



Confessional data selfies

today by Brady Robards @bradyjay

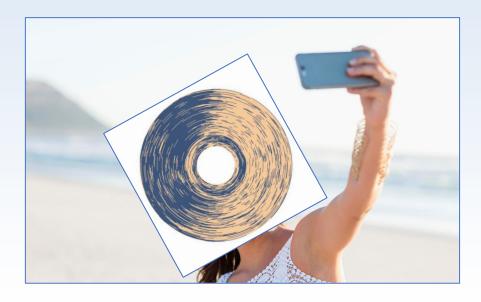




1760 comments share save hide

report





intimate digital traces

today by Ben Lyall @benlyal OC:1





1199 comments share save

report

Historical data practices

- Increasing normalisation of tracking and selfinsight through data:
 - Wearable technology
 - Apple Health, Screen Time apps
 - Google Fit, Digital Wellbeing apps
- These apply an 'algorithmic visuality' (Pink and Fors 2017) to everyday life
- Digital self-tracking is only the current 'mode'
 Diary keeping (Rettberg 2014, Cardell 2018)
 Weight scales (Crawford et al. 2015)

 - Medical measuring devices (O'Neill 2016)





hot

new

top

wiki

What is r/dataisbeautiful?

DatalsBeautiful

A place for visual representations of data: Graphs, charts, maps, etc.

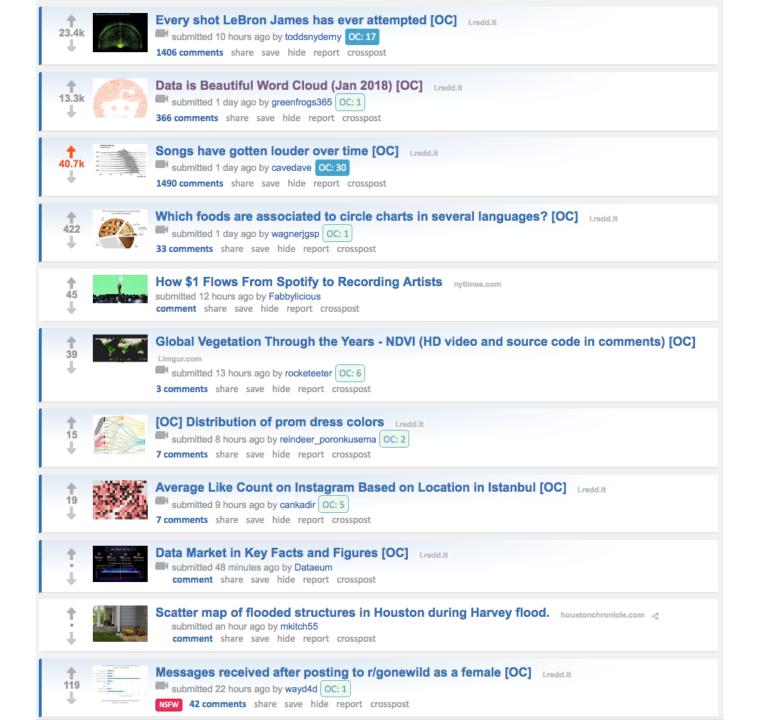
DatalsBeautiful is for visualizations that effectively convey information. Aesthetics are an important part of information visualization, but pretty pictures are not the aim of this subreddit.

Best Of DataIsBeautiful

View This Week's Top OC

Posting Rules

- 1. A post must be a data visualization.
- Directly link to the original source article of the visualization (not an image file) or tag the post as [OC] if you made the visualization.
- [OC] posts must state the data source and tool(s) used in a comment. Only tag a post as [OC] if you made it yourself.
- Requests and questions must include a visualization. More info.
- No infographics or other unautomated diagrams. Infographic vs. Visualization.
- Compilations are not allowed.
- Post titles must describe the data plainly without using sensationalized headlines. Clickbait posts will be removed.
- Posts regarding American Politics, or contentious topics in American media, are only permissible on Thursdays (ET).



