



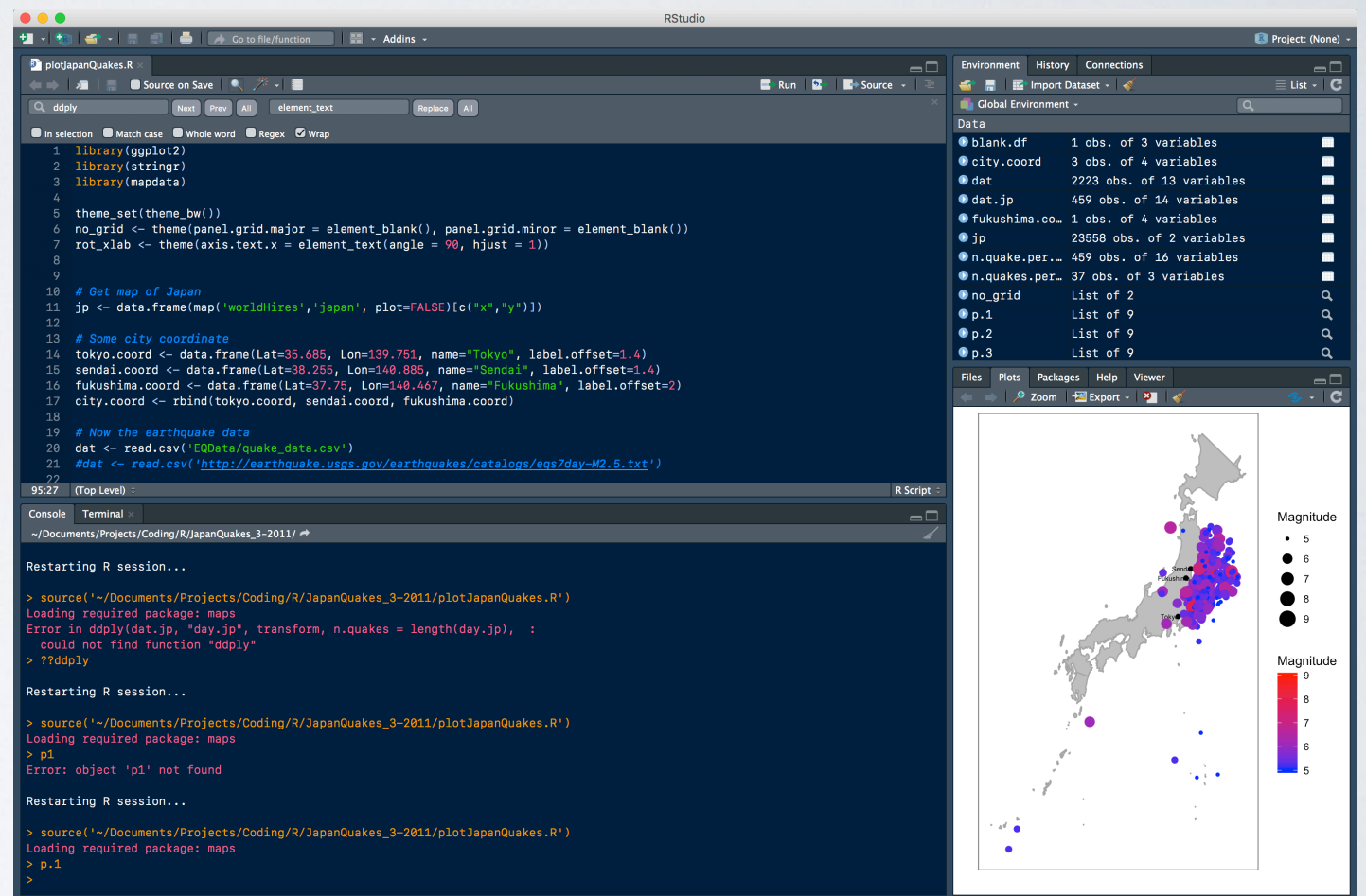
# GETTING STARTED WITH RSTUDIO

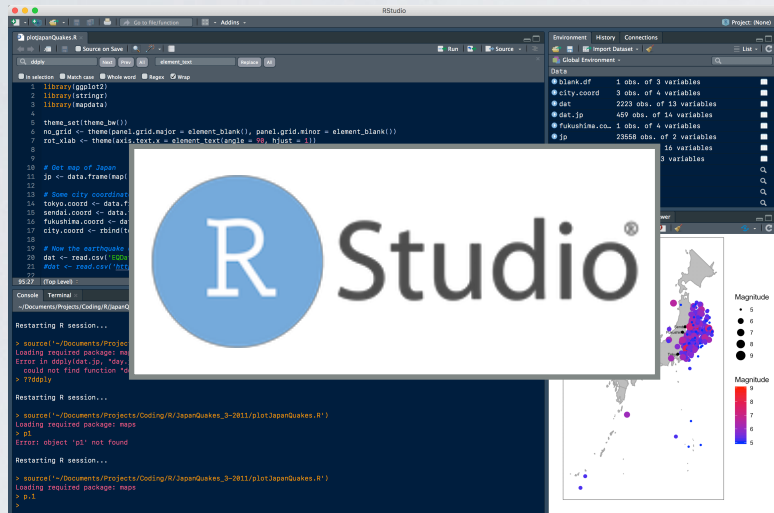
Ryan Benz • R Ladies IRVINE • Oct 3, 2018



# YOU'LL SPEND A LOT OF TIME IN RSTUDIO — MAKE IT PLEASANT TO USE!

- RStudio is like an artist's paint brush or musician's instrument
- Tune it to fit your needs and preferences
- Learn the basics, then dig into the details
- RStudio has a TON of features to make your life easier





≠



RStudio is an awesome tool for working with R

...but it's not R

You need to install R first, *then* install RStudio

# A QUICK TOUR

The screenshot displays the RStudio environment with three main components highlighted by red boxes:

- Text Editor:** The central pane shows the R script `plotJapanQuakes.R`. The code includes library calls for `ggplot2`, `stringr`, and `mapdata`, followed by theme settings and data loading for Japan's geography and earthquake data. A search bar at the top of the editor shows the term `ddply`.
- Env, Hist:** The Environment pane on the right lists objects in the global environment, including `blank.df`, `city.coord`, `dat`, `dat.jp`, `fukushima.co...`, `jp`, `n.quake.per...`, `n.quakes.per...`, `no_grid`, `p.1`, `p.2`, and `p.3`.
- R Console:** The bottom pane shows the R session output, including messages about restarting the session and loading the `maps` package. It also displays error messages: `Error in ddply(dat.jp, "day.jp", transform, n.quakes = length(day.jp), : could not find function "ddply"` and `Error: object 'p1' not found`.

On the right side of the R Console, a map of Japan is shown with earthquake locations plotted as points. The size of the points represents the magnitude, and the color represents the magnitude on a scale from 5 (blue) to 9 (red). The map includes labels for Sendai, Fukushima, and Tokyo.



