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Installing R packages without admin rights on MS Windows

© 26 Apr 2012 07:26 (2012-04-26T07:26:00+01:00) admin
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gPumYtOux4w/T5JqOHuzWII/AAAAAAAAAPs/MS_ARyFDXp8/s1600/IMG_2425.jpg)

Is there a life outside the office?

Photo: Markus Gesmann

It is not unusual that you will not have admin rights in an IT controlled office environment. But then again the limitations set by the IT department can spark of some creativity. And I have to admit that I enjoy this kind of troubleshooting.

The other day I ended up in front of a Windows PC with R installed, but a locked down "C:\Programme Files" folder. That ment that R couldn't install any packages into the default directory "C:\Programme Files\R\R-X.Y.Z\library" (replace R-X.Y.Z with the version number of R installed).

Never-mind, there is an option for that, the `libs` argument in the `install.packages` function. However, I have to use the same argument also in the `library` statement then as well. Fair enough, yet it is more convenient to set the directory somewhere globally.

First of all I decided that I wanted to install my R packages into `C:\Users\MyNAME\R`, a folder to which I had read/write access (replace `MyNAME`, or the whole path with what works for you). The R command `.libPaths(c("C:\\Users\\MyNAME\\R", .libPaths()))` will make this directory the default directory for any additional packages I may want to install, and as it is put at the front of my search path, `library` will find them first as well.

The next step is to enable R to execute the above command at start up. For that I created the R file `C:\Users\MyNAME\R\Rconfigure_default.R` with the following content:

```
1
```

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First steps of using googleVis on shiny

(<http://www.magesblog.com/2013/02/first-steps-of-using-googlevis-on-shiny.html>)

The guys at RStudio have done a fantastic job with shiny . It is really easy to build web apps with R using shiny. With the help of Joe Ch...



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Data.table rocks! Data manipulation the fast way in R (<http://www.magesblog.com/2012/11/datatable-rocks-data-manipulation-fast.html>)

I really should make it a habit of using `data.table` . The speed and simplicity of this R package are astonishing. Here is a simple exampl...



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How to use `optim` in R

(<http://www.magesblog.com/2013/03/how-to-use-optim-in-r.html>)

A friend of mine asked me the other day how she could use the function `optim` in R to fit data. Of course there are functions for fitting da...

Say it in R with "by", "apply" and friends

(<http://www.magesblog.com/2012/01/say-it-in-r-with-by-apply-and-friends.html>)

Iris versicolor By Danielle Langlois License: CC-BY-

```

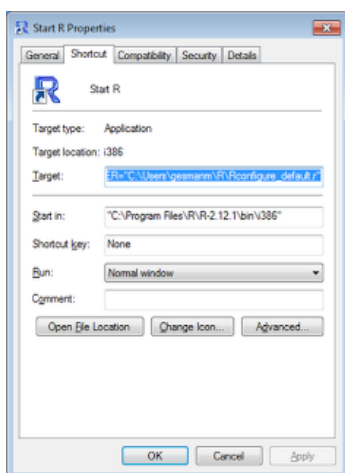
2 ## Rconfigure_default.R
3 library(utils)
4 ## Using Internet Explorer proxy settings is
5 ## often helpful in an IT controlled environment
6 setInternet2(TRUE)
7 ## Pre-select my nearest CRAN mirror in London
8 options(repos='http://cran.ma.imperial.ac.uk/')
9 ## Set default directory for user installed packages
  .libPaths(c("C:\\Users\\MyNAME\\R", .libPaths()))

```

Rconfigure_default.R [view raw \(https://gist.github.com/mages/2472835/raw/Rconfigure_default.R\)](https://gist.github.com/mages/2472835/raw/Rconfigure_default.R)
 (https://gist.github.com/mages/2472835#file-rconfigure_default-r) hosted with ❤ by **GitHub**
 (https://github.com)

Finally I added a new shortcut to Rgui.exe to my desktop with the target set to:

```
"C:\Program Files\R\R-2.X.Y\bin\i386\Rgui.exe" R_PROFILE_USER="C:\Users\MyNAME\R\Rconfigure_default.r"
```



(http://1.bp.blogspot.com/-G-11GvF3a-

Q/T5g7dwfPwwI/AAAAAAAAAP4/VfXbQ0P0iIA/s1600/photo.PNG)

Job done. R will happily install any new packages locally and find them as well when I use library or require. For more information see also the R FAQs (http://cran.r-project.org/faqs.html).

