Introduction to R Shiny Day 1

Posit Implementation Programme 11/09/2023



Learning Outcomes – Day 1

- 1. Introduction: what is R Shiny?
- 2. Knowledge of packages relevant to R Shiny work
- 3. Shiny app breakdown: UI, Server
- 4. Overall layouts eg. sidebarLayout (sidebarPanel, mainPanel), navbarPage, tabPanel, fluidRow, column
- 5. Reading in prepared data
- 6. Creating charts and tables ggplot, DT
- Accessible shinyWidgets and Reactivity: radioButtons and drop-down menus
- 8. Multi-tab dashboards

What is R Shiny?

- Shiny is an open-source R package where you can create interactive web applications using Posit and R code
- Shiny doesn't require HTML, CSS or JavaScript knowledge, but can be extended with basic CSS themes, HTML widgets and JavaScript actions
- Shiny works in any R environment and comes with pre-built and customizable output widgets for displaying plots, tables, and printed output of R objects
- NOTE: functions associated with Shiny are generally written in CamelCase
- Shiny power check out some accessible PHS Shiny dashboards:
 National Therapeutic Indicators

R packages associated with R Shiny work

- There are many packages you may find yourself using when creating a Shiny dashboard!
- Some examples of key packages and their functions:
 - shiny the package that allows all of this to be possible!
 - shinyWidgets for action buttons, drop-downs, radio buttons and many more, check it out: https://shiny.rstudio.com/gallery/widget-gallery.html
 - **shinymanager** securing and password protecting apps (great for pre-release access dashboards!)
 - shinyjs for bringing basic JavaScript into R eg. enable and disable functions
 - shinyBS create buttons and collapsible panels
 - shinycssloaders for adding icon pictures to tabs
 - ggplot2, plotly, DT for creating charts/tables
 - dplyr and readr standard packages for data manipulation and reading/writing csv files

Shiny app breakdown

- Shiny apps can be contained within a single script (not recommended for full dashboard building) or split across multiple scripts.
- Small apps are contained within a single script called **app.R** which requires three main components to run the app:
 - user interface object (defined as UI): layout and appearance of your app.
 - server function (defined as server): instructions your computer needs to build the app.
 - A call to the **shinyApp function**: creates Shiny app objects from an explicit UI/server pair.

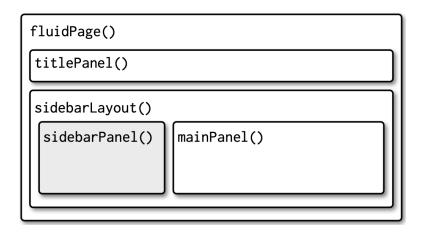


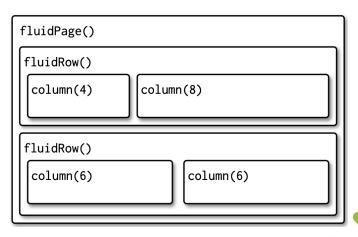
The User Interface (UI)

- Controls what is displayed on the application page and how the components are laid out.
- Examples:
 - navigation bars
 - text/titles
 - markdown elements
 - download buttons
 - plot outputs from server
 - user input widgets
- Key point: Shiny uses the function fluidPage() to create a display that automatically adjusts to the dimensions of the users browser window. The above UI elements will generally be placed within this function.

The User Interface (UI): Layout

- The UI is built from nested functions specifying the app's layout like a grid of layers
- Filters, buttons, charts and tables are placed within the function for a specific space





The Server

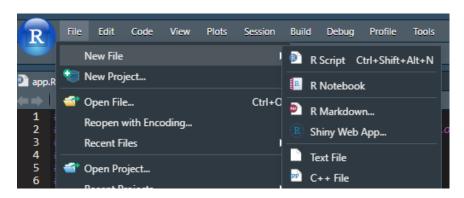
- The server-side controls everything that happens behind the scenes, for example, the data that will be displayed through the UI.
- This part of the script defines how we generate all the plots and tables seen by the user.
- It also defines how user inputs from our widgets (such as a user selecting from a drop-down menu) affects these plots and tables.
- If necessary, the server section may also be used for minor data wrangling, such as filtering it in such a way that it can be fed into a plot.

