

From Spreadsheet to System

Developing a robust data infrastructure

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Data Strategy for Systems Change - By All Means Spring Convening - May 18, 2023

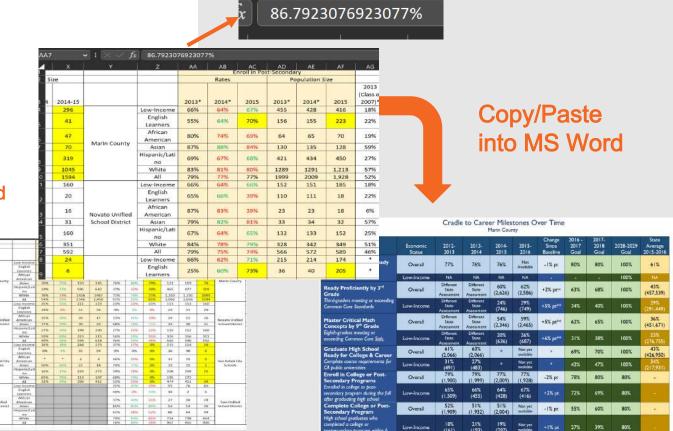
Death by a thousand data cuts

2016

English Learner

STIGRATULE LABOUR

- The Big Spreadsheet
- Manual data entry
- Hard coded values
- Shaded notes/reminders
- Manual paste into MS Word



Spreadsheets vs. Databases

Spreadsheets

PROS

- Everybody's using them
- Easy to format/produce small reports
- Great for quick analyses

CONS

- Normally requires manual data entry
- Limited ability to connect to other data
- Small datasets (record/type limitations)

Databases

PROS

- Reduced data entry = reduced errors
- Connect/relate easily to other data/systems
- Store/process large datasets (including files)

CONS

- Might need an expert (\$\$)
- Back-end that needs front -end visualization(s)
- More a lawnmower than weed wacker



Which tool should I use?













Spreadsheets

MS Excel, Google Sheets, Apple Numbers

Small Databases

Airtable

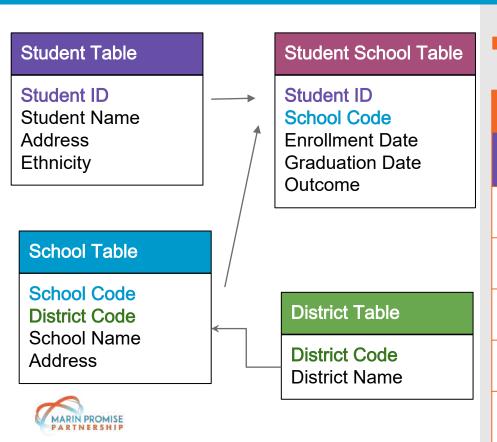
Intermediate Databases

MS Access, MySQL



Oracle, SQL Server, Amazon, BigQuery

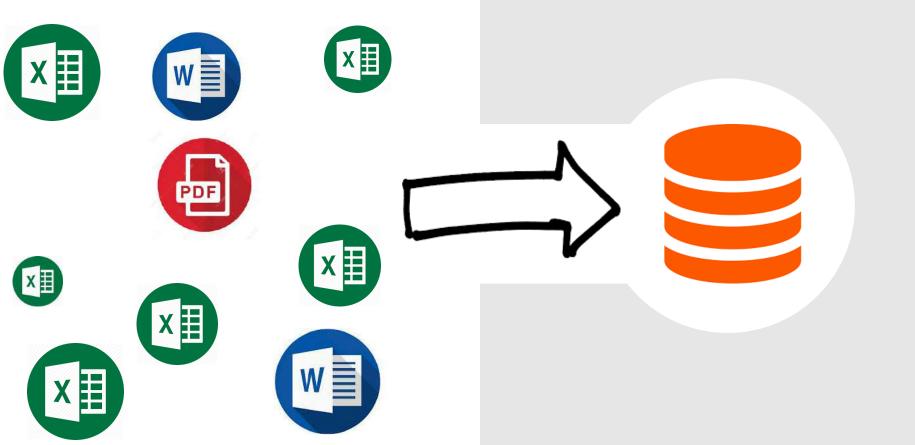
How to stop worrying and learn to love databases



