

Introducing the Reuters Climate Monitor

Tracking climate change at the speed of news

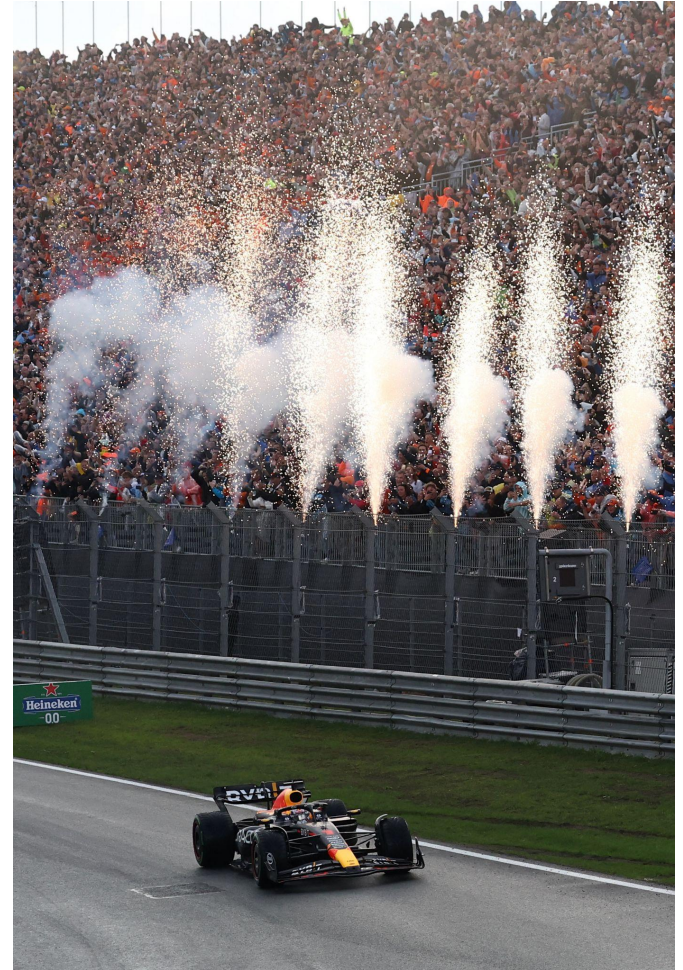
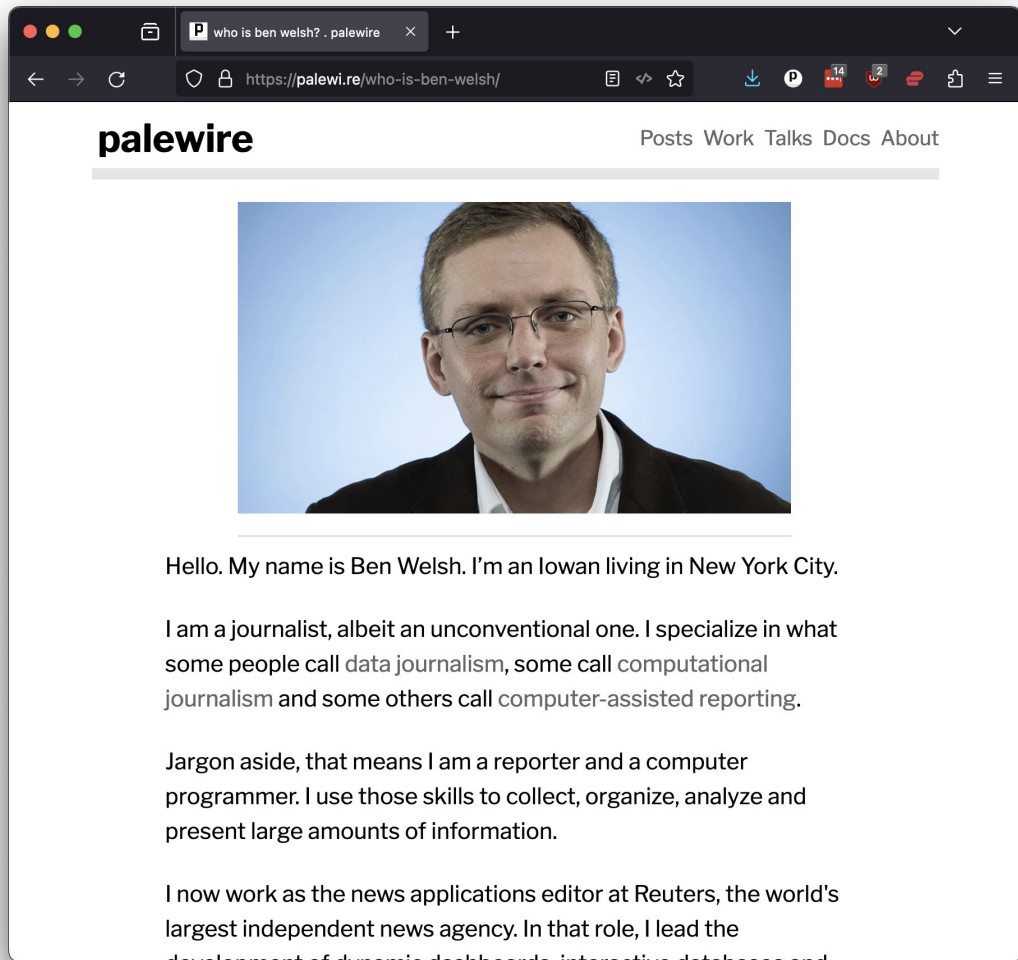


