

Four Perspectives on ViSta: Retrospective, Prospective, Introspective, and Respective

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Retrospective: ViSta has evolved, over the last 10 years, from a testbed for the development of new ideas in data visualization, to a mature and stable system which makes those ideas accessible to users around the world.

Prospective: ViSta is a free, open and extensible statistical visualization system, designed to bring the latest in highly interactive dynamic statistical visualization techniques to an audience whose statistical sophistication ranges from novice to expert. ViSta is also designed to be used by those developing such techniques to rapidly deploy their newest developments for use by that audience. Currently, new techniques are being developed by, perhaps, a dozen people located around the world. I will discuss how ViSta is used to rapidly deploy new developments.

Introspective: As the creator of ViSta, I have focused on the vision provided by my inner eye and brought that vision to the screen. But it is time for me to move on. I plan to continue supervising and moderating future development, but not to be involved in implementation. I will talk about mechanisms which are being put in place to ensure the continued development of ViSta's capabilities.

Respective: Many, many, many people have contributed in one way or another to ViSta's development over the years. I plan to celebrate this in a small way with those who have contributed who are at this conference.