

Datylon Documentation

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1. Installing or upgrading the Datylon™ plug-in for Adobe® Illustrator™

The Datylon for Adobe Illustrator is only supported on Mac computers that run Adobe's Illustrator Creative Cloud version.

Follow these two easy steps to install the Datylon plug-in for Adobe Illustrator:

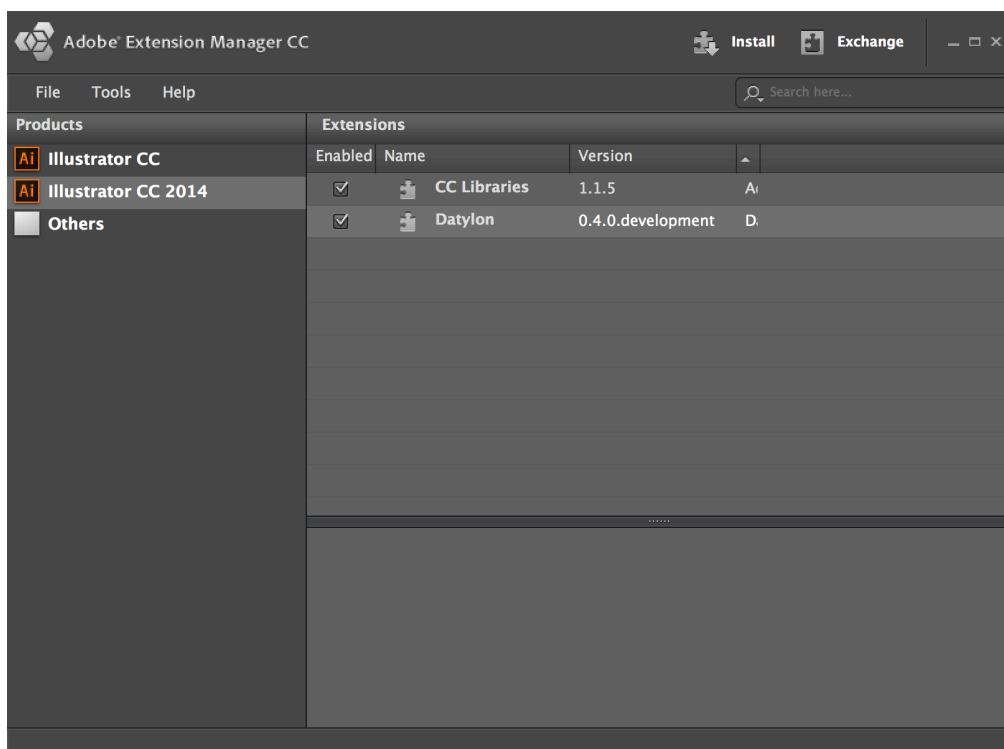
- 1 Make sure you have Adobe's Extension Manager installed on your Mac

If you don't have it yet, then install this application from https://www.adobe.com/exchange/em_download/

- 2 Double-click the Datylon installer file

Adobe's Extension Manager will open and will install Datylon for all Illustrator Creative Cloud versions on your Mac

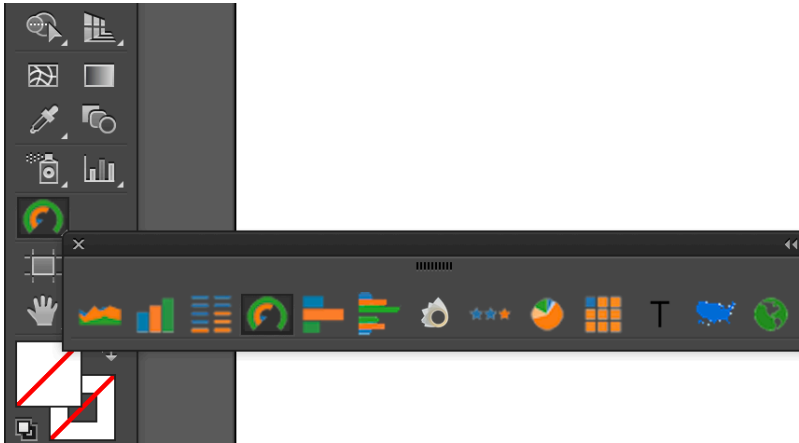
After installation the Datylon plug-in is automatically available for all Illustrator CC versions installed on your Mac.



