

Lime Survey

Quick statistics: (Towards understanding communication channels within a community)



General filters



Response filters



Statistics



Results

Number of records in this query: 26

Total records in survey: 26

Percentage of total: 100.00%

Browse **Export**

Field summary for Domain

What is your area of expertise?

| Answer | Count | Percentage |
|----------------------|-------|------------|
| Computer Science (1) | 6 | 23.08% |
| Mathematics (2) | 7 | 26.92% |
| Life Science (3) | 3 | 11.54% |
| Healthcare (4) | 2 | 7.69% |
| Other | 15 | 57.69% |



ecommerce

High Performance Computing

social science

Political Science

Data Analysis

Data Analysis and Management

Earth Science

Geophysics

psychology

geography

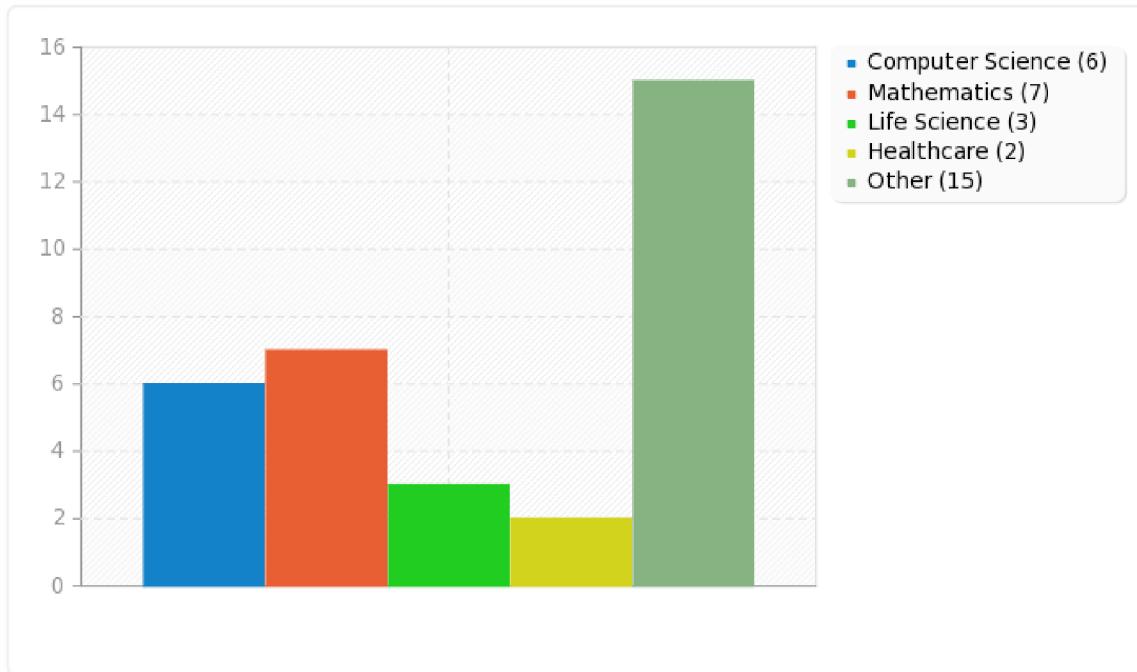
Statistics

Statistics

Computer systems & network administration, especially in a FreeBSD environment

Statistics

Ecology



Field summary for Occupation

What is your occupation?

| Answer | Count | Percentage |
|--|-------|------------|
| Academia (e.g., professor, or researcher) (SQ001) | 11 | 42.31% |
| Student (e.g., graduate or undergraduate student) (SQ002) | 4 | 15.38% |
| Industry (SQ003) | 6 | 23.08% |
| Other Browse | 8 | 30.77% |



