

TABLEAU

Making Strategic, Data Driven Decisions Using Data Visualization Services

Research and research administration produce incredible amounts of data; data informatics and visualization propel the mission of Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) Research Institute by crafting useful, simplified, and meaningful content that translates data into actionable decisions. The [Research Information Services \(RIS\) Business Analytics Services](#), led by Sun Yang, supports CHOP Research Institute leaders and researchers in making data driven strategic decisions through [consultation](#), [data analysis](#), and [data visualization services](#).

With financial stewardship top of mind, the RIS Business Analytics Services team set out to provide the Research Institute with a reporting and analytics dashboard that would allow for easy oversight and management of research budgets. After a thorough search of data visualization software platforms, the team selected [Tableau](#). Tableau is a data visualization and analytics platform that transforms data into visual graphs presented in easy-to-understand dashboards and worksheets. Top features include:

- **Data Inquiry** – Real time ad hoc inquiry, data integration outside CHOP DW, summary to transaction level drill down, and prompted constraints
- **Data Analysis** – Forecasting, time-based analysis, business modeling-what if scenarios, statistical functions, and regression analysis
- **Reporting** – Complex calculations (rolling sums, period comparisons) exception reporting, drill up & down
- **Data Security** – Table, row and field level security.
- **Portability and Accessibility** – remote locations (VPN/mobile device), stand-alone access, internal collaboration

Additional benefits of Tableau include:

- **Collaboration and Sharing** – Write comments on Tableau’s server, so you can share feedback with everyone
- **Automated alerts/subscriptions** – an end user can set an alert to notify if you over spend on one area, or a turnaround metric is exceeded.
- **Knowledge discovery** – finding patterns, relationships between variables, and clustering

Those interested can learn more about Tableau in this [introductory video](#).

With an eye always towards the future, the RIS Business Analytics Services team has several new exciting features currently in development. One such feature includes an “Ask Data” functionality, which will allow users to ask direct questions within Tableau and receive real-time, meaningful, actionable answers, such as, “How many people are on vacation?”

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“How much have I spent in the last month?”, or “How much did I spend on software in the last quarter?” Another highly anticipated feature in development will provide users with a data driven scorecard/dashboard to track progress on operational objectives, clearly and effortlessly see where to best direct resources, and to act on this knowledge in a timelier way.

As an important part of [Research Information Services](#)' ongoing commitment providing cutting edge technology-based solutions and [exceptional service](#) to support the mission and work of CHOP's researchers and administrators, [contact](#) the Business Analytics Services team today to schedule a consultation and discover how their team can support you in making strategic, data driven decisions for your team, lab, center, or department.

Resources:

- [Tableau](#)
- [Data Visualization Services](#)
- [RIS Business Analytics Services Team](#)
- [RIS Business Analytics Services](#)
- [Tableau Introductory Video](#)