

Transcript | AI for Data Visualisation

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00:00:11.630 --> 00:00:17.790

Natalia Williams: Hello, and welcome to this AI Skills Lab edition on AI for data visualisation.

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00:00:17.980 --> 00:00:22.269

Natalia Williams: My name is Natalia Williams, and I'm an event planner here at Apolitical.

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00:00:22.530 --> 00:00:39.540

Natalia Williams: Today, we are looking at how public servants can use AI to turn data into clear, compelling visuals. We will explore how to go from a spreadsheet or a question to the right chat, refine how the visuals is presented, and sense-check the output so it tells the right story for your audience.

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00:00:39.780 --> 00:00:53.170

Natalia Williams: For those of you who might be joining us for the first time, welcome. Apolitical is the world's largest online network for government, used by more than half a million public servants and policymakers across 170 countries.

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00:00:53.490 --> 00:01:10.800

Natalia Williams: Apolitical is a strategic partner to governments, helping them to prepare their workforces for the future. We achieve this by upskilling through expert-led learning programs and peer communities, as well as by building innovative AI-powered tools designed for and with governments.

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00:01:11.210 --> 00:01:18.970

Natalia Williams: So, it would be great to hear from all of you too, so do post in the chat where you're joining us from, and what organization you work for.

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00:01:19.190 --> 00:01:26.080

Natalia Williams: And now I'm just gonna go into a few quick bits of housekeeping before we get into today's session.

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00:01:26.230 --> 00:01:33.929

Natalia Williams: So firstly, I will mention that this event is recorded for on-demand viewing on the Apolitical website, so please don't record it yourself.

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00:01:34.080 --> 00:01:40.839

Natalia Williams: We'll also be using the recording to generate event insights, including with AI-powered software.

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00:01:41.020 --> 00:01:49.259

Natalia Williams: As the session is running on Zoom webinar, we won't collect your video or audio data, but personal data you share in the chat might be captured.

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00:01:49.340 --> 00:02:04.089

Natalia Williams: Contact details for privacy concerns are in the Apolitical homepage footer, and closed captions are available in your own language, and can be toggled on and off in your screen setting. And my colleague will post all of the instructions in the chat.

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00:02:04.970 --> 00:02:15.800

Natalia Williams: So, secondly, I would love to extend an invitation to join over 3,000 of your peers in public service from across the globe in our AI in government community.

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00:02:15.870 --> 00:02:26.829

Natalia Williams: This is an online community to share conversations, insights, ideas, and resources on the use of AI in government, through connection with peers across the globe.

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00:02:27.110 --> 00:02:32.940

Natalia Williams: And this space is open to all, whether you consider yourself an AI expert or AI novice.

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00:02:33.080 --> 00:02:44.730

Natalia Williams: And the link to the resources tab at the bottom of your screen, and my colleague is also posting a link in the chat. So, I'd love to see your voices in this community.

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00:02:44.920 --> 00:02:54.789

Natalia Williams: All right, let me just check who, we have here in the room. Wow, this chat, is busy! So we have,

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00:02:55.050 --> 00:03:11.079

Natalia Williams: Joining from Quebec, amazing, from Toronto, Ministry of Justice London, amazing, welcome, Canada! Hello, Canada! Bristol! Okay, Scotland! Hello, Scotland! All over the world, amazing. London again?

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00:03:11.080 --> 00:03:30.770

Natalia Williams: Wales! Hello, Wales! Twp London, amazing! Brighton Council, wow, that's fantastic. And Vienna, Austria! Hello, Austria! It's very exciting, so great to have you all here. Nigeria and Peru, truly, truly around the world, our audience is...

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00:03:30.880 --> 00:03:31.760

Natalia Williams: Right.

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00:03:31.900 --> 00:03:51.800

Natalia Williams: Okay, so before we introduce our speaker, I'd love to hear your ideas on... ideas to shape our future AI Skills Lab events, just like this one. So, please share in the pop-up right now, we have a poll. Where would AI help you most right now?

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00:03:51.830 --> 00:03:54.379

Natalia Williams: So, share a task or a need.

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00:03:54.500 --> 00:04:03.930

Natalia Williams: Where you would benefit from learning, and we'll make sure to read them all, and our future events will be designed

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00:04:04.070 --> 00:04:16.029

Natalia Williams: With all of your answers in mind. So, do share that. I'll just give you a second. It is an, open text answer, so,

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00:04:16.029 --> 00:04:25.420

Natalia Williams: I'll give you a second just to type your ideas, your needs, anything that comes to mind. If you've been to our AI Skills Lab.