Employee in university computing centre

consultant

Retail

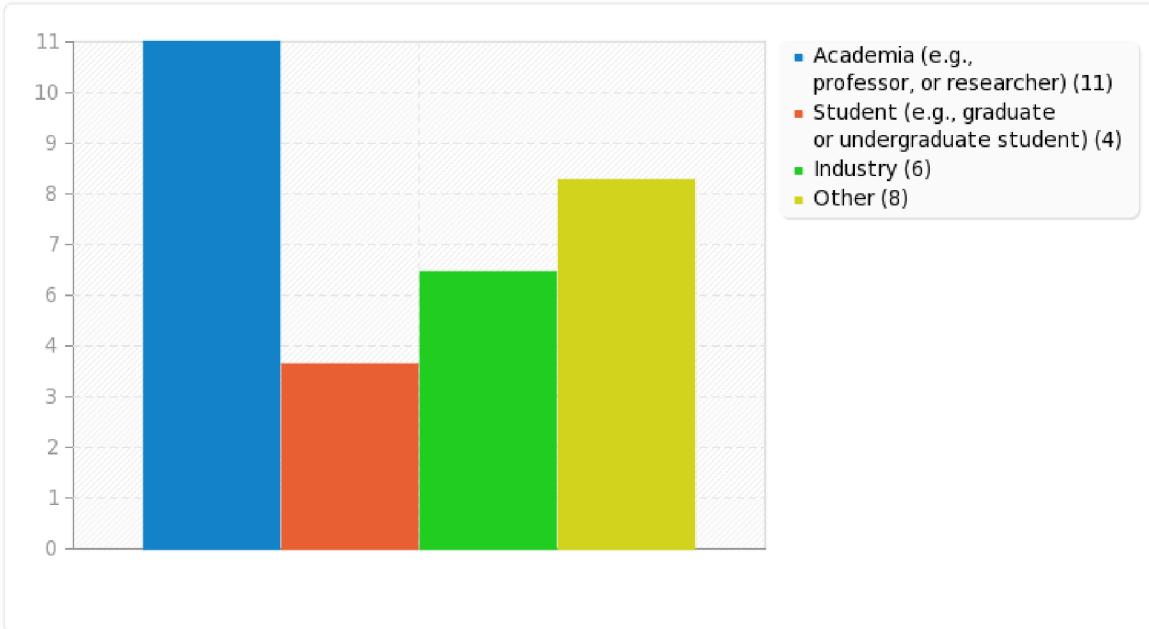
Public servant

Researcher in non-academic institution

independent researcher

Government researcher

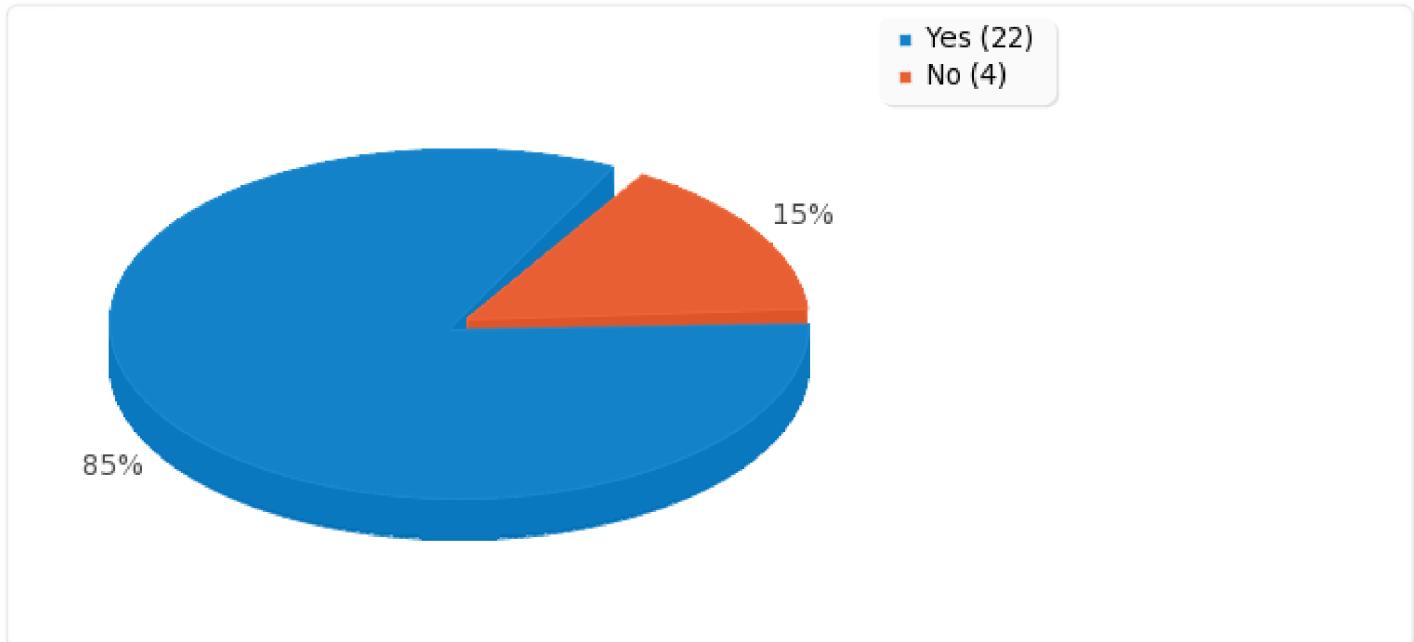
Government



Field summary for SDExperience

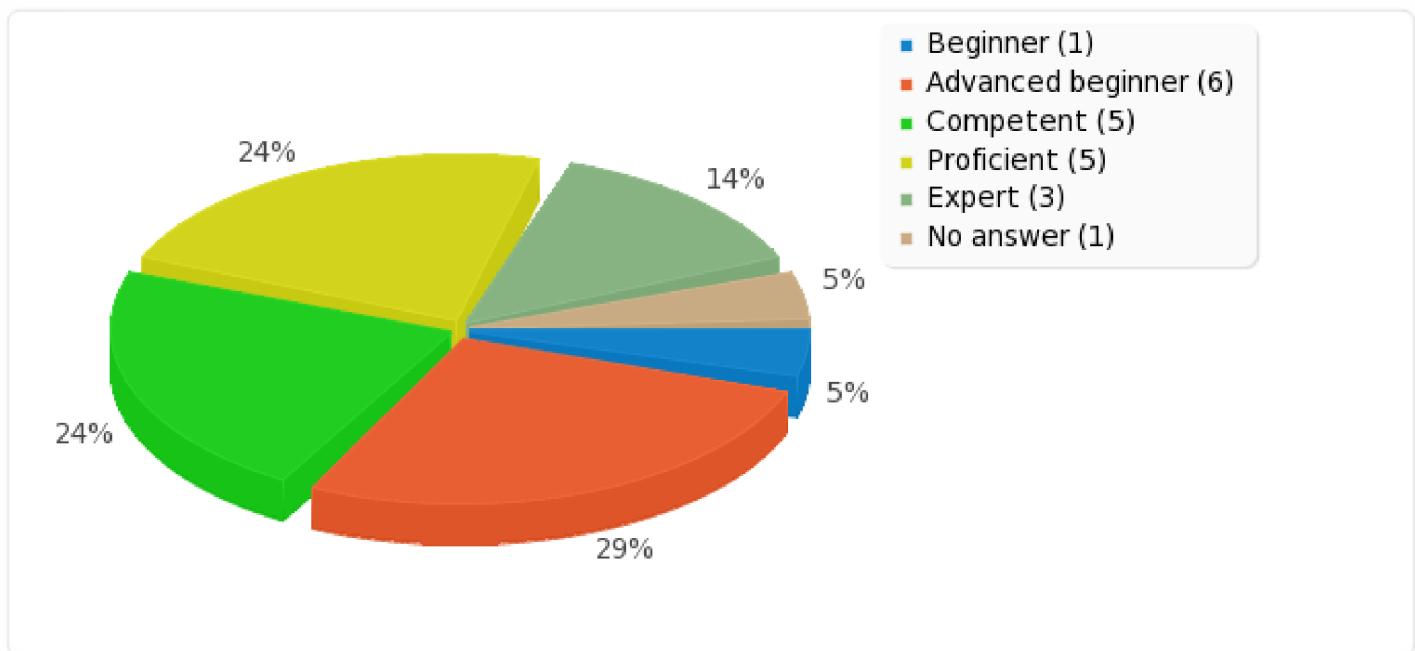
Do or did you have experience as a software developer/programmer prior to learning or using R?

| Answer | Count | Percentage |
|-----------|-------|------------|
| Yes (Y) | 22 | 84.62% |
| No (N) | 4 | 15.38% |
| No answer | 0 | 0.00% |



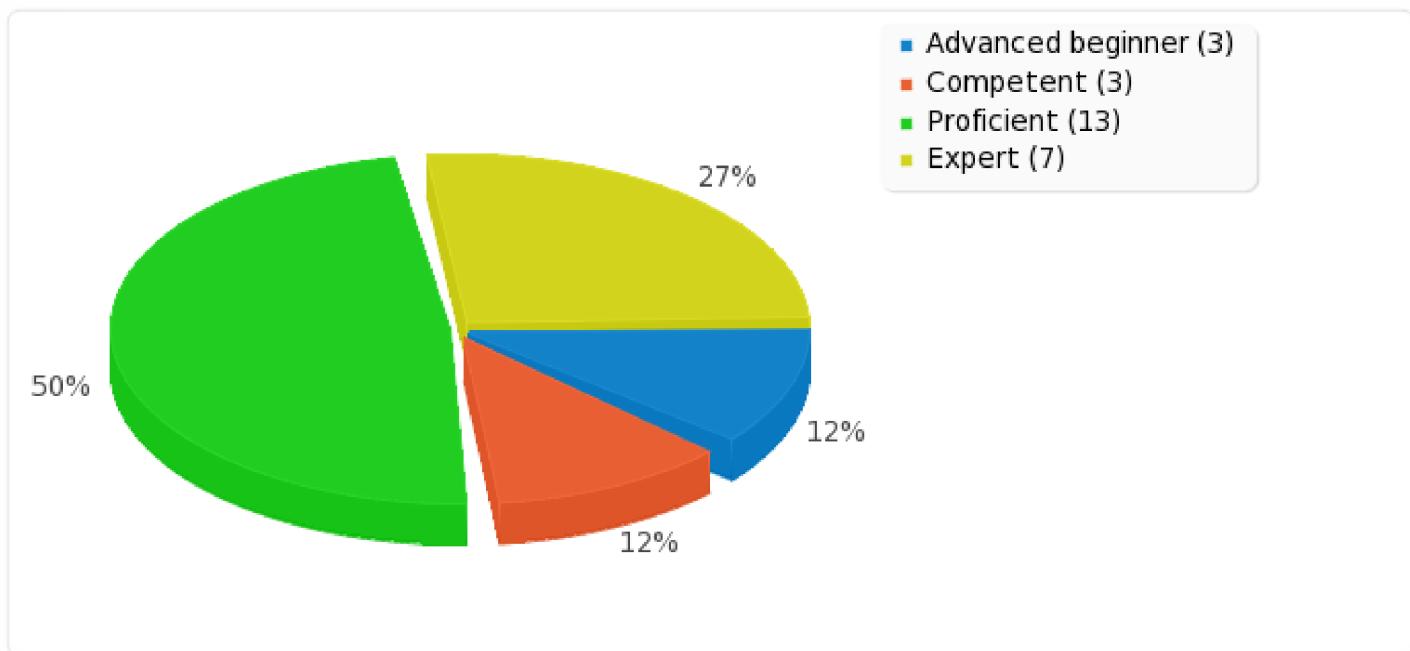
Field summary for SDRank**How would you rank yourself as a software developer?**

| Answer | Count | Percentage |
|-----------------------|-------|------------|
| Beginner (1) | 1 | 4.76% |
| Advanced beginner (2) | 6 | 28.57% |
| Competent (3) | 5 | 23.81% |
| Proficient (4) | 5 | 23.81% |
| Expert (5) | 3 | 14.29% |
| No answer | 1 | 4.76% |



Field summary for RRank**How would you rank yourself as an R user?**

| Answer | Count | Percentage |
|-----------------------|-------|------------|
| Beginner (1) | 0 | 0.00% |
| Advanced beginner (2) | 3 | 11.54% |
| Competent (3) | 3 | 11.54% |
| Proficient (4) | 13 | 50.00% |
| Expert (5) | 7 | 26.92% |
| No answer | 0 | 0.00% |



