Gerald Gradstudent

Learner Persona

- Gerald is a graduate student, pursuing a Ph.D. in Biology. He just finished his first year of studies and is finally getting into his research work. Gerald has a solid foundation in the natural and physical sciences, but hasn't had any formal training in coding or programming, aside from some practical knowledge working with Excel.

- Excel has been adequate for his school work, but Gerald has discovered that doing original research is presenting new challenges. In particular the data he's dealing with is much bigger and more complex than what he's typically encountered in school work.

- Gerald has heard that R might be worth learning, but he doesn't really know where to start. However, he thinks that learning how to work with large data sets, performing reproducible data analysis, and having the flexibly to do custom analyses with code is likely worth putting time into.

Needs

Gerald needs a *guide* to help him navigate the foreign world of coding, particularly in the context of scientific data analysis. Gerald's a smart guy, so he doesn't mind taking classes and digging into new topics. His main issue is that he doesn't quite know the best way to approach this new subject, and his department isn't much help either. As a grad student, learning to code is just one of many new things he's learning so developing practical skills in the context of the other things he's working on is very important.