

How do I get everyone to love R as much as I do?

Strategies for rolling out R across the organisation

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Why this topic?!

Engineer + R + Project
Management

=

talk to managers/ business
types!



Why Mango?



- Mango Solutions:
 - Company named after our MD's cat!
 - R consultancy company in the UK
 - Lots of projects with small R teams/ single R users within a company
 - Want to make a difference in the organisation, but struggle to do this

What am I going to talk about?



Barriers to introducing R
&
How to smash them!

"My IT takes forever to provision what I need"

"Getting anything extra installed is a nightmare!"

"My managers want to know what the results will be before we start"

What business is really saying

1. This is an extra cost!
 - We need to know it's going to help us before we invest in it!
2. Data science doesn't fit into our company model!
 - You guys. You want data from all over the business. But different people own that. And look after it. You're a nightmare!
3. This software is messy!
 - So you want R. And R studio. And some packages. But more packages. At some point. Which you don't know about yet! ARGH!

Kate's barrier-smashing strategies

1 The POC!



Make a proof of concept that is...

- Small
- Simple to understand
- Difficult to ignore
- Owned by the business
- Evolvable



The measure of success?

- The business wanting to upskill in R because they want to take your POC forward!



2 The "happily ever after"



-

Why not mine?

- Not lost in the detail
- Can shout about it
- Gains engagement



3 Be the analytics servant



Serve analytics to anyone. Anywhere

- If data is distributed across the organisation
- Don't deliver one POC
- Deliver many



The win-win

- People understand what analytics can do
- You get more data to play with!



4 Clean up your workflow



Productionize your system

- IT teams love **commonality, order & structure**
- Do not like **nifty but hacky!**
- R doesn't encourage this
- Different packages; same job
- Mix of packages for one job
- Stored locally
- Run locally

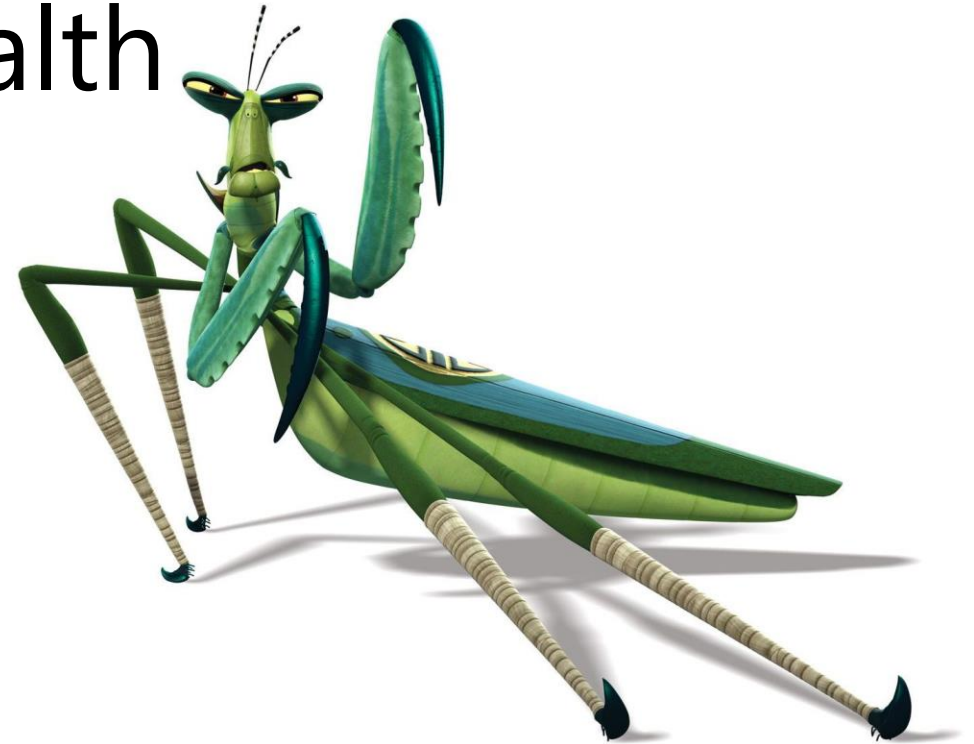


What can you standardise?