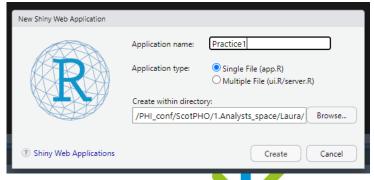
Any questions so far?



Code Along: the bare bones of a Shiny app

- Open a new session in Posit.
- Set working directory.
- Go to File > New File > Shiny Web App.
- Name your app (anything you like eg. "Practice1") and set file path (where you can save your practice scripts).
- Ensure the Application type is set as Single File (app.R).
- Click Create.

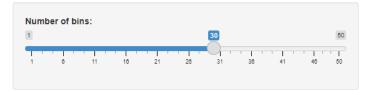


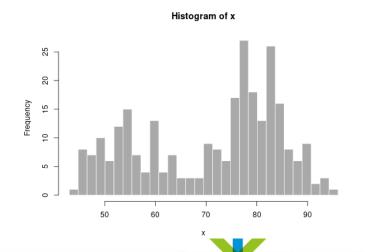


Code Along: the bare bones of a Shiny app

- Upon creating the new Shiny Web App you will see some sample code related to the "Old Faithful Geyser" dataset.
- Click "Run App" at the top right of the script window.
- The app may run in a new window, or in the viewer pane (you can change between with the drop-down arrow at "Run App").

Old Faithful Geyser Data





Code Along: Empty Shiny app

- Remove all code relating to Old Faithful Geyser, leaving an empty app.
- The app will run, because it has the three components required; ui, server and a call to the **shinyApp()** function
- This is a good place to start building a new app.

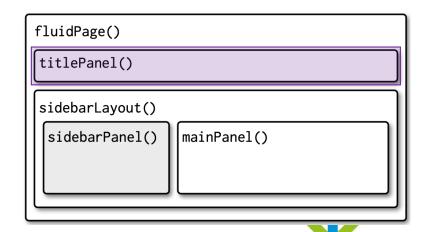
```
library(shiny)
ui <- fluidPage()
server <- function(input, output){
}
shinyApp(ui = ui, server = server)</pre>
```



Code Along: titlePanel

- Add title Remember: it should go inside fluidPage()!
- titlePanel() creates text formatted as a title at the top of the app.
- "Run App" to see what happens!

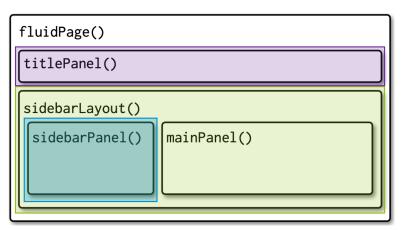
```
library(shiny)
ui <- fluidPage(
  titlePanel("This is a Shiny app")
  ) # end fluidPage
server <- function(input, output){
}
shinyApp(ui = ui, server = server)</pre>
```



Code Along: sidebarLayout

- Create a sidebarLayout() and add sidebarPanel().
- Add some text to your app.
- Use **br()** for new line.
- "Run App" what happens?

```
library(shiny)
ui <- fluidPage(
  titlePanel("This is a Shiny app"),
  sidebarLayout(
    sidebarPanel(
        "Sidebar",
        br(),
        "Some other text in the sidebar"
    ) # end sidebarPanel
  ) # end sidebarLayout
) # end fluidPage
server <- function(input, output){
}
shinyApp(ui = ui, server = server)</pre>
```



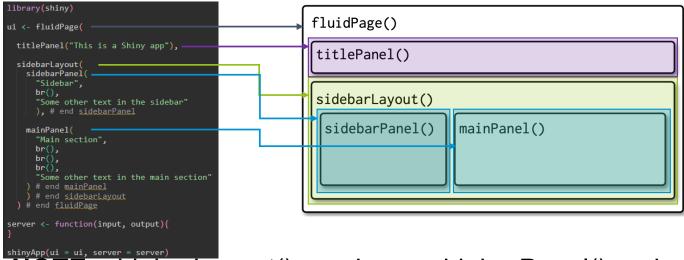
TIPS FOR UI:

- Use Rainbow parentheses
 Tools>Global>Code>Display>
 Tick "Rainbow Parentheses"
- Comment end of functions



Code Along: sidebarLayout

Add mainPanel() and "Run App".



