How to Get Started with R

Ryan T. Moore*

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1 The Challenge

You've heard of R, the flexibile, powerful, free, open-source software for data analysis, but you're not sure how to "get R", or what to do to learn about it.

2 A Solution

First, navigate to http://cran.r-project.org/. At the top of the page under "Download and Install R", you'll see links for MacOS X and Windows versions.

To install R on a Mac,

1. Click on "MacOS X" on the R download page.

2. Click on "R-X.X.X.dmg (latest version)".

3. Accept the installation defaults and follow the dialogue. R should be installed.

To install R on a Windows PC,

1. Click on "Windows" on the R download page.

2. Click on "base".

3. Click on "Download R X.X.X for Windows" at the top of the page.

4. Accept the installation defaults and follow the dialogue. R should be installed.

Now, how do you get started with R? I recommend the R package `swirl`. To try it, open R, and at the R prompt enter

```
> install.packages("swirl")
> library(swirl)
> swirl()
```

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*Department of Government, American University, Ward Circle Building 226, 4400 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington DC 20016-8130. tel: 202.885.6470; fax: 202.885.2967; rtm (at) american (dot) edu; http://ryantmoore.com.

`swirl` will guide you through learning R.

Another way to learn by concrete example, following along with commands others have selected and documented, is to click "Manuals" under "Documentation" on the left side bar from the `R` homepage. Then follow the link to "contributed documentation" at the lower left. There you will find a variety of documents, many of which start from the very beginning and provide soft introductions that can quickly get you up to speed.

Hope this helps!