- Self-tracking can have a performative aspect that is aware of potential audience (Elsden et al. 2015)
- r/dataisbeautiful audience (12,813,642 subscribers):
 - United by intrinsic interest in data visualisations
 - Posting: Data held as as scientific and truthful
 - Commenting: Making individual methodologies public for scrutiny and (re)interpretation
- Our interest specifically, lies in:
 - Personal data visualisations based on self-generated data
 - Specific elements of self are captured, much like a selfie
 - Through both OP and comments, data can become confessional

DatalsBeautiful

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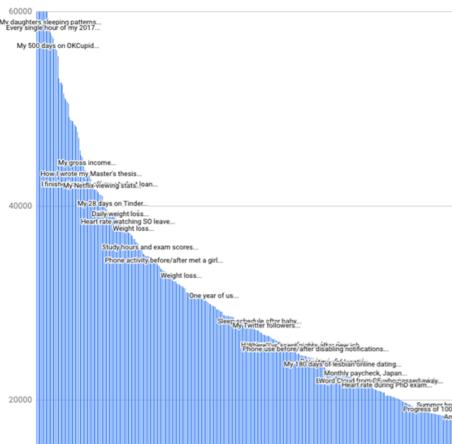
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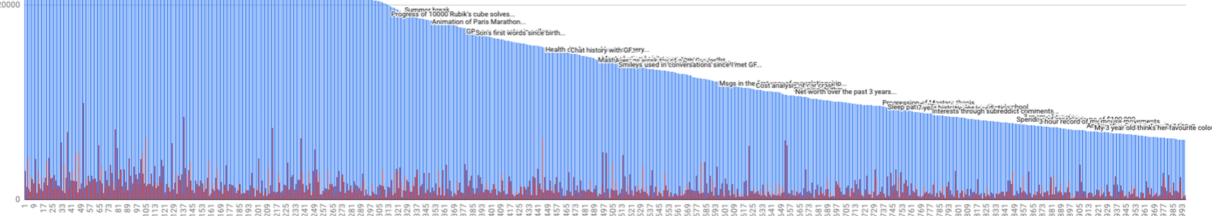
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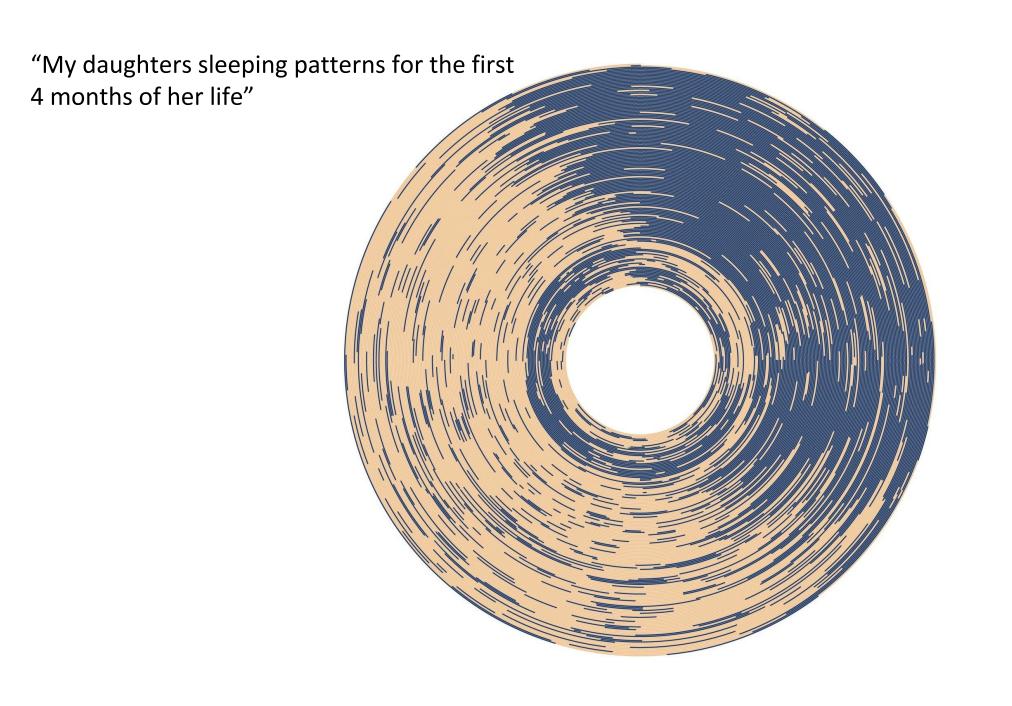
Top 1000 posts of r/dataisbeautiful



