How to set up your computer as a statistician

09/20/2022

11:45-12:45

Hammer LL203

Speaker: Jeff Goldsmith

Student Panel: Amy Pitts, Safiya Sirota, Jimmy Kelliher, Waveley Qiu

Moderator: Charly Fowler

# Welcome

**Presentation by Jeff Goldsmith**

*2022 notes:*

* **Latex**
	+ MacTeX (<http://tug.org/mactex/> )
		- LaTeX distribution for Mac users
		- *We will have a LaTeX session later in the semester*
	+ LaTeX (<https://www.latex-project.org/get/#tex-distributions>)
* **R/RStudio**
	+ R (<https://www.r-project.org/>) and RStudio (https://[www.rstudio.com/)](http://www.rstudio.com/%29)
* **Slack**
	+ Slack (<https://slack.com/>)
* **App launcher**
	+ Alfred (<https://www.alfredapp.com/>)
		- Search/launch application
		- Spotlight indexes everything on your computer, Alfred looks through file and directory *names*
* **Organize your folders and files**
	+ I.e. organize folders by each *year*
	+ i.e. organize project folder by *year\_month\_collaborator\_project*
	+ i.e. have analysis, data, results, and drafts directories in every project folder
* **Make use of workspace/desktop space**
	+ Magnet (<https://magnet.crowdcafe.com/>)
		- Reshapes windows on Mac automatically
		- Easier to split screen
* **Update software periodically**
* **Be consistent in organizing things**
	+ Deciding on a system (and sticking to it) early on will really help
	+ Use the same project infrastructure every time
* **Get rid of stuff you don’t use to minimize the amount of time spent looking for things**

# Panel Introduction (name, program, PC vs Mac, tablet yes/no)

* Amy, 3rd year PhD, Mac user, iPad for note taking
* Safiya, 2nd year PhD, PC user, iPad for note taking
* Jimmy, 2nd year MS, Mac user, physical notebook for note taking
* Waveley, 2nd year, PC user, iPad for note taking

# What are some essential softwares to download?

# Amy:

* **iCalendar**
	+ Built-in app on Apple devices, Sync among Mac, iPhone, iPad
	+ Useful for planning days, setting reminders
* **Notability** ([h ttps://apps.apple.com/us/app/notability/id360593530](https://apps.apple.com/us/app/notability/id360593530))
	+ Not free but worth it if you use for class
	+ Can copy handwritten math into LaTeX code with premium version
* **Overleaf** (<https://www.overleaf.com/>)
	+ Web-based LaTeX editor
	+ See output as you type
	+ Real-time collaboration, version control
	+ Good for writing HWs and easy to share through link
* **Rainbow Paratheses in R**
	+ Global Options -> code -> Display -> Rainbow paratheses
	+ ****

**Safiya:**

* **GoodNotes** ([https://www.goodnotes.com/)](https://www.goodnotes.com/)
	+ Alternatives to Notability
* **Google Calendar**
	+ Alternatives to iCalendar
	+ Easy to organize between PC and iPad/iPhone
	+ You can set assignment dues as all-day events
	+ Color code events can be helpful

**Wavely:**

* **Microsoft OneNote** ([https://www.onenote.com/)](https://www.onenote.com/)
	+ Notetaking for PC and Apple users
* **Git/GitHub** (<https://github.com/>)
	+ Great for collaborative projects
	+ Version control
* **SAS** studio (Columbia student discount via IT)

**Jimmy:**

* **Local Latex app**
	+ Write and click Run, quicker and simpler than Overleaf
* **Mathpix** (<https://mathpix.com/>)
	+ Can screenshot math on a pdf document, transforms it to LaTeX code
	+ Limit on Mathpix for how many pictures you can take
	+ Can get around limit by creating a new account
* **Stack Exchange** (<https://stackexchange.com/>)
	+ Network of question-and-answer websites on topics in diverse fields
	+ Online Free question and answer interface

# How do you take notes? If by iPad/tablet, can you speak about useful apps for taking notes, annotating a textbook, etc.?

* Notability/Goodnote (mentioned above)
	+ Automatically does text conversion, can search for a word in the app
	+ Can use it as a notebook
	+ Can download and annotate textbooks
	+ Can split screen
* MarginNote (<https://www.marginnote.com/>)
	+ Provides good organization for textbooks
* For non-iPad users:
	+ Can keep things organized in Google Drive for classes
	+ Print out slides and annotate them during class, keep organized in binder
	+ Can use pen and paper and then write up as a LaTeX document later

# What advice do you have for organizing files/folders on your computer?

* Focus on consistency and organization for whichever system you use
* Try not to procrastinate with organization because it gets difficult as time goes on
* Standardize directories across courses or projects
* Starting a filename with YYYYMMDD makes chronological sorting easier
* Input assignments and due dates into a Google Sheet to prioritize

# How do you keep track of references when writing a paper?

* Zotero (<https://www.zotero.org/>)
	+ Useful for keeping track or references and generating citations in Word
	+ Can have a shared reference library for collaboration
* Google Scholar (<https://scholar.google.com/>)
	+ Create an account
	+ Allows you to favorite documents and return to them later
	+ Can use even when you are not connected to Columbia’s network
* Dropbox ([https://www.dropbox.com/)](https://www.dropbox.com/)
	+ Store refernce papers
* Google Drive (<https://www.google.com/drive/>)
	+ Syncs well between devices and different operating systems