## **REQUIRED TOOLS**

Before the course starts, you should install and familiarize yourself with the following technologies:

* [**Github**](http://github.com) - We’ll be using Github on a daily basis to store and share our code
* [**Python 2.7**](https://www.python.org/download/releases/2.7/)- We will be using Python 2.7 & its packages as our primary language
* [**Anaconda**](https://www.continuum.io/downloads) - We will be using Anaconda as our primary development environment
* [**Git**](https://git-scm.com/book/en/v2/Getting-Started-Installing-Git) - You’ll also need to install command line tools for Git. Windows users should install [**Git Bash**](https://git-for-windows.github.io)

**COMMON TOOLS**

* [**Anaconda**](https://docs.continuum.io/anaconda/pkg-docs) is our primary tool for this course. It bundles many of the common packages we’ll be using, including:
  + *Python 2.7*: One language to rule them all...
  + *Ipython* / *Jupyter* / *Pandas*: Core tools for creating notebooks
  + *Matplotlib*: The Grandaddy of all python plotting packages
  + *Gensim*: Framework for vector modeling
  + *NLTK* & *Spacy*: Used for natural language processing
  + *NumPy*: Array processing tool
  + *Scikit-learn*: Modules for machine learning & data modeling
  + *SciPy*: Scientific library for python
  + *Seaborn*: Statistical data visualizer
  + *Pip* & *Setuptools*: package installer & version manager\*
  + *Sqlite*: Standalone, lightweight SQL database engine
  + *Statsmodels*: Simple statistical computation (used with SciPy)

**OPTIONAL TOOLS**

These tools aren't required, but they offer additional functionality that students may find helpful!

* [Atom](https://atom.io) or [Sublime](http://www.sublimetext.com): Popular text editors for writing code
* [Import.io](https://www.import.io): a useful web scraping tool with a graphic interface
* [Plot.ly](https://plot.ly): a user-friendly tool for plotting graphs

## **\*A NOTE ABOUT TECHNOLOGY**

We here at GA care about both our Mac and PC users! If you are using a PC (or Linux machine), you may need to follow [some additional steps](https://docs.continuum.io/anaconda/install) to get your environment setup correctly.

* **Compatibility Issues**: Python and Anacondas have some known issues with Windows 7 x64 machines. If you are running this OS, we recommend [installing a virtual machine](https://docs.continuum.io/anaconda/images) in order to run Anacondas