2. Using Datylon

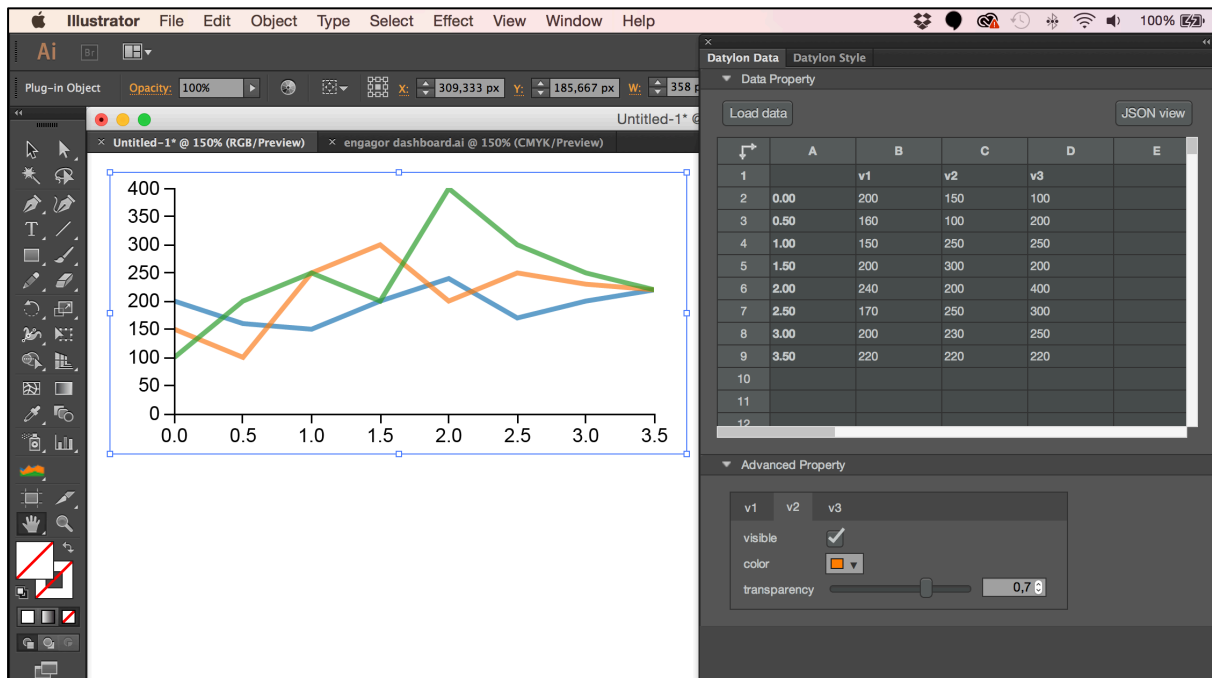
Working with Datylon in Adobe Illustrator

Once the Datylon plug-in for Illustrator is installed you can click and hold the Datylon tool in the Tools panel to see all the different types of charts, maps or graphs you can create.



Select a graph from the Datylon tool and then click and drag to create this object in your Illustrator document. You can move, resize, cut, copy, paste, align or distribute Datylon Dataviz objects at any time during your work.

Choose Windows > Extensions > Datylon Data to open a pane that allows you to enter or upload data and to change data series properties.



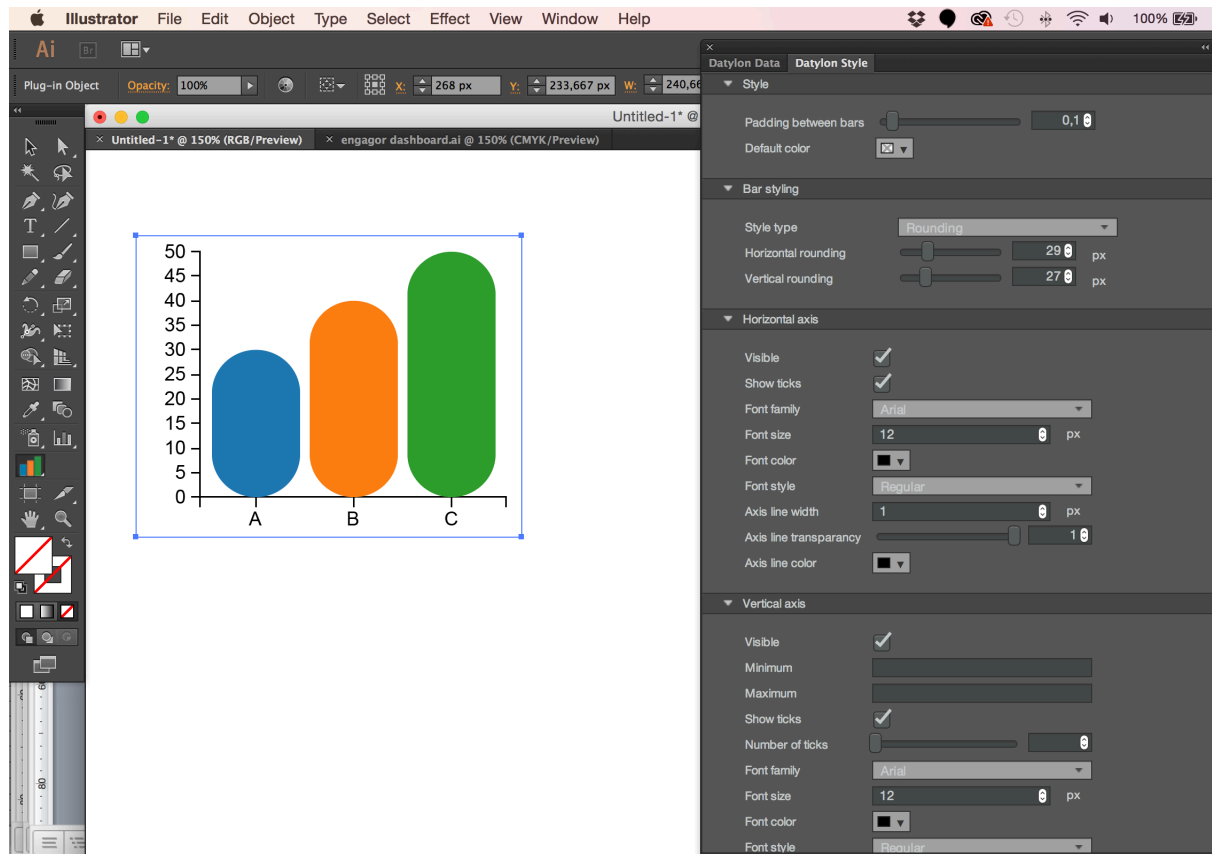
You can enter data directly in the data grid or copy data from another application and paste it in the Datylon data grid.