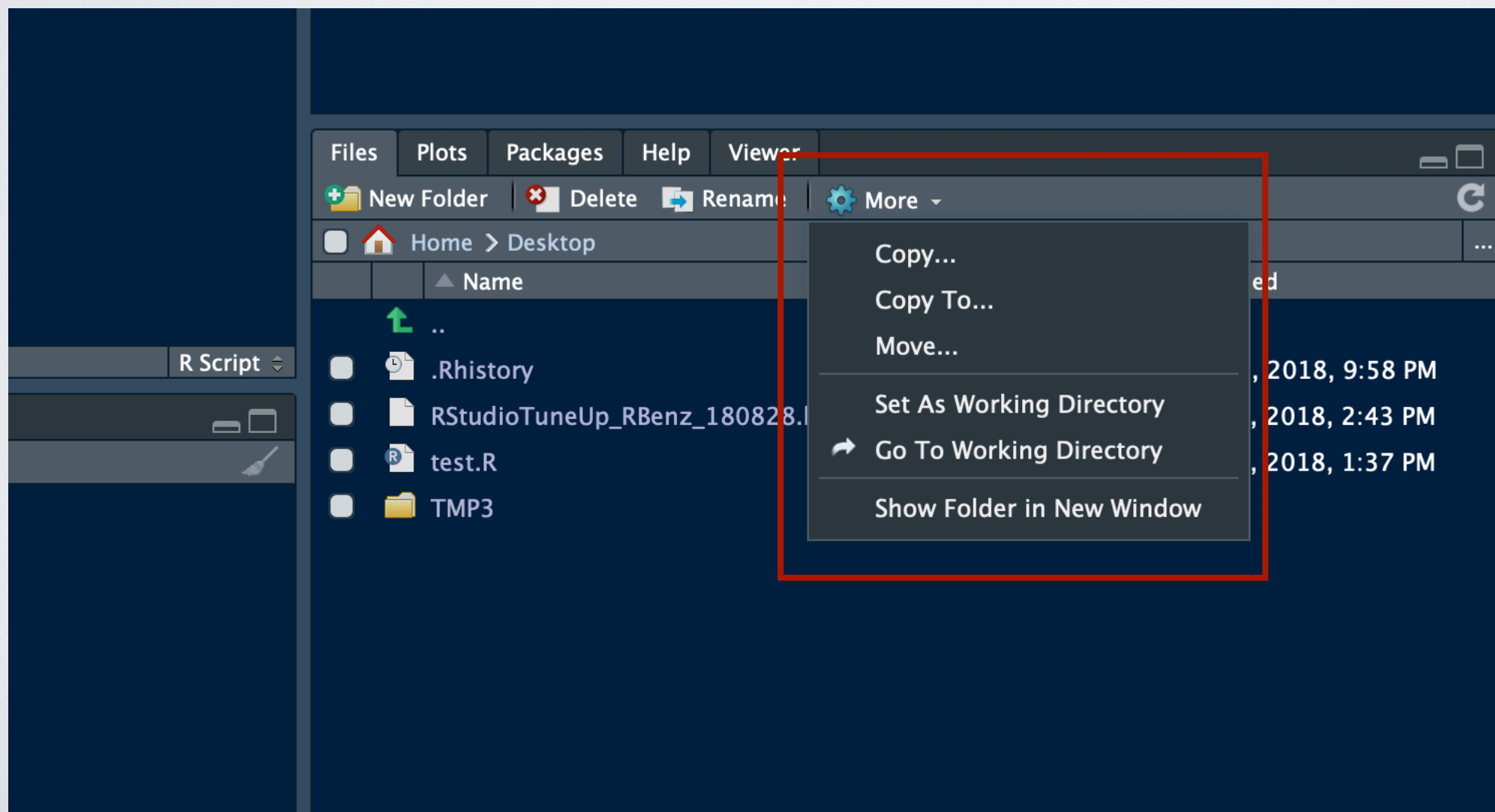
# SPEND MOST OF YOUR TIME IN THE EDITOR

The image shows the RStudio interface with four main components highlighted by red boxes and labels:

- Text Editor:** The central pane showing R code for plotting Japan earthquakes. The code includes library calls for `ggplot2`, `stringr`, and `mapdata`, followed by data loading and plotting commands. A search bar at the top of the editor shows the text `ddply`.
- Env, Hist:** The Environment and History pane on the right, listing objects in the global environment such as `blank.df`, `city.coord`, `dat`, `dat.jp`, `fukushima.co...`, `jp`, `n.quake.per...`, `n.quakes.per...`, `no_grid`, `p.1`, `p.2`, and `p.3`.
- R Console:** The bottom-left pane showing the R session output. It displays messages like "Restarting R session..." and error messages such as "Error in ddply(dat.jp, 'day.jp', transform, n.quakes = length(day.jp), : could not find function 'ddply'" and "Error: object 'p1' not found".
- Files, Plots, Help,...:** The bottom-right pane showing a map of Japan with earthquake locations. The map uses colored circles to represent earthquakes, with a legend on the right indicating magnitude (5 to 9). The map is titled "plotJapanQuakes.R".

# MIND THE PATH

Every R session has an associated *Working Directory*  
This is the base directory where you'll read and write files  
You'll get lost if you don't know your *Working Directory*



Manually set a  
path

## Commands

getwd()  
setwd()

