

A large, vibrant red ribbon bow is centered on a white background. A red ribbon tag is attached to the left side of the bow. The tag is rectangular with rounded corners and a small hole at the top where it is tied to the ribbon. The text on the tag is white and yellow.

Make Beautiful Charts
Impress everyone

FREE Bonus
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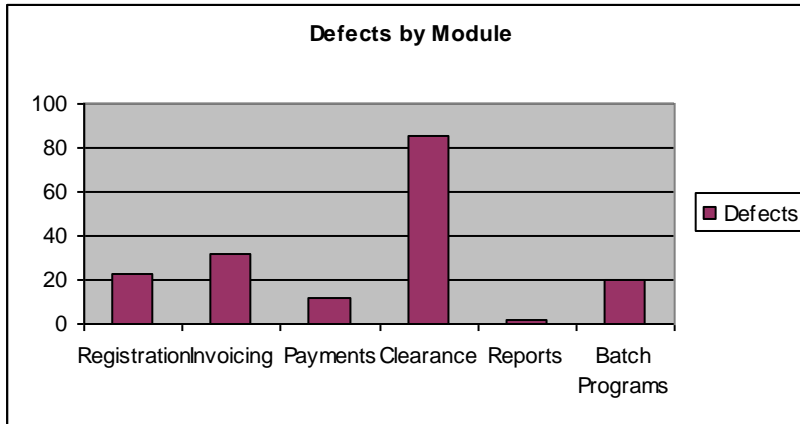
About this guide

- ▶ This learning guide is from chandoo.org
- ▶ The author, [Chandoo](http://chandoo.org), is a normal dude with tons of passion to make YOU an awesome in Excel and Charting.
- ▶ The material is **copy righted**. So don't reproduce without permission.
- ▶ Have some questions? Write to me on [@r1c1](https://twitter.com/r1c1) | chandoo.d@gmail.com

How to use this guide?

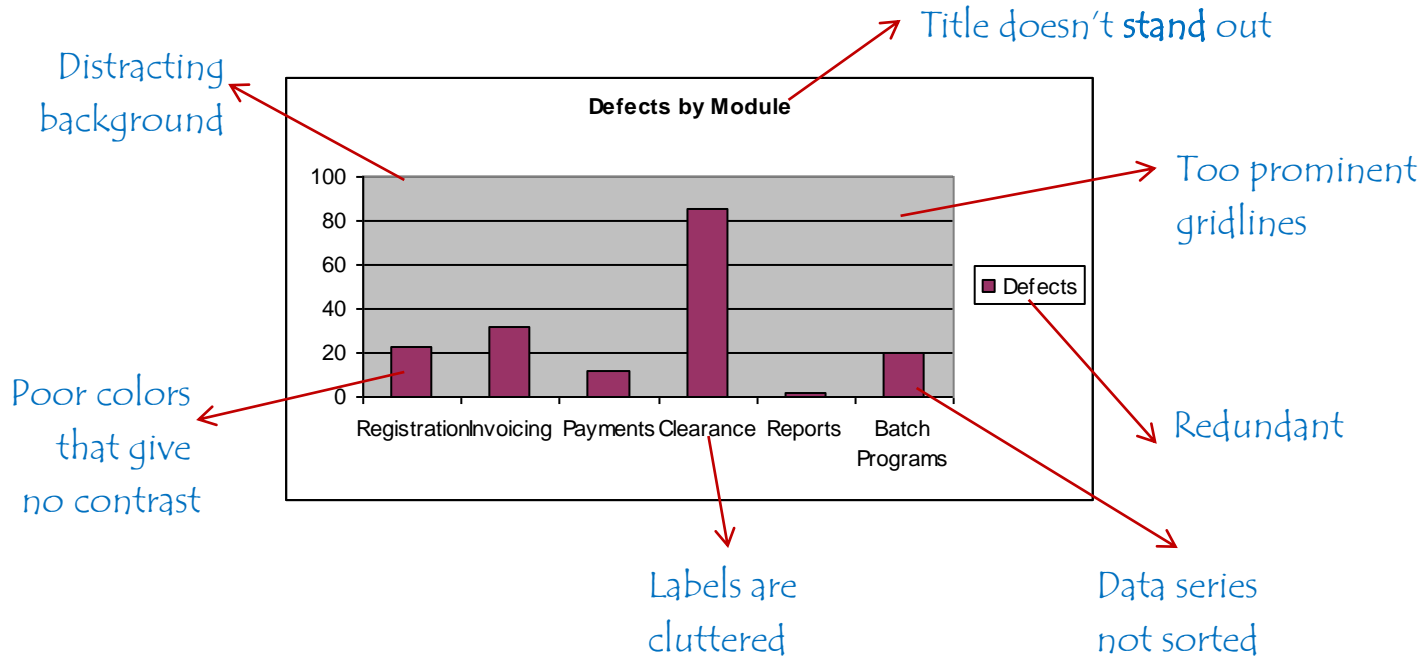
- ▶ First page shows a default (and ugly) chart*
- ▶ Each page improves the chart little bit
- ▶ Practice the tricks in excel as you read along
- ▶ Follow the [learn more](#) links to get more material