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SA R is a language , as Luis Apiolaza pointed out in his recent post . This is ab...



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Interactive web graphs with R - Overview and googleVis tutorial
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Today I feel very lucky, as I have been invited to the Royal Statistical Society conference to give a tutorial on interactive web graphs wi...



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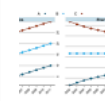
Last Saturday I met the guys from RStudio at the R in Finance conference in Chicago. I was curious to find out what RStudio could offer. I...



(http://www.magesblog.com/2011/12/fitting-distributions-with-r.html)

Fitting distributions with R
 (http://www.magesblog.com/2011/12/fitting-distributions-with-r.html)

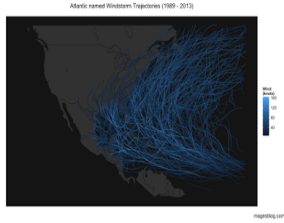
Fitting distribution with R is something I have to do once in a while, but where do I start? A good starting point to learn more about dis...



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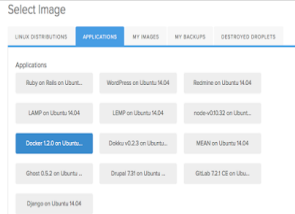
Transforming subsets of data in R with by, dply and data.table
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Transforming data sets with R is usually the starting point of my data analysis work. Here is a scenario which comes up from time to time: t...



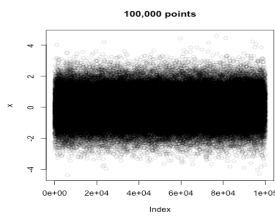
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Changing colours and legends in lattice plots (<http://www.magesblog.com/2012/12/changing-colours-and-legends-in-lattice.html>)

Lattice plots are a great way of displaying multivariate data in R. Deepayan Sarkar, the author of lattice, has written a fantastic book ab...



(<http://www.magesblog.com/2012/05/interactive-html-presentation-with-r.html>)

Interactive HTML presentation with R, googleVis, knitr, pandoc and slidy

(<http://www.magesblog.com/2012/05/interactive-html-presentation-with-r.html>)

Tonight I will give a talk at the Cambridge R user group about googleVis . Following my good experience with knitr and RStudio to create...

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Christian Kaas · 9 months ago
 Thanks Markus
 I googled my way through a lot of failed attempts before finding this site. This was exactly what i needed. Thanks for putting this on your blog!

Danièle · a year ago
 How would you proceed with R Studio?
 I am newbie at R and have no adminstration rights which does not help!

Thanks!

^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**Markus Gesmann** Mod → Danièle · a year ago

Alternatively you can store the above code in the .Rprofile located in your working directory. RStudio will read this file on start up. Read the RStudio documentation for more details: <http://www.rstudio.com/ide/doc...>

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Richard Todd · a year ago

Lloyd's IT giving you a hard time? Good guide this, insurance needs to wake up and embrace creativity.

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andrezalook · 2 years ago

what if the problem is to download the packages?
I have no permission to download stuff.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**Markus Gesmann** Mod → andrezalook · 2 years ago

Well, talk to the IT guys, buy them coffee or beer, try to understand why the have locked down your rights. What are the risks? What are the business benefits on the other hand if you were able to install packages. Would those business benefits outweigh the risks? If they do, then you are in a pretty good position to negotiate.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



andrezalook → Markus Gesmann · 2 years ago

ahaha, ok (:

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



cmdlintips · 2 years ago

Nice.. Here my post on how to install packages locally in from terminal
<http://cmdlinetips.com/2012/05...>

^ | v · Reply · Share ›

ALSO ON MAGES' BLOG

WHAT'S THIS?

Annotation charts and histograms with googleVis

9 comments • 7 months ago



George Dontas — This is how I do it. When I dbl-click the .html file the chart is shown correctly. But when I runApp, (or ...

Phase plane analysis in R

1 comment • 16 days ago



annoporci — Nice, thanks for sharing. I much prefer Maple's phase plots than Matlab/Octave. For freeware, I prefer ...

Sankey diagrams with googleVis

23 comments • 8 months ago



January Weiner — Just a minor thing -- I am the author of the riverplot package :-)

GrapheR: A GUI for base graphics in R

5 comments • 3 months ago



Markus Gesmann — Brilliant! I didn't know about the package.

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New package ilc with initial version 1.0

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Seth's Blog**(http://sethgodin.typepad.com/seths_blog)**

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