News

Editorial

by Kurt Hornik and Friedrich Leisch

Welcome to the first volume of *R News*, the newsletter of the R project for statistical computing. R News will feature short to medium length articles covering topics that might be of interest to users or developers of R, including

- Changes in R: new features of the latest release

- Changes on CRAN: new add-on packages, manuals, binary distributions, mirrors, . . .

- Add-on packages: short introductions to or reviews of R extension packages

- Programmer's Niche: nifty hints for programming in R (or S)

- Applications: Examples of analyzing data with R

The newsletter as a medium for communication intends to fill the gap between the R mailing lists and scientific journals: Compared with emails it is more persistent, one can cite articles in the newsletter and because the newsletter is edited it has better quality control. On the other hand, when compared to scientific journals, it is faster, less formal, and last but not least focused on R.

As all of R, R News is a volunteer project. The editorial board currently consists of the R core development team plus Bill Venables. We are very happy that Bill—one of *the* authorities on programming the S language—has offered himself as editor of "Programmer's Niche", a regular column on R/S programming.

This first volume already features a broad range of different articles, both from R core members and other developers in the R community (without whom R would never have grown to what it is now). The success of R News critically depends on the articles in it, hence we want to ask all of you to submit to R News. There is no formal reviewing process yet, however articles will be reviewed by the editorial board to ensure the quality of the newsletter. Submissions should simply be sent to the editors by email, see the article on page 30 for details on how to write articles.

We really hope you will enjoy reading R News!

Kurt Hornik
Technische Universität Wien, Austria
Kurt.Hornik@ci.tuwien.ac.at

Friedrich Leisch
Technische Universität Wien, Austria
Friedrich.Leisch@ci.tuwien.ac.at

Contents of this issue: