Introduction to R Shiny Day 2

Posit Implementation Programme 11/09/2023



Learning Outcomes – Day 2

- Multiscript dashboards: UI, Server and Global scripts
- Using multiple Public Health Scotland datasets within a dashboard
- Branded dashboards: Public Health Scotland colours and logos
- Modals and help buttons
- ggplotly for interactive charts
- Data downloads
- Deploying an app
- Why you should be using GitHub
- Good practice



Refresh: dashboard components

- ui.R controls what is displayed on the application page and how the components are laid out.
 - For example, navigation bars, text outputs, plot outputs, user input widgets.
- server.R controls what happens behind the scenes.
 - For example, generation of plots and charts, and how user inputs from widgets affect these displays, minor data wrangling.
- In our previous session, we created a basic single script dashboard. Now we're going to look at advanced dashboard building where the code is split across multiple scripts.

Building a PHS Shiny dashboard

- I've given you some (slightly) pre-prepared scripts. Here's what we're going to include in our dashboard:
 - An information tab detailing background information and including a pop-up text modal with information on future updates.
 - A tab on allergic conditions data, with text information and an interactive chart which can be filtered using drop-down menus and a data multi-selection box.
 - A tab on asthma with information and data broken down into 6 separate charts based on sex and age, also containing filtering options.
 - A data tables tab where our allergic conditions and asthma data can be downloaded as raw .csv files using a download button.

Global

- The Global script is generally used for loading packages, functions, and prepared data files as named objects.
- Can be used to define other things such as colour palettes and plot parameters.
- Key point: adding this script helps to keep your code clean and tidy.
 When running the app, all packages, functions and data will be read in from the Global script, while the app itself is created from the UI and Server.



Building a PHS Shiny dashboard – global.R

```
# GLOBAL SCRIPT
# SHINY TRAINING DAY 2
# LOAD PACKAGES ----
library(dplyr) #data manipulation
library(plotly) #charts
library(ggplot2)
library(shiny)
library(shinyWidgets)
library(tidyr)
library(magrittr)
library(readr)
# LOAD DATA ----
data allergy <- readRDS("data/allergy scotland chart PRA.rds")</pre>
data asthma <- readRDS("data/asthma final.rds") %>%
  mutate(rate = round(rate, 1))
# CREATE OBJECTS USED IN OUTPUTS ----
condition list <- sort(unique(data allergy$type)) # allergies</pre>
diagnosis list <- sort(unique(data asthma$diagnosis)) # asthma</pre>
data list data tab <- c("Allergies Data" = "data allergy",
                         "Asthma Data" = "data asthma")
```

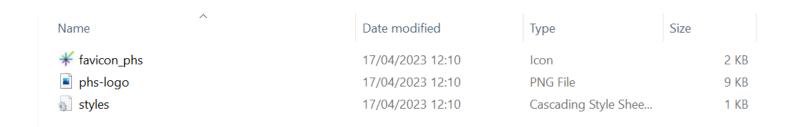
We load packages and create objects for the two datasets we will be using in this Shiny app.

Later we'll be creating drop-down filters for allergic conditions and asthma diagnosis codes, as well as selected data for download. It's good to create these lists/objects in the global script as well.

The objects created here will be important later.



"www" Folder



- Locally store the elements that will be rendered in the web browser and are not the output of the scripts.
- For example, save any images, and html files in this folder



Building a PHS Shiny dashboard – PHS Brand

- We've got the PHS logo, favicon and styles-css saved in our "www" folder.
- This block of code, placed at the very beginning of our navbarPage() function, allows
 us to generate a purple and white dashboard with a PHS logo which leads to our
 website.
- This chunk can be copy and pasted into any future dashboards you make to give them that PHS look.

Building a PHS Shiny dashboard – Introduction tab

- Let's start by creating an introduction tab with some background information on allergic conditions and asthma.
- We've already opened our **navbarPage()**. This can be used in place of **fluidPage()** as it also creates a resizable app based on the users browser dimensions, although if you were to include both nothing would go wrong. Within this function, we've included a chunk of code which sets the PHS theme and logo for our dashboard.
- Now we can use **tabPanel()** to create out first tab! We've used these functions before when looking at layouts, think back to using **fluidRow()** and **column()** for our grid-style layout.