- NOTE: sidebarLayout() requires a sidebarPanel() and mainPanel()
 - sidebarPanel would contain user input controls (e.g. radiobuttons and drop-downs)
 - mainPanel would display the output (e.g. plot or table).

Recap

- Shiny apps need two components; ui (controls how the app looks), and server (controls what the app does).
- sidebarPanel() and mainPanel() functions work within sidebarLayout() and fluidPage() to create different sections of the app, and we can change the code in order to change what appears in these sections.

Next

- Using sample data we will build our own multitab app which will include titles, radio buttons, drop-down menus, charts, tables and text.
- We'll be using the nyc_dogs dataset from the NYC



Code Along: Radio buttons

- Clear content of app so you have an empty app with ui and server.
- Load data from data folder.
- Add radioButtons() to UI: radioButtons(inputId, label, choices = NULL)
 - inputId will be used to access the value. In this case the gender column of the dataset.
 - label names the radioButtons. In this case "Male or Female Dogs?".
 - choices argument is a list of values to select from within the column we have chosen as the input. In this case we list Male and Female. Make sure they match what is in the data.
- Add tableOutput(). The presence of the table is defined in *UI* but the table itself is created in *server*.



Code Along: Table output

- Add the table output to the server by creating a table output object: table_output
- Use renderTable({}) to select dataset, and filter the data based on the user input, in our case, gender: gender == "input\$gender".
 - The input\$gender should match the radioButtons' inputId in the UI and the output\$table_output should match the outputId in the UI
 - Use slice(1:10) to only show the first 10 rows of the data.

```
server <- function(input, output) {
  output$table_output¹<- renderTable({
    nyc_dogs %>% 2
    filter(gender == input$gender) %>%
    slice(1:10)
  })
}

# Run the application
shinyApp(ui = ui, server = server)
```

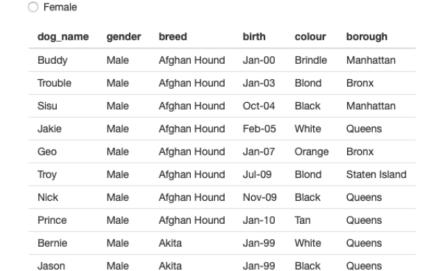
```
radioButtons(inputId = 'gender'?

label = "Male or female dogs?",
choices = c("Male", "Female")),

tableOutput("table_output")
```

Code Along: Table output

- Running your app will result in a table that looks like this, where you can select the first 10 male or female dogs using the radioButtons.
- We can make the table more interesting using the DT package and the dataTableOutput() and renderDataTable() functions.
- For more info on the DT package: https://rstudio.github.io/DT/



Male or Female Dogs?

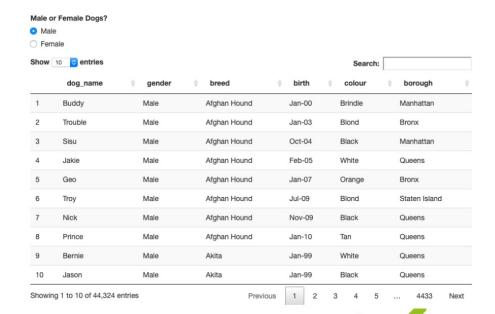
Male

Code Along: DT table

- Our code is very similar.
- UI
 - DT::dataTableOutput("table_output")
 instead of
 tableOutput("table_output")
- Server
 - DT::renderDataTable({...})
 instead of
 renderTable({...})
- Using DT to sort and search our data also means we no longer need the slice(1:10) function in the server.

