

AMAZING CHARTS

PENTAHO

USERS WILL LOVE

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Summary

Dashboards are the entry point for **Business Intelligence** solutions and thus having a visually appealing interface is a key point for success and user adoption.

The trend nowadays is using a “Flat Design” approach. Meaning you drop pretty much any design element you can such as gradients, shadows, etc. and highlight what really matters: **CONTENT**.

When it comes to dashboards this is even more important because you want users focused on numbers and not on the design effects.

To achieve this you have to deal not only with your webpage look and feel but also matching it with the widgets style that compose your dashboard.



Flat design is the key to make dashboards easier to read and thus make ensure users are fully aware of business status and trends

Ricardo Pires - Associate Partner & Business Intelligence Lead,
Xpand IT



The importance of
**Business Intelligence
Dashboards**



DEFINING SUCCESS

Dashboards display a small group of goals that should be achieved requiring to carefully select the set of KPIs to display. When applied to the different levels of an organization it consistently defines what success is.



AGREEING ON A COMMON VISION

Numbers can be interpreted in different ways but by having a simplified representation that immediately identifies whether goals are being achieved you can create a single vision of results. This is something that cannot be done by only displaying raw figures.



SIMPLIFY DATA

Having an easy to read screen that is updated with new values on a regular basis provides the opportunity to keep track of progress without any effort. Changes become easy to follow and required actions can be quickly identified.

68%

of CIO's believe that
Data Visualizations is
a major priority

75%

Companies already
have reporting tools

60%

Companies will implement a new dashboarding
solution in the next 2 years

90%

Business users agree that dashboards improve an
effective communication of information

68%

Companies agree that BI Dashboards improve
business productivity

33%

BI functionality will be consumed via mobile
devices



Get the Delight of
FusionCharts
in **Pentaho**





Powered By Xpand IT

With FusionCharts Plugin you can use over 20 types of charts, widgets, maps and real-time charts on the Pentaho Business Analytics dashboards as well as on Analyzer.

Key Features



Extensive list of charts, widgets and maps available, including real time charts



Flexible look and feel by setting the many options available



Implemented in JavaScript (HTML5), meaning you get the same delight across devices and browsers



Integration with CDF, CDE & Analyzer

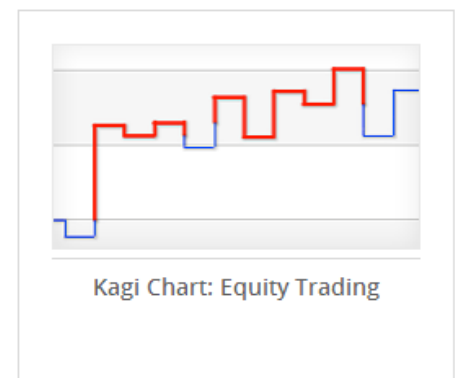
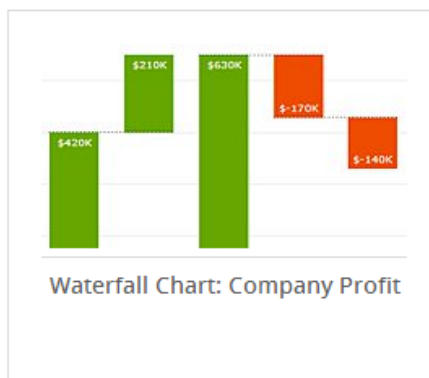
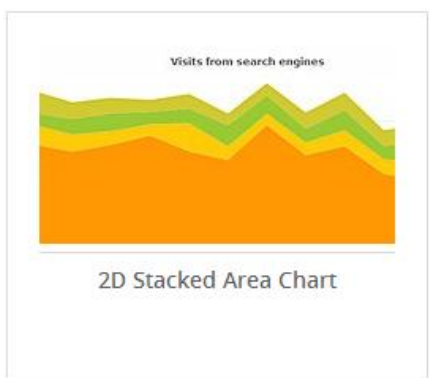
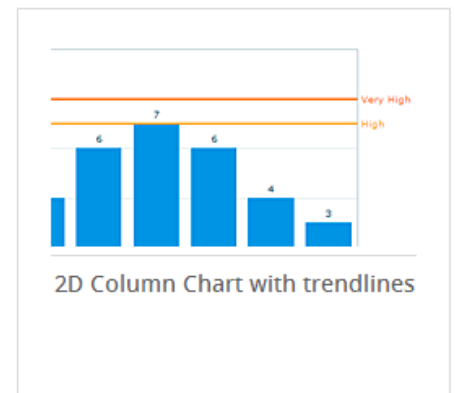
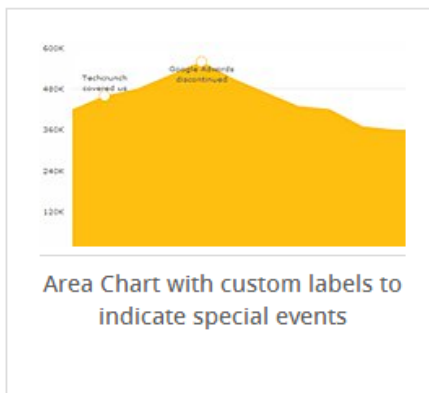
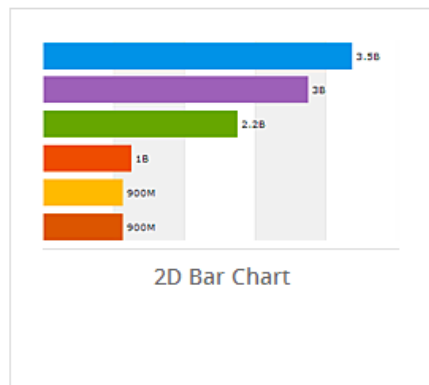
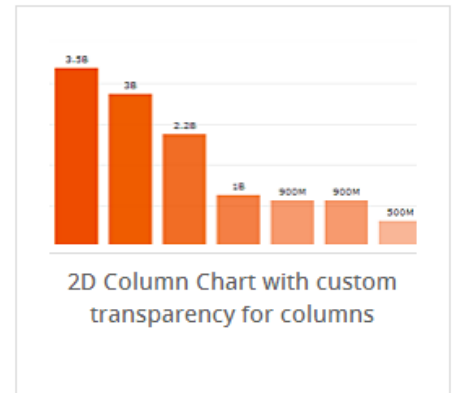
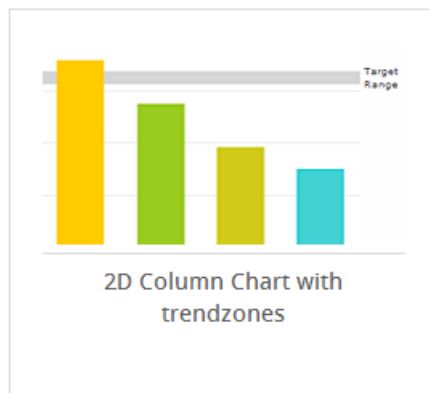
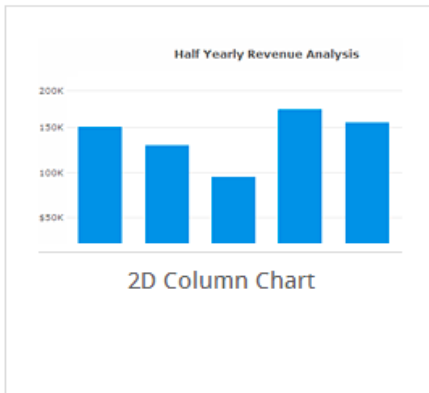


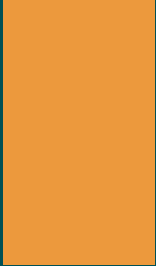
Get started in 15 minutes



FusionCharts Gallery

Design interactive, high impact Charts, Maps & Gauges





Building your
First Dashboard
using FusionCharts



11 Getting ready...



Installing **FusionCharts Plugin** has never been so easy. The plugin is now available on the **Pentaho Marketplace** and ready for the latest Pentaho version. If you need more information you can check the [wiki](#).

If you don't have Pentaho Marketplace already installed just download it from [here](#) unzip to `pentaho-solutions/system` and restart your server.

To explore this plugin, perform the following steps:



Access Marketplace

On the Pentaho User Console click on Home and select the Marketplace perspective.



Install

Go to FusionCharts plugin entry and click on Install. Click on Ok to start downloading. Restart the server.



Insert key

On the Pentaho User Console go to Tools -> FusionCharts Manager and follow the instructions to install the key. This is all free.

