Blogging about R

Audio recording of this talk is on: R-statistics.com (tal.galili@gmail.com)

Tal Galili[1]

[1] Department of Statistics and Operations Research, Tel Aviv University, Israel.
Talk outline

• Why?
• Benefits
• Starting
• Writing
• Promoting
~100 R bloggers

Blogs list

- "R" you ready? - My advances in R - a learner's diary
- Ben Mazzotta's Weblog » R - Ben Mazzotta is a Ph.D. Candidate in School of Law and Diplomacy.
- bioCS - biology as computational science
- Biospherica » R - Earth Vegetation
- BioStatMatt » R
- Blogistic Reflections - Statistics, R, Emacs, ...
- Borasky Research Journal » R - Docendo Discimus - Research by @znmeb
- Brokering the Closure » R - Ramblings on social science, social networks, statistics, data analysis, computation, game theory and alike
- Byte Mining - My thoughts on data mining, machine learning, programming languages, open-source software and general nerdery.
- Cerebral Mastication » R - Something to Chew On
- Climate Charts & Graphs » R scripts - My R and Climate Change Learning Curve
- Computing is Psychological Research

http://www.r-bloggers.com/blogs-list/
Post types:
- News
- Tutorials
- Code snippets
- Case study's

# Posts per month

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Posts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 2010</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2010</td>
<td>159</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2010</td>
<td>168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 2010</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2010</td>
<td>156</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The main R mailing list, for announcements about the development of R and the new R code, questions and answers about problems and solutions of using R. There are about ~100 R bloggers who contribute to the list and have more than 2000 readers.

The R Journal is the refereed journal of the R project, containing medium length articles covering topics the R community finds interesting and useful. It is published by the R Journal Foundation for Research and Education.

Publications related to R

This book shows you how to extend the power of Stata through the use of R. It introduces R and its extensive capabilities for the Stata user.
R blogging is big
Why do bloggers do it?

• Writing is gratifying
• Readers appreciation is motivating
• Trust worthy online identity ("connections")
• Audience ("Conversion" ?)
What does the community gain?

• Quality content

• More connections
  (faster communication)

• Increased visibility to R-project
  (on google/media)
How to:
Start blogging
Where to Blog?

WordPress VS blogger (blogspot)

Wordpress.com
Open new blog

http://wordpress.com
Get your own WordPress.com account in seconds

Fill out this one-step form and you’ll be blogging seconds later!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Username</td>
<td>myname</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Password</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confirm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-mail Address</td>
<td><a href="mailto:MyEmail@email.com">MyEmail@email.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal flotsam</td>
<td>I have read and agree to the fascinating terms of service.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[Next button marked]
Open new blog

Get another WordPress.com blog in seconds

Welcome back, Tai Galli. By filling out the form below, you can add another blog to your account. There is no limit to the number of blogs you can have, so create to your heart's content, but blog responsibly.

If you're not going to use a great blog domain, leave it for a new user. Now have at it!

WordPress.com is also available in

Blog Domain
You may later choose to set your own domain name, such as R-blog.com, through domain mapping upgrade.

Blog Title
R blog test

Language
What language will you be primarily blogging in?

Privacy
I would like my blog to appear in search engines like Google and Technorati, and in public listings around WordPress.com.

Create Blog
Open new blog

rbloggers.wordpress.com is yours

If you have any problems or questions, please do not hesitate to contact Support.

ON WORDPRESS.COM
24/7 Support
Forums
Free Features
Premium Features
VIP Hosting
Advanced Services
Popular Tags

ALSO COOL
WordPress Apps
WordPress.org
WordPress.tv
Follow us on Facebook & Twitter
PoltDaddy Online Surveys
VideoPress Video Sharing
Matt Mullenweg

FROM OUR BLOG
Publicize: Facebook — Images
Phone Your Blog
Support the First Amendment with 1 for All
Overcome Writer’s Block With Plinky Prompts
New Theme: Modularity Lite
New Theme: Koi
Read more...

AN AUTOMATIC CONTRAPTION

Remember: press the **activation link** in your e-mail box
Hello world!
Posted on July 18, 2010 by Tal Gadili

Welcome to WordPress.com, this is your first post. Edit or delete it and start blogging!