Code Along: DT table

- Your app will now look something like this, where you can sort the data in the table and search through it.
- Other DT features
 - Filter columns
 - Data formatting (e.g. £ and %)
 - Extensive styling options
 - Data download buttons
- We will use the standard table output for the rest of the session.

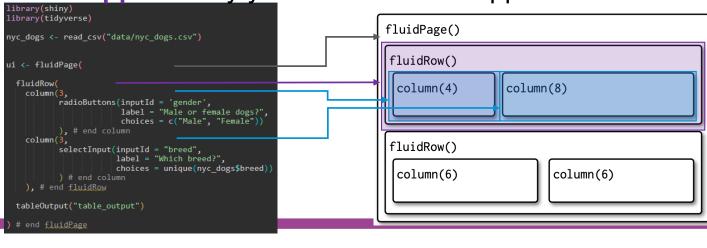


Code Along: fluidRow() and multiple filters

- fluidRow() is another layout option to sidebarLayout() and works with the column() function
 - fluidRow: Divides the screen into a horizontal grid
 - column: Divides the fluidRow into columns, max 12
- Drop down filters are created using selectInput(inputId, label, choices)
 - inputId will be used to access the value.
 - label names the drop-down.
 - **choices** argument is a list of values to select from within the column we have chosen as the input.
- Full widget/filter selection can be found here: https://shiny.posit.co/r/gallery/widgets/widget-gallery/.
 NOTE: some widgets are not accessible e.g. sliders.

Code Along: fluidRow() and multiple filters

- Add fluidRow()
- Add your radioButtons() for gender into a column(3) and a selectInput() for breed into a column(3).
 - Get breed choices from nyc_dogs data with choices = unique(nyc_dogs\$breed)
- NOTE: Change back to standard tableOutput()
- "Run App" and try your filters. What happens?



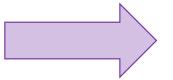
Code Along: fluidRow() and multiple filters

We must add the **server** component for the new breed filter!

- Add a filter for breed in the table output.
 - Remember to use the correct inputId from UI
- "Run App"

```
server <- function(input, output) {
  output$table_output <- renderTable({
    nyc_dogs %>%
      filter(gender == input$gender) %>%
      filter(breed == input$breed)
  })
}

# Run the application
shinyApp(ui = ui, server = server)
```



Male or Female Dogs? Male Female			Which Breed? Akita ▼								
						dog_name	gender	breed	birth	colour	borough
						Bernie	Male	Akita	Jan-99	White	Queens
Jason	Male	Akita	Jan-99	Black	Queens						
Socrates	Male	Akita	Jan-99	White	Queens						
Bear	Male	Akita	Jan-00	Black	Queens						
Buster	Male	Akita	Jan-00	White	Queens						
Ralph	Male	Akita	Jan-00	Tan	Queens						
Rambo	Male	Akita	Jan-00	Tan	Queens						
Shoko	Male	Akita	Feb-00	Tan	Brooklyn						
Bear	Male	Akita	Jan-01	Blond	Bronx						
Darius	Male	Akita	Jan-01	White	Queens						

Exercise

- Add two more drop-downs to the app we have which allow you to filter for:
 - Borough
 - Dog colour
- HINT: unique inputId, UI + server, max column width is 12



Answer

Ul

```
library(shiny)
library(tidyverse)
nyc_dogs <- read_csv("data/nyc_dogs.csv")</pre>
ui <- fluidPage(
  fluidRow(
    column(3,
            radioButtons(inputId = 'gender',
                         label = "Male or female dogs?",
                          choices = c("Male", "Female"))
    column(3,
            selectInput(inputId = "colour",
label = "Which colour?",
                         choices = unique(nyc_dogs$colour))
            selectInput(inputId = "breed",
label = "Which breed?",
                         choices = unique(nyc_dogs$breed))
    column(3,
            selectInput(inputId = "borough",
                         label = "Which borough?",
                         choices = unique(nyc dogs$borough))
    ), # end fluidRow
  tableOutput("table output")
```

Server

```
server <- function(input, output) {
  output$table_output <- renderTable({
    nyc_dogs %>%
      filter(gender == input$gender) %>%
      filter(colour == input$colour) %>%
      filter(breed == input$breed) %>%
      filter(borough == input$borough)
})
}

# Run the application
shinyApp(ui = ui, server = server)
```

Next we will add charts!