\*but don't use these  
in your scripts...  
see next slide



# THINK ABOUT YOUR WORK IN TERMS OF PROJECTS

Please read Jenny Bryan's  
great post on project-  
oriented workflows



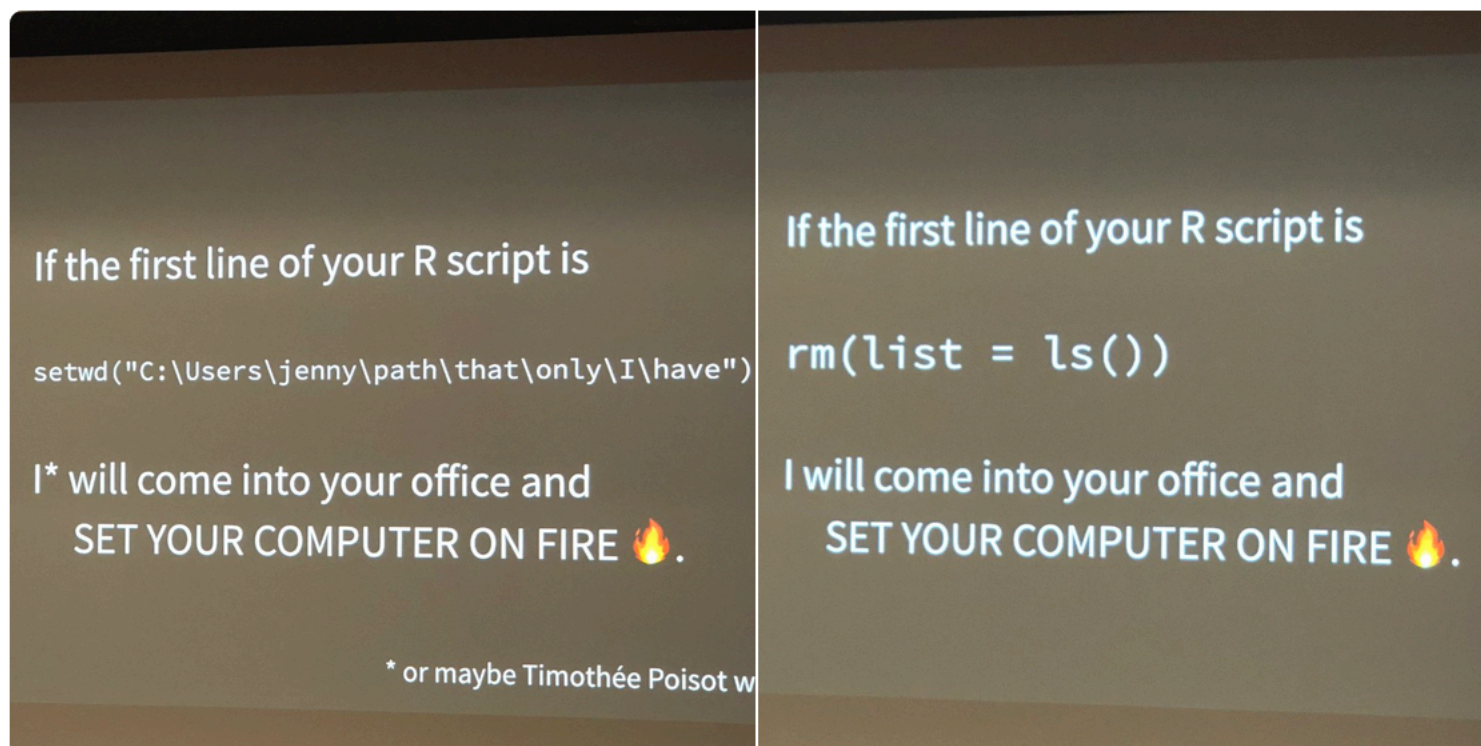
**Hadley Wickham** ✓

@hadleywickham

Follow




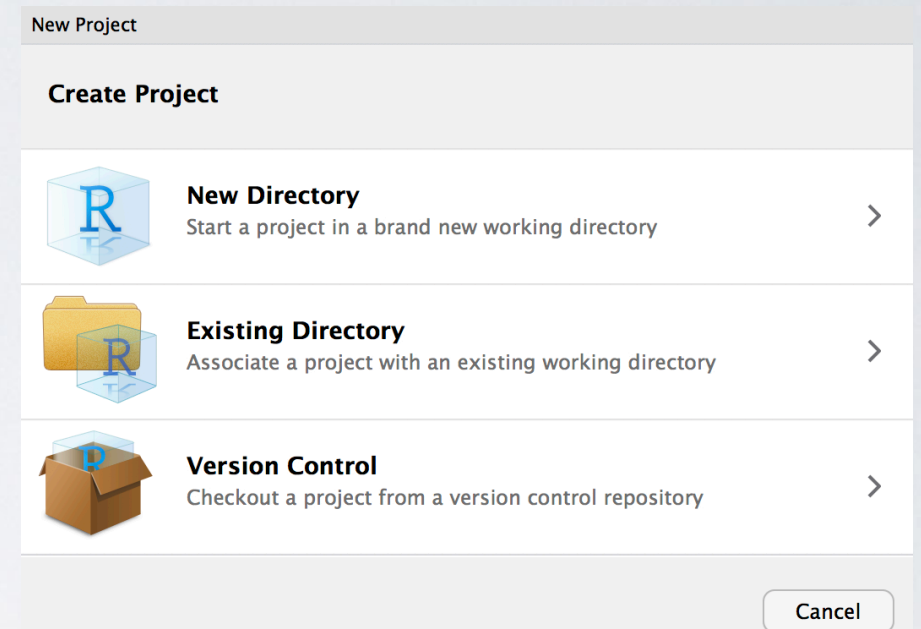
The only two things that make [@JennyBryan](#)  
😡😡😡. Instead use projects + `here::here()`  
[#rstats](#)



