

~1 Pager: Automating Emails with Blastula

Why?

Putting aside how you feel about email, it is a very important mode of communication. It also can be a very time consuming one, especially for recurring tasks such as emailing a nightly report. Let's work through how you can use R to automate some of the recurring email in your life by using library(blastula).

How?

Example 1, a letter from Hogwarts

- In the RStudio IDE, click on File > New File > R Script
- Paste the text below inside that script to send a test message using gmail

```
library(tidyverse)
library(blastula)
library(keyring)
owl1 <- compose_email(body = "Hello from Hogwarts")

# Note, you will need to turn on "less secure apps" in gmail
# from this page: https://myaccount.google.com/u/1/security
create_smtp_creds_file(
  file = "gmail_creds",
  user = "____@gmail.com", # use your gmail address
  provider = "gmail"
) # Note, a pop up will ask for the password for the user you provided

owl1 %>% smtp_send(
  to = "____@____.com",
  from = "____@gmail.com",
  subject = "Testing automating emails, v1",
  credentials = creds_file("gmail_creds")
)
```

- Then run through code above line by line, then check your recipient's email for an owl!

Example 2, A letter from Hogwarts with a ggplot, text styling, and conditional logic

- Copy this text and paste it inside the script from earlier, just below the line beginning owl1 <-

```
viz <- ggplot(data=mpg) + geom_point(mapping=aes(x=displ, y=hwy), color="blue") +
  theme_minimal() + xlab("Year at Hogwarts") + ylab("# of Wands Broken")
```

```
owl2 <- compose_email(
  body=md(c("Hello from Hogwarts, <br><br> First years, _PLEASE_ remember to bring more wands!",
            add_ggplot(viz))),
  footer="Confidential: the Ministry of Magic"
)
```

- Copy this text and paste it so that it overwrites the section beginning owl1 %>% smtp_send(

```
who_to <- if (2 < 3) "brian.law@rstudio.com" else "hadleeey@rstudio.com"
which_owl <- if (2 < 3) owl2 else owl1

which_owl %>%
  smtp_send(
    to = who_to,
    from = "____@gmail.com",
    subject = "Testing automating emails, v2",
    credentials = creds_file("gmail_creds")
  )
```

- Then run through code above line by line, then check your email for a second owl!

FAQ's

- Can I include attachments? Yes, e.g. owl1 <- add_attachment(email=owl1, file = "./test_attach.csv")
- Can I suppress sending an email based on some condition, e.g. only send if X happens? Yes.
- Can I put this into an R Markdown document? Yes
- Can I publish an .Rmd to RStudio Connect and use enterprise authentication, easy scheduling, and maybe most importantly the logs of who actually read the message. Why yes, let's talk.
- Where can I learn more? email Brian (using blastula to be meta about it) and [here](#)