

Transitioning between various RMarkdown packages for workflow optimization in academic research; a graduate student's perspective.

Brent Thorne

# Hello useR! 2019



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## Quick Facts:

- Started using R in 2014
- Hated it!
- Realized the value in FOSS
- Taught myself R
- Made the {posterdown} package
- Now known as the "you can do that in R!" guy in my lab!

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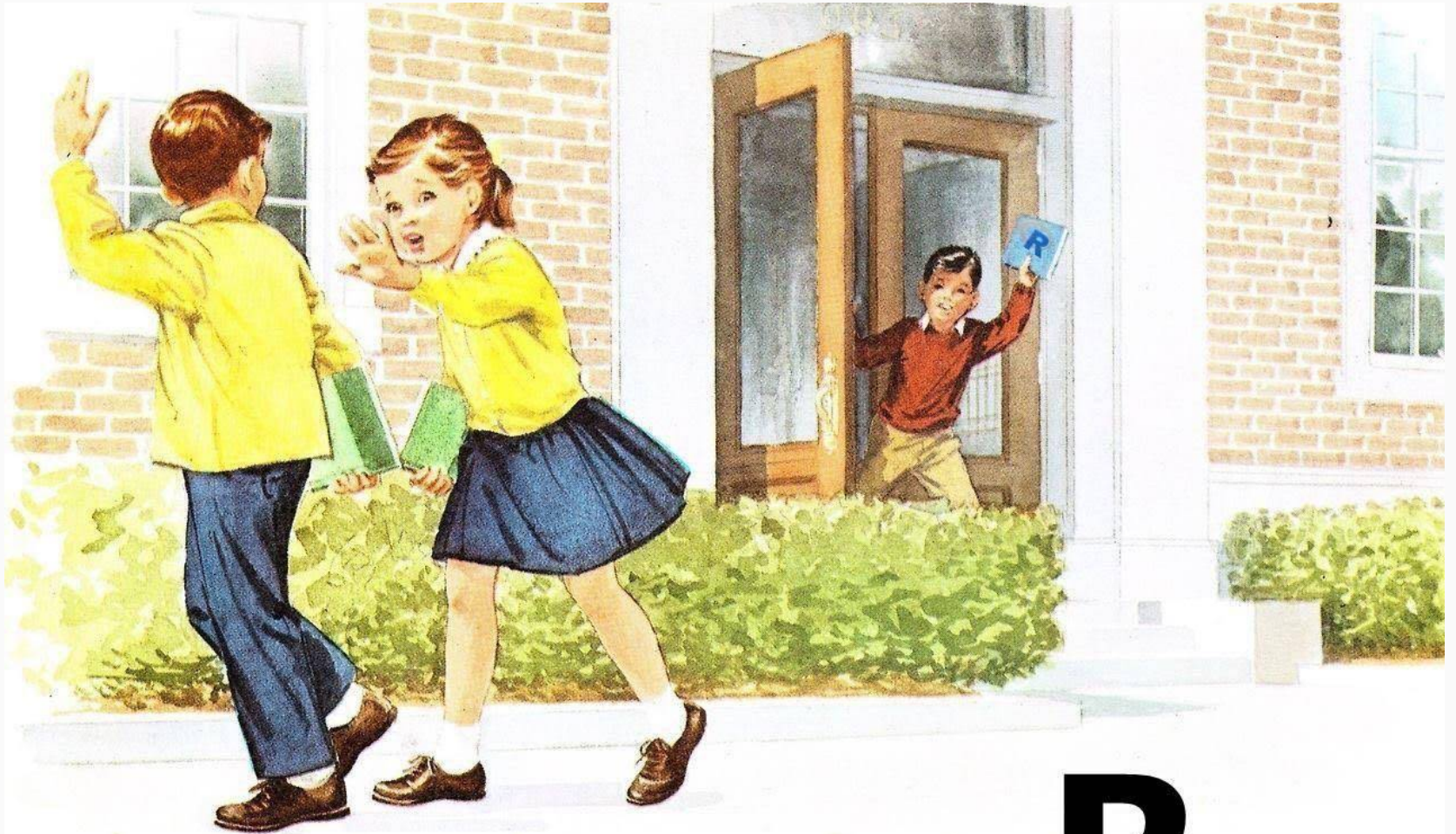
# What packages can I use?