Posted in Uncategorized | 1 Comment | Edit
Hello world!

Welcome to WordPress.com. This is your first post. Edit or delete it and start blogging!
Layout
Hello world!

Welcome to WordPress. This is your first post. Edit or delete it and start blogging!

Recent Posts
- Hello world!

Archives
- July 2006

Categories
- Uncategorized

Meta
- Site Admin
- Log out
- Rss Feed
- Comments Feed
- WordPress.com

R blog test
Setup
Setup
Setup

WordPress.com tip: Update your about page so your readers can learn a bit about you.

Right Now
- Content
  - 1 Post
  - 1 Page
  - 1 Category
  - 0 Tags
  - 0 Spam

QuickPress
- Title
- Upload/Insert
- Content
- Tags
- Save Draft
- Publish

Dashboard

WordPress.com tip: Update your about page so your readers can learn a bit about you.

Recent Comments
- From Mr WordPress on Hello world!

Stats
- Views per day
- Today
- Top Posts (the next week)
- Top Searches

Incoming Links
- The dashboard widget queries Google Blog Search so that when another blog links to your site it will show up here. It has found no incoming links... yet. It's okay — there is no rush.
Setup
Setup
Setup

Set your comments free!

Discussion Settings

Default article settings
- Attempt to notify any blogs linked to from the article.
- Allow link notifications from other blogs (pingbacks and trackbacks.)
- Allow people to post comments on new articles.
(These settings may be overridden for individual articles.)

Other comment settings
- Comment author must fill out name and e-mail
- Users must be registered and logged in to comment
- Automatically close comments on articles older than 14 days
- Enable threaded (nesting) comments 5 levels deep
- Break comments into four sections: oldest comments per page and the last page displayed by default
- Comments should be displayed with the older comments at the top of each page

Hold a comment in the queue if it contains 2 or more links. (A common characteristic of comment spam is a large number of hyperlinks.)

When a comment contains any of these words in its content, name, URL, e-mail, or IP, it will be held in the moderation queue. One word or IP per line. It will match inside words, so “press” will match “WordPress.”
Setup
Setup
Setup
**Setup:** recommended widgets
Manage: change design
**Manage:** change design

![Manage Themes](http://rbloggers.wordpress.com/wp-admin/themes.php)
**Setup:** Edit your “about” page
Manage:
you can map a domain for 10$/year
How to:
Write your blog
Write: Edit/create posts

- Add New Post
- Draft Posts
- Published Posts
- Title: Hello R user. If you started a new blog ...
- Title: temp post title - Draft
- Title: Hello world!
Write: Edit posts (add text images and more)
Write: add image to post
Write: Schedule post (and more)
Embed video

[YouTube video: Watchmen Trailer - Amazing!]

After making your selection, copy and paste the code above. The code changes based on your selection.
Embed video
Embed presentation

http://slideshare.net/
Embed HUGE images

http://seadragon.com/
**Write:** interactive graphics - animation

“animation” package - for animation gif

This morning:
Yihui Xie
*Creating Animations with R*
Write: interactive graphics (one day)
Write: interactive graphics

Thursday

17:00 - 18:00  useR! Focus

**Bat your hashes! Hash come to R**  
Romain Francois, Dirk Eddelbuettel  
*RProBuf: Protocol Buffers for R*  
John James  
*Use of and Using R as on Object Oriented Language*

**Cloud computing** (Room: PR, Chair: Michael O’Connell)  
Karim Chne  
*Blastic-R, a Google docs-like portal for data analysis in the Cloud*  
Hsin-Ying Hsieh, Kun-Hsien Lin, Sun-Chong Wang  
*Strengthening a community-backed R in the cloud*  
Jeroen Ooms  
*Web development with R*

**Real-time computing** (Room: Red, Chair: Jeffrey Ryan)  
Zubin Dowlaty, Deepak Bysani  
*Using R in an Event Driven Service Architecture*
Add R code: .r files?
Add R code - Sharing code/files

Dropbox
Sync your files online and across computers
Download Dropbox
Free for Windows, Mac, Linux, and Mobile
- Sync files of any size or type
- Automatic online backup
- Share large files and photos easily
- Track and undo changes to files

Take a tour of Dropbox

https://www.dropbox.com/
Add R code: syntax highlighting

[sourcecode language="css"]
your code here
[/sourcecode]

Add **R code**: syntax highlighting

```r
x <- rnorm(100, mean = 2, sd = 3)
plot(x, xlab = "index", main = "Example code")
```

**Manage: categories**

### Categories

#### Add New Category

**Name**

The name is how it appears on your site.