Exercise: Building a PHS Shiny dashboard – Introduction tab

- Add your tab, give it a name and an icon like we've done before.
 (https://fontawesome.com/v5.15/icons?d=gallery&p=2)
- Add some text about allergic conditions and asthma.
- Give each block of text a heading, try making it larger, try bolding it. (hints: h1(), tags\$b(), etc...)
- Make some of the text italic.
- If you use fluidRow() and column(), try adjusting the column widths to see how this affects the appearance eg. column(3, ... column(6, ... column(12, ... etc.



Exercise: Building a PHS Shiny dashboard – Introduction tab

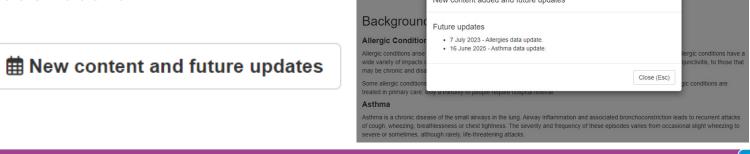
```
tabPanel(title = "Information",
         icon = icon("info-circle"),
          fluidRow(
            column(6,
                h2("Background Information")),
          fluidRow(
            column(12.
              h4(tags$b("Allergic Conditions")),
             p("Allergic conditions arise from an abnormal reaction of the immune system to a
                typically harmless environmental trigger. Allergic conditions have a wide variety
                of impacts on health, ranging from those that generally cause only minor symptoms,
               such as hay fever or conjunctivitis, to those that may be chronic and disabling,
               such as asthma, eczema or urticaria (hives)."),
              p("Some allergic conditions may be severe and life-threatening, such as anaphylaxis,
                 although this is uncommon. Most allergic conditions are treated in primary care;
                 only a minority of people require hospital referral."),
             h4(tags$b("Asthma")),
              p("Asthma is a chronic disease of the small airways in the lung. Airway inflammation and
                associated bronchoconstriction leads to recurrent attacks of cough, wheezing,
                breathlessness or chest tightness. The severity and frequency of these episodes varies from
```

Building a PHS Shiny dashboard – Introduction tab

- Let's say we're going to be regularly updating our dashboard. It's a great idea to add an information box letting users know when updates are due.
- We're going to do this by introducing an action button which users can click to open a pop-up information box.

 These are great for when you have excess information which may be important, but you don't want it to be present on the face of your

dashboard.



Building a PHS Shiny dashboard – action buttons and modals (UI).

Use **column()** to set where the action button will appear (you may need to play with column widths in real situations). **Reminder: maximum column width is 12.**

actionButton() creates the button we see and click on within the tab. We require three arguments here:

- "new_next" is the name we're giving for the inputId,
- "New content and future updates" is the label we're putting on the button. The user will see this.
- And icon()

Key point: Try running the app with this code added, but WITHOUT adding to the server – what happens?

Building a PHS Shiny dashboard – action buttons and modals (Server).

We introduce another reactive element called observeEvent().

This responds to "event-like" reactive inputs, such as the user clicking an action button.

We're setting the input as "new_next" – remember this matches what we've named it in the UI!

showModal() tells the modal to appear when the action button is clicked.

modalDialog() allows us to add text to the modal, in this case, a heading and bullet points highlighting key dates

Other important arguments within **showModal()** include setting the **size**, enabling **easyClose** (click anywhere on app to close) and adding an escape button (or "**modalButton**") to the **footer** of the modal, enabling it to be closed this way as well.

Building a PHS Shiny dashboard – Allergic conditions data

- Now we're going to make a tab to display our allergies chart.
- I've given you the data file and prepared **global.R** script.
- Run and open the data_allergy object which contains our allergy data. Have a look at the data

 column names, variable names etc. to get a feel for where some of the labels and inputs may
 be coming from.
- Our aim is to create an interactive chart which responds to user inputs:
 - A drop-down menu to select either rate or crude number.
 - A selection box which allows us to put data for up to 4 allergic conditions on the line chart at once.

We can also include some headings and text above the chart for extra information.