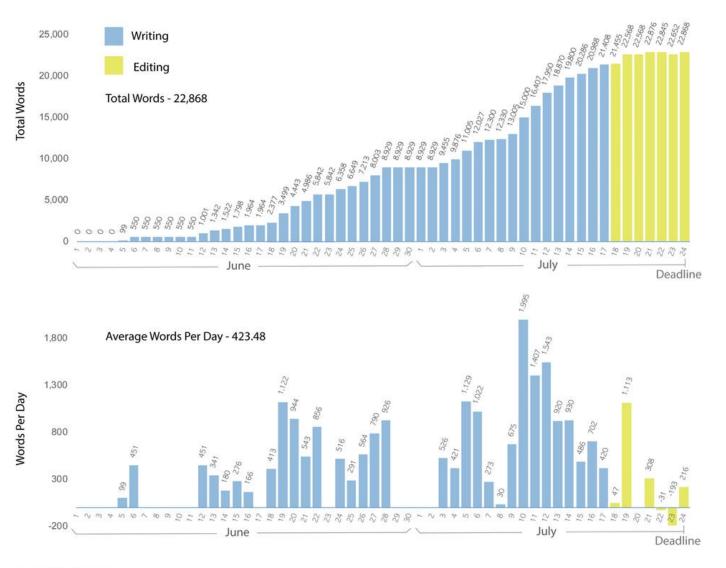
Our study...

- Scraped top 1000 posts of all time, based on upvotes, using Reddit Post Parser.
- Identified sub-set of **59 posts** that met our definition of 'confessional data selfie': A visual representation of one's self (or some aspect of one's life), told through quantified data, that reveals or 'confesses' something.
- Examined top comment threads.

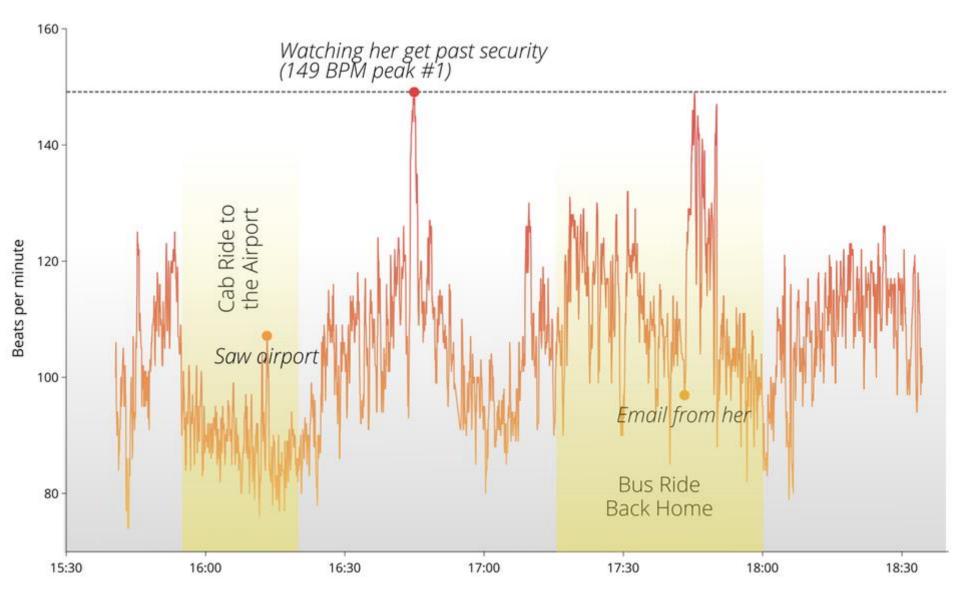




How I Wrote My Master's Thesis



"My heart rate watching my SO leave the country"



"this is the last day I'll ever see her again. She is going back to her country indefinitely and we broke off the relationship..."