4:50 PM - 10 Dec 2017

# AVOID STARTING RSTUDIO FROM FROM APPLICATIONS

- Create a new RStudio project  
File → New Project...
- In the terminal, cd to your working directory and run:  
`open -a RStudio .`
- Hadley's cool launcher tip 
- If you do launch RStudio from *Applications*, manually navigate to your project directory before starting to work





# EXAMPLE WORKFLOW #1

1. Open RStudio

2. Create a new project

File → New Project... → New Directory → ...

3. Create R scripts, add source data, save files & plots  
*within this project directory (or sub-directories)*

4. Return to this project at a later time by launching the  
project's .Rproj file

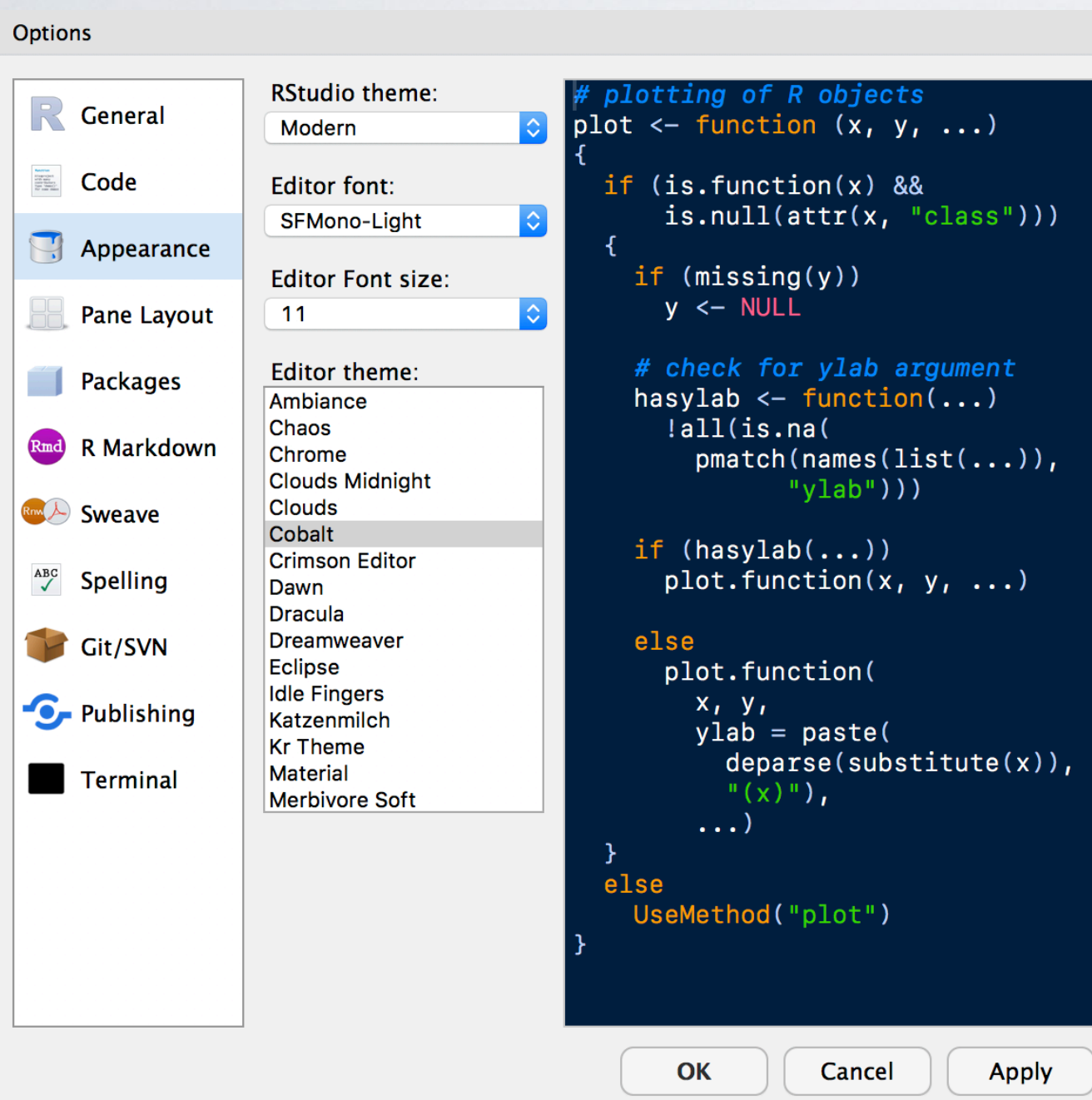
# EXAMPLE WORKFLOW #2

1. Open a terminal and `mkdir` your project directory
2. Open RStudio in the terminal *from this directory*:  
`open -a RStudio .`
3. Create R scripts, add source data, save files & plots  
*within this project directory (or sub-directories)*
4. Return to this project at a later time by `cd`'ing to this directory and launching RStudio (2. above)