Code Along: Charts

- Plots are displayed using plotOutput() in the UI
- In server, instead of renderTable({}), we use renderPlot({})
- Plots are created using ggplot() and/or plotly() (a package for adding interactivity to charts).
- You can create the plots in Plotly directly or pass a ggplot object to ggplotly(), turning your ggplot into an interactive plotly object. See here for more info on plotly: https://plotly.com/r/

Code Along: Charts Ul

- Next, we will add two bar charts; one for colour and one for borough.
- Keep the radio buttons for selecting gender, and the drop-down menu for selecting breed.
 Comment out the other filters.
- Add new fluidRow() with two columns() and add one chart in each; "colour_barchart" and "borough_barchart".
 - Remember to use plotOutput()

```
library(shiny)
library(tidyverse)
nyc_dogs <- read_csv("data/nyc_dogs.csv")</pre>
ui <- fluidPage(
  fluidRow(
    column(6,
           radioButtons(inputId = 'gender',
                        label = "Male or female dogs?",
                        choices = c("Male", "Female"))
    column(6,
           selectInput(inputId = "breed",
                        label = "Which breed?",
                        choices = unique(nyc dogs$breed))
    ), # end fluidRow
  fluidRow
    column(6,
           plotOutput(outputId = "colour barchart")
           plotOutput(outputId = "borough barchart")
```

Code Along: Charts Server

- Create a dataset called filtered_data that filters based on user input for gender and breed
 - Creating a separate dataset prevents us from repeating the data code for each plot
- Create two bar charts using ggplot();
 colour_barchart and borough_barchart. The names must match the outputId in the UI
- Remember to use renderPlot({})
- "Run App" what happens?

```
server <- function(input, output) {
  filtered_data <- nyc_dogs %>%
    filter(gender == input$gender) %>%
    filter(breed == input$breed)

  output$colour_barchart <- renderPlot({
    ggplot(filtered_data) +
        geom_bar(aes(x = colour))
})

  output$borough_barchart <- renderPlot({
    ggplot(filtered_data) +
        geom_bar(aes(x = borough))
})

}

# Run the application
shinyApp(ui = ui, server = server)</pre>
```



Code along: Reactivity

When we run the previous code, we get an error.

Do you need to wrap inside reactive() or observer()?

- We've used regular R code to filter our data, but the filter for this object needs to be reactive depending on what the user inputs.
- A reactive object can change during the running of the app, in our case, filtered_data.
- Wrap filtered_data in the reactive({}) function.
 - This defines the data as having a reactive value and must therefore be followed by brackets when used; filtered_data()

```
# Run the application
shinyApp(ui = ui, server = server)

server <- function(input, output) {
    filtered_data <- reactive({
        nyc_dogs %>%
        filter(gender == input$gender) %>%
        filter(breed == input$breed)
})

output$colour_barchart <- renderPlot({
    ggplot(filtered_data())+
        geom_bar(aes(x = colour))
})

output$borough_barchart <- renderPlot({
    ggplot(filtered_data())+
        geom_bar(aes(x = borough))
})

# Run the application
shinyApp(ui = ui, server = server)</pre>
```

• "Run App"

Code Along: Charts

Our app should now look like this, where the bar charts are reactive to selections made by the user either by the radioButton or the drop-down menu.





Recap

- We have created an app which displays our NYC dogs data in a table which can be filtered using radioButtons and drop-down menus.
- We have also created an app which displays our NYC dogs data in bar charts which are reactive to radioButtons and drop-down menus.

Next

- A multi-tab dashboard where we can display both tables and charts
- An introduction to navbarPage() which creates a navigation bar along the top of the app, and tabPanel() which is used to create different tabs within the navigation bar.