Exercise: Building a PHS Shiny dashboard – Allergic conditions data UI

- As with before, we'll begin with the UI. We need to use **tabPanel()** again underneath the first, to create another new tab within our navigation bar, this will appear next to our pre-existing Information tab.
- Give your new tab a title and icon.
- Add a heading and some text within the tab.

Exercise: Building a PHS Shiny dashboard – Allergic conditions data UI

Now we'll write the UI code for our user inputs and chart output.

We'll use **fluidRow()** to put two user input menus above the chart. **Hint:** If you have time, play around with column widths.

selectizeInput() works in much the same way as **selectInput()** but allows us to select multiple inputs for the chart – in this case, a maximum of four.

Note: We've used "conditions_list" for our choices – this was defined in the global.R script!

As we're creating interactive charts, we'll be using **plotlyOutput()** instead of **plotOutput()**. You can also set the width and height of the chart within this function. Play with these numbers and observe how the size of your chart changes within the app.

Key point: note the inputId used! eg. "measure", "conditions", "chart". We need to match these in the server side!

Exercise: Building a PHS Shiny dashboard – Allergic conditions data server

```
output$chart <- renderPlotly({</pre>
  #Data for condition
  data condition <- data allergy %>%
    subset(type %in% input$conditions & measure==input$measure)
  #v axis title
  yaxistitle <- case_when(input$measure == "Number" ~ "Number of hospital admissions",</pre>
                          input$measure == "Rate" ~ "Hospital admissions <br/>ber 100,000 population"
  plot <-
    ggplot(data condition, aes(x = year, y = value, colour = type)) +
    geom line(aes(group=1)) +
    theme minimal()
  ggplotly(height = 500,
           width = 1000) %>%
    layout(annotations = list(), #It needs this because of a buggy behaviour
           yaxis = list(title = yaxistitle, rangemode="tozero", fixedrange=TRUE),
           xaxis = list(title = "Financial year", fixedrange=TRUE, tickangle = 270),
           font = list(family = 'Arial, sans-serif'), # font
           margin = list(pad = 4, t = 50, r = 30), # margin-paddings
           hovermode = 'false') %>% # to get hover compare mode as default
    config(displayModeBar= T, displaylogo = F) # taking out plotly logo and collaborate button
```

We create **output\$chart** using **renderPlotly({...})**

> Remember the Id was "chart" in the UI!

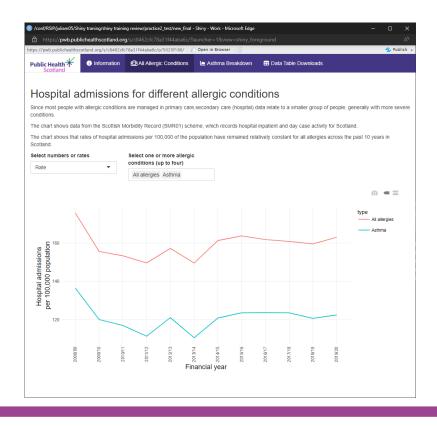
We do a small amount of data wrangling. Namely telling R that the "type" column of our data should reflect the condition the user inputs: "type %in% input\$conditions" and the measure should be what the user inputs as measure:

"measure==input\$measure".

> Remember we labelled the ld as "conditions" and "measure" in the UI!

We use some general code to define the y-axis title to change based on whatever the user inputs. Then we define the plot using the **ggplotly()** function, filling in some visual-based parameters

Building a PHS Shiny dashboard – Allergic conditions tab



Now we have a new tab containing some text information, and a chart showing allergic conditions data.

The chart responds to the user selecting either rate or number, and the user may also add up to 4 data lines on the chart at once using the second selection menu.



Building a PHS Shiny dashboard – Asthma exploration tab

- We will now work on adding a whole new dataset in another tab, and we'll try to display it in a
 different way.
- We're going to run and take a look at the **data_asthma** object where we read in our raw asthma data. Get a feel for what the data looks like and how we might be using it.

Our aim is to create another new tab displaying the asthma data:

- A header and some text for above the charts
- A drop-down menu for selecting either rate or numerator
- A selection box allowing us to select up to 4 asthma-related diagnosis codes
- 6 different charts: hospitalisations for all males, all females, males under 10 years, females under 10 years, males over 10 years, females over 10 years.