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00:04:25.420 --> 00:04:41.310

Natalia Williams: events like this, you will have a good idea what is happening right now, and what you do, and why we're doing it. Okay, I'm seeing a lot of answers, amazing. I'll just give you another second, and then we'll move on to the speaker.

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00:04:44.490 --> 00:04:46.620

Natalia Williams: Okay, wow.

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00:04:46.970 --> 00:04:56.870

Natalia Williams: I can see a lot of ideas. This is... this is so great to see. Thank you so much, everyone, for your contribution. I'm also seeing that we have

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00:04:57.170 --> 00:04:59.979

Natalia Williams: Attendees from Italy. Wow.

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00:05:00.470 --> 00:05:18.090

Natalia Williams: I hope the weather is nice and easy today. All right, thank you so much. We've got, over 150 replies. This is great. So, thank you so much for sharing your ideas. And now introducing our speaker. We are fortunate to have a brilliant guest, Ali, joining us today.

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00:05:18.250 --> 00:05:25.290

Natalia Williams: Ali Saral is a data and behavioral scientist at the CEB Secretariat of the UN Common System.

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00:05:25.440 --> 00:05:50.030

Natalia Williams: And a communist by training, with a background in academic research, he works at the intersection of behavioral science and data science, building data-driven products, predictive model, and AI-powered tools to generate insights, communicate data, and inform decision-making. Fantastic. You can read the full bio by visiting the resources tab at the bottom of your Zoom screen and heading to the speaker section.

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00:05:50.870 --> 00:06:10.839

Natalia Williams: And my colleague just posted this instruction as well. All right, Ali, it's a pleasure to have you here with us. I'm going to hand over to you for the next 15 minutes, and then we're going to have a few minutes reserved for Q&A, so attendees, submit your questions for Ali in the Q&A tab. Ali, the floor is yours.

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00:06:11.690 --> 00:06:15.150

Ali Seyhun Saral: Thank you very much, Natalia, and thank you very much for the kind introduction.

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00:06:15.250 --> 00:06:17.300

Ali Seyhun Saral: Let me share my screen.

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00:06:18.730 --> 00:06:20.010

Ali Seyhun Saral: Okay.

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00:06:20.460 --> 00:06:30.029

Ali Seyhun Saral: So, today's gonna be a practical session. It will be less of a theory, more of a demo session on AI for data visualization.

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00:06:30.540 --> 00:06:38.589

Ali Seyhun Saral: And, I think most of us have been using AI, and there are different ways to use AI, and...

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00:06:38.740 --> 00:06:58.419

Ali Seyhun Saral: I'm just gonna tell you, before we start, how do I use AI for data visualization. And of course, the very obvious thing is to use it as an assistant. You can ask AI to summarize data, run tedious tasks for you, clean text data, classify data, write code, create documentation, and so on.

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00:06:59.000 --> 00:07:08.930

Ali Seyhun Saral: But, two other useful modes is that you can treat AI as an expert on data visualization. Of course, there are upsides and downsides of it, but it can

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00:07:08.930 --> 00:07:22.369

Ali Seyhun Saral: tell you about visualization types, which data is good for which Visualisation types, which technologies and frameworks you might want to use. Colors and art is one thing that you can ask about colors.

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00:07:22.370 --> 00:07:24.860

Ali Seyhun Saral: And also, very useful,

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00:07:24.970 --> 00:07:32.249

Ali Seyhun Saral: way to use it to ask about accessibility, because it has... it can provide you some nice tools.

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00:07:32.250 --> 00:07:47.260

Ali Seyhun Saral: And the third thing is that audience simulator. You can... AI is very good in taking some roles and give you some feedback on that, so you can tell, act as a student, what do you think about this data visualization, what is not clear, how was the flow, and so on.

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00:07:47.330 --> 00:07:52.509

Ali Seyhun Saral: So these are the things that I use, and I will demonstrate some of them, today.

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00:07:54.160 --> 00:08:06.979

Ali Seyhun Saral: Unfortunately, not all of them. So in this session, I'm gonna use Excel and Copilot, but I think most of the things that I will mention is very transferable, so you can use other tools, but I think for us.

