5 Questions about Tableau Dashboard Extensions

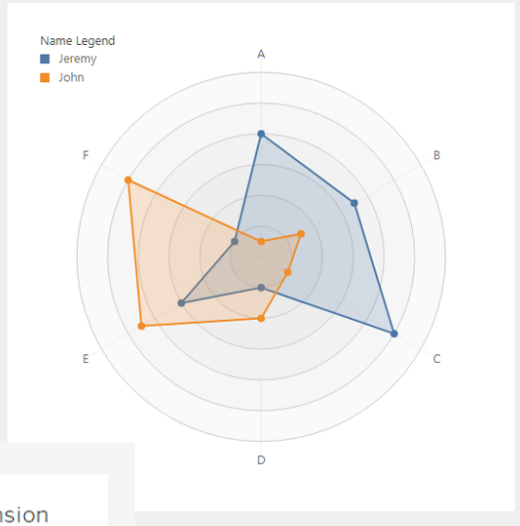
21 October 2020

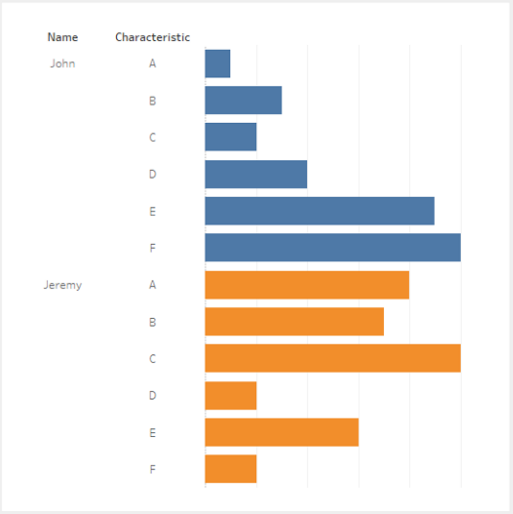
Illustration by Freepik Stories

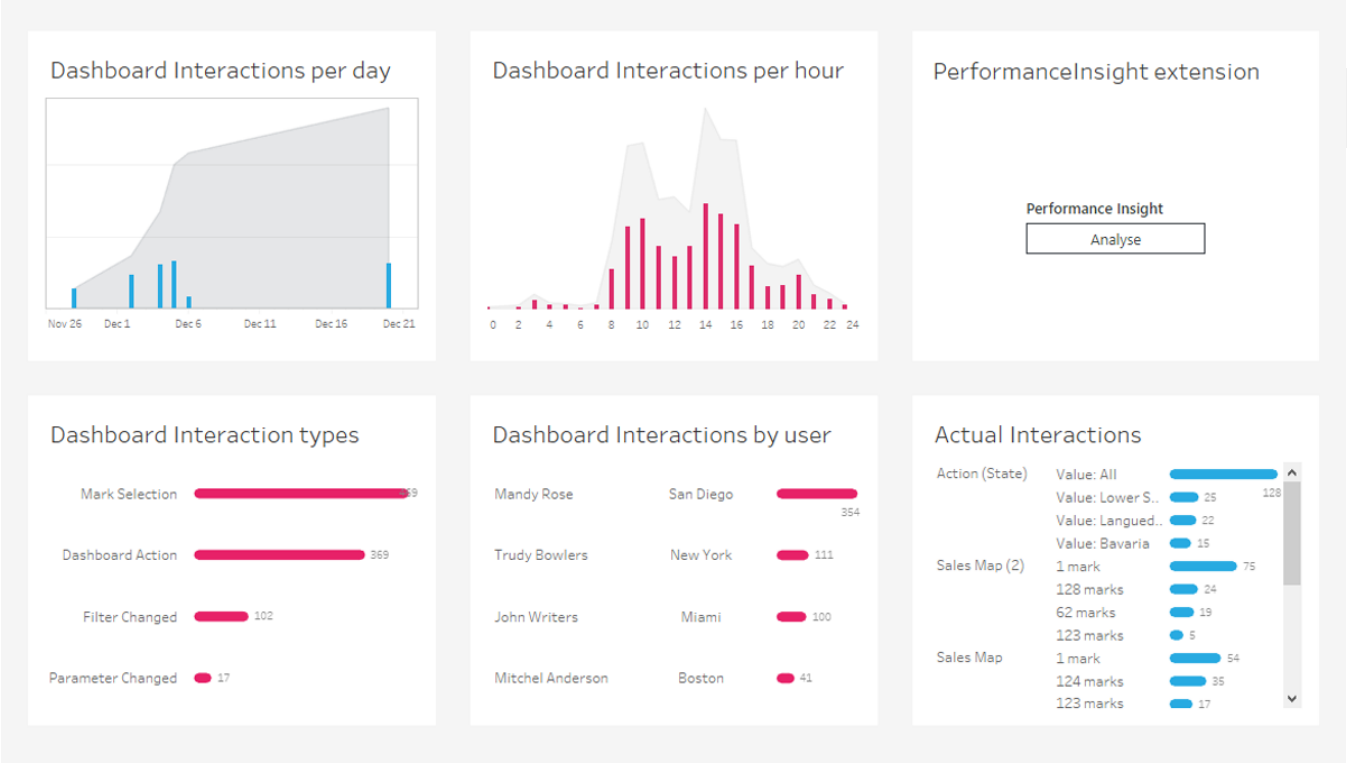
ANYA PROSVETOVA

Tableau DataDev Ambassador and Data Analytics Consultant at The Information Lab UK

1. What is a Tableau dashboard extension?

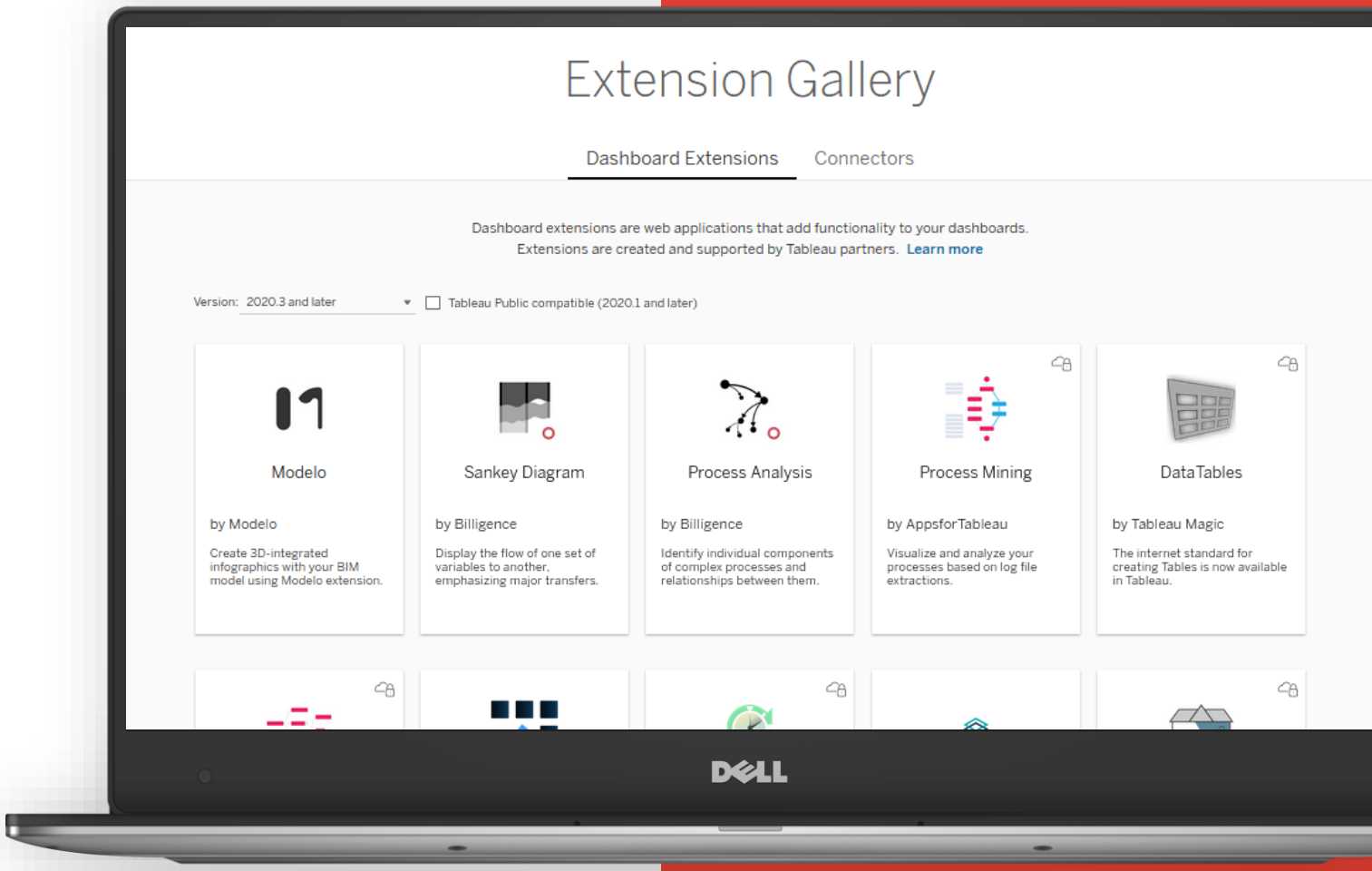




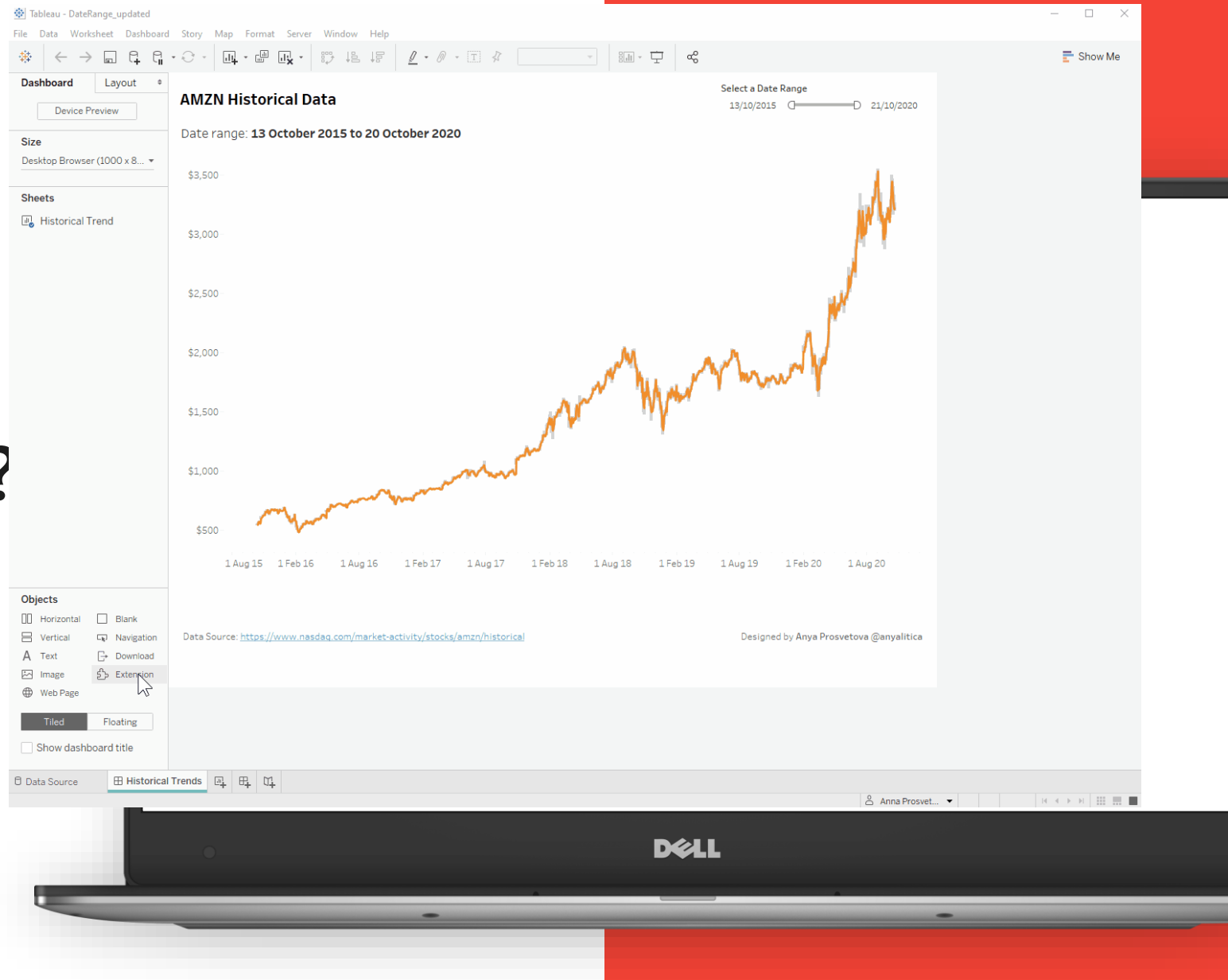


2. Where can I find a dashboard extension?

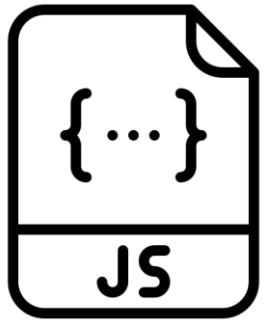
extensiongallery.tableau.com



3. How can I use an extension on a Tableau dashboard?



4. Can I create my own dashboard extension?



JavaScript file

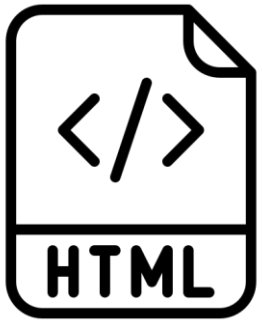
The JavaScript file (or files) that contains your extension's logic. This script is referenced in the HTML file.

script.js

```
JS script.js > updateFilterRange
1   tableau.extensions.initializeAsync().then(() => {
2     // console.log('I have been initialized!!')
3     let dashboard = tableau.extensions.dashboardContent.dashboard;
4     let selectedWorksheet = dashboard.worksheets.find(w => w.name === 'Historical Trend');
5     let fieldName = 'Date';
6     updateFilterRange(selectedWorksheet, fieldName);
7   });
8
9     function updateFilterRange(worksheet, fieldName) {
10      let today = new Date();
11      let lastYear = new Date();
12      lastYear.setFullYear(today.getFullYear()-1);
13      worksheet.applyRangeFilterAsync(fieldName, { min: lastYear, max: today});
14    }
```

Icons by iconixar from www.flaticon.com

4. Can I create my own dashboard extension?



index.html

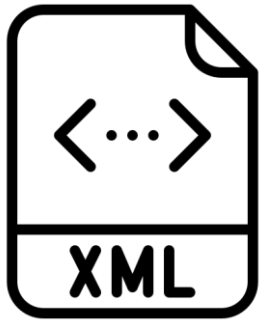
```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html lang="en">
  <script src="https://cdn.jsdelivr.net/gh/tableau/extensions-api/lib/tableau.extensions.1.latest.js"></script>
  <head>
    <title>Date range extension</title>
    <meta charset="utf-8">
    <meta http-equiv="X-UA-Compatible" content="IE=edge">
    <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1">

    <!-- import the webpage's stylesheet -->
    <link rel="stylesheet" href="/style.css">

    <!-- import the webpage's javascript file -->
    <script src="/script.js" defer></script>
  </head>
  <body>
    <p>This extension updates the date filter to view YTD transactions.</p>
  </body>
</html>
```

Web page

A webpage that uses a Tableau-supported JavaScript library. The web app consists of one or more HTML files. You host this page on a web server (the server specified in the .trex manifest file).

Icons by iconixar from www.flaticon.com

4. Can I create my own dashboard extension?



DateFilterExtension.trex

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<manifest manifest-version="0.1" xmlns="http://www.tableau.com/xml/extension_manifest">
  <dashboard-extension id="com.tableau.extensions.myawesomeextension" extension-version="0.7.0">
    <default-locale>Extension to update dates</default-locale>
    <name resource-id="name"/>
    <description>Extension to update dates</description>
    <author name="Anya Prosvetova" email="email@email.com" organization="The Information Lab UK" website="https://www.prosvetova.com"/>
    <min-api-version>0.9</min-api-version>
    <source-location>
      <url>https://spiritual-fair-wrench.glitch.me/</url>
    </source-location>
    <icon></icon>
  </dashboard-extension>
  <resources>
    <resource id="name">
      <text locale="en_US">This extension updates a date filter to a specific range</text>
    </resource>
  </resources>
</manifest>
```

Manifest file .trex

The manifest file .**trex** is an XML file that describes the extension and provides information to register the extension with Tableau. It references Tableau's Extension API library.

Icons by iconixar from www.flaticon.com

5. Where can I learn more about dashboard extensions?

Watch tutorials by Tableau DataDevs and the community

Search for 'Tableau datadev' on YouTube

Read Tableau Dashboard Extensions API documentation

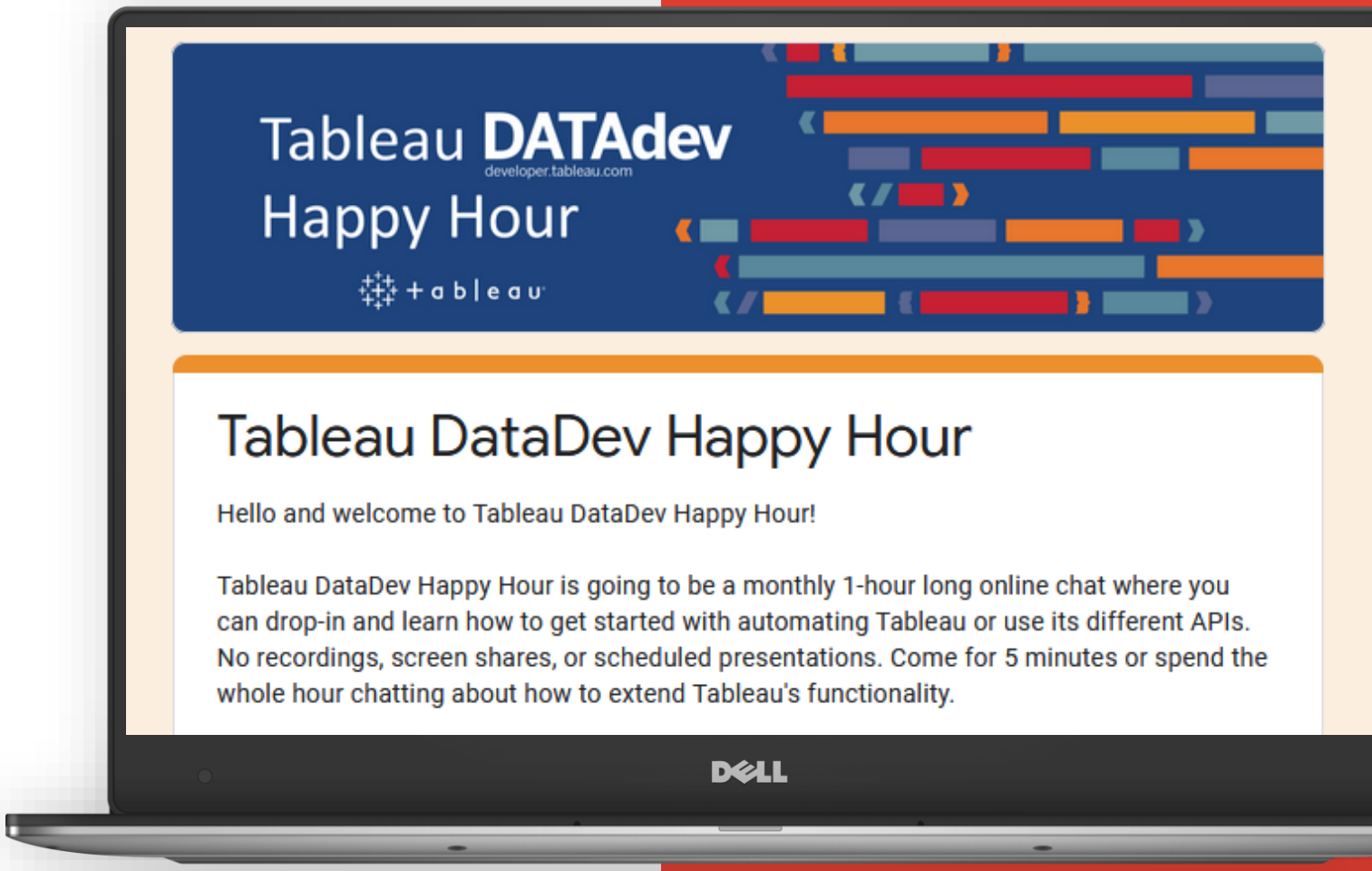
tableau.github.io/extensions-api

Join Tableau Developer Programme

www.tableau.com/developer

Join me at Tableau DataDev Happy Hour!

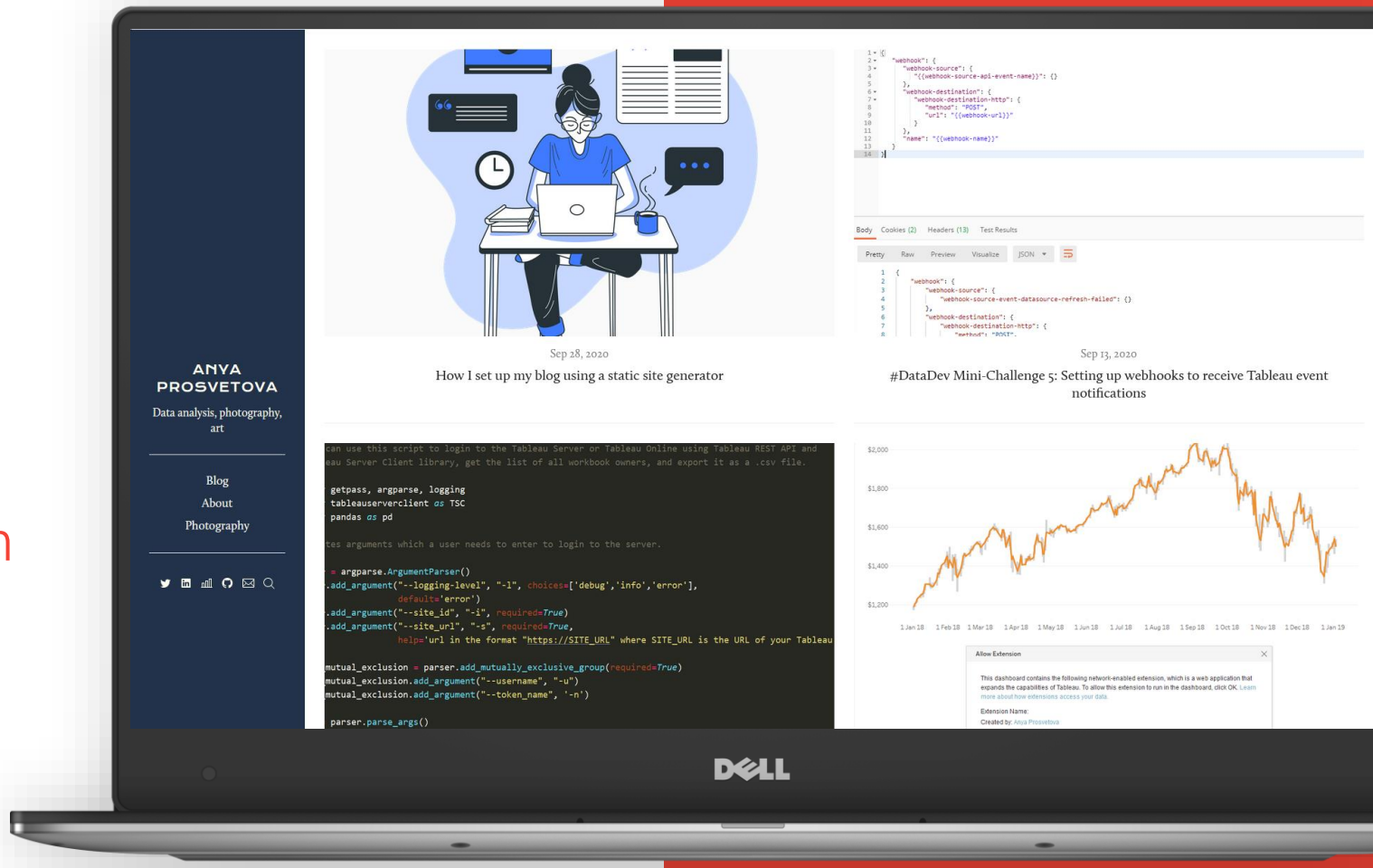
bit.ly/TableauDataDevHappyHour



Question #6?

GET IN TOUCH!

@Anyalitica

prosvetova.com

Thank you!