# CHOOSE A GREAT FONT AND THEME

Preferences → Appearance



These are some fonts I like

Inconsolata  
SF Mono  
IBM Plex Mono

These are some themes I like

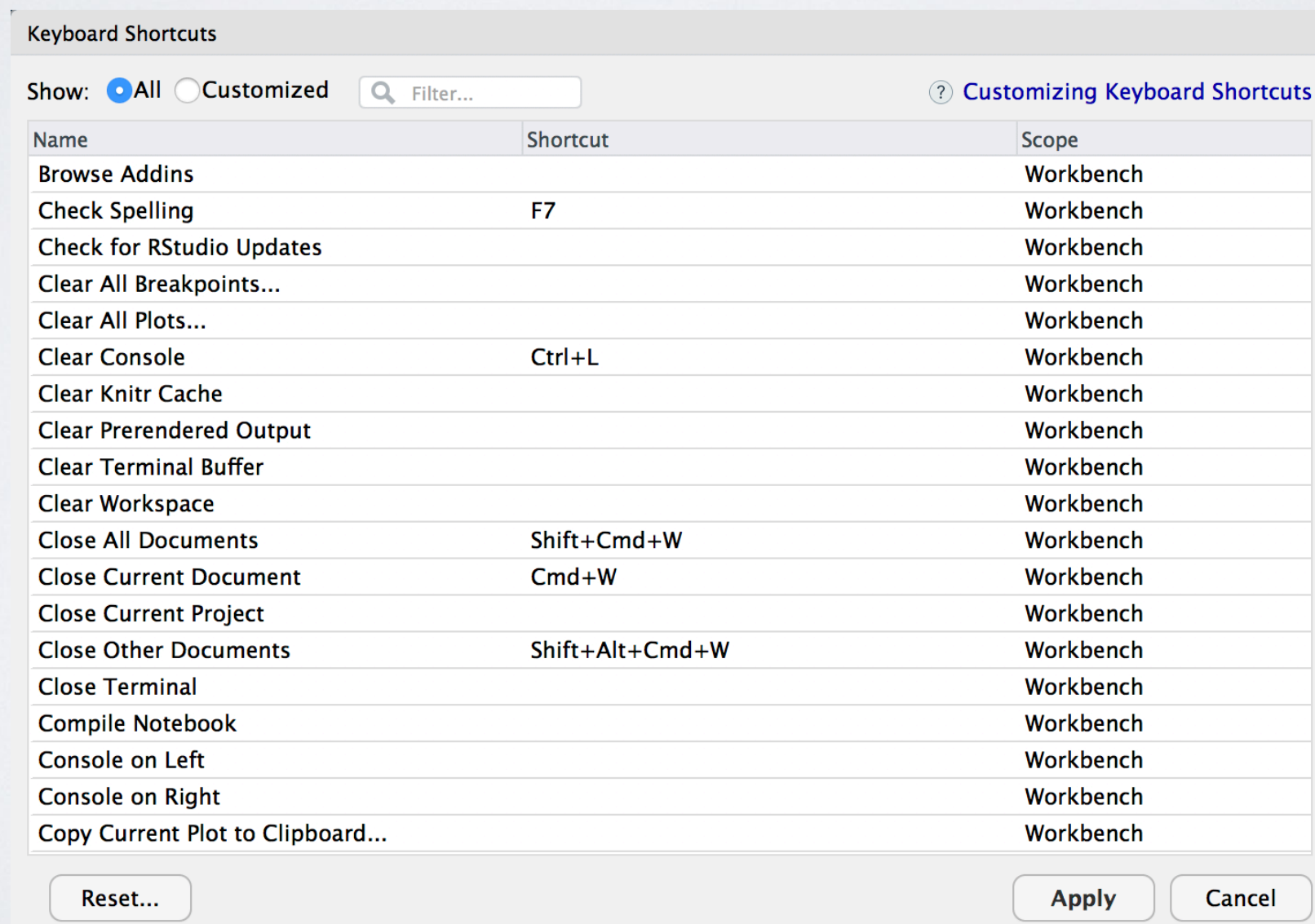
Cobalt  
Idle Fingers  
Material

# LEARN KEYBOARD SHORTCUTS

## (AT LEAST A FEW...)

*Tools → Keyboard Shortcuts Help*

*Tools → Modify Keyboard Shortcuts...*





# IF YOU ONLY LEARN ONE...

## (WELL ACTUALLY TWO)

### **THE Drill**

Step 1: Restart your R session

SHIFT + CMD + F10

*might also need the fn key on a laptop*

Step 2: (re) Run your script

SHIFT + CMD + S

Do this frequently as you write your code

- Reminds you to capture your code in the editor, not the console
- Prevents coding left-overs from messing up your work
- Helps you find coding problems more quickly
- Essential component of a reproducible workflow

# OTHER KEYBOARD SHORTCUTS I LIKE

- Execute the current line of code  
CMD + Return
- Clean-up your code  
CMD+A, CMD+I
- Navigating your code  
CMD+arrow keys (use with SHIFT to select)



# OTHER KEYBOARD SHORTCUTS I LIKE

- Comment / uncomment  
CMD+SHIFT+C (but I remapped to CMD+ /)
- Switch to Editor & Console  
CTRL+1 (Editor), CTRL+2 (Console)

# CHANGE THESE SETTING NOW!

Preferences → General

Options

**General**

- Code
- Appearance
- Pane Layout
- Packages
- R Markdown
- Sweave
- Spelling
- Git/SVN
- Publishing
- Terminal

Default working directory (when not in a project):  
~ Browse...

☒ Re-use idle sessions for project links  
☒ Restore most recently opened project at startup  
☒ Restore previously open source documents at startup  
☐ Restore .RData into workspace at startup  