Including multiple tabs

- Multi-tab dashboards require a lot of nesting of functions within other functions.
 - Having Rainbow Brackets activated is really helpful for this!
- To have, for example, charts in one tab and the table in another, we need to wrap each code block (one for charts and one for tables) inside its own tabPanel() function.
- These tabPanel()s then need to be nested inside the navbarPage()
 function which creates the overarching navigation bar along the top of the
 app.

Code Along: Multiple tabs – Tab 1 (Table)

- Create and name a navbarPage() with a nested and named tabPanel(title = "").
- Add your fluidRow() with your four filters (uncomment the borough and breed dropdowns) to the tabPanel().
- Only keep the tableOutput("table_output") – remember to keep it in the tabPanel()

```
library(tidyverse)
nyc dogs <- read csv("data/nyc dogs.csv")</pre>
ui <- fluidPage(
 titlePanel("NYC DOGS"),
 choices = c("Male", "Female"))
                        choices = unique(nyc dogs$colour))
                        selectInput(inputId = "borough",
                                  label = "Which borough?",
                                  choices = unique(nyc_dogs$borough))
                        selectInput(inputId = "breed",
                                  label = "Which breed?",
                                  choices = unique(nyc_dogs$breed))
                   ), # end fluidRow
                 tableOutput("table output")), # end tabPanel
```

Code Along: Multiple tabs – Tab 1 (Table) Server

- Create a new reactive dataset, table_data
- Remember to add your four filter inputs
- "Run App"

```
server <- function(input, output) {
  table_data <- reactive({
    nyc_dogs %>%
    filter(gender == input$gender) %>%
    filter(breed == input$breed) %>%
    filter(colour == input$colour) %>%
    filter(borough == input$borough)
})

output$table_output <- renderTable({
  table_data()
  })
}</pre>
```



Code Along: Multiple tabs – Tab 2 (Chart)

- Create and name a second tabPanel().
- Add your fluidRow() with two new filters; gender and breed. They need new inputlds as every filter needs a unique id.
- Add another fluidRow() with the two bar charts we made earlier.
- NOTE: You can use tags to make changes to your font. E.g. tags\$i() is italic and tags\$b() is bold.

```
tabPanel(title = "Plot",
         fluidRow(
           column(6,
                  radioButtons(inputId = "gender chart",
                               label = tags$i("Male or Female Dogs?")
                               choices = c("Male", "Female"))
           column(6,
                  selectInput(inputId = "breed_chart",
                               label = tags$i("Which Breed?"),
                              choices = unique(nyc dogs$breed))
         fluidRow(
                  plotOutput("colour barchart")
           ), # end column
                  plotOutput("borough barchart"))
           ) # end fluidRow
            # end tabPanel
```



Code Along: Multiple tabs – Tab 2 (Chart) Server

- Create a new reactive dataset, plot_data
- Remember to add your two filter inputs with the new inputIds
- Add the two bar charts you made before, remember to use your new reactive dataset
- "Run App"

```
server <- function(input, output) {
  table_data <- reactive({
    nyc_dogs %>%
    filter(gender == input$gender) %>%
    filter(breed == input$breed) %>%
    filter(colour == input$colour) %>%
    filter(borough == input$borough)
})

output$table_output <- renderTable({
    table_data()
})

plot_data <- reactive({
    nyc_dogs %>%
    filter(gender == input$gender_chart) %>%
    filter(breed == input$breed_chart)
})

output$colour_barchart <- renderPlot({
    ggplot(plot_data()) +
    geom_bar(aes(x = colour))
})

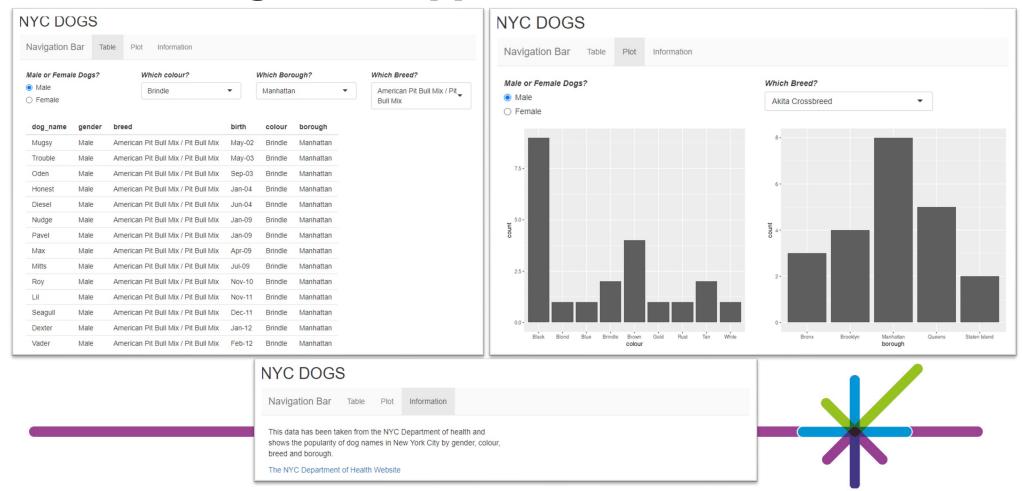
output$borough_barchart <- renderPlot({
    ggplot(plot_data()) +
    geom_bar(aes(x = borough))
})
</pre>
```