Exercise: Building a PHS Shiny dashboard – Asthma exploration tab UI

- Use your knowledge so far create another new tab:
- Insert another tabPanel() under the first two, giving it a title and an icon.
- Write a header and some text about asthma.
- Use selectInput() to create a drop-down allowing the user to select rate or numerator.
- Use selectizeInput() to create a multiple-selection box where the user can choose up to four diagnoses to visualise on the chart.

Key point: REMEMBER your inputId for user inputs (drop-down selections) can't be the same as what you used for the allergies tab!

If you feel confident, try adding the plotlyOutput() lines of code to the UI for each of the 6 charts.



Exercise: Building a PHS Shiny dashboard – Asthma exploration tab UI

```
tabPanel(title = "Asthma Breakdown", icon = icon("area-chart"),
        h2("Asthma Exploration Work"),
        p("The selection of charts below show how hospital admissions for asthma related
           diagnosis codes have changed over the past 10 years across different age groups."),
         p("The data is split by sex (all males and all females) and by the following age groups:
           under 10 years old and over 10 years old."),
         fluidRow(
           column(3,
                  selectInput(inputId = "measure asthma",
                              label = "Select numerator or rates",
                              choices = c("Numerator", "Rate"),
                              selected = "Rate")),
           column(3,
                  selectizeInput(inputId = "diagnosis",
                                 label = "Select one or more diagnosis",
                                choices = diagnosis list, multiple = TRUE,
                                 selected = "Status asthmaticus (J46) first position"),
                  options = list(maxItems =4L))
         ), # end fluidRow
                                                                 Note: for the "choices
         fluidRow(
                                                                 =" argument, we've
           column(6,
                  plotlyOutput("male all", width = "100%")),
                                                                 used "diagnosis list"
           column(6,
                                                                 This was defined in the
                  plotlyOutput("female_all", width = "100%")),
           column(6,
                                                                global.R script!
                  plotlyOutput("male_under10", width = "100%")),
           column(6,
                  plotlyOutput("female under10", width = "100%")),
           column(6,
                  plotlyOutput("male over10", width = "100%")),
                  plotlyOutput("female over10", width = "100%"))
```

With multiple charts to include, we have more **plotlyOutput()** functions in use than our allergies tab.

One last reminder: your inputId for each user selection or plotlyOutput (as highlighted by the arrows) CANNOT be the same as what we used for the allergies tab – otherwise your charts will try to respond to user inputs on the allergies tab instead!

Building a PHS Shiny dashboard – Asthma exploration tab server

- It's time to update our server side to reflect what we've just added to the UI.
- I'm sure you'll remember the large chunk of code we just used to generate our allergies tab chart.
- Hopefully your thoughts are along the lines of "I don't want to copy and paste this 6 times for 6 asthma charts."
- Great. Thanks to functions, we don't have to.
- I've created a very similar chunk of code for generating the asthma charts to what we used for the allergy one. But this time, I've created a function from it so that it can be used for each of the 6 asthma charts.



Building a PHS Shiny dashboard – Asthma exploration tab server

```
plot_charts <- function(sex_chosen, age_grp_chosen) </pre>
       data plot <- data asthma %>% subset(diagnosis %in% input$diagnosis &
                                                                                                                                       sex == sex chosen &
                                                                                                                                       age_grp == age_grp_chosen)
       #y axis title
       yaxistitle <- case when(input$measure asthma == "Numerator" ~ "Number of hospital admissions",</pre>
                                                                                        input$measure_asthma == "Rate" ~ "Hospital admissions <br>per 100,000 population"
       plot <-
              ggplot(data_plot, aes(x = year, y = get(tolower(input$measure_asthma)), colour = diagnosis)) +
              geom_line(aes(group=1)) +
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              Creating the
              theme minimal()
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              function
       ggplotly() %>%
              layout(annotations = list(),
                                     yaxis = list(title = yaxistitle, rangemode="tozero", fixedrange=TRUE),
                                    factor | factor 
                                    margin = list(pad = 4, t = 50, r = 30),
                                    hovermode = 'false') %>%
              config(displayModeBar= T, displaylogo = F)
```

I'll share this with you, but feel free to try yourself if confident

This time, we create a reactive dataset from our current one because we're creating multiple different charts based off this one object. We touched in this in the first session.