**Parent**

Categories, unlike tags, can have a hierarchy. You might have a Jazz category, and under that have children categories for Bebop and Big Band. Totally optional.

**Description**

The description is not prominent by default; however, some themes may show it.

---

#### Bulk Actions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Slug</th>
<th>Posts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Uncategorized</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>uncategorized</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:**

Deleting a category does not delete the posts in that category. Instead, posts that were only assigned to the deleted category are set to the category **Uncategorized**.

Categories can be selectively converted to tags using the **category to tag converter**.
Manage: tags

Post Tags

Add New Tag

Name

The name is how it appears on your site.

Description

The description is not prominent by default; however, some themes may show it.

Add New Tag

Bulk Actions

Tags can be selectively converted to categories using the tag to category converter.
Usage: comments
How to blog

• Time - Post regularly
• Quality
  • Keep it simple
  • Give context ("package updates")
• Avoid Typos
• Connect
  • Link out
• Conversation
How to:
Promote your blog
Think off-line

• Tell friends (face to face / phone)
• Business cards
• In your presentations
• Conference badge
• Sign on office door
• URL in package help files?
• Street signs (maybe not)
• ...?
Tell your (online) “friends”

• E-mails
  • mass e-mail (with caution!)
  • signature
• Twitter
• Facebook
  • status updates
  • share button
Tell the world: tags

Blogs about: R Project

Figure Margins in R and LaTeX
Just in case Sweave isn't an option and you find yourself tweaking figure margins in both R and LaTeX don't forget that the editing order is different for each program. In R you edit margins... more →

R project
Masterscar wrote 1 week ago: Introduction to R There are commercial statistics packages, SAS, SPSS (now belongs to IBM), JMP, Minitab... more →
Tags: Open Source Projects, open source statistics package

Figure Margins in R and LaTeX
jnthn wrote 2 weeks ago: Just in case Sweave isn't an option and you find yourself tweaking figure margins in both R and... more →
Tags: latex

Faster 'for' Loops in R — 2 comments
jnthn wrote 2 months ago: We all know that the apply functions exist to get us away from relying on 'for' loops (a... more →

Useful commands in R
Andy wrote 4 months ago: search() gives the attached packages. detach("package:whateveriscalled") removes one... more →

Weighting model fit with ctree in party
Neurotropical wrote 4 months ago: Conditional inference trees (ctree) in package party allows weighting which is useful when one class... more →
Tags: Machine Learning and Data Mining, R, HowTo, Tutorial, Machine learning
Tell the world: reddit.com/

Statistics, machine learning, visualization, programming
Tell the world: Hackers news

http://news.ycombinator.com/

1. This is how you pitch a new piece of technology. (youtube.com)
   17 points by intrepid at 51 minutes ago | 12 comments
2. Ask HN: Resources for finding short term projects?
   22 points by skull splitter 1 hour ago | 6 comments
3. The Hidden Cost of Smart Drugs (2008) (scienceblogs.com)
   11 points by andrew 9 hours ago | 16 comments
4. Microbenchmarking Mono's new GC (gonzalo.name)
   11 points by lalak at 3 hours ago | 10 comments
5. What a Programmer Sees When He Watches Inception (davestate.com)
   20 points by adrof at 1 hour ago | 20 comments
6. To retire comfortably, under-40 workers need to seriously bulk up savings (washingtonpost.com)
   49 points by codemanship 4 hours ago | 14 comments
7. "Pain gun" gets deployed in Afghanistan (engadget.com)
   21 points by titanics 4 hours ago | 14 comments
8. Boardwalk: Port of Why's Park Place using Sinatra and MongoDB. (github.com)
   12 points by swalew 4 hours ago | 2 comments
   137 points by pws 20 hours ago | 101 comments
10. Ask HN: Generating business lists by industry.
    10 points by presencia 2 hours ago | 6 comments
11. American Murder Mystery (theatlantic.com)
    28 points by simak 7 hours ago | 28 comments
12. AppsMuck: iPhone development examples (appsmuck.com)
    15 points by danielv 14 hours ago | 17 comments
13. Google's Dremel: Interactive Analysis of Web-Scale Datasets (google.com)
    28 points by yarajav 13 hours ago | 1 comment
14. Nigerian Internet use increasing (google.com)
Tell the world: Twitter (#rstats / #user2010)