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00:08:06.980 --> 00:08:15.100

Ali Seyhun Saral: Excel spreadsheets are very natural to use, and many of us already have some Copilot

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00:08:15.100 --> 00:08:17.949

Ali Seyhun Saral: Enterprise licenses that, that you can use.

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00:08:18.530 --> 00:08:23.629

Ali Seyhun Saral: And let me introduce a dataset that I'm gonna use. Let me just...

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00:08:23.700 --> 00:08:40.640

Ali Seyhun Saral: switch, sorry. So, I have a very, very simple data set, in... so I have 3 sheets, and you're looking at the employee's sheet. This is kind of like an HR, data. It's a... it's a synthetic data, I generated using AI as well.

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00:08:40.640 --> 00:08:55.370

Ali Seyhun Saral: So it's, employee record for 2 years. Let's say you have 2025 and 2026, and every employee has an employee ID that you can track, and then every employee has a department. And what we're interested in

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00:08:55.370 --> 00:09:10.500

Ali Seyhun Saral: to understand the satisfaction in the... let's say that you're in a company, satisfaction in the company, and attrition, and how people... how often people change departments. So these are the general things that we're gonna be looking.

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00:09:10.510 --> 00:09:26.080

Ali Seyhun Saral: And let me show you, first of all, how to interact with Copilot in Excel. So, there are different ways, but you might see on the right button, there's a Copilot button that you can see. You can click on that, and you will see some...

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00:09:26.400 --> 00:09:27.360

Ali Seyhun Saral: some...

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00:09:27.710 --> 00:09:44.190

Ali Seyhun Saral: panel opening, like, it's similar to other chatbots, like ChatGPT, and if you've been using Copilot already, it's very similar. Or you can just, in the search button, you can write chat with Copilot, then you can open it. And...

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00:09:44.470 --> 00:09:46.160

Ali Seyhun Saral: And this looks like...

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00:09:46.210 --> 00:10:01.409

Ali Seyhun Saral: like a regular co-pilot, but the beauty of it is that it can interact with your Excel session, so it knows what is inside most of the times, it can get some context, and it can plug some

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00:10:01.410 --> 00:10:08.589

Ali Seyhun Saral: plots, or some formulas, and so on, so it's a very natural experience to work with Excel.

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00:10:08.700 --> 00:10:12.770

Ali Seyhun Saral: Of course, you should check with your department and your

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00:10:13.570 --> 00:10:21.480

Ali Seyhun Saral: Your license, but you might see a similar window, or not... a window that is a bit different.

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00:10:21.490 --> 00:10:34.559

Ali Seyhun Saral: And the key thing is here. So, normally, Copilot is chat only. If you're using Copilot, you need to upload the data in order to get something, but in Excel, you have this mode.

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00:10:34.860 --> 00:10:38.830

Ali Seyhun Saral: That is called Hello Editing Mode. So once you do that.

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00:10:39.170 --> 00:10:43.130

Ali Seyhun Saral: Copilot can interact with your sheet in this way.

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00:10:43.280 --> 00:10:58.670

Ali Seyhun Saral: Okay, so, let me just show you how to use it. Usually, what I do is that I write, for instance, we have this data, I can just tell, can you, tell me how many unique employees

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00:10:59.490 --> 00:11:03.469

Ali Seyhun Saral: Are there, and how many observations?

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00:11:04.380 --> 00:11:06.890

Ali Seyhun Saral: Per, year.

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00:11:07.580 --> 00:11:11.450

Ali Seyhun Saral: Create... And new sheets.

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00:11:12.530 --> 00:11:22.470

Ali Seyhun Saral: And I usually write, create a new sheet, because it tends to sometimes, you know, like, put something on the sheet that you're working. You want to keep your workspace clean.

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00:11:22.890 --> 00:11:30.169

Ali Seyhun Saral: and with new sheets, usually you can keep up, and you can move around, and so on. And you can see that it's...

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00:11:30.170 --> 00:11:46.740

Ali Seyhun Saral: does things sometimes in a single step, sometimes in several steps, but it also gives you some information about its thinking. So, I mean, this is a very straightforward prompt, but sometimes you can also... it will be very, very beneficial to see the

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00:11:46.740 --> 00:11:59.330

Ali Seyhun Saral: the ideas, that... how did Copilot reach the conclusions, or... or, the mode. So, I would like to, I would like to emphasize that

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00:11:59.440 --> 00:12:09.790

Ali Seyhun Saral: So look at this, this sheet. Now I have my new sheet. You can see some colorful borders. It means that it co-pilot generated it. It's not something you generated, but Copilot generated it.