Remember I set my inputId as "diagnosis" in the UI, and so I must match to this in the server. My other filter was set as "measure_asthma".

I've used very similar code to what we used before in order to generate the charts. But this time it's held within the **plot_charts function** I've just created.

This function relies on two arguments;
"sex_chosen" defined as "sex" from the data, and
"age_grp_chosen" defined from the "age_grp"

column of our data.

Building a PHS Shiny dashboard – Asthma exploration tab server

Now that we've created a function to generate the charts, we need to run it 6 times for our 6

different data splits.

```
# Here, the plot_charts function created above is put into use
output$male_all <- renderPlotly({ plot_charts(sex_chosen = "Male", age_grp_chosen = "All") %>%
    layout(title = "Males All Ages")})
output$female_all <- renderPlotly({ plot_charts(sex_chosen = "Female", age_grp_chosen = "All") %>%
    layout(title = "Females All Ages")})
output$male_under10 <- renderPlotly({ plot_charts(sex_chosen = "Male", age_grp_chosen = "Under 10") %>%
    layout(title = "Males Under 10")})
output$female_under10 <- renderPlotly({ plot_charts(sex_chosen = "Female", age_grp_chosen = "Under 10") %>%
    layout(title = "Females Under 10")})
output$male_over10 <- renderPlotly({ plot_charts(sex_chosen = "Male", age_grp_chosen = "Over 10") %>%
    layout(title = "Males Over 10")})
output$female_over10 <- renderPlotly({ plot_charts(sex_chosen = "Female", age_grp_chosen = "Over 10") %>%
    layout(title = "Females Over 10")})
```

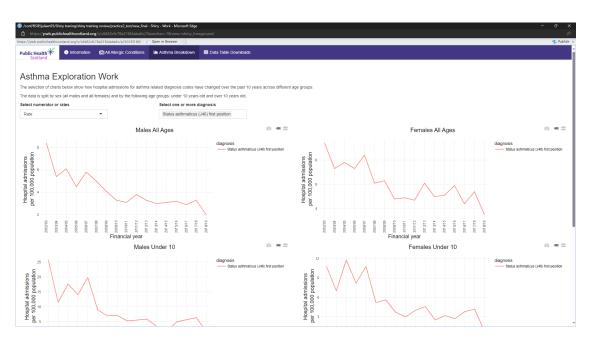
Our output Ids (eg. output\$male_all) match those we used in the UI code.

We use the **renderPlotly({})** function as before, but within each we use the **plot_charts()** function we've created.

We define **sex_chosen** and **age_grp_chosen** for each split we want, as required arguments for the **plot_charts()** function.

We can also pipe and use layout() to add a title to each chart at this point.

Building a PHS Shiny dashboard – Asthma exploration tab



- Our third tab is finished!
- We've added a new tab with 6 different charts on asthma data which are reactive to user input menus.



Building a PHS Shiny dashboard – Data downloads

- This will be the final tab of our dashboard.
- In this section, we will display the data in table format using the DT package – we went over this in the first session.
- We will include a drop-down menu which allows the user to display either the allergic conditions data or the asthma data in the table.
- We will also include a **download button** which when clicked, will download the tabulated data in a **.csv** file.



Exercise: Building a PHS Shiny dashboard – Data downloads UI

- Let's go to the UI and add yet another tabPanel() below the current ones (you should be used to doing this by now!)
- Give your tab a name and an icon. Add a header and some text introducing the data downloads tab.
- Add a selectInput() drop-down menu that allows the user to select either allergic conditions data or asthma data.
- Then I'll show you how we introduce a data downloads button.



Exercise: Building a PHS Shiny dashboard – Data downloads UI

- Here, I've created a data table downloads tab. I've introduced it with some text and included a dropdown menu allowing the user to select which dataset they want to look at, and subsequently download.
- Aside from our usual code, we're also introducing the downloadButton() function. This also requires
 an inputId which will be matched in the server side, and we've labelled the button "Download data".
- The final line of code is one you've seen before in our last session. It displays the table on the app in the **DT** package format and we've used the Id "table_filtered".

Exercise: Building a PHS Shiny dashboard – Data downloads server

• As with most things we've done, except for simple text prints, we need to update the server side to include code enabling the **download button** to function.