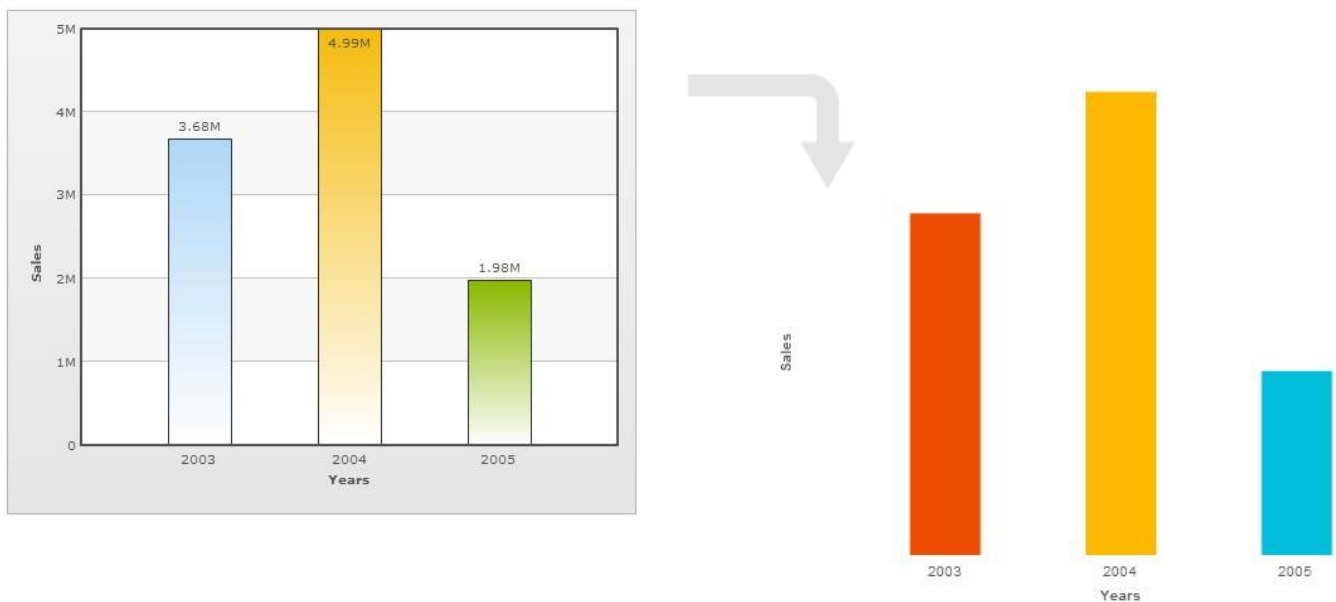


Try it

On the Browse Files perspective you can go to `Public\plugin-samples\fusion-charts` and explore the samples.

12 Defining the look & feel

How can you change to a **flat design**?

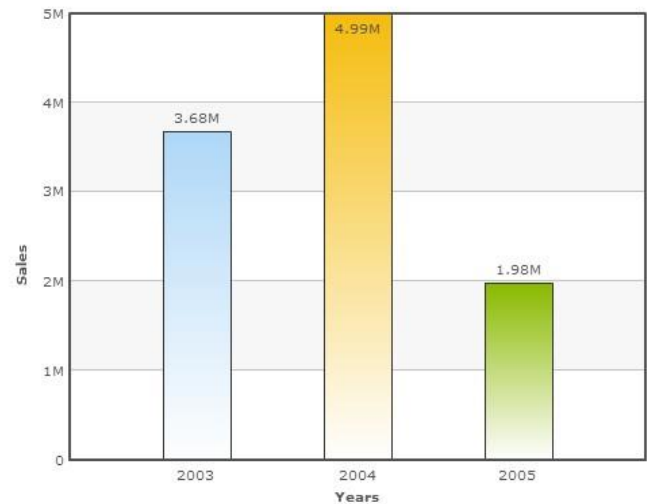
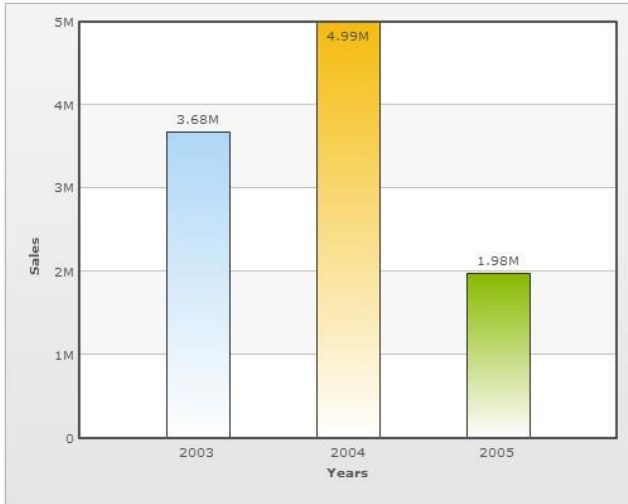


When rendering a **FusionCharts** chart using default settings you get something like the image above. You will find a lot of design elements being used like gradients, banding and borders. To get a flat design you need adjusting the settings.

The same way you have CSS for your dashboards the charts should also have a common look & feel. Setting it on the plugin is easy because we provide a configuration set that is used system wide.

This corresponds to editing the file `fusioncharts.properties` on `pentaho-solutions\system\fusion_plugin`.

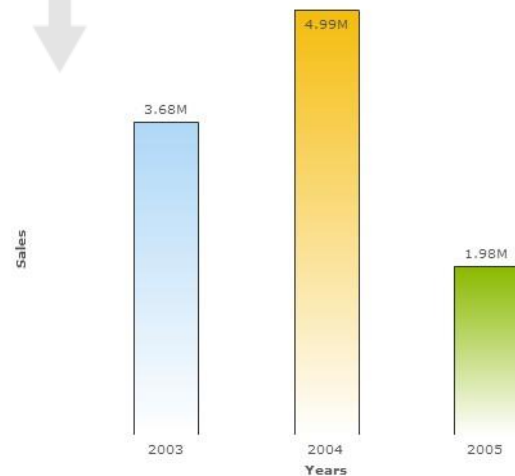
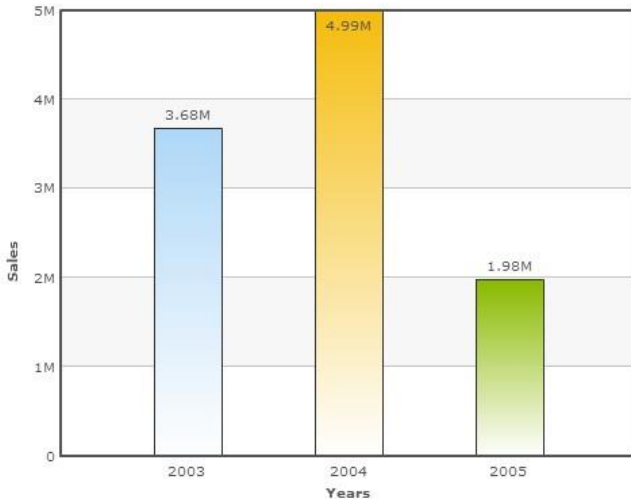
13 Background



To start let's remove the background of the chart by setting a single color on the background (`bgColor=ffffff`) that matches the webpage background and take out the border (`showBorder=0`).

You should also make sure the font used is consistent with your web site. For that you need to setup the font properties (`baseFont=Helvetica Light`, `baseFontColor=5F5F5F`, `outCnvBaseFont=Helvetica Light` and `outCnvBaseFontColor=5F5F5F`)