Save workspace to .RData on exit: Never ▾  
☒ Always save history (even when not saving .RData)  
☐ Remove duplicate entries in history  
☐ Show .Last.value in environment listing  
☒ Use debug error handler only when my code contains errors  
☐ Automatically expand tracebacks in error inspector  
☐ Wrap around when navigating to previous/next tab  
☒ Automatically notify me of updates to RStudio

OK Cancel Apply

*The defaults are  
reproducibility  
nightmares*



**Uncheck  
Never**



# CHANGE THESE SETTING NOW!

Preferences → General

Options

**General**

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Default working directory (when not in a project):  
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Save workspace to .RData on exit: Never

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☐ Remove duplicate entries in history

☐ Show .Last.value in environment listing

☒ Use debug error handler only when my code contains errors

☐ Automatically expand tracebacks in error inspector

☐ Wrap around when navigating to previous/next tab

☒ Automatically notify me of updates to RStudio

OK Cancel Apply

*I uncheck these too*

## Personal View

Starting to work on  
a project should be  
a deliberate action

# FINAL THOUGHTS

- **Basic RStudio**

use it as an editor to write code and a console to execute code

- **Advanced RStudio**

learn keyboard shortcuts, tune it's settings, utilize it's power for writing packages, building Shiny apps, writing RMarkdown documents

- Think about your workflow — how can you streamline your work process?
- The little bit of time you spend tuning your set-up can save you lots of time in the long run