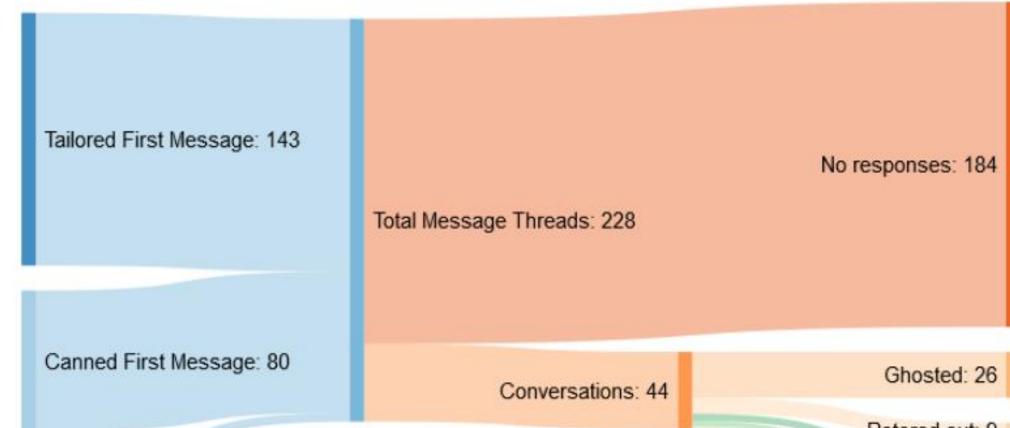
BEAUTIFUL hot new top wiki bj__(538) | [| | | | | | | | | | | † | | † | links from: all time = Dataisbeautiful 11 different brands of AA batteries, tested in identical flashlights. [OC] Ledd.It 81.5k ... Submitted 5 days ago by theorispies/bacon [OC: 1] Unsubscribe 12.883.224 readers (2.029 here) Paths of 800 unmanned bicycles being pushed until they fall over Ledd.it M Show my flair on this subreddit. It looks like: Pornhub traffic in Hawaii during the "missile alert" pomhub.com Pornhub traffic in Hawaii during the "missile ald submitted 2 months ago by myst!" Submit your own visualization (OC) Berlin Subway Map compared to it's real geography [OC] Leedd.lt DatalsBeautiful 2077 comments share save hide report cross-People killed in terrorist attacks in 2017: Europe (Blue) vs Africa (Red) [OC] Ledd.lt My 500 days on OkCupid [OC] 1688 comments share save hide report crosspost Optimal routes from the geographic center of the U.S. to all counties [OC] Ledd.lt III submitted 2 months ago by Tjukanov OC:7
1779 comments share save hide report cros submitted 2 months ago by meatenigma OC: 1 † Heatmap of numbers found at the end of Reddit usernames [OC] Liedd.lt 4192 comments share save hide report crosspo. 4001 comments share save hide report Gaussian distribution [OC] Leedd.lt
IIIf submitted 2 months ago by anvaka [OC: 6]
688 comments share save hide report crosspost tag a post as [OC] if you made it Cardiac Related Deaths During 2013 in the Contiguous USA Compared to Waffle House Locations. (Follow up to previous post) [OC] Leed. 4. Requests and questions must include a My daughters sleeping patterns for the first 4 months of her life. One continuous spiral starting on the inside when she was born, each revolution representing a single day. Midnight at the top [24 hour clock], [00] Institutional Control of the continuous spiral starting on the inside when she was born, each revolution representing a single day. Midnight at the top [24 hour clock], [00] Institutional Control of the continuous spiral starting on the inside when she was born, each revolution representing a single day. Midnight at the top [24 hour clock], [00] Institutional Control of the continuous spiral starting on the inside when she was born, each revolution representing a single day. Midnight at the top [24 hour clock], [00] Institutional Control of the continuous spiral starting on the inside when she was born, each revolution representing a single day. Midnight at the top [24 hour clock], [00] Institutional Control of the control of My health decline and eventual brain surgery [OC] 1583 comments share save hide report crosses [OC] "My eyes hurt" | Lredd.lt 14.4k submitted 2 months ago by dubmoney OC: 1 1093 comments share save hide report or Every Single Hour Of My 2017 Recorded [OC] Lredd.lt 311 comments share unsave hide give gold report crosspost 2201 comments share save hide report cross My 500 days on OkCupid [OC] Lredd. and related to the visual presented. Special attention is given 4001 comments share unsave hide report of [OC] I've secretly been keeping track of my coworkers Diet Coke consumption LeedLit 4342 comments share save hide report crosspost Every Single Hour Of My 2017 Recorded [OC] 1466 comments share save hide report crosspost submitted 2 months ago by Kewpit OC: 1 2003 data Chance of Death per Year [OC] LeadeLit 100 years of hurricane paths animated [OC] Leed.lt 2201 comments share save hide report submitted 6 months ago by Tjukanov CC: 7 Combined faces of top 500 professional golfers [OC] Ledd.lt H submitted 5 months ago by osmutiar OC: 10 researcher? Read about what kind of flai [UPDATE] I created a movie database site that combines Rotten Tomatoes, IMDb. Letterboxd and Metacritic scores, with Netflix and Amazon Prime availability (Updated to include more Reddit Data from Star Trek? Data ARE? How do I make one? Read the FAQ 1255 comments share save hide report crosspost How do I make a good post? Read the Searches for International Men's Day peak every International Women's Day [OC] Related Subreddits 1035 comments share save hide repor If you want to post something related to FOCI Crop to Cup. I grew coffee and drank it, made some notes. Ledd.lt Data_IRL: Feeling the need to be hilarious? Go here. Data. 1457 comments share save hide report crosspost Animated optimal routes from San Francisco to ~2000 locations in the U.S. [OC] Leadell SampleSize: Conduct and share IIIH submitted 8 months ago by Tjukanov OC: 7