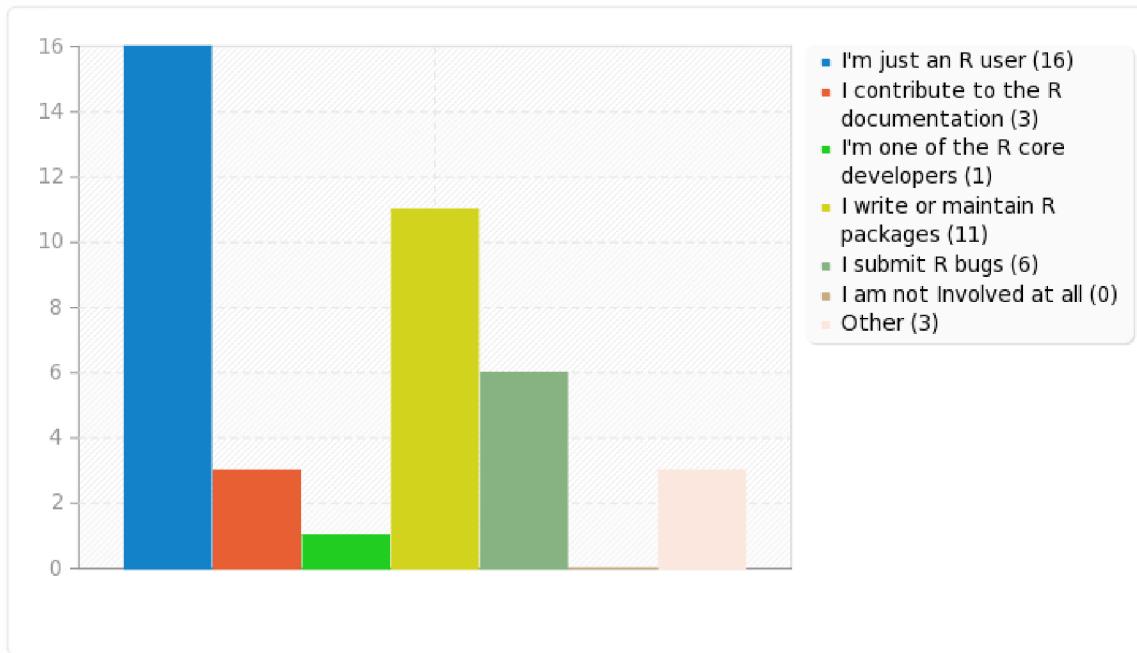
Field summary for RInvolvedment

How would you describe your participation in the R community?

| Answer | Count | Percentage |
|---|--------|------------|
| I'm just an R user (1) | 16 | 61.54% |
| I contribute to the R documentation (2) | 3 | 11.54% |
| I'm one of the R core developers (3) | 1 | 3.85% |
| I write or maintain R packages (4) | 11 | 42.31% |
| I submit R bugs (5) | 6 | 23.08% |
| I am not Involved at all (6) | 0 | 0.00% |
| Other | Browse | 11.54% |

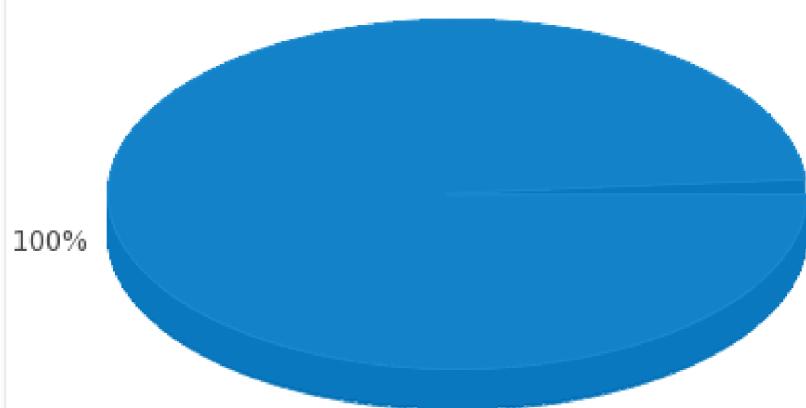


- Provide assistance to users on R-help; assist local users
- I answer requests for help on the list when I feel I have a solution
- Active participant, founder, moderator in R-help and many R-sig email lists.



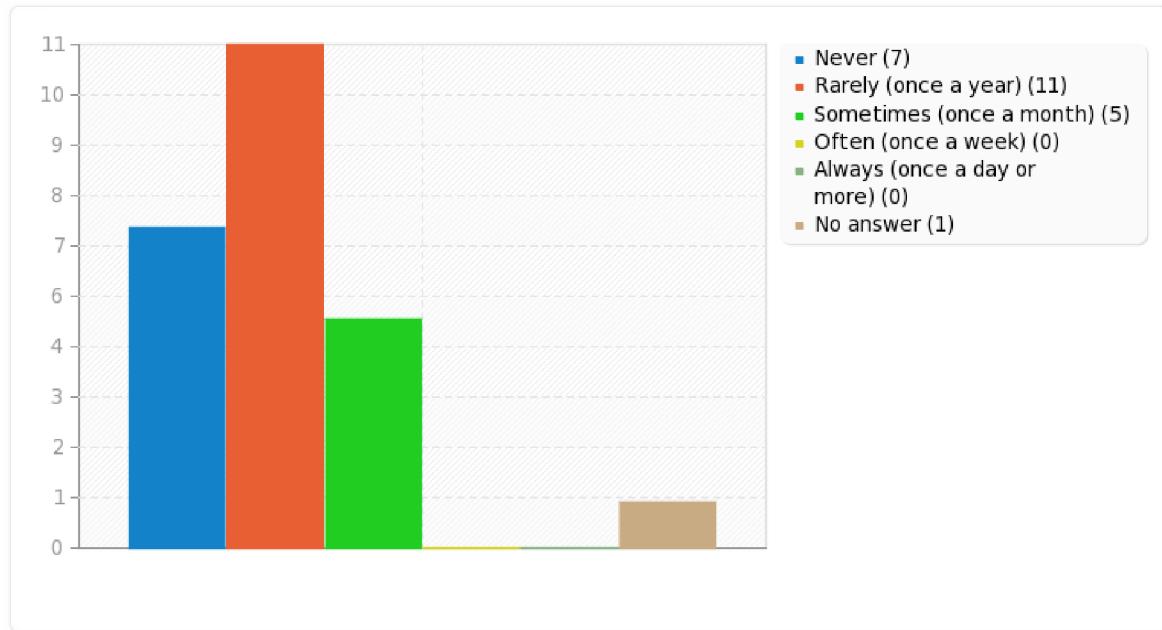
Field summary for SOUse**Have you used Stack Overflow?**

| Answer | Count | Percentage |
|-----------|-------|------------|
| Yes (Y) | 26 | 100.00% |
| No (N) | 0 | 0.00% |
| No answer | 0 | 0.00% |

■ Yes (26)

Field summary for SOInvolvement(1)**How do you participate on Stack Overflow?
[Ask questions]**