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00:12:10.030 --> 00:12:19.400

Ali Seyhun Saral: And, you know, when, for instance, if you're using other AI bots, it will just calculate it and give it for you. But in here, you can see it's

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00:12:19.610 --> 00:12:28.979

Ali Seyhun Saral: did the calculations with the necessary formulas, so you can easily edit it and see what's underneath. And this is particularly useful

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00:12:28.980 --> 00:12:41.220

Ali Seyhun Saral: useful for Excel, so you can see the number of observations. It used some COUNTIF function. If you don't know a lot about functions in Excel, don't worry, we're not gonna use any of them today, but...

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00:12:41.240 --> 00:12:47.020

Ali Seyhun Saral: The beauty is that sometimes if you don't remember how to do something, it can give you some indicator.

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00:12:47.400 --> 00:12:48.320

Ali Seyhun Saral: All right.

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00:12:48.460 --> 00:12:49.840

Ali Seyhun Saral: So let's

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00:12:50.070 --> 00:12:58.679

Ali Seyhun Saral: move on. I recorded some... some... some of the... of the things that I would like to do. Oops, I'm sorry.

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00:12:58.780 --> 00:13:10.259

Ali Seyhun Saral: So, the other sheet that I have is the satisfaction survey. So, assume that, like, we are interested in the employee satisfaction, and the columns we have here is that we ask

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00:13:10.310 --> 00:13:20.419

Ali Seyhun Saral: how satisfied are you with the company? And then we ask some comment, on, whether the employees have some comments on,

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00:13:20.480 --> 00:13:23.150

Ali Seyhun Saral: That they want to send with the survey.

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00:13:23.560 --> 00:13:25.119

Ali Seyhun Saral: So, one thing that...

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00:13:25.430 --> 00:13:33.759

Ali Seyhun Saral: Copilot can do... by the way, you're seeing a video, and let me note that I am gonna talk over the

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00:13:33.860 --> 00:13:46.430

Ali Seyhun Saral: the video, so you don't have to follow the prompt itself, I'm gonna explain what the prompt is, so if you miss it, don't worry, I will just show you. So you can just follow what's going on. Anyways.

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00:13:46.830 --> 00:14:05.859

Ali Seyhun Saral: So, normally, if I'm using a text input like that, I need to process it, right? I need to categorize it, so on. And one thing LLMs can do very well is to categorize text. They are language models. So, I ask.

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00:14:06.100 --> 00:14:24.969

Ali Seyhun Saral: Can you take a look at the satisfaction survey sheet? I specifically tell the sheet, and take a look at the comments column. And I said, first, read through the column, and identify the topics that are mentioned in the comments, and then create dummy variables, 0, 1, to flag the topics for me.

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00:14:25.330 --> 00:14:28.300

Ali Seyhun Saral: And then it just does, in steps,

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00:14:28.620 --> 00:14:34.960

Ali Seyhun Saral: So, it generated me, in a matter of seconds, the topics that some people wrote about.

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00:14:34.960 --> 00:14:51.369

Ali Seyhun Saral: compensation benefits. If it's one that somebody talked about, compensation, for instance, the learning budget is the real money, and nobody makes you fight for it. That's a good thing, right? And the compensation needs to be improved. That's a bad thing. And here, I created the dummy just to understand whether the comment is about

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00:14:51.410 --> 00:14:52.880

Ali Seyhun Saral: Compensation or not.

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00:14:53.060 --> 00:15:02.869

Ali Seyhun Saral: And I can also ask about sentiment. Elevate for me whether the comments are good or bad, so...

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00:15:02.960 --> 00:15:14.489

Ali Seyhun Saral: I can just tell Copilot, give me a 1 if it's a good comment, minus 1 if it's a bad comment. So I can use this 1 and minus 1 for plotting.

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00:15:15.050 --> 00:15:22.979

Ali Seyhun Saral: And then it goes through all the comments, and it generates the sentiment columns.

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00:15:23.930 --> 00:15:29.890

Ali Seyhun Saral: So, the next thing I can do, I can just say, now create a plot about the sentiments.

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00:15:30.410 --> 00:15:37.800

Ali Seyhun Saral: And... I want to see... Which topic is mentioned, and what are the sentiments about that?