1055 comments share save hide report crosspost Datasets: Request and share data DataVizRequests: Request a xkcd: Earth Temperature Timeline xkcd.com submitted 1 year ago by allapd 5908 comments share save hide report crosspost visualization to be made from a the design and construction of information visualizations Marijuana responsible for 0 overdose deaths while opioids killed more than 20,000 Americans[OC] neveledata.com MapPorn: Share maps, map Infographics: Share infographic and other unautomated diagrams Vegetation intensity throughout the year for Africa [OC] Leddit WordCloud: Specifically for sharing 01 comments share save hide report crosspost Tableau: Share and discuss



My 500 days on OkCupid [OC] Lredd.lt

3995 comments share unsave hide give gold report crosspost



Ladies First: 5

Petered out: 9

Actual dates: 4 =

Ended: 3 -

Canceled date: 1

Stood me up: 1

Comments:

- 1. Critiquing design/inclusions
- 2. OP updating and answering questions about himself (early 30s, hetero male, large city in Europe) and his definitions
- 3. Commiserating with low success rate
- 4. 'Would be good to see the girl's perspective as well. As a guy, online dating sucks'
- 5. Commiserating with 'ghosting'
- 6. Critique of design
- 7. 'I would recommend reading *Modern Romance* by Aziz Ansari & Eric Klinenberg'
- 8. Dating advice (lie to women + go for quantity)
- 9. 'I would love to see the same data from a woman'
- 10. Sharing similar data

Spin-offs:



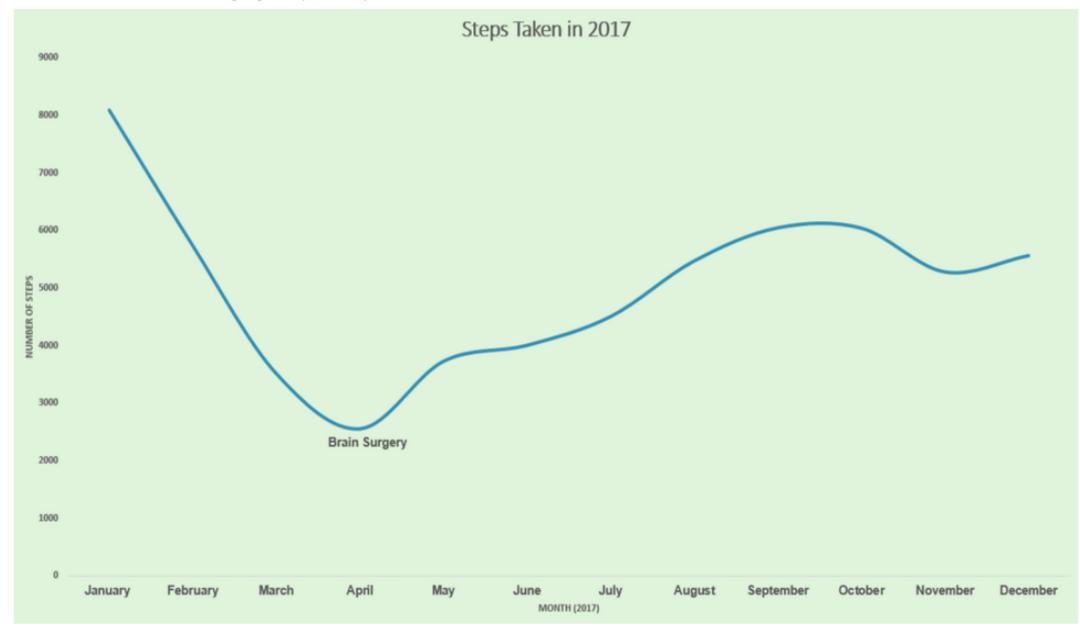




My health decline and eventual brain surgery [OC] Lredd.lt

submitted 2 months ago by dubmoney OC: 1

311 comments share unsave hide give gold report crosspost



Comments:

- 1. 'My wife had something similar...'
- 2. 'Good for you... you seem to be on the uptick'
- 3. Question about the data points, daily vs weekly
- 4. 'Good work... good luck!'
- 5. OP explaining 'health data gathered from my Iphone and visualized with excel'
- 6. 'Congratulations! As a Neuro ICU RN, I always love hearing about patient progress...'
- 7. 'Jeez. You get more steps than me on some days... I gotta get walking'
- 8. Supportive/inquiring/similar experience
- 9. Congratulations and inquiry about data
- 10. Curious about how OP found out about tumor/what the symptoms were



Every Single Hour Of My 2017 Recorded [OC] Lredd.lt

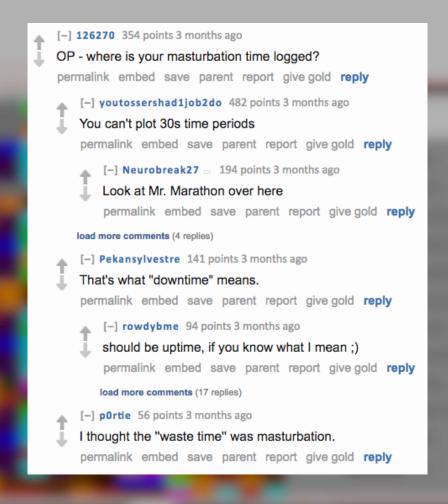
submitted 3 months ago by Kewpit OC: 1 [4] @x2

2198 comments share save hide give gold report crosspost

16:00 17:00 18:00 19:00 20:00 21:00 22:00 23:00 Credit /u/backstreetskeeter for the idea to record my year :p 2017/01/01 Sunday KEY 2017/01/02 Monday 2017/01/03 Tuesday 2017/01/04 Wednesday 1 Sleep 13 Waste Time 2017/01/05 Thursday 2017/01/06 Friday 20 14 Health School 2017/01/07 Saturday € 2017/01/08 Sunday 3 Downtime 15 Paid work 2017/01/09 Monday 2017/01/10 Tuesday 4 Comp/Exams 2017/01/11 Wednesday 2017/01/12 Thursday 5 Dating/Partner 2017/01/13 Friday 2017/01/14 Saturday 6 Social time with friends 2017/01/15 Sunday 2017/01/16 Monday Exercise 2017/01/17 Tuesday 2017/01/18 Wednesday 8 Productive Time 2017/01/19 Thursday 2017/01/20 Friday Gaming 2017/01/21 Saturday 2017/01/22 Sunday 10 Family Time 2017/01/23 Monday 2017/01/24 Tuesday Travel 2017/01/25 Wednesday 2017/01/26 Thursday 2017/01/27 Friday 2017/01/28 Saturday 2017/01/29 Average Sleep 7.98 Exercise so far 277 2906 Days past 1129 365 average Excersise Per week 5.31 h 1274 Hours Spend Doing all the Thingys in my life