There is a limit of 255 values per data series and 20 data series.

When you manually enter data in the data grid working in Illustrator CC (or online in the Datylon app) you can use the Tab and Enter keys for moving through the grid and the Delete key to clear the value in data grid cell. This straightforward grid editing behavior unfortunately does not work in Illustrator CC 14 forcing you to double click every cell before entering data. We've logged the problem with Adobe.

In the Advanced Property section of the Datylon Data pane, you can edit data series properties like a visibility, color, transparency, etc.

Choose Windows > Extensions > Datylon Style to open a pane that allows you to modify all styling attributes of the Datylon object.

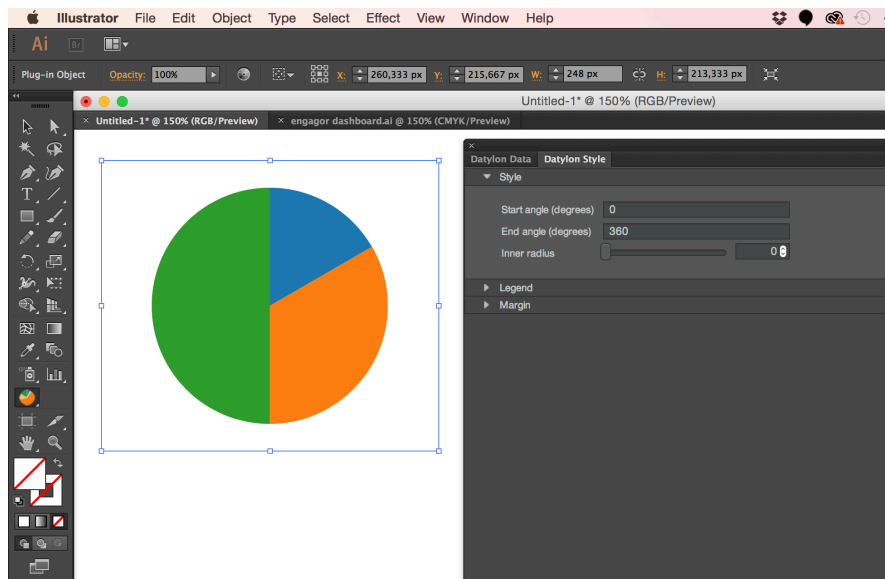


A Datylon object behaves like any other Illustrator object with some exceptions:

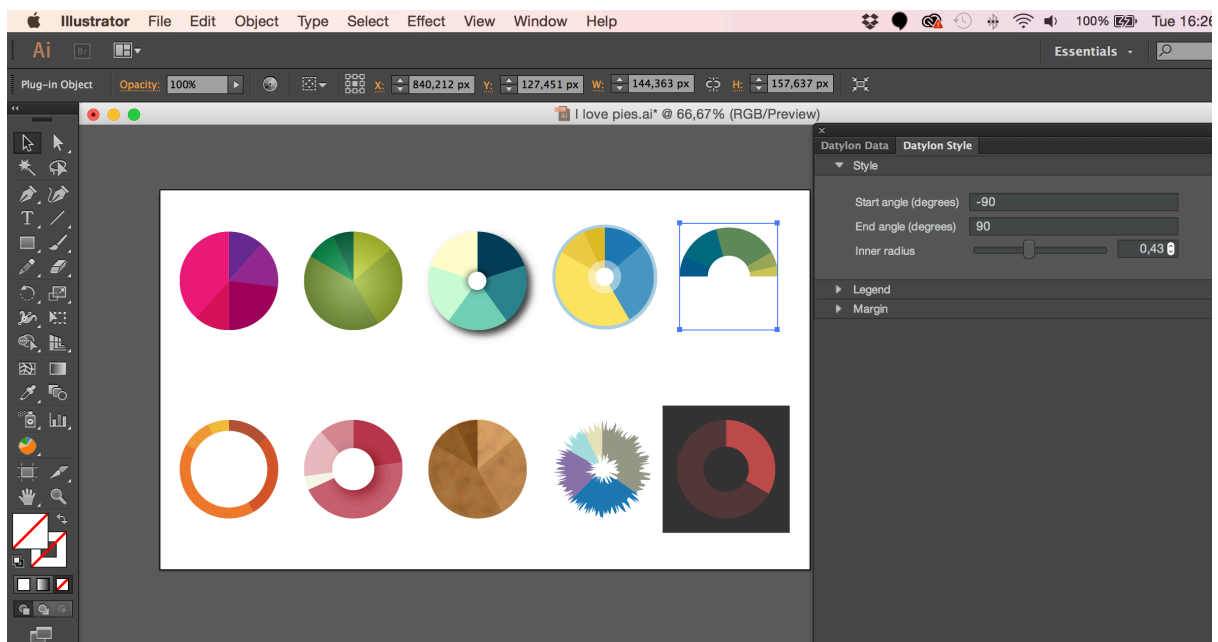
- You cannot apply Fill and Stroke attributes. You can easily put a rectangle behind the Datylon object though and apply Fill and Stroke attributes on it.
- You cannot put Datylon objects in a library. You can use copy and paste actions though
- You cannot rotate, reflect or shear a Datylon object
- You cannot apply filters or effects on Datylon objects, yet you can apply clipping masks or work with overlays or underlays that include filters or effects

Datylon at this moment does not prevent you from taking unsupported actions (because of a restriction in Illustrator; we'll work with Adobe to make this more robust in coming releases). You thus need to be careful and avoid performing these actions as they sometimes can make Illustrator unstable, which might force you to reset Illustrator.

A simple Datylon pie object looks like this:



By using clipping masks or overlays and underlays with gradients, meshes, blends or effects you can easily style charts to your liking. Here are some samples of how a Datylon pie chart can be styled:

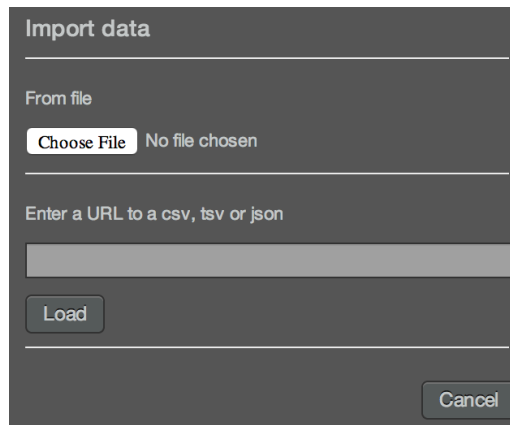


Even with additional Illustrator styling these Datylon pie charts remain dynamic within Illustrator or when published online. This means you can change all styling parameters and data at any time.

If you expand (Object > Expand ...) a Datylon object you'll lose all Datylon functionality on the object but you'll be able to style all vector elements of the original Dataviz object in Illustrator without any restrictions.

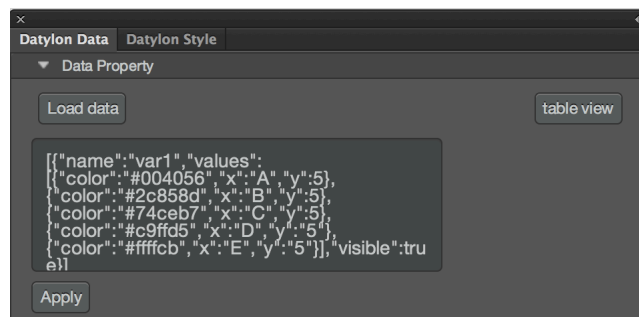
Uploading data or making a live data link

In the Datylon Data pane you can click the Load Data button to either upload a CSV, TSV or JSON file with new data or you can provide a URL to a CSV, TSV or JSON file that resides on a publicly accessible place on the internet.



The 'Import data' dialog box has a title bar with the text 'Import data'. Below the title bar, there are two sections. The first section is labeled 'From file' and contains a 'Choose File' button followed by the text 'No file chosen'. The second section is labeled 'Enter a URL to a csv, tsv or json' and contains a text input field. Below the input field is a 'Load' button. At the bottom right of the dialog is a 'Cancel' button.

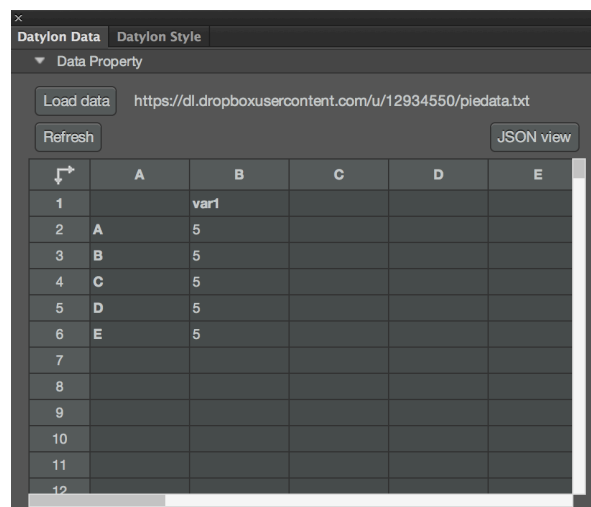
Click the JSON view button to see or copy the JSON schema.



The 'Datylon Data' pane shows a 'Data Property' section with a 'Load data' button and a 'table view' button. Below these buttons is a text area containing a JSON schema for a variable named 'var1'. The schema defines five data points with different colors and coordinates. Below the text area is an 'Apply' button.

```
{
  "name": "var1",
  "values": [
    {
      "color": "#004056",
      "x": "A",
      "y": 5
    },
    {
      "color": "#2c858d",
      "x": "B",
      "y": 5
    },
    {
      "color": "#74ceb7",
      "x": "C",
      "y": 5
    },
    {
      "color": "#c9ffd5",
      "x": "D",
      "y": 5
    },
    {
      "color": "#ffffcb",
      "x": "E",
      "y": 5
    }
  ],
  "visible": true
}
```

With the Refresh button Datylon will reload the data pointed to by the URL. Use this if you want to make a live link to data residing in Dropbox, Google Drive, Microsoft OneDrive or other online-shared data.



The 'Datylon Data' pane shows a 'Data Property' section with a 'Load data' button containing the URL 'https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/12934550/piedata.txt', a 'Refresh' button, and a 'JSON view' button. Below these buttons is a table with 12 rows and 6 columns. The columns are labeled 'A', 'B', 'C', 'D', and 'E'. The first row has a header 'var1' in column B. The subsequent rows have values '5' in column B for rows 2 through 6.

	A	B	C	D	E
1		var1			
2	A	5			
3	B	5			
4	C	5			
5	D	5			
6	E	5			
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					

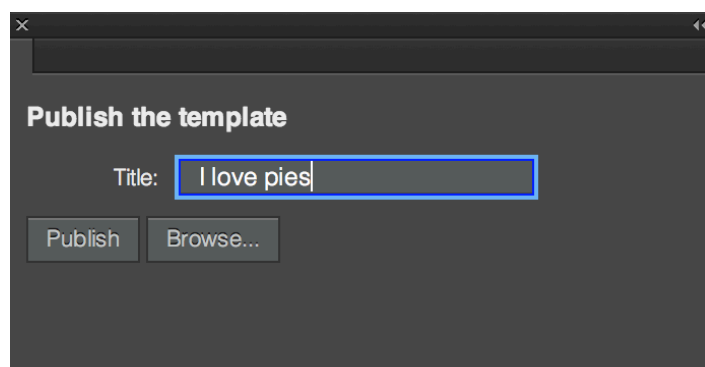
Make sure that the server on which the data resides is CORS-enabled (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cross-origin_resource_sharing).

Dropbox users need to make sure to get the URL by right-clicking the file in a Dropbox folder. The URL link which you can get via Dropbox online and which ends with “?dl=0” will not work in Datylon and generate an error.

Datylon does not store the data it visualizes in the case of a live link to data. Each time Datylon loads, it only re-fetches the data from the link provided. Thus, the publicly-hosted Datylon.com can only fetch data and provide shareable links for data files that are already publicly accessible to anyone with the link.

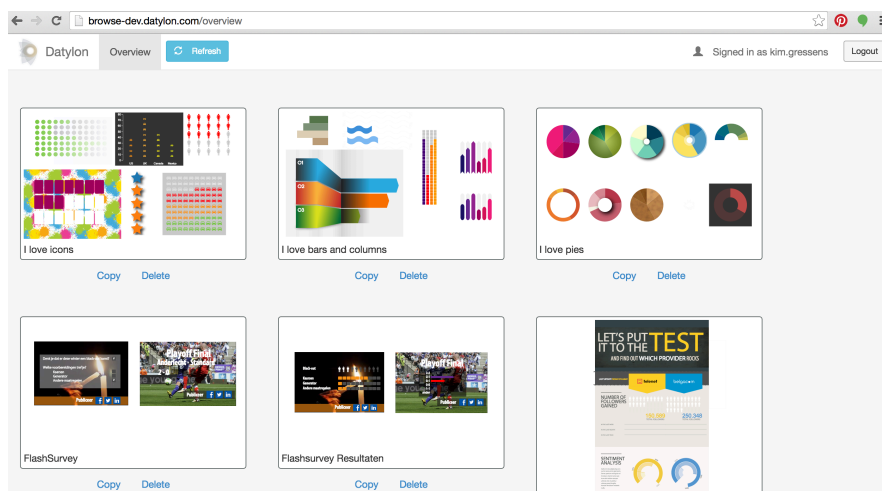
Working online with Datylon™

In Illustrator select File>Publish Datylon Template...

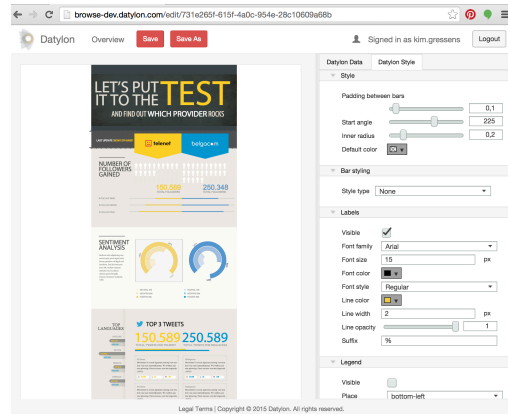
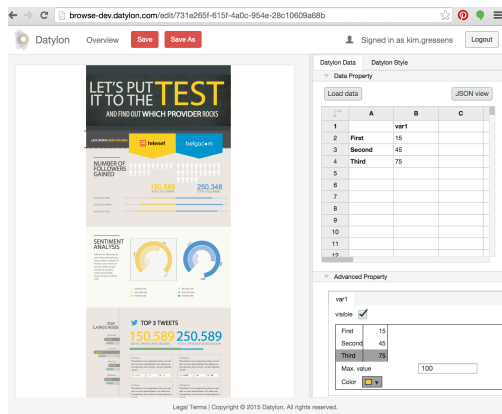


Enter a title or description for your work and click Publish.

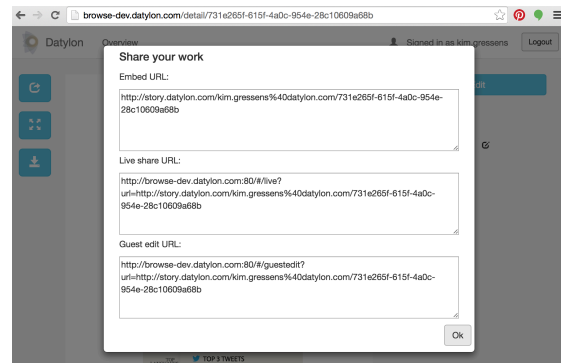
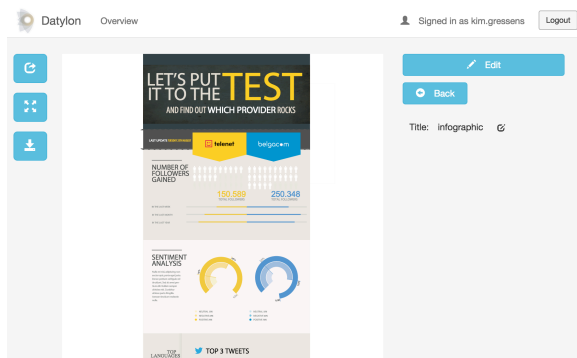
You can access the work you have published with the name you provided by clicking the Browse button or by browsing to <http://browse.datylon.com>.



Online you have exactly the same styling and data entry capabilities as in Illustrator. This means that also other users can use your uploaded design work and upload new data. With a live data link your work will automatically render with the latest available data.



With share and embed you can make your work available to others via email, social media or directly in websites or applications. Use the Live Share URL when you want the document to re-render with the latest data whenever the browser opens or refreshes. The Embed URL on the other hand uses the latest saved data in the Datylon online app.



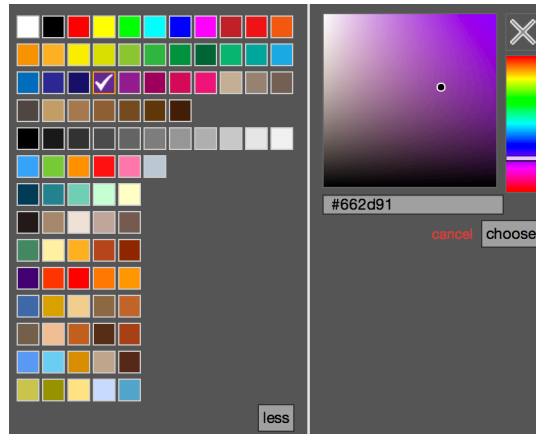
Using color

Datylon objects use an RGB color model, even if you work in an Illustrator CMYK document.

Illustrator RGB color swatches are directly available in the Datylon Data and Style panes if you use Illustrator's RGB color profile: File > Document Color Mode > RGB Color. No tints, patterns or gradients are supported yet though.

Datylon only supports Process Colors. Global colors and (thus also) spot colors are not supported currently.

The Datylon color picker lets you select a color by clicking any of the Illustrator RGB color swatches, by entering a RGB value in hex or by selecting a color directly.



Using fonts

In this version of Datylon you can use the following fonts for any label, marker, legend or text object: Arial, Arial Black, Tahoma, Trebuchet MS, Verdana, Courier, Courier New, Georgia, Times and Times New Roman. For all other text in your artwork you can use any licensed font available to you in Illustrator.

Datylon does not embed fonts in templates you publish online. This means that the fonts either have to be available to the browser locally or via the Datylon server.

Please contact support@datylon.com for help on installing fonts on a Datylon server or when you have font-licensing questions.

Reset Adobe Illustrator

Occasionally we have observed unexpected behavior of Illustrator (e.g. crash). Resetting Illustrator consistently solves the issues.

Do one of the following:

Press and hold Alt+Control+Shift (Windows) or Option+Command+Shift (Mac OS) as you start Illustrator from double-clicking the app in the Finder (this procedure doesn't work from Launchpad). Your current settings are deleted.

Remove or rename the AIPrefs file (Windows) or Adobe Illustrator Prefs file (Mac OS). New preferences files are created the next time you start Illustrator.

Send an email to support@datylon.com and we promise we'll be good listeners.

3. Datylon Dataviz Objects

The Datylon plug-in for Adobe Illustrator contains the following dataviz objects :

1. Pie (and donut) chart
2. Bar chart
3. Column chart
4. Icon chart
5. Text

6. World map
7. US map
8. Circular bar chart
9. Area and Line chart
10. Stacked Icon chart
11. Icon Column chart
12. Highcharts' set of charts
13. Highmaps' set of maps

Depending on your license you might have only a selection of these dataviz objects available to you.

Pie Chart

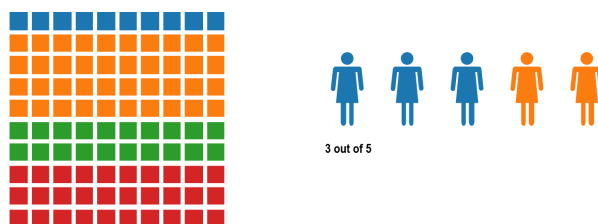
With the Datylon Pie dataviz object it is possible to create donut charts as well. Use the Inner Radius slider in the Style section of the Datylon Style pane.