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00:15:38.110 --> 00:15:41.060

Ali Seyhun Saral: And it will just give me,

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00:15:41.170 --> 00:15:48.410

Ali Seyhun Saral: A plot that is not the prettiest plot ever, but it takes the data, and it's there, and it's...

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00:15:49.250 --> 00:15:58.209

Ali Seyhun Saral: And then I can ask... Can you sort the items based on the overall, positive comments?

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00:15:59.310 --> 00:16:01.190

Ali Seyhun Saral: And it does that, but it...

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00:16:01.330 --> 00:16:16.229

Ali Seyhun Saral: didn't do the way I wanted. I wanted them to be sorted from positives, from the, like, highest number to the lowest number. Then I can tell that. So it's a... it's an iterative process. I mean, it doesn't matter what you want to do with it, but the way you work with it

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00:16:16.230 --> 00:16:25.120

Ali Seyhun Saral: the way you work best with Copilot is that you start from general to a specific. That is, I think, is quite useful.

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00:16:26.270 --> 00:16:40.690

Ali Seyhun Saral: then you can ask for improvements, and then it gives you a plot. And I just want to note to you, like, I didn't do any coding or anything, so I had a text file, I had just comments.

103

00:16:40.730 --> 00:16:49.920

Ali Seyhun Saral: And I have the plots of it. It's kind of magic when you think about it. It used to take, like, 4 weeks that you need to hire people to, to code them and so on, so that's...

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00:16:50.250 --> 00:16:54.590

Ali Seyhun Saral: I think that's the beauty of AI, but also specifically this one.

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00:16:54.970 --> 00:17:00.430

Ali Seyhun Saral: Okay, so let's go back to our employees' spreadsheet.

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00:17:00.490 --> 00:17:20.020

Ali Seyhun Saral: Here I have two columns, but, like, I skipped the data cleaning part, there's a clean version. So, what was I interested in? I was interested in the people who moved between departments and people who left the company between 2025 and 2026. These are the data that I have.

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00:17:20.319 --> 00:17:25.120

Ali Seyhun Saral: So I ask... I would like to plot something like that.

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00:17:25.220 --> 00:17:36.619

Ali Seyhun Saral: And I want to use Employees Sheet and the department clean column. I am being very specific about the columns in the sheet. This is how it works the best. It doesn't have to be that way, oops.

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00:17:36.890 --> 00:17:45.060

Ali Seyhun Saral: It doesn't have to be this way, usually it understands very well from the context. Sorry, I have to rewind a bit.

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00:17:46.220 --> 00:17:49.849

Ali Seyhun Saral: But the more specific is better, usually.

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00:17:50.010 --> 00:17:54.300

Ali Seyhun Saral: Anyway, so I'm not asking so far to draw something.

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00:17:54.490 --> 00:18:00.149

Ali Seyhun Saral: But I'm asking what kind of plots that I can use for this kind of data? There's a flow data.

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00:18:00.380 --> 00:18:01.270

Ali Seyhun Saral: And...

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00:18:01.820 --> 00:18:20.980

Ali Seyhun Saral: So, at this moment, I mentioned there are 3 kind of ways to use it, and now we are talking about the expert kind of way. So, I'm asking, what can be a good data visualization? So, it suggests me a stack bar, a bar chart, oops, again, sorry, I have to control my clicks better. And it...

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00:18:21.300 --> 00:18:29.619

Ali Seyhun Saral: Also, suggest me here, maybe I should emphasize here on the right side, it tells me you can use Sankey diagram. It shows department flows.

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00:18:30.140 --> 00:18:43.950

Ali Seyhun Saral: But Excel has no native Sankey chart. Let me show what is a native and non-native chart, by the way. So, let me just go back to the employee survey that we created. So, if you look at this chart.

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00:18:44.140 --> 00:18:54.860

Ali Seyhun Saral: You can see that it generated me the data points with counts and numbers, and I can edit it like I can edit a regular Excel sheet.

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00:18:54.950 --> 00:19:10.880

Ali Seyhun Saral: And it warned me, it's a good warning, that it's not a native chart, but I can still do that. And I say, okay, let's do a Sankey chart. If you don't know what is a Sankey chart, just... you will see, I mean, I gave the spoiler. It's a very nice-looking chart, sometimes very...

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00:19:10.950 --> 00:19:16.600

Ali Seyhun Saral: Not so easy to look at, but it just does it.

