R and RStudio tricks and shortcuts

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In this post I will try to concentrate nice shortcuts that I tend to use or I wish to use more often. I will try to keep it updated!

## **Multiple Cursors**

Using R Studio as our IDE, we can edit multiple places at the same time with “multiple cursors”. We can create multiple cursors by:

1. Ctrl+Alt and use the keyboard up/down arrows

![](data:text/html; charset=utf-8;base64,)

In addition, we can use Ctrl + Alt + Shift and the keyboard arrows to skip rows, position, etc.

1. Ctrl + Alt + right click mouse

![](data:text/html; charset=utf-8;base64,)

1. Alt + right click mouse

![](data:text/html; charset=utf-8;base64,)

1. Alt + Shift right click mouse

![](data:text/html; charset=utf-8;base64,)

## **RStudio Addin Snippets**

Using Windows as my primary OS, when ever I copy a directory path I need to change the slashes’ direction. For this I found the [RStudio Addin Snippets](https://github.com/sfr/RStudio-Addin-Snippets). As the description in their GitHub page says: “R Studio add-in to copy data to clipboard, reverse slashes, insert and reformat pipes”.

After installing the add-in in your R Studio using the following commend:

devtools::install\_github("sfr/RStudio-Addin-Snippets")

A new menu chunk in your “Addins” menu will be added. Next, we can copy and paste using the menu (Addins -> convert slash).

![](data:text/html; charset=utf-8;base64,)

Furthermore, we can create a keyboard shortcut for easier use (I like to use Ctrl+Shift+V)

![](data:text/html; charset=utf-8;base64,)

## **TRUE and FALSE as numbers**

One of the nice things we need to remember is that R can treat TRUE and FALSE as numbers. Thus, we can for example functions on Boolean vectors.

myVec <- c(TRUE, FALSE, TRUE)   
sum(myVec)

## [1] 2

## **require() in functions**

While I talk about the differences between the two here, one of the benefits of using require() is its output. whenever, we use require() it produces a TRUE/FALSE output. Thus, we exploit it in function. For example, we can test if a package is installed and raise a warning or installing it if needed.

if(require(tidyverse) == 1) {warning("tidyverse is installed")}

Or

if(require(tidyverse) == 0) {install.packages("tidyverse")}

Thank you for reading and I will try to update this post with new things!