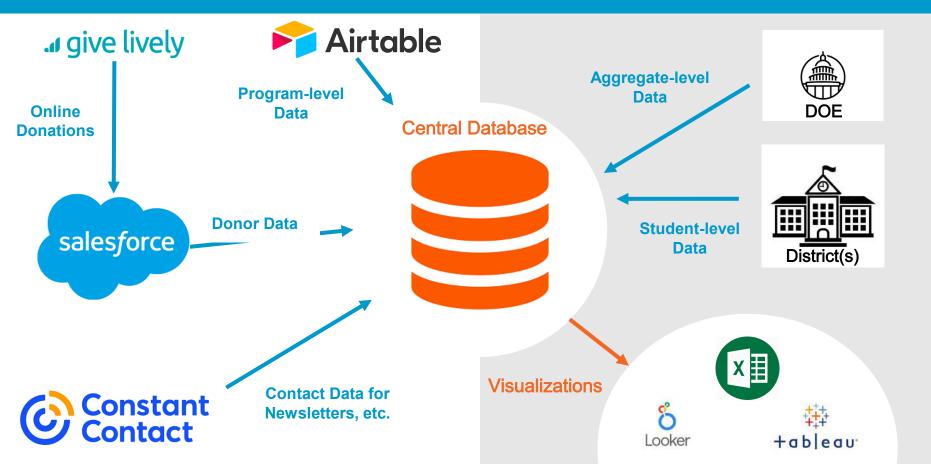
Automated View

Graduation View					
Student	School	District	E Date	G Date	Outcome
Jorge H	Rindge Upper	Cambridge Public Sch.	8/27/16	6/12/19	Certificate
Jorge H	Rindge & Latin	Cambridge Public Sch.	9/2/19	6/16/23	Diploma
Sam G	Haggerty	Cambridge Public Sch.	9/1/11	6/16/19	Certificate
Jean T	Haggerty	Cambridge Public Sch.	9/3/10	6/16/19	Certificate
Billy B	Haggerty	Cambridge Public Sch.	9/2/21	N/A	N/A

When and how should I migrate to a database?



Marin Promise Partnership Ecosystem - 2023



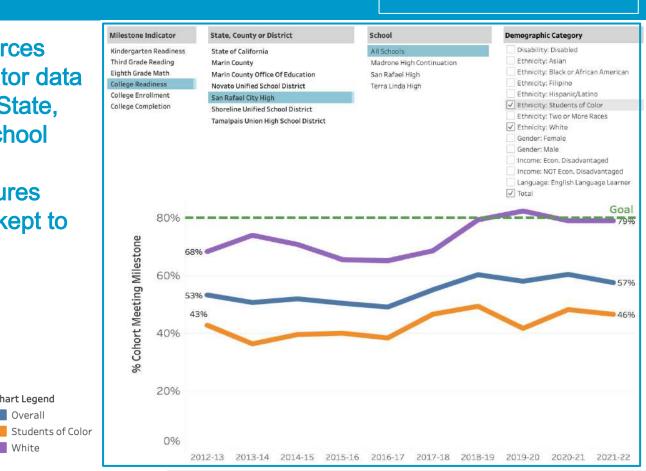
Visualization Ex: Run Chart w/Tableau

Chart Legend Overall

White

Follow Along: marinpromisepartnership.org -> Data -> Milestone Results Over Time

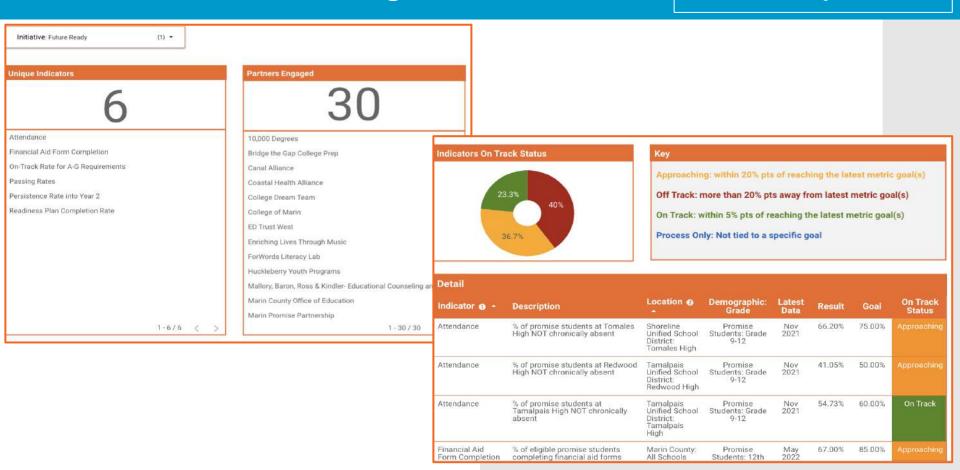
- 1. Four separate data sources
- 2. Users can toggle indicator data by demographic at the State, County, District, and School levels
- 3. Self-service model ensures "requests for data" are kept to a bare minimum





Visualization Ex: Google Studio

Follow Along: marinpromisepartnership.org-> Initiative Results-> Contributing Indicators



Visualization Ex: Google's Looker Studio