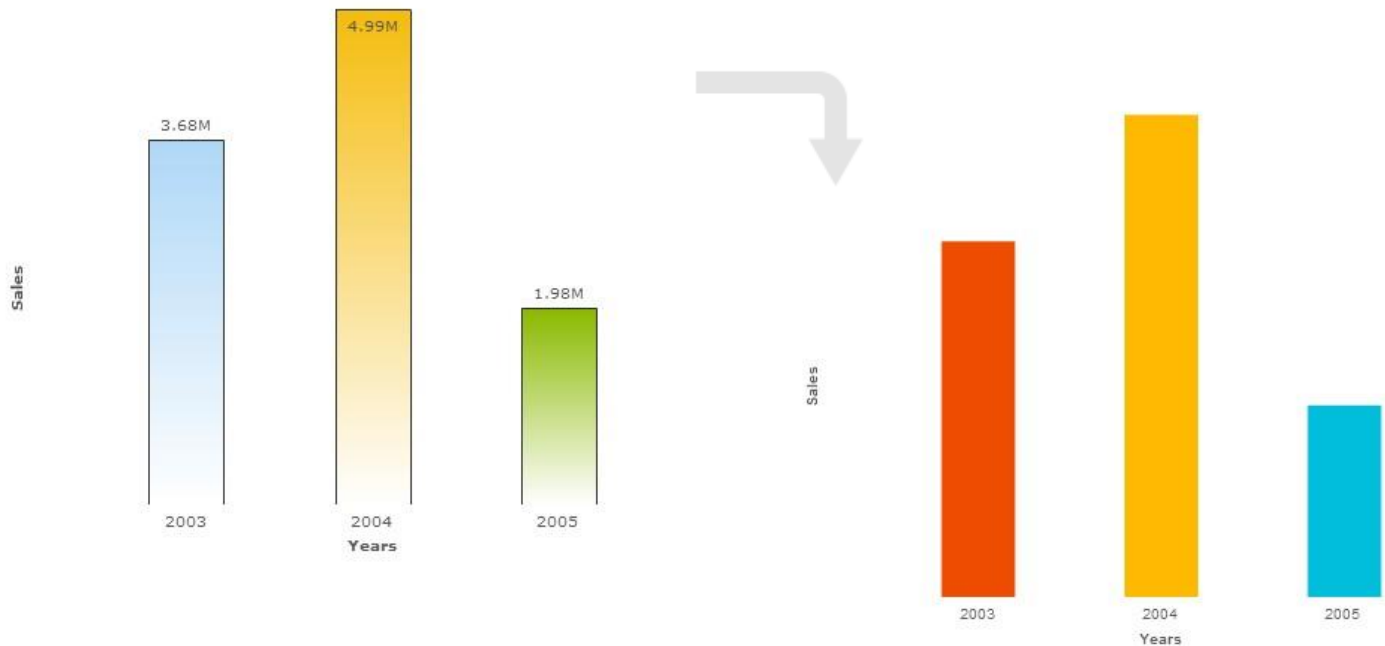
14 Canvas



Canvas is the area where the chart is plotted and to take our flat approach even further we need to change these settings too. Here we also want to take out the background (`canvasBgColor=ffffff`) and the borders (`canvasBorderAlpha=0`).

Chart divisional lines (`numDivLines=0`) and the chart limits (`showLimits=0`) are also removed.

15 Data Plot



When plotting the data lets customize the bars and values to make it consistent with the website around it. The first change is to remove the border around the bar (`showPlotBorder=0`) and then we need to adjust the bar colors (`paletteColors=479796,BFE7E9,00777E`).

Make sure you choose colors that look good and place them in the right order to be well distinguished Remember we are reducing all design elements, so taking out the gradients (`plotGradientColor=`) and the values from the bars (`showValues=0`) finishes our design.

Attractive

Users appreciate and are more likely to adopt dashboards that have style and substance.



Personalized

Tailor your dashboard to the role of the user, designing it around metrics specific to the individual



Self-sufficient

Dashboards should guide business users to relevant insight without help from IT.

Dashboards should be intuitive and provide simple access to business data



Interactive

Dashboards are not a static experience. Users should be able to apply filters and adjust values on a chart, for example, to plan for various scenarios.

You might also consider having a direct link to an exploration tool giving extra freedom to users.



5 keys to BI Dashboard Success



Mobile Oriented

Dashboards should be accessible from any device so users can view their data anywhere, anytime..

17 Conclusion



FusionCharts – Loved by 22,000 customers in 120 countries

Pentaho users really love the FusionCharts Plugin as it allows them to create delightful charts and dashboards that make their work more appealing and fun. If you need any additional help or have a specific requirement for the plugin feel free to contact us.

Visit our website, and download the FusionCharts Plugin. Don't forget to give us your feedback and share your experience with your friends!

Why Wait?

Pentaho users really love the FusionCharts Plugin as it allows them to create delightful charts and dashboards that make their work more appealing and fun.

Xpand IT is a **Pentaho Certified Partner & FusionCharts Worldwide Reseller**. Now, you can download the free FusionCharts Plugin for Pentaho (+20 Charts) or Request your Quote for the complete FusionCharts XT Suite (+90 Charts, Maps & Gauges).

Take Action!



FusionCharts Plugin for Pentaho

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Services Package

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