First, we create a reactive dataset, as the data displayed depends on user input from the drop-down menu.

The **switch()** function allows the table to switch between allergic conditions and asthma data.

We then have an **if-else statement** that effectively says "If the user selects allergies, select these columns from that dataset and display them on the table. If the user selects asthma, select these columns and display them on the table instead.



Exercise: Building a PHS Shiny dashboard – Data downloads server

• The next chunk of code actually renders the data table using DT::renderDataTable({...}) which we used in the first session. We use the Id "table_filtered" to match what we've used in the UI.

There's a little bit of formatting done to the column names (which you may or may not want to do).

We then use **DT::datatable** for further formatting, you can look up the package info and see what else is available for these settings.



Exercise: Building a PHS Shiny dashboard – Data downloads server

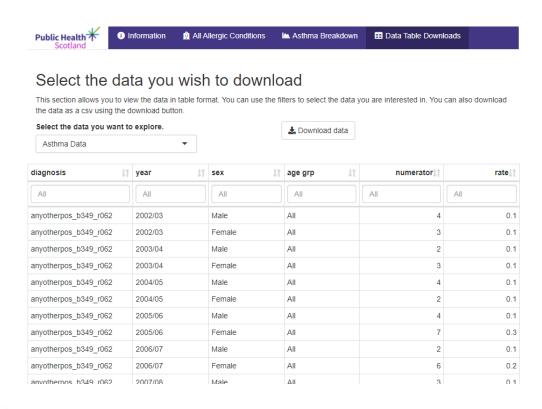
- Finally, we insert some code that allows the **download button** to be functional.
- We use the Id "download_table_csv" as we defined this in the UI. The downloadHandler() function helps us to define the file name and the contents of the file.

```
output$download_table_csv <- downloadHandler(
    filename = function() {
        paste(input$data_select, ".csv", sep = "")
    },
    content = function(file) {
        # This downloads only the data the user has selected using the table filters
        write_csv(data_table()[input[["table_filtered_rows_all"]], ], file)
    }
)</pre>
```

The small function for "filename =" tells Shiny to name the file based on the user input (the data selected) and to add .csv at the end.

The small function for "content =" means that if the user has filtered the **DT** table on the app eg. by age group or sex, the download will take this into account.

Building a PHS Shiny dashboard – Data downloads



- Now we have a data tables tab complete with the ability to select, filter and download data as a .csv!
- (and a complete dashboard! Well done!)



Deploying an App

- You should first run the app from the global.R script and check that everything is functioning normally.
- On a separate script, we use the **rsconnect** package to deploy the app.

The first chunk of code sets the account information for the PHS shiny.io account. The token and secret can be obtained from one of the account managers, who you should contact if ever deploying an app.

The second chunk of code locates the app in your working directory and deploys it to the link designated, for example this would be located at: https://scotland.shinyapps.io/our-shiny-training-app/

Shiny dashboards and GitHub

- Shiny dashboards can end up being thousands upon thousands of lines of code, with live ones sometimes updated monthly, weekly, or even daily. Often with large dashboards, multiple members of PHS staff can be working on them at once.
- At this point, version control becomes very important.

Pushing your dashboard code to GitHub allows for code tracking, sharing and collaboration. Multiple team members can be working on the same Shiny dashboard and GitHub allows them to do this on different code branches so the overall master code is not affected, and they do not overwrite each others work. They can also access, check and review each others changes.



GitHub allows you to revert to previous code when you may have saved, pushed or even published mistakes. It's an all round great idea.

If you haven't checked out our teams GitHub Training Course, please do so.



Good Practice

- Split large apps into 3 scripts: global.R, server.R and ui.R as opposed to using app.R where everything is kept on one.
- If you are creating massive apps, you can create supporting scripts and source them into the app, for example you may create a functions.R script that contains all of your pre-written complex functions for creating plots and tables from datasets.
- Reduce the number of packages used, keep to the essentials and don't load full packages if they aren't necessary eg. the whole tidyverse.
- Keep as much as possible in the UI, having a nice simple server.
- Prepare your data in advance, know what you want to show on the app and how, then it's simple when it comes to setting plot and table parameters, drop down menus etc.



End of day 2 – any questions?