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00:19:17.230 --> 00:19:37.169

Ali Seyhun Saral: It's a bit ugly, I will ask one more time to clean it up, but it shows me how many people were in software engineering, for instance, how many of them moved to a different department, how many of them are moved to another organization, and how many of them stayed in the same department.

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00:19:37.340 --> 00:19:40.000

Ali Seyhun Saral: It's a nice plot. Oops.

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00:19:40.440 --> 00:19:45.819

Ali Seyhun Saral: It's a bit ugly at the moment, but let me show you that.

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00:19:46.030 --> 00:19:48.819

Ali Seyhun Saral: It did it by creating a Python.

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00:19:49.200 --> 00:20:04.290

Ali Seyhun Saral: code. So, it's not native because, let me just show it, I cannot really edit it by clicking around like I did with the regular Excel chart. It might be a negative thing, but I think it's a positive thing because now Excel and Copilot unlocks

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00:20:04.630 --> 00:20:13.070

Ali Seyhun Saral: all the Python, maybe not all, but a big library of charts that you could not usually plot with Excel, so that's a good thing.

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00:20:13.200 --> 00:20:27.339

Ali Seyhun Saral: Okay, then I ask, of course, in one shot, in Python chart, it's not great, then I ask it to clean it up, and so, you know, the overlaps are gone, basically. So you can iterate it.

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00:20:27.540 --> 00:20:28.890

Ali Seyhun Saral: Then...

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00:20:30.530 --> 00:20:38.790

Ali Seyhun Saral: I ask it to separate into departments, I'm not gonna go in detail, but when you have these separate departments, now on the left.

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00:20:38.910 --> 00:20:48.049

Ali Seyhun Saral: People were in the software engineering in 2025. On the right, people were in software engineering in 2026. So you can see the flows based on different departments.

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00:20:48.310 --> 00:20:51.040

Ali Seyhun Saral: And...

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00:20:51.560 --> 00:21:06.600

Ali Seyhun Saral: That's a complex plot. What I can do, I can ask Copilot again, that, hey, this plot is too complex, what do you suggest? And I'm gonna give a spoiler, it suggests me to use some,

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00:21:06.760 --> 00:21:16.419

Ali Seyhun Saral: some heat maps, so you can see the numbers of how many people moved from account management, for instance, to CS. There are two people has moved.

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00:21:16.720 --> 00:21:22.869

Ali Seyhun Saral: And I told it, well, do you see a pattern there? I think this is one of the nice users.

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00:21:24.230 --> 00:21:32.819

Ali Seyhun Saral: And it told me, yes, I see a pattern. You don't have to look at it, because I don't have a lot of time. I think I have very few minutes.

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00:21:32.950 --> 00:21:36.759

Ali Seyhun Saral: So, it tells me... let me just actually show this part...

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00:21:37.110 --> 00:21:56.099

Ali Seyhun Saral: It tells me that people tend to move to technical... technical departments. And I said, okay, then let's group them into functional groups instead of department by department, and show me a functional movement chart. So, what it does, I'm gonna give you a spoiler, it's a...

137

00:21:56.130 --> 00:22:08.420

Ali Seyhun Saral: it created this chart, and I kind of worked on it, and it gave me a very nice native movement chart, so 84% of people move from commercial to commercial, but what I want to show you here is that

138

00:22:08.480 --> 00:22:13.330

Ali Seyhun Saral: You see that there was an unclear pattern, and now, thanks to Copilot.

139

00:22:13.400 --> 00:22:16.140

Ali Seyhun Saral: I can see that most of the...

140

00:22:16.390 --> 00:22:20.770

Ali Seyhun Saral: Other departments move to tech and product departments, so that's...

141

00:22:21.040 --> 00:22:37.789

Ali Seyhun Saral: That's what I want to show. Of course, different type of plots are better for different targets, so this is more like a high-level plot, and this is more if you're an HR analyst, maybe you will prefer this kind of plot because you can see in detail.

142

00:22:38.790 --> 00:22:47.790

Ali Seyhun Saral: And I think I have time to wrap it up, Natalia. So, just some do's and don'ts. The first three is Microsoft

143

00:22:47.800 --> 00:23:01.759

Ali Seyhun Saral: suggested, because you can click on the links, or you can find the links on how to use Copilot and Excel. So, Microsoft says, be specific, name the columns and ranges when prompting, and start broad, then get specific later.

