

How to set up your computer as a statistician?

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Speakers: Jeff Goldsmith

Student Panel: Angel Garcia de la Garza, Rebecca Venetianer, Julia Wrobel, Erin McDonnell, Junting Ren

Moderator: Tom Carpino

Notes: MeOak Place

What are some essential softwares to download?

- R (<https://www.r-project.org>)
- R studio (<https://www.rstudio.com>)
- Microsoft office (<https://products.office.com/en-us/home>)
- LaTeX (<https://www.latex-project.org>)
 - Windows users: Tex Studio (<https://www.texstudio.org>)
- KDiff: free software to compare the difference between two files (<http://kdiff3.sourceforge.net0>)
- Slack (<https://slack.com>)
- Dropbox (<https://www.dropbox.com>)
- Mendeley (<https://www.mendeley.com/homepage7/?switchedFrom=>)
- Computer backup programs:
 - iCloud (<https://www.apple.com/icloud/>)
 - Dropbox
 - Crashplan (<https://www.crashplan.com/en-us/>)
 - External hard drive: to comply with HIPAA regulations
- CUMC software download link:
http://www.cumc.columbia.edu/it/getting_help/software.html

Advice on organizing files/folders on your computer?

- Develop your system ahead of time
 - Follow your own rules, be consistent, stick to your system
- Create uniform subfolders: data, code, reports
- Create an archives/old folder which serves as a trash bin within project folders
- Path example: projects > subfolders by year > subfolders by month > project partner name
- Folder naming: “yymmdd” works best for sorting

Advice for collaboration in regards to different programming languages, keeping code/files up to date?

- Github (<https://github.com>)
- Sourcetree (<https://www.sourcetreeapp.com>)

- Google Docs for editing/writing papers in groups (<https://www.google.com/docs/about/>)

How do you go about writing a report? What techniques do you use to stay organized and succinct? How do you keep track of references?

- Mendeley
- Endnote: management tool for references, can search in PubMed (<https://endnote.com>)
- ReadEQ
- When working in a group:
 - Discuss plan before beginning
 - Who is in charge of what and what the deadlines are
- BibTeX: within Latex (<http://www.bibtex.org>)
- Zotero (<https://www.zotero.org>)

Can you speak on taking notes and storing textbooks on an iPad/tablet? Are there apps that are useful?

- OneNote (<https://products.office.com/en-us/onenote/digital-note-taking-app>)
- Notability (<http://gingerlabs.com>)
- Look for PDFs of textbooks online: can annotate using different apps

What virtual desktops are best for software that requires Windows?

- Parallels, preferred over VirtualBox (<https://www.parallels.com>, <https://www.virtualbox.org>)
 - VirtualBox is free
- Oobaton: like a Mac system built on Mac and can be used on Windows

Can you tell us about using LaTeX and Overleaf? Speak briefly on this, we will have a full session dedicated to LaTeX.

- Word processing software oriented towards coding and writing math formulas
- Overleaf: online interface, can see in real-time what the PDF will look like (<https://www.overleaf.com>)
- Can use LaTeX in R Markdown
- LaTeX writes much better formulas than Microsoft Word
- Overleaf uses GitHub so all can be pulled together

General Questions

- What other topics have been discussed before?
 - Shiny, terminal, LaTeX, data visualization, Illustrator, R Markdown, ggplot, machine learning, Puthon
- Advice about saving passwords on your computer?
 - LastPass: app and computer software (<https://www.lastpass.com>)
 - Apple Keychain
 - Use a base password, change different letters/numbers/symbols
- Advice for first learning R?

- Resources:
 - R for Data Science (<http://r4ds.had.co.nz/>)
 - R for Statistical Computing (<https://www.r-project.org/>)
 - Twitter
 - stackoverflow
(<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/4556524/whats-the-way-to-learn-r>)
- Other advice:
 - Use CUIT for technical problems