* We use Excel 2003 to illustrate this, but all the tricks can be applied in Excel 2007+ as well

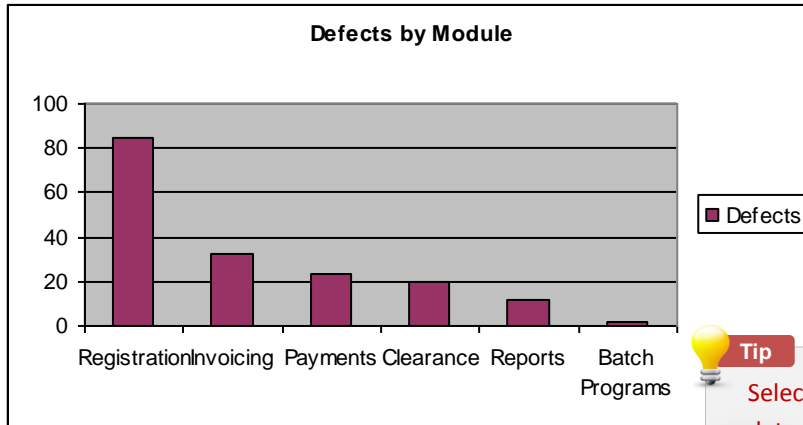


The Default Chart

Above default chart shows total number of defects in each module. A standard chart you would make in any project during testing phase



It is difficult to understand the message

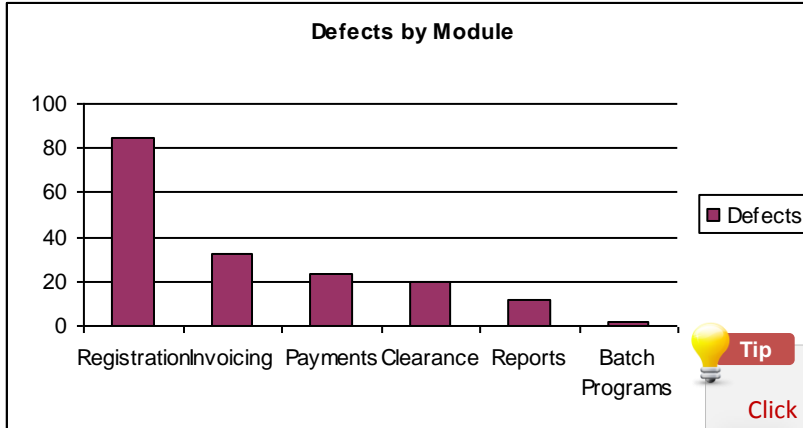


Tip

Select chart's source data and sort it. The chart gets sorted automatically.