Code Along: Multiple tabs – Tab 3 (Info)

- Create and name a third tabPanel().
- Add text to your new tabPanel using p().
 - p() indicates a paragraph
- Use tags\$a to create a link to the NYC Department of Health website.
- No need to update server as we only add text.



Code Along: Final app



Shiny themes and icons

- We can use basic HTML and CSS code to set fonts and themes for our dashboard and insert icons in the navigation bar for each section.
- Shiny has a variety of ready made themes that can be used in your dashboard, try out the theme selector: https://shiny.rstudio.com/gallery/shiny-theme-selector.html
- There are also a variety of icons that can be added to your Shiny dashboard using Font Awesome and Glyphicon:
 https://fontawesome.com/v5.15/icons?d=gallery&p=2
 https://getbootstrap.com/docs/3.3/components/#glyphicons
- Some icons may be trapped behind a paywall, but many are free!

Shiny themes and icons

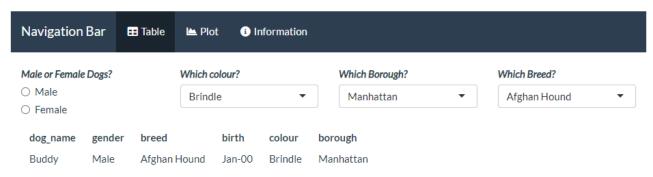
- To use themes and icons, we need to load two more packages:
 - library(shinythemes)
 - library(shinycssloaders)
- To add a theme, add theme = shinytheme("name of theme") in fluidPage()
- To add an icon, add icon = icon("name of icon") to your tabPanel()
- NOTE: You can wrap your NYC DOGS title in tags\$h1() to set text as HEADER 1. Adding html tags aids screen readers.
- **EXERCISE**: Add icons to all tabs. See previous slide for link to Font Awesome and Glyphicon



Exercise: Shiny themes and icons

Now our Shiny app looks a bit more interesting!

NYC DOGS



- Use the theme and icons links to make your dashboard look nice!
- If you are confident with ggplot2, make your plots look nicer or if you want a challenge, make them in plotly and play around with interactivity.

Practice makes perfect

- You have created a Shiny dashboard from scratch which contains tabulated data, charts and information text tabs.
- You have made the data reactive to whatever the user inputs and you have used different themes, icons and text formatting to make it stand out.
- If you have time before our next session, try playing around with this dashboard.
 - Swap your fluidRow() and column() grid layouts for something else such as sidebarLayout(), sidebarPanel() and mainPanel() to see how the layout changes.
 - · Add new tabs with different charts.
 - Attempt to make a similar dashboard for a whole new dataset.



Next time

- Splitting big dashboards: UI, Server and Global scripts
- Using multiple Public Health Scotland datasets
- Use of specific Public Health Scotland colours and logos
- Modals and help buttons
- Data downloads
- Deploying an app
- The importance of using GitHub



End of day 1 – any questions?