144

00:23:01.870 --> 00:23:19.850

Ali Seyhun Saral: And on top of that, I think it's better to use... always try to keep your original columns, start with a summary codebook generation, and then clean the data, and data visualization is best when you have the cleanest data possible first. And very, very important, always consult your institution

145

00:23:19.850 --> 00:23:29.850

Ali Seyhun Saral: for AI tools, which tools that you can use, which tools you cannot, and the privacy settings. It's just an email to save your data and yourself from

146

00:23:30.230 --> 00:23:31.730

Ali Seyhun Saral: privacy issues.

147

00:23:31.890 --> 00:23:39.969

Ali Seyhun Saral: So, yeah, that's... and don't do the opposite. I think that's pretty much it, and I won't say that, and we can discuss later.

148

00:23:40.620 --> 00:23:44.420

Natalia Williams: Amazing, Ali, thank you so much for this brilliant presentation.

149

00:23:44.530 --> 00:23:55.509

Natalia Williams: Remember to keep dropping any questions that you have for our speaker. We do have a little bit of time left for the Q&A. So, just before we dive into your questions.

150

00:23:55.510 --> 00:24:06.540

Natalia Williams: I would like to let you know that we've also curated a great follow-on resource on today's topic that we think you'll find useful. So this is a short how-to article with QuickTix.

151

00:24:06.620 --> 00:24:26.210

Natalia Williams: Quick tips to help you improve the design and clarity of your Excel chats. To receive your link to the article, go to the AI in Government community after the event and leave a comment on my post pinned at the top of the page, and we'll send you the resource by email after the event. My colleague just dropped the link in the chat as well.

152

00:24:26.250 --> 00:24:43.839

Natalia Williams: All right, on to the Q&A. Thank you so much for all of the wonderful questions. So, first question, Ali, for you. How accurate is Copilot for doing this kind of analysis, and is asking Copilot to check its own work, will it find any errors?

153

00:24:44.340 --> 00:24:51.619

Ali Seyhun Saral: That's a great question, actually. If we had time, I will probably stay more on this topic, but let me just quickly

154

00:24:51.760 --> 00:24:53.430

Ali Seyhun Saral: in AI,

155

00:24:53.840 --> 00:25:08.939

Ali Seyhun Saral: checking is very important. I mean, before, when we were data visualizing data, most of the verification was happening during the creation process. But with AI tools, you don't see much... you don't interact with the creation process, so you need to

156

00:25:08.970 --> 00:25:18.999

Ali Seyhun Saral: learn, you need to break the old habit of not checking in detail, or systematically, to have some checklist or random samples.

157

00:25:19.000 --> 00:25:24.639

Ali Seyhun Saral: So what you can... I mean, this is a great question, because AI is also good in checking.

158

00:25:24.640 --> 00:25:46.319

Ali Seyhun Saral: So, I will do an independent session, so if I created a dataset, I will save it and start a new chat co-pilot session, copilot session, and ask it to check it again. So it will not know what happened in the past, so it will not get confused by that. And also, it's good to have a new session, because the context window, so-called.

159

00:25:46.320 --> 00:26:03.840

Ali Seyhun Saral: is clean, so it's better in finding things. But what you can do is, the old, you know, in the old days, also, you need to check your data, so you can do random samples, for instance, you can do checklists. If you have percentages, turn them to numbers, so that percentages are to...

160

00:26:03.840 --> 00:26:10.539

Ali Seyhun Saral: it'd be harder to, you know, find mystics and so on. So I think that will be a different,

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00:26:10.540 --> 00:26:16.440

Ali Seyhun Saral: a full session on how... the techniques on how to check AI-generated content, but yeah.

162

00:26:16.440 --> 00:26:17.660

Natalia Williams: Yeah, well...

163

00:26:17.700 --> 00:26:23.529

Natalia Williams: That was a great answer. I think checklists, is, my takeaway from this event, that is...

164

00:26:23.530 --> 00:26:38.780

Natalia Williams: Really useful. All right, another question, how can AI analyze sensitive data without exposing protected information? And would anonymization of data be recommended prior to using AI to analyze such data?

165

00:26:39.130 --> 00:26:48.749

Ali Seyhun Saral: So, I don't want to speak on behalf of the tools, because there's a big competition, and I don't want to talk negative or positive by mistake about the tools themselves.

