R User Groups
Building Community at the Local Level

useR! 2015
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What does it take for a group of people to be a community?

• Intentional involvement
• A shared set of positive goals
• Interactions that take place over time
• Committed members
• Contributions to the general welfare
RUG Dynamics
The R Community Interactions

RUGS
- Forge personal bonds
- Increase commitment
- Maintain the community as the number of R users grows
What are RUG members looking for?

• A learning experience
• To find people they can learn from
• To see what’s new in the R world
• A place to show their work and share
• A place to socialize with others who share their interests
• To be inspired!!
Local Membership is Important

The policies for sharing of files, presentations and videos of events seems to enforce local group membership.
RUG Trends
R User Groups Are Everywhere
166 RUGS Worldwide

http://blog.revolutionanalytics.com/2015/06/r-user-groups-are-everywhere.html
New RUGS continue to form in 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RUG</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Date Founded</th>
<th>No. Members</th>
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<td>Berlin R Users Group</td>
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RUG Activity IS Increasing

- New Rugs
- Frequent meetings
RUG Membership is Growing
The Dark Side

Data Science companies have identified the larger R User Groups as:

• Influential
• Marketing targets
• A source for recruiting talent
Best Practices
Starting a new RUG

• Find out what other user groups are close by
  • Local R User Group Directory

• Set up a webpage
  • Unless you are going to put some work into host your group site on meetup.com
  • A typical meetup.com site: BARUG
  • A custom site with some work behind it: MilanoR

• Apply for support: RevoRUGS

• Get an assistant organizer

• Have a look at Revolution Analytics’ tips page
Organizing a meeting

• The goal of every meeting should be to inspire both attendees and speakers
• Allow time for networking
• Fill the program time with talks, and keep on schedule
• Leave time for questions but don’t let anyone hijack the evening
• Vary the level and content of talks
• Vary the location if you can
• Don’t allow “product pitches"
• Find a suitable venue
• Food helps, beer seems to help more
• Take photos, video if you can
The Venue Matters

Location and traffic patterns are most important
But
Nice places help

"Official" November 2014 Meeting
•November 17, 2014 · 6:30 PM
•111 Minna St

Agenda:
6:30 PM - Food and networking
7:00 PM - Announcements
7:05 PM - Noah Gift: R, Social Media and Sports Data
7:30 PM - Stephen Elston: Using R with Microsoft Azure Machine Learning
8:00 PM - Matt Dowle: A look at What's new in data.table
Go outside the box for venues

Special January 2015 Meeting
• January 27 · 6:30 PM
• Trianon Theatre
Come join Dirk Eddelbuettel and a cast of characters including Louis Bajuk-Yorgan, Michael Kane and Simon Urbanek for an introduction to Rcpp and an evening of R conversation at the Trianon Theatre.

Agenda:
6:30 pizza and networking
7:00 Michael Kane - Lightning talk
7:15 Dirk Eddelbuettel - An Introduction to Rcpp
7:55 Bryan Lewis - Demo of htmlwidgets
8:10 Mikhail Kozine - GBM Modeling with R and SkyTree
8:25 Gabe Becker - The switchr package
8:40 Louis Bajuk-Yorgan - Real Time Applications using the R language

Reach out to local technology companies
But
Be flexible
Vary Presentation Times

• Lightening talks: 12 minute talk with 3 minutes for questions
• Standard talk: 20 minutes with 5 minutes for questions
• Keynote talk: 30 to 40 minutes

June 9 · 6:30 PM
Leavey School of Business at Santa Clara University

Agenda:
6:30PM Pizza and networking
7:00 Announcements
7:05 Anurag Misha: Water Quality Modeling
7:20 Balasubramanian Narasimhan: distcomp
7:50 Vineet Abraham: RStudio with Bootnode
8:05 Sanjiv Das: Matrix Metrics
8:35 Kanchan Chauhan: Facebook Mining
R Community News
• is a group of corporations (and universities) organized under an open source governance and foundation model to support
  • the R Community
    • the R Foundation
    • R developers and users
• An independent 501(c)6 non-profit organization under the Linux Foundation
A mechanism:

• To bring corporations into the R Community
• To allow corporations to contribute to the R Community
• To allow corporations to share expenses and undertake projects for the common good
• To encourage good behavior
• For engaged corporations to lead by example
• For the rest of the R Community to provide feedback business
The R Consortium mission:

- Enable the R user community to grow without disrupting R language development or the work of the R Foundation.

- The Consortium will work with and provide support to the R Foundation, to the key organizations developing, maintaining and distributing R software, and to current and future activities, bringing the user community together.

- Over time, project examples could include:
  - Funding and managing an infrastructure project to combine the best of R Forge and Github.
  - Assisting the Stanford University group in running useR! 2016.
  - Developing documentation.
  - A new website that would present a modern face for the R Language.

- Provide additional financial support for the R Foundation.
  - Grants for specific projects.
R Consortium governance

• The Board of Directors
  • Membership level determine representation on the R Consortium Board of Directors, in accordance with open source consortium practices.
  • Membership level determines representation.
  • R Foundation is invited to participate by holding one or more seats on the Board of Directors.
  • The Board of Directors would determine the allocation of funds raised through membership dues.

• Infrastructure Steering Committee (ISC)
  • The ISC evaluates and approves infrastructure projects.
  • The ISC can create workgroups to focus on specific projects, from proposal to completion.
  • Membership consists of Platinum members plus a representative of the Gold members and leads from selected top-level projects.
  • The ISC will have a representative on the Board of Directors.
  • Community members and participants can submit project proposals to the ISC.

• Other committees may be created as needed.

• The Linux Foundation will provide backend operational support, guidance on operational practices from similar projects, and program management resources to help the R Consortium achieve maximum impact.
How do ideas and funds turn into R Consortium projects that benefit users?

• The primary aim of the R Consortium is to improve users' experience with R and the strength of the R community

• One of the ways this will be achieved is through approved by, and implemented under the supervision of, the Infrastructure Steering Committee.

Budget
• Annual budget for the ISC set by the Board of Directors

Proposal
• Projects are proposed by R users, including members and non-members of the R Consortium.

Review and Vote
• The ISC reviews the proposals, evaluates their feasibility and the ability of the proposer to complete the work.
• The ISC votes to approve the project, and determine whether a project constitutes a “top-level project.”

Implementation
• Upon approval, the ISC empowers the proposer to begin work and oversees the implementation.
An Expanded R Community
Parting Thought:

Local R user groups and The R Consortium are going to be important actors helping the R Community to scale over the next 5+ years.

Image from www.conceptualheaven.com