The {botmaker}: Automatically build R-based bots, the result of creating the @RStatsJobsBot Twitter bot.

Juan Cruz Rodriguez[a]

[a] *FAMAF, Universidad Nacional de Córdoba, Argentina*

Abstract

Key words: Automation, Github Actions, Free, Server

Twitter is one of the social networks most used by the R users community. And possibly it is the social network that offers the greatest flexibility for its programmatic access ({rtweet} (Kearney 2019)). In this regard, Twitter bots result as an excellent tool to promote our product or tool. However, compared to other topics or programming languages, it is not usual to find a wide variety of bots related to R. This is not due to an increased difficulty itself, but rather due to unfamiliarity with automated bots in R.

In this flash talk, I will show the learning path I took to bring an idea to @RStatsJobsBot (https://twitter.com/RStatsJobsBot), a Twitter bot that currently has over 900 followers. The @RStatsJobsBot runs entirely on R and is deployed and continuously running on Github Actions at no cost.

In this learning path, I noticed a need for a tool that eases the deployment of an R script as a bot. As a result, I built the {botmaker} (https://github.com/jcrodriguez1989/botmaker), an R package that allows deploying an R script as a Github Actions scheduled job. During this talk, I will also present a complete usage example of the {botmaker}, which will teach how an R script can be turned into an automatically running R bot with a few lines of codes.

References

Kearney, Michael W. 2019. "Rtweet: Collecting and Analyzing Twitter Data." *Journal of Open Source Software* 4 (42): 1829. https://doi.org/10.21105/joss.01829.

Email address: jcrodriguez@unc.edu.ar (Juan Cruz Rodriguez)