166

00:26:48.960 --> 00:27:03.279

Ali Seyhun Saral: But what you can do, A, whatever you send it to an AI system, if it's not a local AI, it goes to a server, and it comes back. So, keep in mind that it's...

167

00:27:03.450 --> 00:27:08.180

Ali Seyhun Saral: there is a process happening. It creates a big surface of, of

168

00:27:08.750 --> 00:27:15.450

Ali Seyhun Saral: privacy. And in some AI companies, they use this data, or the data to analyze

169

00:27:15.780 --> 00:27:30.150

Ali Seyhun Saral: the performance and so on. So if you want a full privacy, what you can do with Copilot, and specific to Copilot, you can use generated data, keep the same structure, have a complete,

170

00:27:30.150 --> 00:27:52.240

Ali Seyhun Saral: generate data, like you said, or anonymize it, and so on, and then you can work with it. Another thing you can do, not for Copilot for Excel, but there are some local AI solutions, so they stay in your computer that you can use them as well. I think that's also somehow feature, at least the hybrid feature, is to use local and private AIs.

171

00:27:52.240 --> 00:27:57.519

Ali Seyhun Saral: But you can, check them. And maybe I should finally tell.

172

00:27:57.650 --> 00:28:05.640

Ali Seyhun Saral: Some, like, my individual license, I don't know how detailed the privacy aspect is,

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00:28:05.840 --> 00:28:08.700

Ali Seyhun Saral: Is, is preserved, but...

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00:28:08.700 --> 00:28:27.319

Ali Seyhun Saral: like, if your license comes from your institution, probably they have some enterprise licenses, which have higher standards of privacy and so on. That's why I told you, send an email to your IT, and they will tell you what can go there and what will not, so that you can feel,

175

00:28:28.630 --> 00:28:33.989

Ali Seyhun Saral: A bit more free and less headache, you know, less scare, you know, less fear about that.

176

00:28:34.370 --> 00:28:50.840

Natalia Williams: Yeah, check in with ITA, I would say, is the first step, truly. All right, well, unfortunately, we only have 2 minutes left, so I can see a lot of questions are popping in the Q&A. I just want to remind that we do have the AI and government community, where you have

177

00:28:50.840 --> 00:29:01.079

Natalia Williams: Lots of public servants that are facing the same problems and have probably solved them, so feel free to post your questions there, and hopefully your peers will answer.

178

00:29:01.080 --> 00:29:24.500

Natalia Williams: But, yeah, we've had some incredible wisdom today from our speaker. Thank you so much, Ali. And I'd like to ask you all to join me in giving Ali a virtual round of applause, Ali, a physical, and most importantly, thanks to all of you, an audience investing in learning and being so engaged in this topic. The team is going to pull up a quick poll to find out how you felt about today, which helps us

179

00:29:24.500 --> 00:29:28.559

Natalia Williams: Continue improving our content, and we really appreciate your responses.

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00:29:28.560 --> 00:29:46.829

Natalia Williams: And before you go, and while you are responding to that poll, I would like to share a few more events that you can register for to join us again soon. So, if you're not available to be there live, remember that you can always register for an event in order to get sent the recording to catch up whenever suits you.

181

00:29:46.830 --> 00:29:57.929

Natalia Williams: So, next in mid-September, we have what's safe to put into AI and what's not, related to our question earlier, so, hopefully you'll find this one very useful, too.

182

00:29:58.000 --> 00:30:09.769

Natalia Williams: on, handling sensitive information safely with AI. At the end of September, we have AI for Better briefings on using AI to write clearer and more decision-ready briefs.

183

00:30:09.840 --> 00:30:33.869

Natalia Williams: And, to catch up on all of the past additional, editions of AI Skills Lab, check out our AI Skills Lab Hub, where we post all of the events, that we organize. Alright, that is all we have time for today. We hope you found it helpful, and we want to say huge thank you to our speaker, Ali, and to everyone who's made today happen.

184

00:30:33.870 --> 00:30:38.219

Natalia Williams: And to you for taking time from your... out of your busy days.

185

00:30:38.220 --> 00:30:48.789

Natalia Williams: Keep an eye out for an email coming your way with today's recording and resources, and don't forget to comment under my post, and we hope to see you at another Apolitical event very soon!

186

00:30:48.830 --> 00:30:50.220

Natalia Williams: Have a great day!

187

00:30:50.340 --> 00:30:51.630

Natalia Williams: Goodbye!

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