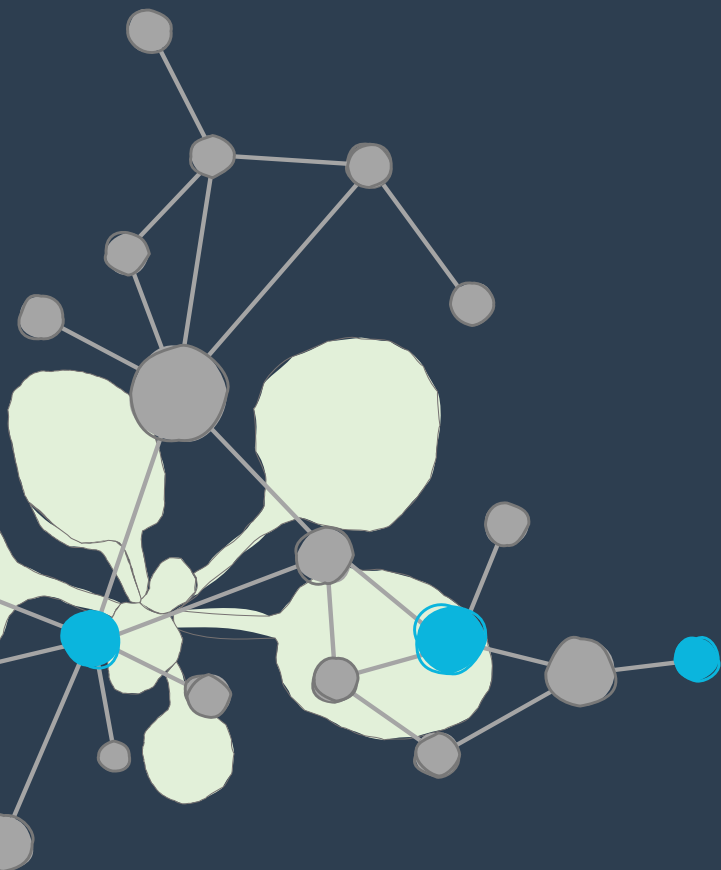# DataPLANT Onboarding

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We are very happy that you would like to employ or contribute to the DataPLANT tools and services. The following is supposed to give you an overview of required or recommended software to install and accounts to sign up to get you started quickly. For more details, please explore the DataPLANT Knowledge Base and linked resources below.

General Setup (all users)

Non-DataPLANT tools

- Find the **command-line interface (CLI)** on your system.

  - Note: We mostly avoid asking you to use the **CLI**. However, this is required for some of the installation steps below.
  - Note: Most modern operating systems come with a pre-installed **CLI**. If none of the below works, please get in touch.

  - On Windows: Enter `powershell` into the explorer path.
  - On MacOS: Search `terminal` via spotlight or navigate to `Applications` -> `Utilities` -> `Terminal`

- Please install git and git-lfs on your system.

  - Note: for some operating systems *git-lfs* may already be available as part of the *git* installation
  - Note: On MacOS we recommend git installation via homebrew following the git website's instruction.

- In order to use Swate you need to have a local Microsoft Excel installation or access to Microsoft Excel online.

DataPLANT tools and services

- Please install arcCommander on your system.
- Please install Swate on your system.
- In order to use the DataHUB, please sign up with DataPLANT.

Other recommended software

- GitHub Desktop is a convenient software to avoid using git via the CLI.

- Visual Studio Code is an integrated development environment (IDE) with git integration and convenient extensions.

Behind the scenes (data stewards and contributors)

GitHub: Tool & Service Development

Most DataPLANT tools and services are collaboratively and transparently developed at GitHub. If you would like to contribute, please sign up with GitHub and use common git routines, such as opening issues or fork-edit-pull-request a repository.

Microsoft Teams: Communication & Project Management

Within DataPLANT we communicate via Microsoft Teams. If you would like to join DataPLANT as a data steward, please contact us via email.