- Package set
- Data import
- Build mechanism
- Dev/ test/ prod
- Deployment
- Version control
- Testing

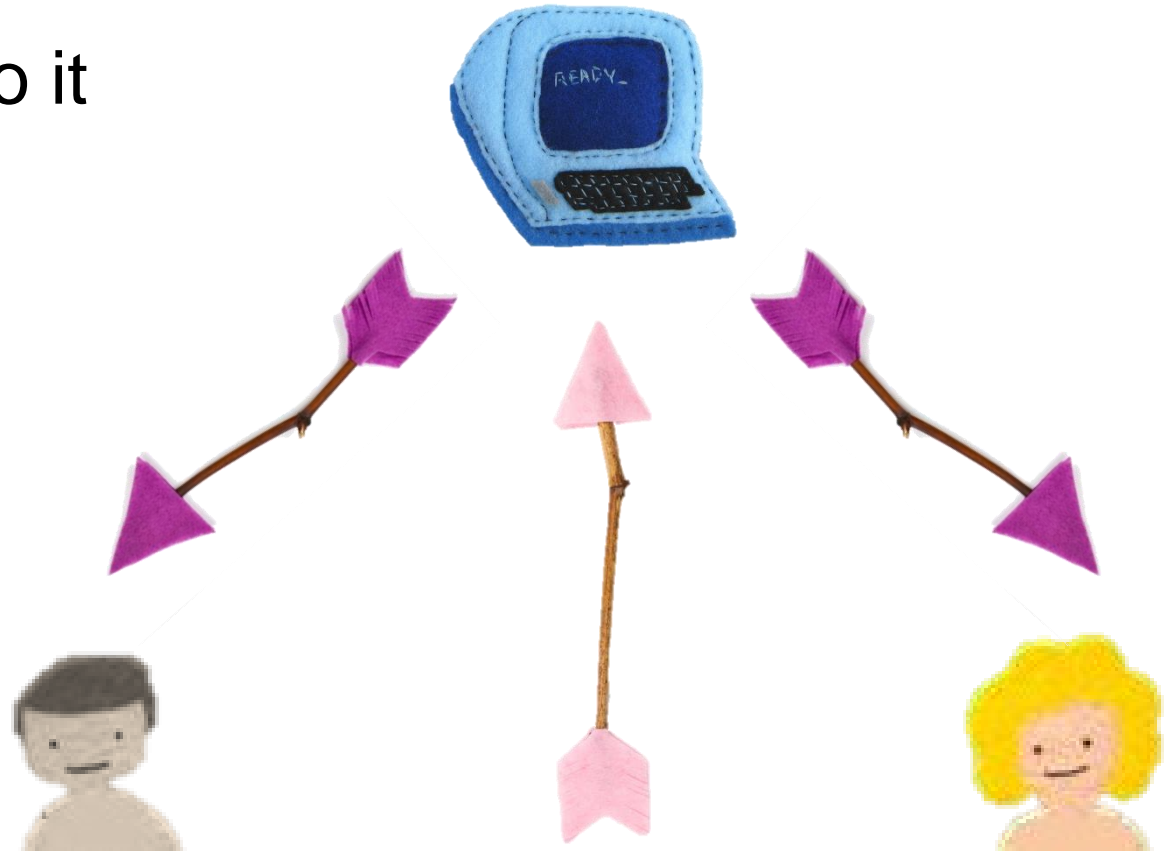


If all else fails... Go for stealth



Productionize POC

- Sometimes need to just do it
- Get a pipeline working
- Get it tested
- Show it's all OK
- Make everyone happy



Host on cloud

- Do it yourself
- Prove the business case
- Have something to show

BUT

- Be mindful of data security



Thanks for listening!

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