

# MentorMatchAI Workshop: Setup Instructions

Welcome to the MentorMatchAI Development Workshop! To ensure a smooth learning experience, please follow these instructions to set up your development environment. If you encounter any issues, please reach out to your instructor for assistance.

## Step 1: Install R and RStudio

R and RStudio are the primary tools we will be using. R is the programming language, and RStudio is an Integrated Development Environment (IDE) that makes working with R much easier.

### 1. Download and Install R:

- Go to the [CRAN \(Comprehensive R Archive Network\) website](https://cran.r-project.org/).
- Click on "Download R for [Your Operating System]" (e.g., Windows, macOS, Linux).
- Follow the installation instructions for your specific operating system.

### 2. Download and Install RStudio Desktop:

- Go to the [RStudio Desktop download page](https://www.rstudio.com/products/rstudio/download/#download).
- Scroll down to the "Installers" section and download the recommended version for your operating system.
- Follow the installation instructions.

## Step 2: Install Required R Packages

Once R and RStudio are installed, you need to install several R packages that the MentorMatchAI application relies on. You can install them directly from within RStudio.

1. **Open RStudio:** Launch RStudio from your applications.
2. **Install Packages:** In the RStudio Console (usually the bottom-left pane), run the following commands one by one. This might take a few minutes.

- **Troubleshooting mailR** : If `mailR` fails to install, it often requires a Java Development Kit (JDK). You can download it from [Oracle JDK](#) or [OpenJDK](#). Alternatively, you can skip `mailR` for the workshop, as email sending will be simulated.

## Step 3: Download Workshop Files

Your instructor will provide you with the workshop files. These typically include:

- `app_enhanced.R` (the main application file)
  - `MENTORMATCH_WORKSHOP_GUIDE.txt` (the original workshop breakdown)
  - `workshop_lesson_plan.md`
  - `tickets.md`
  - `setup_instructions.md` (this file)
  - `submission_guidelines.md`
  - `resources.md`
  - Any other supporting R scripts (e.g., `mentor_recommender.R` , `email_utils.R` if provided separately).
1. **Create a Project Folder:** Create a new folder on your computer (e.g., `MentorMatch_Workshop` ) where you will store all your workshop files.
  2. **Place Files:** Download all provided workshop files and place them into this new folder.

## Step 4: Open the Project in RStudio

It's good practice to work within an RStudio Project. This helps manage your files and working directory.

1. **Open RStudio:** If it's not already open.
2. **Create a New Project:**

- Go to `File > New Project...`
- Select "Existing Directory".
- Browse to the `MentorMatch_Workshop` folder you created in Step 3 and click "Create Project".

## Step 5: Run the Initial Application

Let's make sure everything is set up correctly by running the initial `app_enhanced.R` .

1. **Open `app_enhanced.R`** : Click on `app_enhanced.R` in the "Files" pane to open it in the RStudio editor.
2. **Run the App:** Click the "Run App" button (usually in the top-right corner of the editor pane, looks like a green arrow) or type `shiny::runApp()` in the console and press Enter.
  - If everything is set up correctly, the MentorMatchAI application should open in a new window or in the RStudio Viewer pane.

Congratulations! Your development environment is now set up, and you are ready to start building the MentorMatchAI application. If you encountered any errors during this process, please notify your instructor immediately.