[learn more](#)

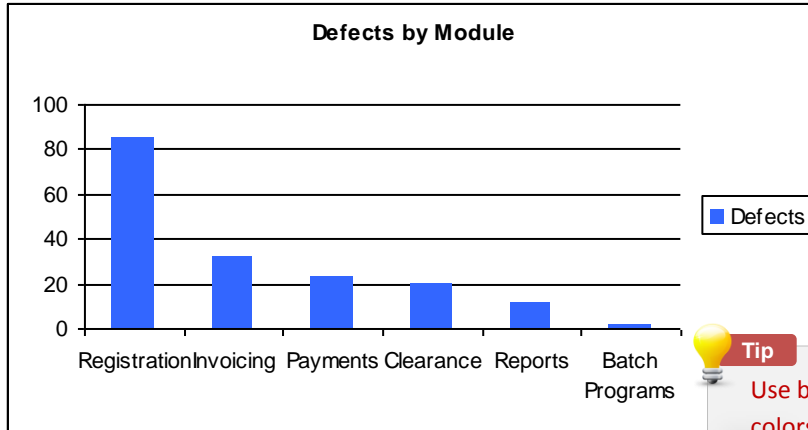
A sorted chart is easy to understand



Tip

Click on the chart's plot area and press DEL key to remove background

White color gives best contrast and gets your message out



Tip

Use bright, high contrast colors if data series are different & shades of same color if series are similar

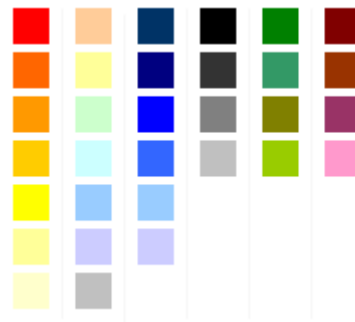
Primary colors and vivid colors stand out and call for attention

To show different data series



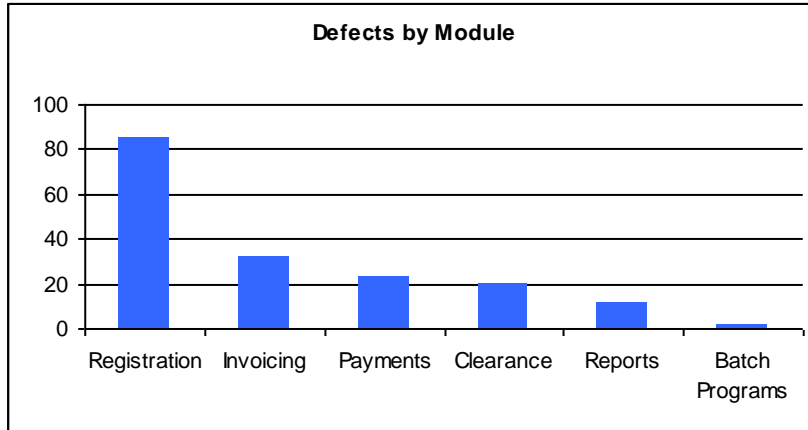
Use any combination

To show variations of same data



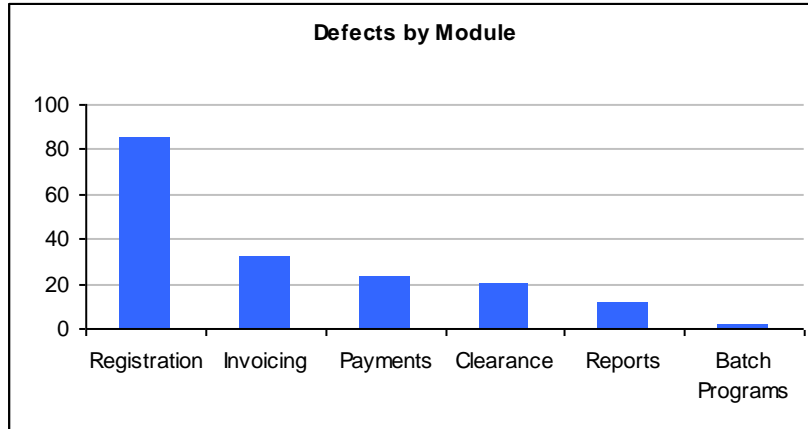
Use any colors in one line

All these colors are part of Excel 2003 Default Color Palette.
In Excel 2007, you can select more colors