Grad Student's Needs	Possible R packages
Taking notes	rmarkdown / pagedown
Manage Citations	rbbt / citr
Conference Posters	pagedown / posterdown ( <i>personal bias on this one</i> )
Thesis/ Dissertation	bookdown / thesisdown / pagedown::thesis_paged
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# New User's



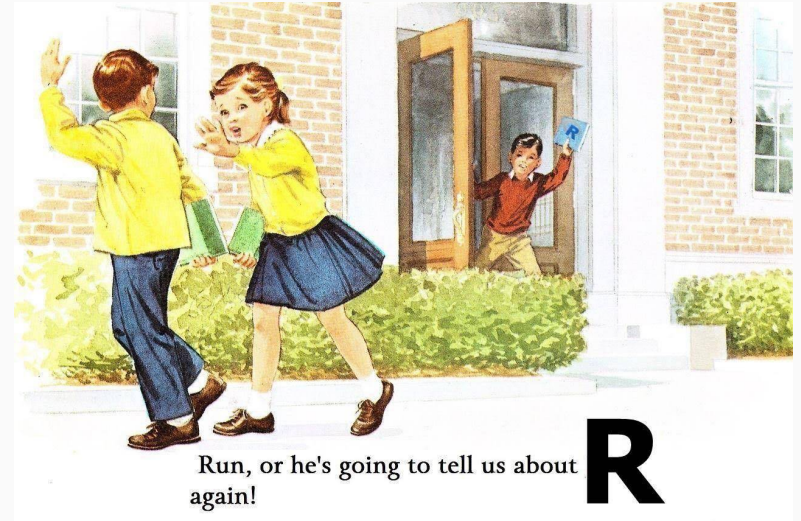
Run, or he's going to tell us about  
again!

**R**



# New User's

- Show them, don't tell them
- Show them only 1 item at a time
- Ask them if they want help getting started



# LaTeX or HTML?



JAKE-CLARK.TUMBLR



# LaTeX or HTML?

- Can be difficult to transition between the two.
- Often a person sticks with what they started with.



JAKE-CLARK.TUMBLR

# Can we simplify syntax?



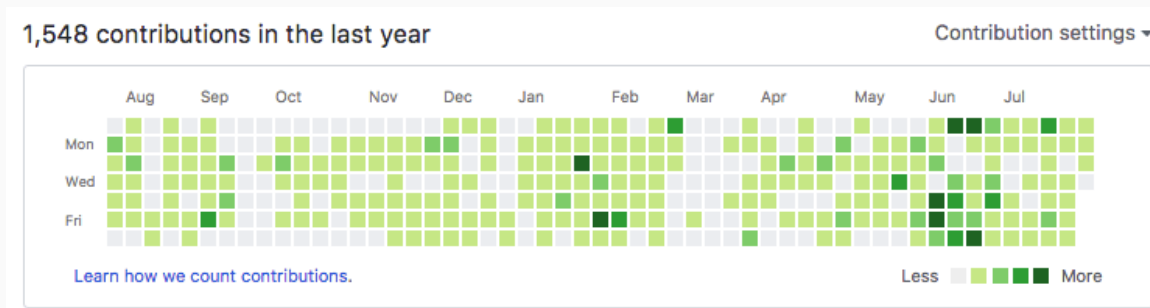
# Can we simplify syntax?

- New user's are put off when needing to change what they know for little gain.
- I made `posterdown` to ensure a document written in `rmarkdown` could be immediately turned into a conference poster.



# Why should supervisors care?

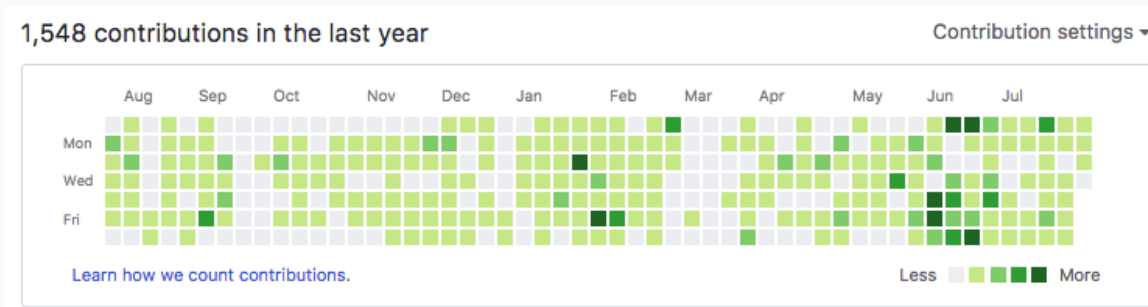
- 1) Version control
- 2) Reproducible
- 3) More time for the important stuff, think of all the manuscripts!
- 4) Check up on progress from a distance....



- 5) No need to track down a student years after they're gone for data/ analysis.

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# Conclusion

- R markdown and other down packages are changing the way academia can become more streamlined for graduate students
- When creating new packages/ templates for the downverse it will be important to consider how a template may be transitioned to or from by simplifying the syntax.
- Let's encourage all levels of academia to embrace reproducible research!



# Thank you

Thank you to useR! 2019 for providing a scholarship for me to attend this years meeting!