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Who I am

I'm Ben Welsh. I'm from Iowa.

I joined Reuters three years ago.

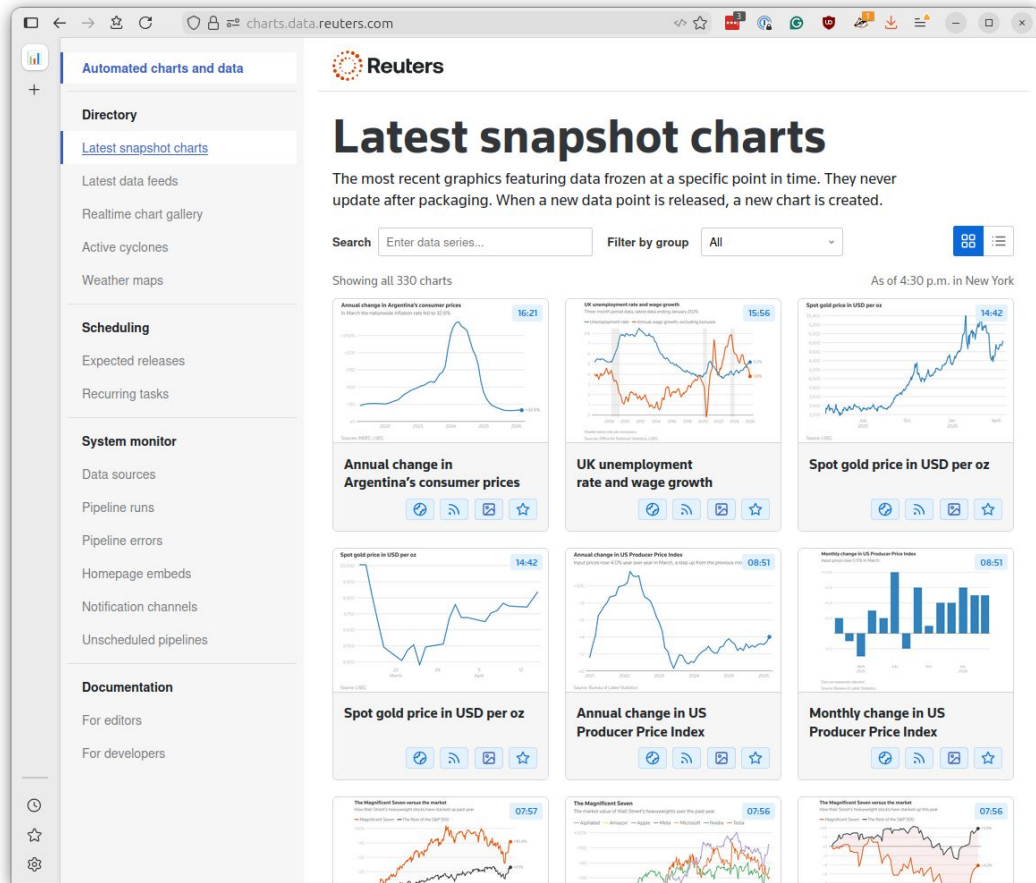
I lead a specialized team that automates data to cover breaking news.