Thursday, July 22
15:25 - 16:55

Data manipulation and classification (Room: A, Chair: Julie Josse)

Christopher Brown: Venn: Powerful and High-Level and Set Manipulating
... a whole new way of working with data

Drew Conway: Real-time network analysis in R using Twitter

Pascal Neveu, Juliette Fabre: Using ontologies for R functions management

p.s: there is a twitter package
... (with a talk by Drew?)
Tell the world: directories


- Internet (5)
- S-Plus® (4)

See also:

- Computers: Artificial Intelligence: Machine Learning: Software (91)
- Computers: Programming: Languages: Functional (55)
Tell the world: Wiki's

http://rwiki.sciviews.org/doku.php


http://www.wikipedia.org/
Tell the world: help list/ forums

R mailing list

http://stats.stackexchange.com/ [Goes out of BETA in 1 week]

http://stackoverflow.com/questions/tagged/r

http://metaoptimize.com/qa/ (maybe)
Tell the woRld: R-bloggers.com

Cherry Picking to Generalize ~ retrospective meta-power analysis using Cohen’s f^2 of NASA temp + visualization
POSTED ON R-CHART - R • RETRIEVED ON JULY 17, 2016 • [EDIT]

Previously, I plotted a pdf of NASA GISS global temps in ggplot2 to show general trends by the brute force method. Here, I will again use the brute force method to do a simple power analysis on a portion of the data (data here). The general aim is to figure out what the minimum sample size is needed to show strong confidence in the significance of the trends (hypothesis in a compact but comprehensive way). There are many blog posts on the trend since 1998, where some people call an insignificant ...
(click here for the full article)

Latent variable analysis package for R
POSTED ON R-BLOGGERS RESEARCH BLOG • RETRIEVED ON JULY 17, 2016 • [EDIT]

This is another R package for latent variable analysis. I hope it can soon include multilevel and mixture modeling capacity. Another promising package is OpenMx, which is also under active development and very promising. At this moment, OpenMX seems to have more features than lavaan (e.g. categorical dependent variable, mixture model, etc.), but lavaan promises to include them in the next year or so. Related posts:OpenMX with mixture distribution support: OpenMX (Follow the link for other posts by Slaje)
(click here for the full article)

What (Search Engines Think) People Want
POSTED ON R-CHART • RETRIEVED ON JULY 17, 2016 • [EDIT]

http://www.r-bloggers.com/
Tell the world: R-bloggers.com

(Because the world has too many Pirate bloggers!)
Collaborate!

Share readers to get readers
  • Link to other bloggers
  • Guest posts
Update your readers

- E-mail subscription
- RSS subscription
Update your readers

• Facebook fan page subscription
  • Create a page for your blog
  • Add your blog’s feed in the facebook page “notes”
• Add the fan page widget to your sidebar
Update your readers

Twitter + facebook status updates of new blog posts
Twitter (#rstats) -> feedburner

http://feedburner.com
Twitter -> facebook

Would you like to connect your Twitter and Facebook accounts?

By clicking "Allow", your Twitter and Facebook accounts will be connected.

Connecting your accounts will not post anything to Twitter or Facebook without your explicit consent. You may remove the connection between your Twitter and Facebook accounts at any time.

Connect Twitter with Facebook to:
- find and follow your Facebook friends on Twitter
- allow your Facebook friends to find and follow you on Twitter
- post Tweets to your Facebook News Feed or Page (optional)

Sign out if you want to connect to an account other than talgalili.

Deny  Allow
“SEO”
Search engine optimization
“SEO” - Help google searchers

• Titles – simple and descriptive
• Find words for posts –
  • Google keywords tool
  • Google suggest (R code*)

Measure yourself: site analytics

The best blog I know on webanalytics: http://www.kaushik.net/avinash/
Measure yourself: google alerts

http://www.google.com/alerts

Monitor the Web for interesting
Google Alerts are email updates of
based on your choice of query or to
Enter the topic you wish to monitor,
receive. Some handy uses of Googl
• monitoring a developing new:
• keeping current on a compet
• getting the latest on a celeb
• keeping tabs on your favorite
You can also click here to manage
Help:

Support

Need some help?
First, read the support topics. A few popular questions:

- How do I start blogging?
- Can I reset my password?
- Can I use my own domain name?
- Can I have ads on my blog?
- Can I change my username?

Browse by Topic

- Appearance
- Comments
- Configuration

WordPress.com vs. WordPress.org

WordPress.com is a hosted blog service. You do not have to download software, pay for hosting or manage a web server. WordPress.com does not permit uploading themes or plugins. WordPress.org is free software. You can install themes and plugins, run ads, and edit the database. Check out our article on the differences.

Topics

- Appearance
- Comments
- Configuration
- General
- Languages
- Links
- Media
- Subscriptions
- Tools
- TOS & Copyright
- Traffic
Help:

![Image of WordPress Support Forum](http://en.forums.wordpress.com/)

Welcome, [username] | Log Out

Need help? Check out our Support site, then search the forums

(WordPress.com forums are also available in [link](http://en.forums.wordpress.com/))

### Important Notices

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic Description</th>
<th>Post Count</th>
<th>Last Poster</th>
<th>Freshness</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[sticky] [closed] 8 Things To Know Before Posting in WordPress.com Forums</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>sub</td>
<td>3 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[sticky] [closed] WordPress.com or WordPress.org? The difference</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>andy</td>
<td>3 years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Latest Discussions — [Add new topic »]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic Description</th>
<th>Post Count</th>
<th>Last Poster</th>
<th>Freshness</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Widget</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>danwpierre</td>
<td>29 seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photoshop</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>danwpierre</td>
<td>7 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Page problems...</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>supportbot</td>
<td>35 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Page problems...</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>supportbot</td>
<td>37 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pressrow: exclamation marks &amp; comment boxes</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>mmagacs</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How to show summary of blog with main blog link</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>raincoaster</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOMAIN MAPPING PROBLEM, PLEASE HELP</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>raincoaster</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[resolved] Pressrow customization</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>mmagacs</td>
<td>2 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wordpress is reformating my CSS and merging it</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>raincoaster</td>
<td>2 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sidebar titles are different colors - how do I make them the same?</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>jenboecker</td>
<td>2 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>trying to get first blog onto linked in page...</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>raincoaster</td>
<td>2 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manage admin tools</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Way</td>
<td>3 hours</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Forums

- **Support**
  - 41,062 posts, 245,860 topics
  - Share experiences and help each other

- **Widgets**
  - 2,475 posts, 14,833 topics
  - Using them to their maximum

- **Questions**
  - 17,671 posts, 58,084 topics
  - The best place to ask a question related to WordPress.com

- **Themes**
  - 279 posts, 2,434 topics
  - Discuss WordPress.com themes

- **CSS Customization**
  - 3,787 posts, 3,354 topics
  - Share tips, tricks, and help each other out with CSS

- **Help**
  - 1 post, 1 topic
  - Help others with their WordPress.com needs
Help:

http://webapps.stackexchange.com/
http://www.r-project.org/blog

If you have questions about R like how to download and install the software, or what the license terms are, please send an email.

News:

- The R Journal Vol.2/1 is available
- R version 2.11.1 has been released on 2010-05-31. The source code is first available in this directory, and ever course (see download instructions above).
- useR! 2010, the R user conference, will be held at NIST, Gaithersburg, Maryland, USA, July 21-23, 2010.
- useR! 2011, will take place at the University of Warwick, Coventry, UK, August 16-18, 2011.

This server is hosted by the Institute for Statistics and Mathematics of the WU Wien.
Follow/Contact me:

R-statistics.com
(tal.galili@gmail.com)

Thank you!

Tal Galili[1]

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    Tel Aviv University, Israel.