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Step-by-Step Guide to Using Git with RStudio for Saving Your R Scripts

Preface

This guide is intended for researchers who want to learn how to use Git with RStudio to save their R scripts.
Git is a powerful tool for version control that enables you to track changes to your code over time, collaborate with others, and revert to previous versions if needed.
By following this step-by-step guide, you'll learn how to initialize Git, stage and commit changes, and manage your repository within the RStudio interface.

Step-by-step guide:

Note: *Please note that the instructions provided may vary slightly depending on the pane layout of your RStudio interface.*

1. ***Open RStudio:*** *Open RStudio on your computer.*
2. ***Create a new project:*** *Click on "File" in the top left corner of RStudio, then click on "New Project". In the "New Project" window, select "New Directory", select "New project", and then "Directory name". Enter a project name and choose the directory where you want to save your project. Make sure to check the box "Create a git repository". Click "Create Project".*
3. ***Create your R script:*** *In the "Files" tab in the bottom right corner of RStudio, click on "New Folder" to create a new folder for your R script. Click on the new folder to open it.*
4. ***Create a new R script:*** *Click on "File" in the top left corner of RStudio, then click on "New File" and select "R Script". This will create a new R script file in the folder you just created.*

5. ***Commit your changes:*** *Commit your changes: Once you've staged your changes, you can commit them to your repository. In the "Git" tab in the top right corner of RStudio, click on your R script file to select it. Then, enter a commit message describing the changes you made to your R script. Finally, click on the "Commit" button to commit your changes to the repository.*
6. ***View the history of changes:*** *You can view the history of changes made to your R script by clicking on the "History" tab in the "Git" panel. This will show you a list of all the commits made to the repository, along with the commit message, date, and time. To view the changes made in a specific commit, click on the commit message to expand the details. You can also compare different versions of the script by selecting two commits and clicking on the "Diff" button. This can be helpful in identifying the changes made and troubleshooting any issues that arise.*
7. ***Ensure the project is open:*** *To use Git with RStudio, it's important to have a project open. If you have already created a project, make sure it's open before you start working on your R scripts. You should see the project name in the top-right corner of the RStudio interface. If you don't see the project name, click on "File" in the top-left corner of the RStudio window and select "Open Project" to open an existing project. The Git tab in RStudio is only visible when you have an entire project open. If you open a single file instead of a project, the Git tab will not be visible.*