What does that look like?

- ❖ Our goal is to learn from the speed, scale and extreme success of live election results, coronavirus trackers and similar products
- ❖ Our automated systems collect raw data, refine them into journalism and then deliver charts, dashboards, databases and other outputs to our customers.
- ❖ With continual updates, interactive inputs and limitless scale, they serve clients and readers in ways a traditional story cannot.



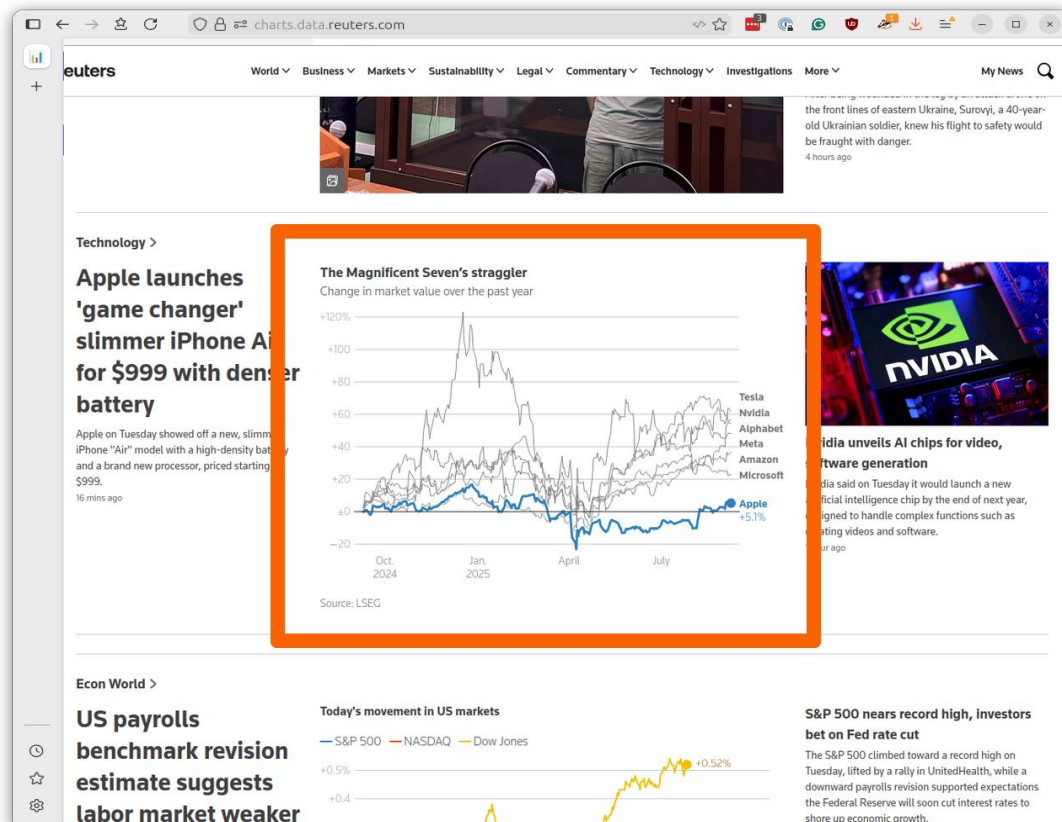


For example...

We've developed a pipeline that automatically plots data using our newsroom's chart-marking tool.

It produces hundreds of ready-to-run charts each week, covering markets, economics and public opinion.





Aiming high

Because we focus on coverage of the top storylines, our automated charts appear on Reuters homepage more than five times per week.



Now we're expanding our focus to extreme weather, another routine source of breaking news.

The problem with climate data

- ❖ **The challenge:** Can our newsroom use data to better cover the day-to-day impact of climate change?
- ❖ **The issue:** Most climate data is global in scope, slow to update and centered on the upward creep of arcane statistics.
- ❖ **The result:** It has little to add to coverage of fast-moving catastrophes, such as last summer's European heat wave. A key piece of context is missing from our reporting.