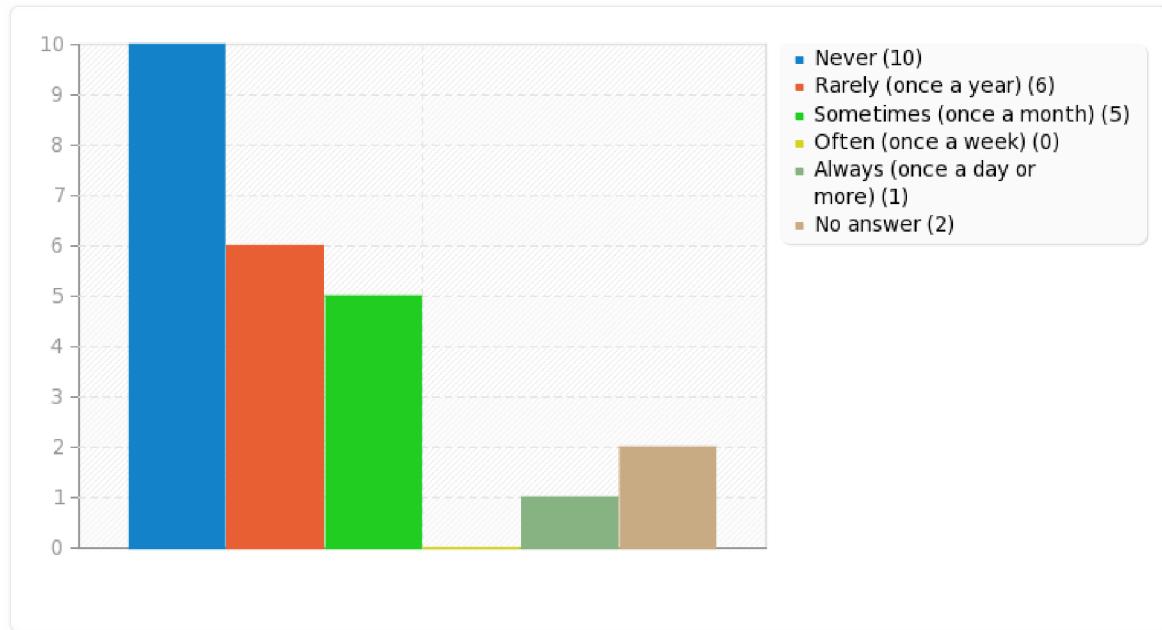
| Answer | Count | Percentage |
|---------------------------------|-------|------------|
| Never (1) | 7 | 29.17% |
| Rarely (once a year) (2) | 11 | 45.83% |
| Sometimes (once a month) (3) | 5 | 20.83% |
| Often (once a week) (4) | 0 | 0.00% |
| Always (once a day or more) (5) | 0 | 0.00% |
| No answer | 1 | 4.17% |



Field summary for SOInvolvement(2)

How do you participate on Stack Overflow?
[Write answers]

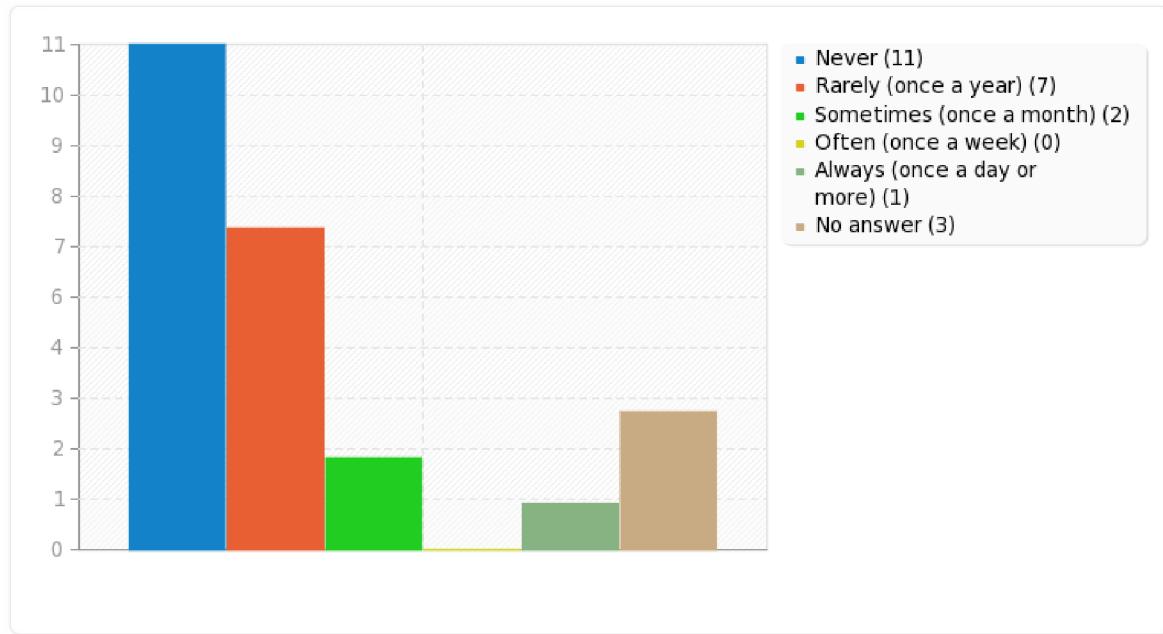
| Answer | Count | Percentage |
|---------------------------------|-------|------------|
| Never (1) | 10 | 41.67% |
| Rarely (once a year) (2) | 6 | 25.00% |
| Sometimes (once a month) (3) | 5 | 20.83% |
| Often (once a week) (4) | 0 | 0.00% |
| Always (once a day or more) (5) | 1 | 4.17% |
| No answer | 2 | 8.33% |



Field summary for SOInvolvement(3)

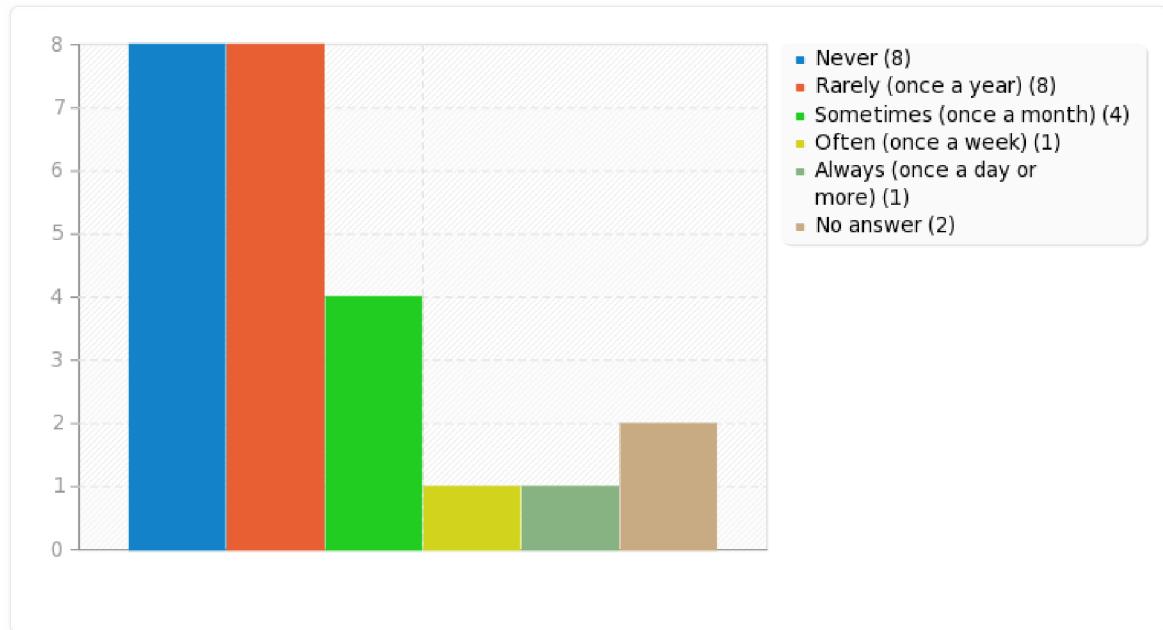
How do you participate on Stack Overflow?
[Edit answers or questions]

| Answer | Count | Percentage |
|---------------------------------|-------|------------|
| Never (1) | 11 | 45.83% |
| Rarely (once a year) (2) | 7 | 29.17% |
| Sometimes (once a month) (3) | 2 | 8.33% |
| Often (once a week) (4) | 0 | 0.00% |
| Always (once a day or more) (5) | 1 | 4.17% |
| No answer | 3 | 12.50% |



Field summary for SOInvolvement(4)**How do you participate on Stack Overflow?****[Add comment]**

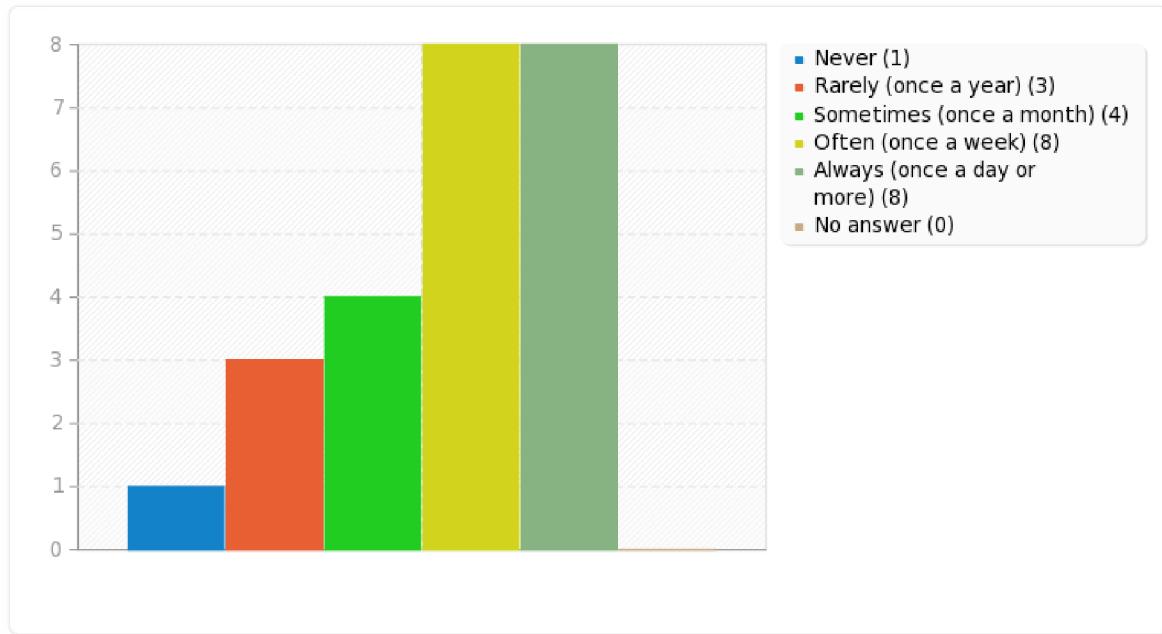
| Answer | Count | Percentage |
|---------------------------------|-------|------------|
| Never (1) | 8 | 33.33% |
| Rarely (once a year) (2) | 8 | 33.33% |
| Sometimes (once a month) (3) | 4 | 16.67% |
| Often (once a week) (4) | 1 | 4.17% |
| Always (once a day or more) (5) | 1 | 4.17% |
| No answer | 2 | 8.33% |



Field summary for SOInvolvement(5)

How do you participate on Stack Overflow?
[Browse for information]

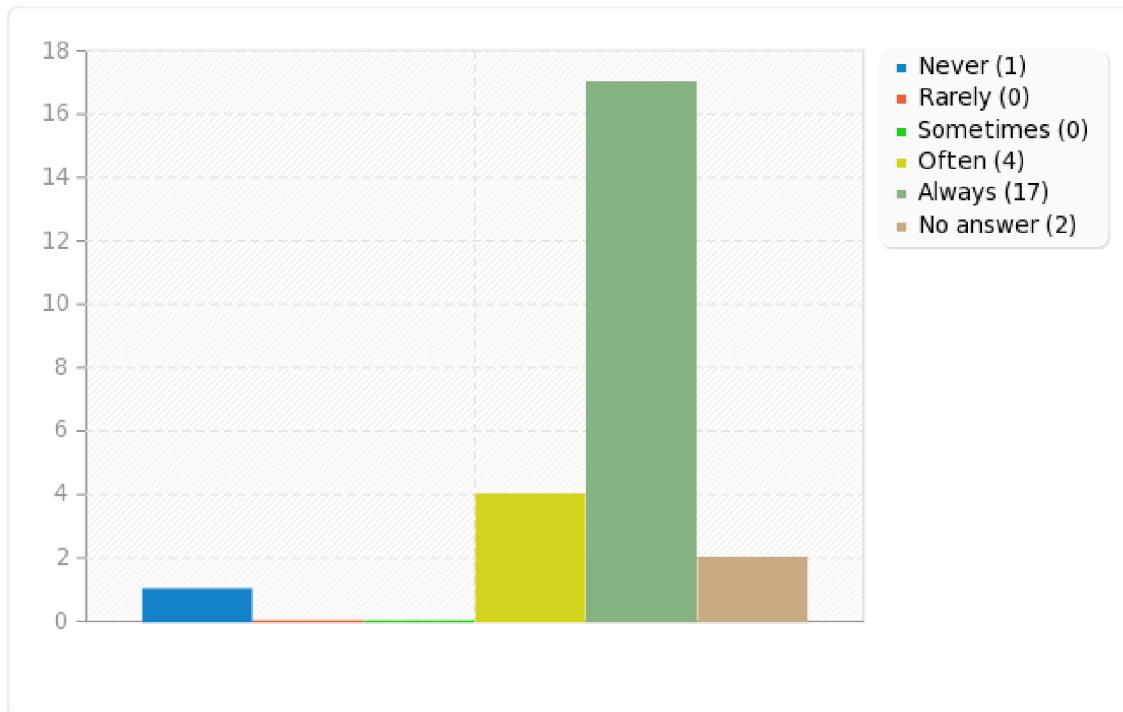
| Answer | Count | Percentage |
|---------------------------------|-------|------------|
| Never (1) | 1 | 4.17% |
| Rarely (once a year) (2) | 3 | 12.50% |
| Sometimes (once a month) (3) | 4 | 16.67% |
| Often (once a week) (4) | 8 | 33.33% |
| Always (once a day or more) (5) | 8 | 33.33% |
| No answer | 0 | 0.00% |



Field summary for SOLookingAnswers(1)

**When looking for an answer, what do you read?
[The accepted answer (if any)]**

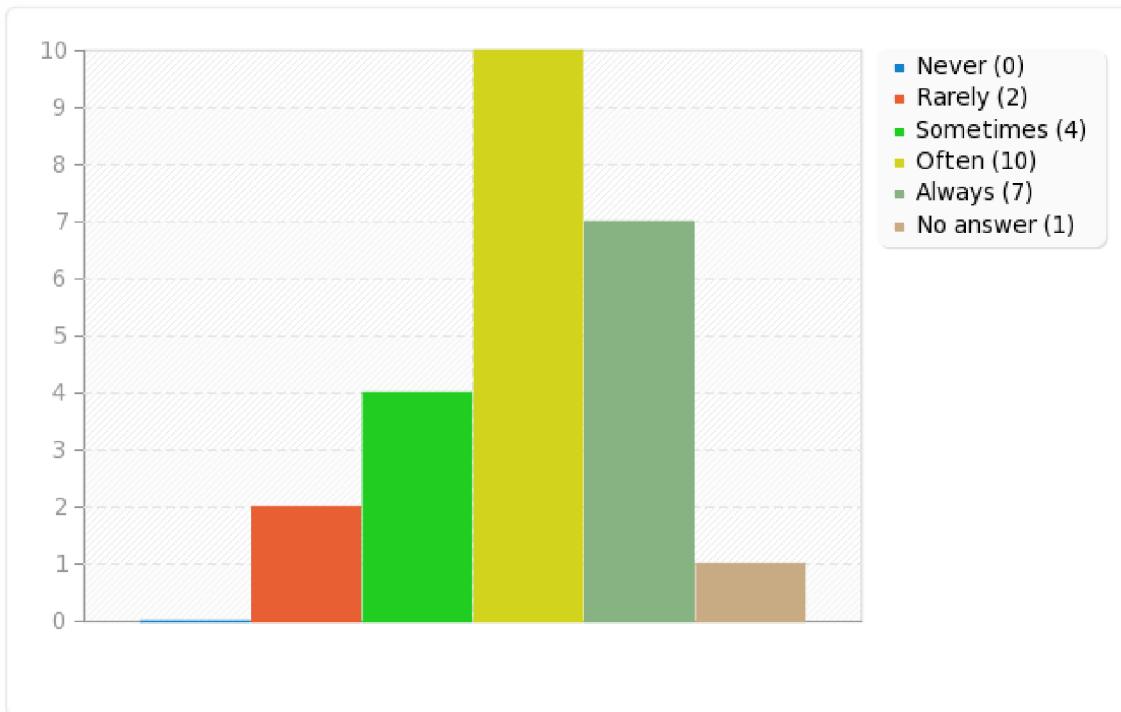
| Answer | Count | Percentage |
|---------------|-------|------------|
| Never (1) | 1 | 4.17% |
| Rarely (2) | 0 | 0.00% |
| Sometimes (3) | 0 | 0.00% |
| Often (4) | 4 | 16.67% |
| Always (5) | 17 | 70.83% |
| No answer | 2 | 8.33% |



Field summary for SOLookingAnswers(2)

When looking for an answer, what do you read?
[All answers]

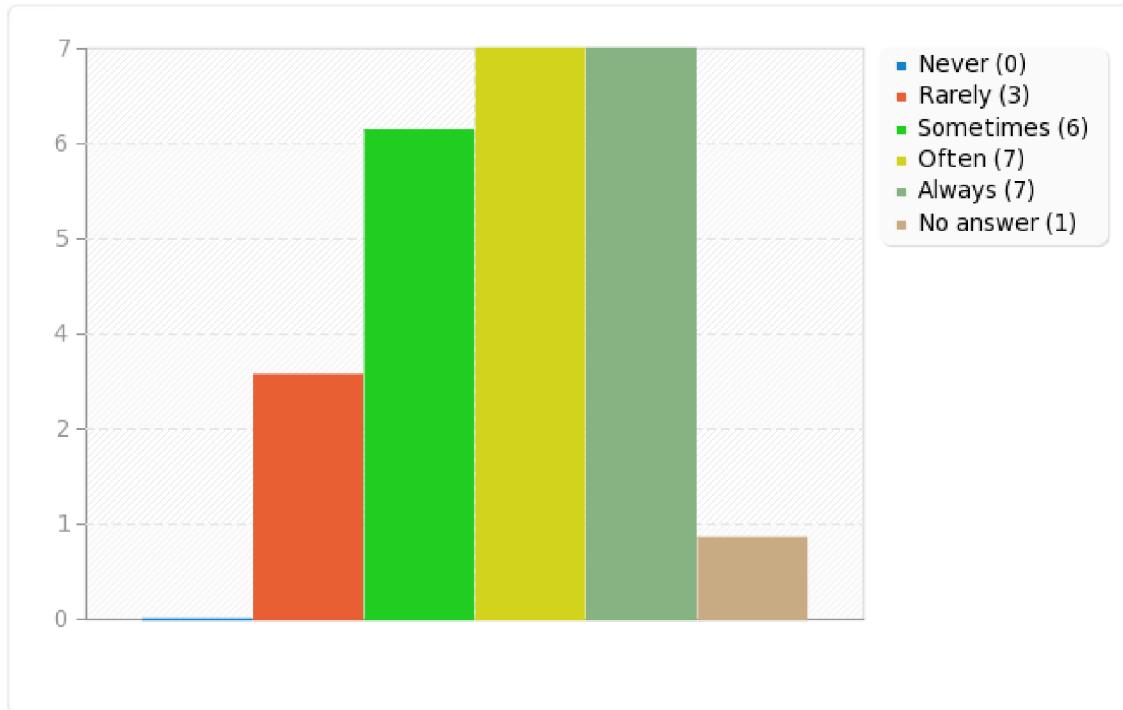
| Answer | Count | Percentage |
|---------------|-------|------------|
| Never (1) | 0 | 0.00% |
| Rarely (2) | 2 | 8.33% |
| Sometimes (3) | 4 | 16.67% |
| Often (4) | 10 | 41.67% |
| Always (5) | 7 | 29.17% |
| No answer | 1 | 4.17% |



Field summary for SOLookingAnswers(3)

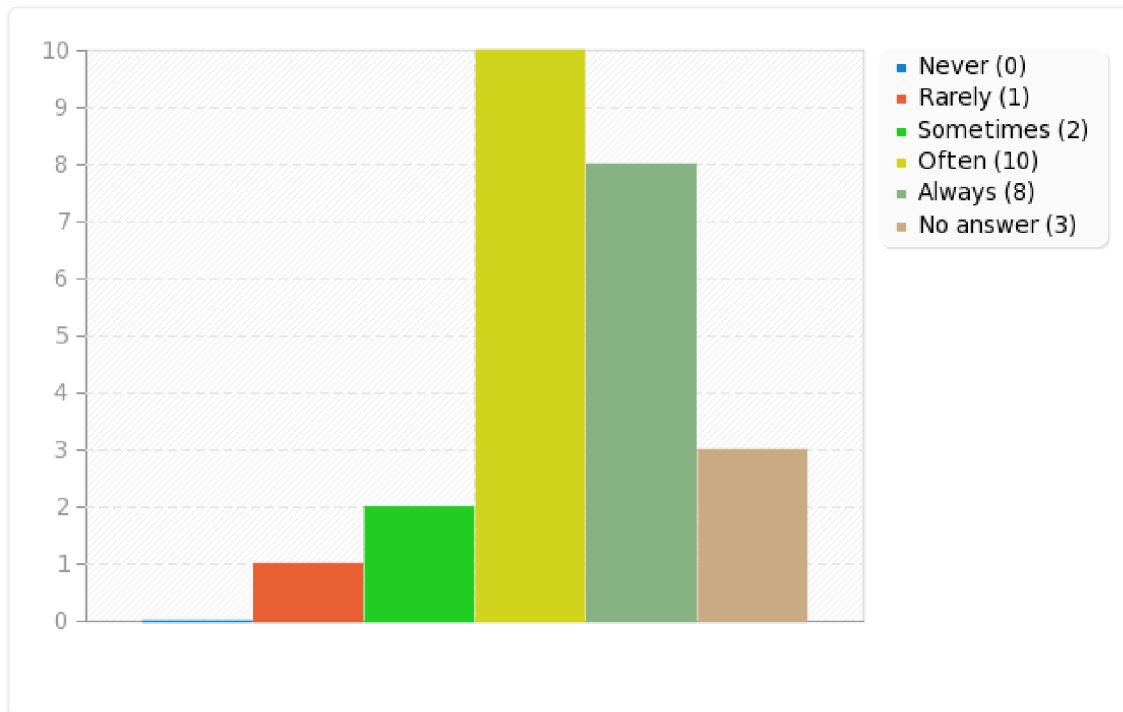
When looking for an answer, what do you read?
[Comments]

| Answer | Count | Percentage |
|---------------|-------|------------|
| Never (1) | 0 | 0.00% |
| Rarely (2) | 3 | 12.50% |
| Sometimes (3) | 6 | 25.00% |
| Often (4) | 7 | 29.17% |
| Always (5) | 7 | 29.17% |
| No answer | 1 | 4.17% |



Field summary for SOLookingAnswers(4)**When looking for an answer, what do you read?****[Read the answers until find something that works for you]**

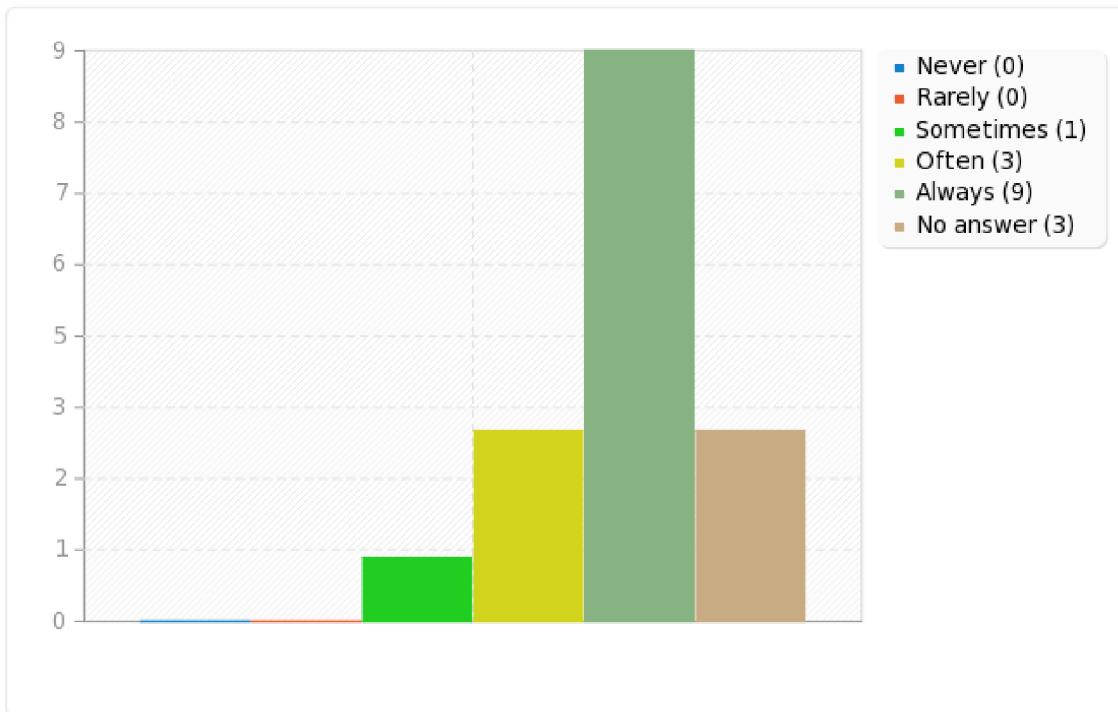
| Answer | Count | Percentage |
|---------------|-------|------------|
| Never (1) | 0 | 0.00% |
| Rarely (2) | 1 | 4.17% |
| Sometimes (3) | 2 | 8.33% |
| Often (4) | 10 | 41.67% |
| Always (5) | 8 | 33.33% |
| No answer | 3 | 12.50% |



Field summary for SORead(1)

Before posting your answer, what do you read?
[Read all answers]

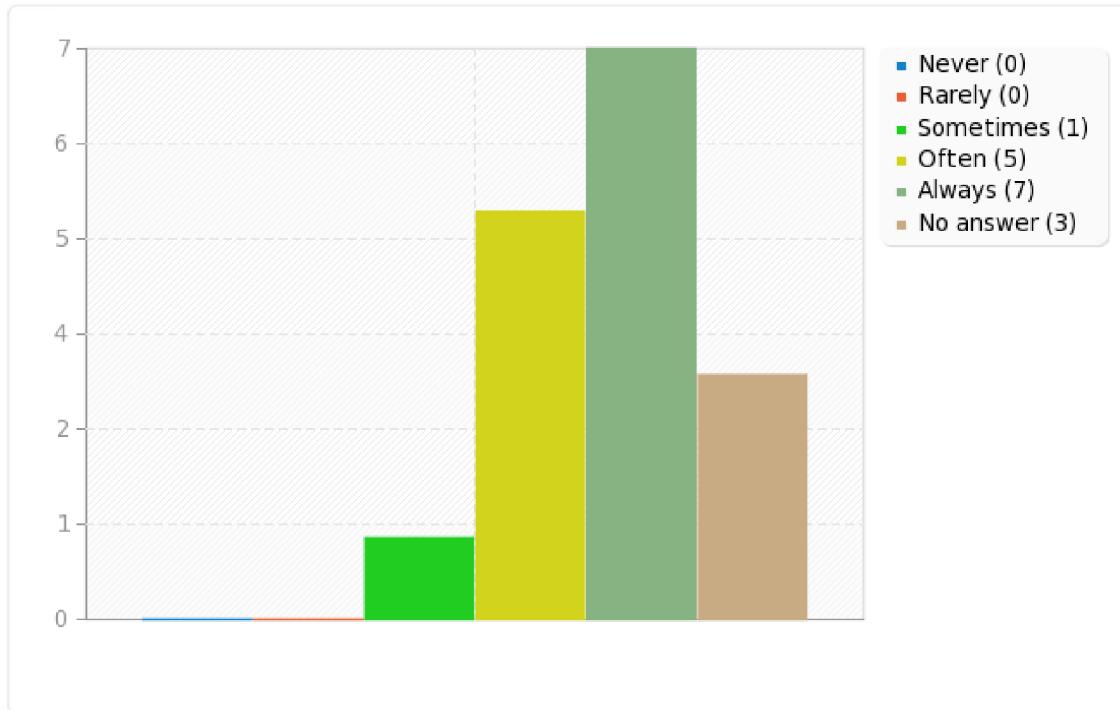
| Answer | Count | Percentage |
|---------------|-------|------------|
| Never (1) | 0 | 0.00% |
| Rarely (2) | 0 | 0.00% |
| Sometimes (3) | 1 | 6.25% |
| Often (4) | 3 | 18.75% |
| Always (5) | 9 | 56.25% |
| No answer | 3 | 18.75% |



Field summary for SORead(2)

Before posting your answer, what do you read?
[Read all comments]

| Answer | Count | Percentage |
|---------------|-------|------------|
| Never (1) | 0 | 0.00% |
| Rarely (2) | 0 | 0.00% |
| Sometimes (3) | 1 | 6.25% |
| Often (4) | 5 | 31.25% |
| Always (5) | 7 | 43.75% |
| No answer | 3 | 18.75% |



Field summary for SOChallenges

Have you experienced any challenges using Stack Overflow? Please elaborate.

| | Count | Percentage |
|--------|---------------|------------|
| Answer | Browse | 15 |



- Too many related questions, needs i) de-duplication ii) more maintenance to avoid duplication
- I find the rules about asking confusing and very strictly monitored. I often find questions that I would love to be answered get closed for being against the rules.
- No
- Some answers are so terse as to be unhelpful to a beginner. While this does not prevent my use of the service, it does make it a bit less useful to inexperienced users. R-help tends to have much more context to the answers.
- Sometimes its difficult to find questions on the actual site. Its usually easier to search your question on Google which will then direct you to the relevant question on StackOverflow.
- Sometimes its difficult to find answers to questions on the actual site. Usually its easier to search for the question on Google and then get redirected to StackOverflow.
- Often questions are tagged as repeats, would be useful if on these a link to the original question would be helpful.
- Only learning the Stack Exchange Ethos of what good questions & answers constitute and the way the system has evolved in terms of community/tag curation regarding questions (e.g. changes to close vote reasons)
- The widely varying expertise of the contributors necessitates careful consideration of some of the answers
- Very poor quality answers written by people who just speculate, do not know, and do not try to find well-based explanations
- Questions asked without reproducible code.
- My use of Stack Overflow is mostly incidental: If I search (e.g., via Google) for information, and a likely-looking page happens to be on Stack Overflow, I'll go look at it. I do not go explicitly to Stack Overflow first.
- No.
- NO
- I find the format confusing. Different cases. Unorganized.

| | | |
|-----------|---|--------|
| No answer | 9 | 37.50% |
|-----------|---|--------|



Field summary for SOmotivation

What motivates you to answer questions or add comments on Stack Overflow? Please elaborate.

| | Count | Percentage |
|-------------------------------|-------|------------|
| Answer Browse | 17 | 70.83% |