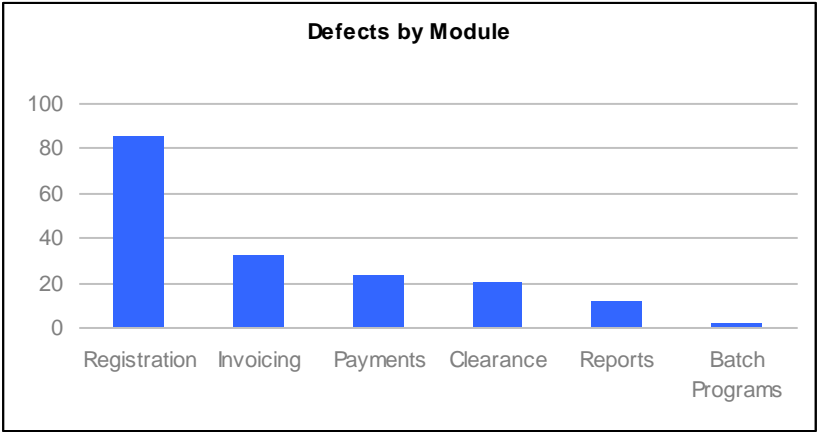
Tip

Do not always remove legend. As a rule, legend is not needed when you have only 1 series. For more than one, consider data labels *if possible*



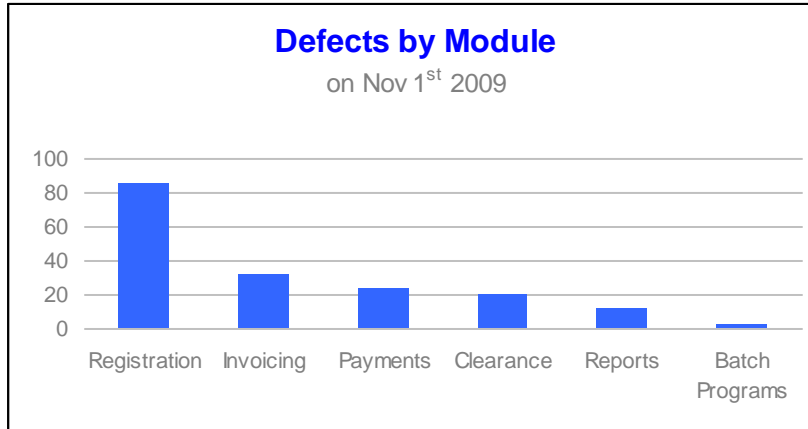
Tip

Select the grid-lines and set the line color to dullest shade of gray that is available. Do not make dotted or dashed gridlines as they grab attention.



Tip


Select the axis and press CTRL+1, adjust line color to “no line” or a dull color. Turn of tick-marks. Unless you have too much data, tick marks are not necessary. Adjust font colors too.



Tip

You can link chart titles to result of a formula. Just type the formula in a cell. Now select the chart title, press F2, then type = and select the cell.

Checkout these sites for more inspiration & ideas

1. [Charting Tutorials & How-tos on PHD](#)
2. [Jon Peltier's Charts and Charting Principles](#)
3. [Top Color Palettes from COLORluvers](#)
4. [Debra's Charting Tips Page](#)
5.  [73 Designer Quality Excel Chart Templates](#)

4 more ways to be awesome

1. Visit chandoo.org read few excel and charting tips
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A large red ribbon bow is centered on a white background. A red ribbon runs horizontally across the middle, forming the base of the bow. A red tag is attached to the left side of the bow. The tag has a hole at the top and contains text.

Thank you for learning

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