How we think we can solve it

- ❖ We sought out more timely climate coverage demands data that's localized, easy to grasp and quick to update.
- ❖ We surveyed our competitors, interviewed more than a dozen climate experts and reviewed the open-source science.
- ❖ We found an emerging set of data sources yet to be fully utilized by the press that fit the bill.



The big idea

- ❖ Create a data dashboard that, by automatically comparing today's weather against the historic record, identifies temperature extremes as they occur
- ❖ Deliver a comprehensive, real-time view of how climate change is unleashing dangerous new weather patterns, with the ability to focus in on any location on Earth
- ❖ Pass muster with the world's leading climate scientists



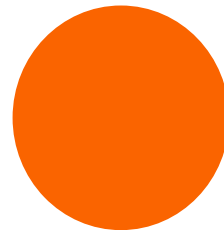
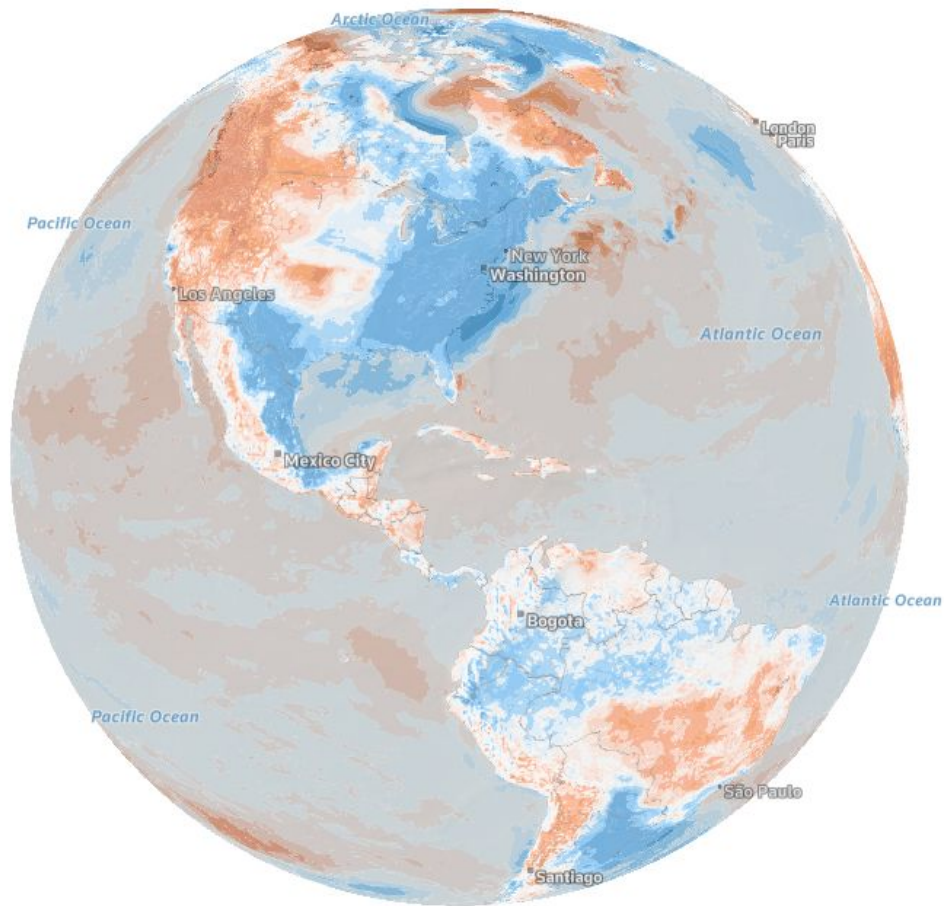
What we've made

- ❖ A color-coded world map that highlights which areas are, right now, reporting significant temperature anomalies
- ❖ Interactive controls that allow readers to examine conditions in local areas they care about



Let's have a look

We have a [prototype](#) that we're preparing to launch in the weeks ahead.



The road to the finish line

- ❖ Calculate the number of people living in extreme conditions each day and identify today's hotspots
- ❖ Forecast the temperature events into the near-term future, just like a traditional weather forecast
- ❖ Fuel reporting by our enterprise team into the impact of extreme temperatures



We hear from you

- ❖ Beyond temperature, what climate data would be most useful to you?
- ❖ What's a climate question your team gets asked that you can't currently answer with data?
- ❖ How could the news media do a better job covering climate with data?