You can add and style the legend and use the start angle and stop angle parameters in the Style section of the Datylon Style pane to rotate the pie or to use only a wedge of the pie as the chart.



Icon and Stacked Icon Chart

You can select one of the nine predefined icons for the chart. With an icon chart you can represent one value versus a maximum value. With a stacked icon chart you can represent multiple values. For the stacked icon chart the maximum amount of icons is 100.



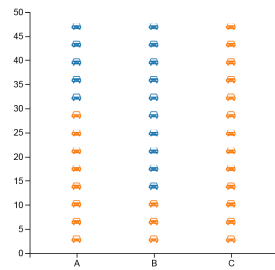
You can add a legend for the stacked icon chart or a caption for the icon chart.

Icon and Stacked Icon Chart

This chart works like a column chart, but uses icons to indicate a value. You can select one of the nine predefined icons for the chart.

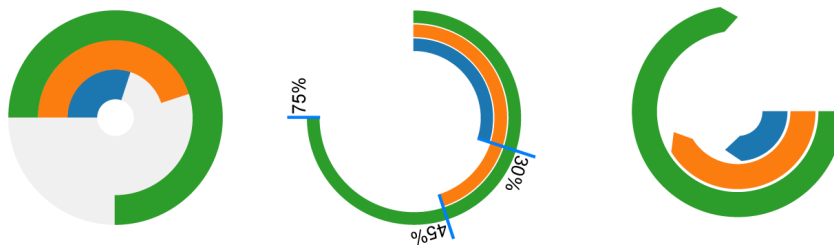
You can style the horizontal and vertical axes and apply a minimum and maximum for the vertical axis.

The default color that you can set under the style pane overrules the default color you can set in the data pane.



Circular Bar Chart

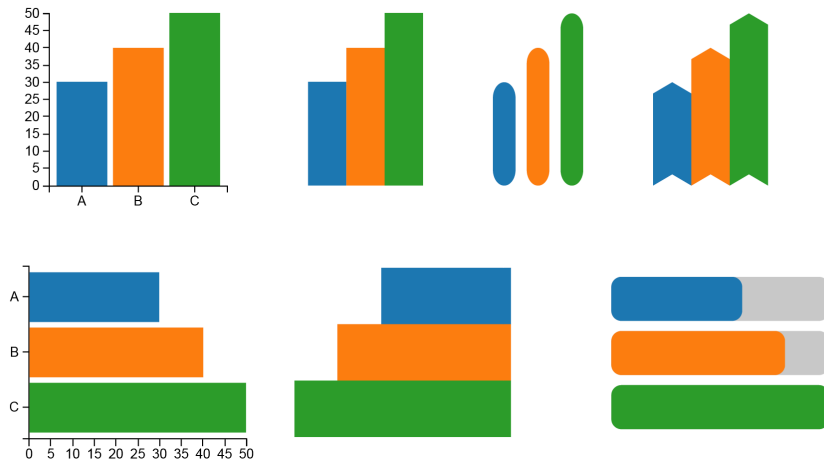
You can change the start angle, width and padding of the bars. You can also add arrows at the start and end of a bar and style the legend and labels.



Bar and Column Chart

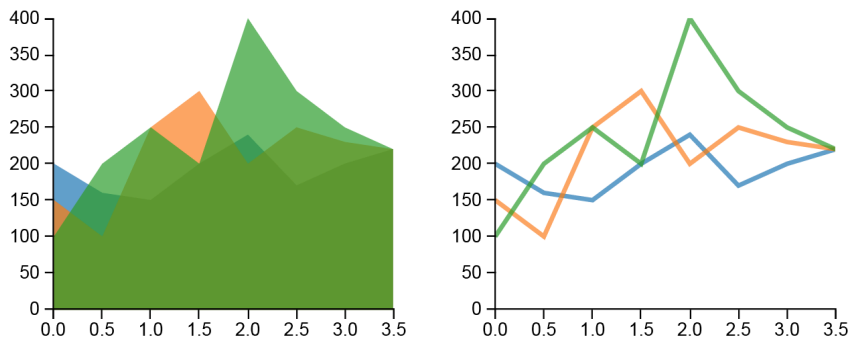
The following styling properties are present:

- Horizontal and vertical axis styling
- Left-to-right or right-to-left for bar charts
- Bar padding
- Parameterized arrows at start or end of a bar
- Parameterized vertical and horizontal rounding of bars



Area and Line Chart

You can style the horizontal and vertical axis and change the line width and opacity of the areas and lines individually.

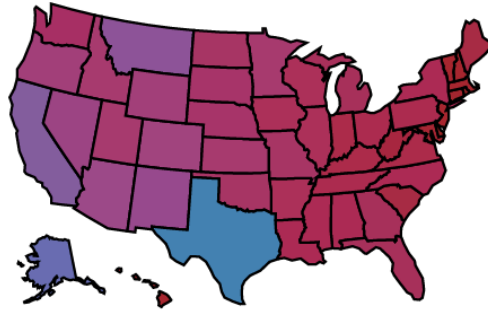


Text object

This dataviz object is very handy if you want to publish your work with live data. With this link it is possible to automatically update text in a document. You can use it for example to insert twitter messages or other data-driven text.

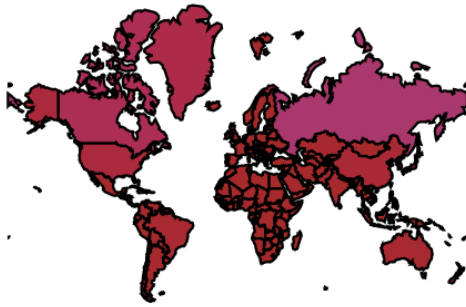
US States Choropleth

You can change the border stroke, start and stop colors and set a domain filter. You can also set colors for individual states.



World Choropleth

You can change the border stroke, start and stop colors and set a domain filter. You can also set colors for individual states.



Highcharts

This chart type is still under development and currently not supported.

Highmaps

This chart type is still under development and currently not supported.

4. FAQ

- **Does Datylon support Adobe® Illustrator™ on Windows?**
No, we don't at the moment. If there is sufficient market demand though, we can surely decide to port Datylon to Windows.
- **How does a live data link work?**
One of the most powerful features of Datylon is that your work in Illustrator, as well as that shared online, can be re-rendered automatically with the latest datasets. Check "Uploading data or making a live data link" for more information.
- **What color model does Datylon use for its charts and maps?**
Datylon uses a RGB color model. You can create CMYK documents in Illustrator though.
- **What output formats does Datylon support?**
Through Illustrator you can export to PNG, JPG, SVG or PDF. The Datylon online app currently only supports SVG output, but PDF, JPG and PNG export is on our roadmap.
- **How many times can I install the Datylon plug-in for Illustrator?**
Just like Illustrator you can install Datylon on more computers, but at any time you can have only 2 instances running in parallel using the same Adobe ID.
- **Does Datylon support older Illustrator CS versions?**
No, we don't.
- **What browsers does Datylon support?**
Datylon makes use of SVG. SVG support in browsers is quickly improving. At the moment we specifically test and support the latest versions of Chrome, Safari, Firefox and Internet Explorer, but other browsers might work as well.
- **Do you intent to have Datylon plug-ins for other applications?**
If there is a market need for this, then we surely want to address this. Please let us know via support@datylon.com which application you like us to support next.
- **Can I share my work via Social Media?**
You sure can. Once you publish your work to the Datylon online application you can embed and share your work via social media. With live data links you ensure your reports or infographics are always rendering automatically with the latest data.
- **Can I install Datylon on Mac servers?**
No you are not allowed to do this with our standard license. Contact us via sales@datylon.com for a quote.
- **Does Datylon have special licenses for NGO's and Education?**
We sure do. Contact us via sales@datylon.com for a site license.

- Can I add custom charts, maps or other dataviz objects?**

You can't do that yourself (for the moment), but we can do it for you. Contact sales@datylon.com and tell us what you want and we will include your visualization in your Datylon plug-in and Datylon online application.
- Does Datylon keep a copy of my data?**

Datylon does not store the data it visualizes in the case of a live link to data. Each time Datylon loads, it only re-fetches the data from the link provided. Thus, the publicly-hosted Datylon.com can only fetch data and provide shareable links for data files that are already publicly accessible to anyone with the link.
- Is there a way to share work privately or to collaborate online with others?**

For the moment this is not possible, but we like to provide this functionality if there is sufficient market demand. Let us know if this is something you are interested in via support@datylon.com
- How do I find all Datylon objects in my document?**

In the layers panel you find all Datylon objects.
- How does Datylon support interactive data visualizations?**

Developers can embed Datylon templates in apps or websites. With the live data link feature the app or website has full control over the data that is rendered.

Further extending interactive data visualization functionality is a key focus area on Datylon's roadmap. Let us know what functionality is important to you via support@datylon.com.
- Can I apply Illustrator effects directly on a Datylon chart or map?**

No you can't: do not apply fill, stroke, effects, rotation or other Illustrator actions on Datylon objects, only use Datylon's controls to style a dataviz object – read more about this in the documentation under "Working with Datylon in Adobe Illustrator"
- Why is some text not rendered OK on my browser?**

Any font used in the template needs to be available to the browser locally or via the Datylon server. Please contact support@datylon.com to help activate fonts on the Datylon server.

5. Release Notes

January 14th, 2015 release

- Support for live data link (JSON data only at this time)
- Support for Illustrator RGB color swatches
- Improved dataviz object clicking in the Datylon app
- Added user documentation, FAQ and release notes

February xxth, 2015 release

- Added CSV/TSV support for live data links in the online app
- Guest editing and sharing
- Online publishing migrated to new domain story.datylon.com
- Solved bug related to changing a template name online
- Add possibility to publish in a named folder
- Online templates are now smaller (up to 30%)
- Enhanced server-based font support
- Online app now works on Firefox and Internet Explorer as well (Chrome and Safari were already supported)

Known issues:

- Navigating through the data grid in AI CC 14 is less flexible than in AI CC; in the latter standard navigation like arrow keys, TAB, ENTER work well whereas in the former you always have to double click a cell before you can edit it's value.
- Grouped bar charts, highcharts charts and highmaps charts are not supported in this version

6. Feedback

Datylon focuses on this last mile of the data supply chain. Our platform helps you convert filtered information into visually attractive stories that can easily be shared to boost information dissemination and understanding.

Let us help you and tell us via sales@datylon.com how we can make your job of telling stories with data easier.