with your shapes**

Make sure that you map is not limited. You can experiment with different shapes to make the layout look even better. You can use drop shadow effect to differentiate the controls of the dashboard clearly.

- **Consider locking down pan and zoom**

When you use a map, you can consider locking down pan and zoom as it prevents the users from changing the display accidently. This is particularly useful for users who use mobile devices for exploring data.

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