Comments:

- 1. 'The saddest part was seeing the girlfriend block... [get] more sporadic...' (sub-comment: 'I come to r/dataisbeautiful for the plots')
- 2. 'As girlfriend hours go down... time with friends rises'
- Acknowledgement of 'work/consistency/diligence this must have taken'
- 4. 'What happened on the 30th of July?'
- 5. Reference to XKCD comic
- Comparison with time spent gaming (subcomment, OP explains stress from exams reduced time spent gaming)
- 7. OP answers questions, clarifies definitions, talks about his perspective (16 y/o male, UK, in college), talks about process, responds to popularity of post
- 8. Comparison with work hrs of 40 y/o
- 9. 'This is damn cool... I want to do it in 2018'
- 10. '...this seems obsessive'



Families and relationships



Children4Dating3Relationships916

Routine management



Life-logging 3
Location 2
Money 6
Study 7
Tech Use 9

Body rhythms

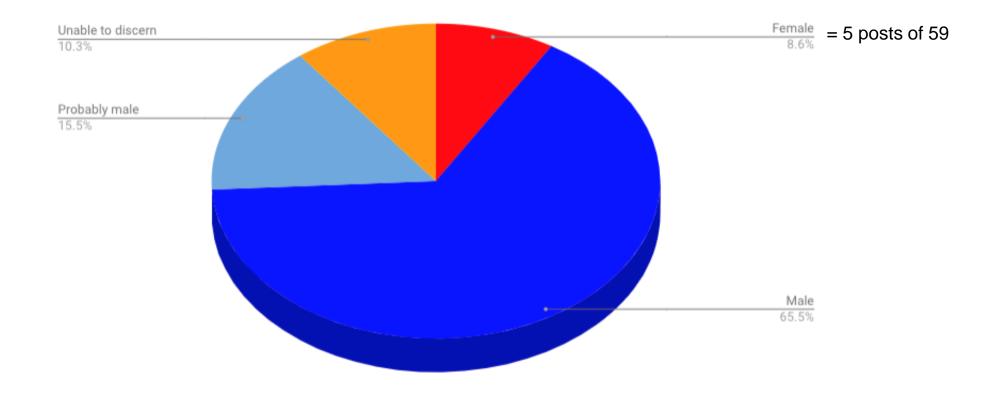
14.4k	My health decline and eventual brain surgery [OC] Lredd.lt submitted 2 months ago by dubmoney OC: 1
	311 comments share unsave hide give gold report crosspost

Health	6
Sleep	4
Sport	4
Masturbation	2
	16

total

59

Confessional data selfies and r/dataisbeautiful itself is highly gendered...



...with thanks to Claire Moran @ClaireMORAN for gender sleuthing.

Theorising confessional data selfies

- 'Data selfie' (Duc, Mir, Eckert & Hang: dataselfie.it; van der Vlist & Helmond 2017)
- Both digital object and gesture (Senft & Baym 2015: 1589)
- Intended to reveal or confess some 'truth' through a valorisation of 'raw data': the self laid bare
- On r/dataisbeautiful, the confessional data selfie invites analysis, elicits comparative story-telling, and draws 'strangers' in; affective
- Broader implications to personal data visualisations as a selfie practice and trajectories for next stage of this project:
 - But also part of broader neoliberal, individualised regimes of selfgovernance - conditioning oneself for contemporary demands (Wade 2018)
 - New sites of self-awareness, learning, reflection and sharing

