belfast met

Working with the Met

Data Visualisation

Connected
Bringing knowledge to business

In the era of Big Data, we have never had so much information available to us before. It is estimated that the amount of data crossing the Internet every second is greater than all the data stored in the Internet just 20 years ago. As a result we are now creating and storing exabytes of data on a daily basis. We have never had so much information available to us before. What we do with that data and how we present it to others is the challenge facing all types of organisations today. Through the Connected Programme, businesses have access to the knowledge and expertise which will help them present their data to decision makers and leaders so that it can be easily interpreted and understood.

What is Data Visualisation?

Data visualization is a way of representing data using graphics such as charts. Research tells us our brains process visual information much quicker and more easily than tabular data. With visualisations, we can simplify complex data sets, communicate and promote important ideas and even indicate patterns or future trends within the business.

It is an area within Data Analytics which is fast evolving and as a result presents a challenge to many businesses as they do not have the necessary skillset or knowledge to produce these types of visualisations within their organisation.

Industry Workshops and Seminars

Through the Connected programme, Belfast Met has been working closely with companies to develop bespoke knowledge workshops and seminars which highlight the key concepts and principles of data visualisation and which provide the necessary expertise help produce effective visualisations.

Belfast Met has already held Data Visualisation seminars where Yvonne Gamble spoke about the techniques and tools which can be used to effectively present and communicate the message or story which the data tells. Feedback was positively received with companies stating that the event "wet the appetite", was "informative and well pitched", "very inspiring" and gave attendees "ideas going forward".

Upskilling

Some of the biggest challenges with Data Visualisation are that staff do not have the necessary skillset or awareness of resources available in order to create effective visualisations. As a result, IT teams are faced with ever-growing requests for assistance. Without the necessary knowledge or skills, Data Visualisation can also be a very time-consuming task, resulting in ineffective or even misleading representation of data. Through Connected, Belfast Met has been able to work with local businesses, upskilling staff so that they are better equipped to meet these challenges and more aware of the resources available to them.

Belfast Metropolitan College recognise the importance of Data Visualisation for business and through the Connected programme provides a channel for companies to discuss innovative new areas with academics who are working in that field, gathering research and keen to develop projects. Belfast Met is currently working on Emerging Technology projects which include: Data Analytics, Data Visualisation, Internet of Things and Cyber Security.