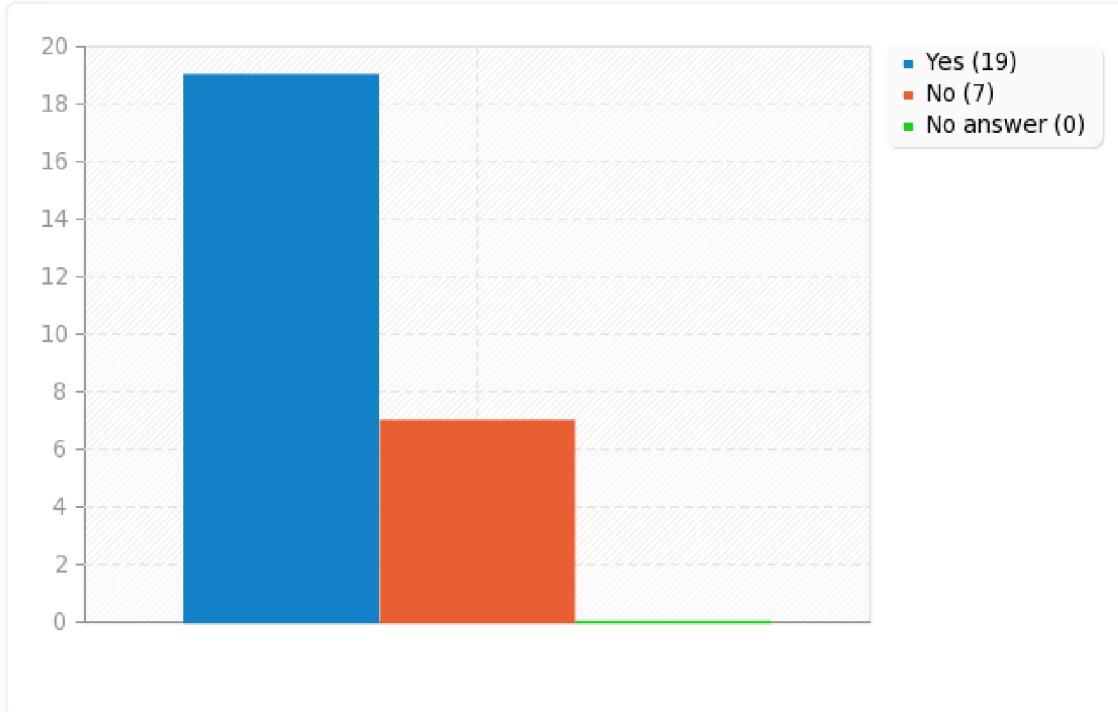
- Stack is a nice place to get peer recognition. Plus it's very nice to be able to give back to the R community.
- Want to be helpful, pass on knowledge.
- I have only commented on answers to my own questions for clarification purposes.
- If it is an area, I want to increase my proficiency in I may use it as a study device. If it is an area that I have a solution that I think is particularly clear, I will present that.
- Helping the community solve problems.
- Helping the community solve problems.
- SO is an excellent model for providing a rich resource for users of R, which the R-Help mailing list was not. Ability to include light markup, render code blocks nicely, not have nested email threads all helps the experience of searching for and finding the help that a user needs and I want to contribute to that.
- I would like to give back to the community which has given me so much, but I am still learning.
- it feels right to help someone, either the one asking the question, or someone who found the question, as I also benefit from other people who answer questions.
- I usually don't
- Being diverted from R lists because of stupidities in SO
- Dissemination of knowledge.
- Increasing my reputation rating.
- N/A, since I don't.
- Because I rely on StackOverflow searches for support in my own work, it is my duty to give back to the community.
-
- If I feel the answer is incorrect or if I can't understand it.

| | | |
|-----------|---|--------|
| No answer | 7 | 29.17% |
|-----------|---|--------|



Field summary for MLUsed**Have you used the R-Help Mailing List?**

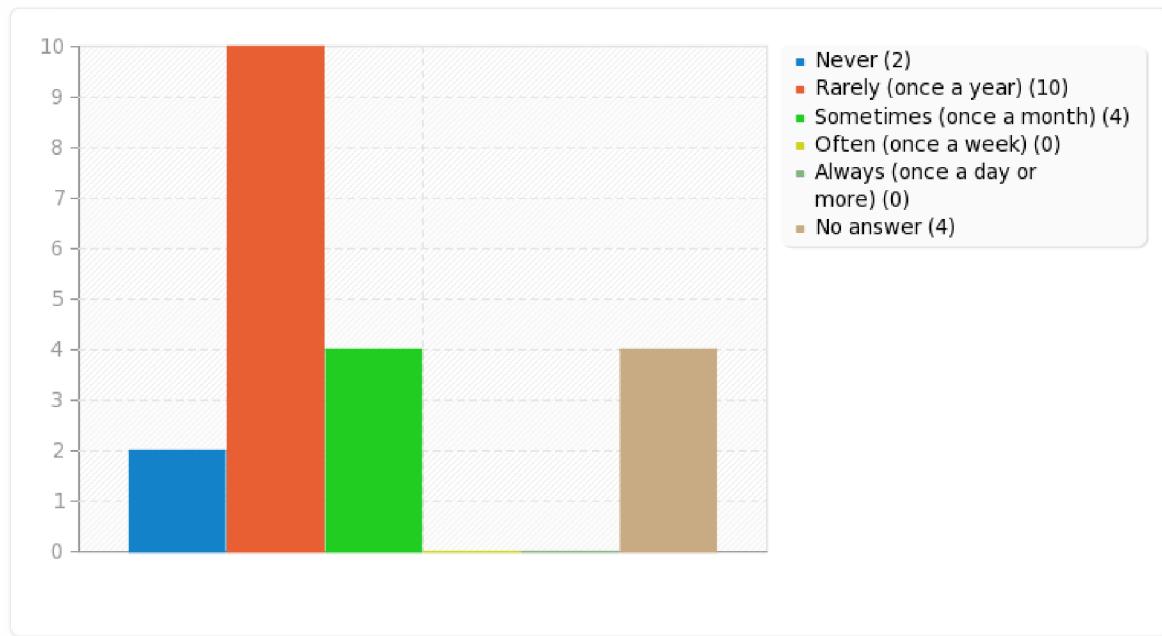
| Answer | Count | Percentage |
|-----------|-------|------------|
| Yes (Y) | 19 | 73.08% |
| No (N) | 7 | 26.92% |
| No answer | 0 | 0.00% |



Field summary for MLInvolvement(1)

How do you participate in the R-Help Mailing List? [Ask questions]

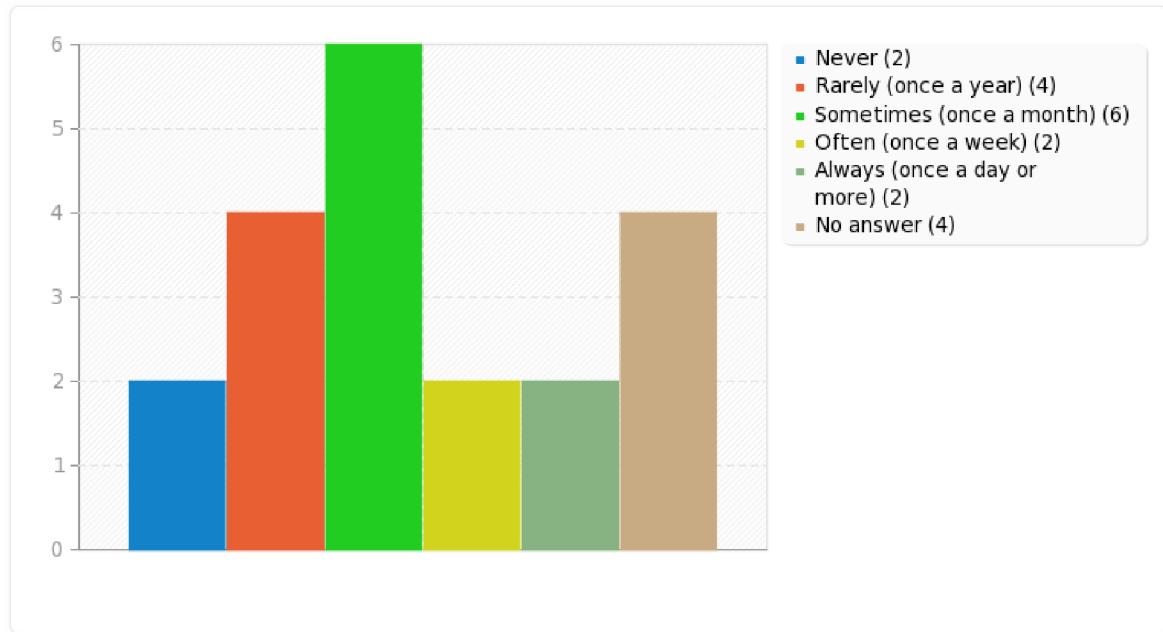
| Answer | Count | Percentage |
|---------------------------------|-------|------------|
| Never (1) | 2 | 10.00% |
| Rarely (once a year) (2) | 10 | 50.00% |
| Sometimes (once a month) (3) | 4 | 20.00% |
| Often (once a week) (4) | 0 | 0.00% |
| Always (once a day or more) (5) | 0 | 0.00% |
| No answer | 4 | 20.00% |



Field summary for MLInvolvement(2)

**How do you participate in the R-Help Mailing List?
[Write answers]**

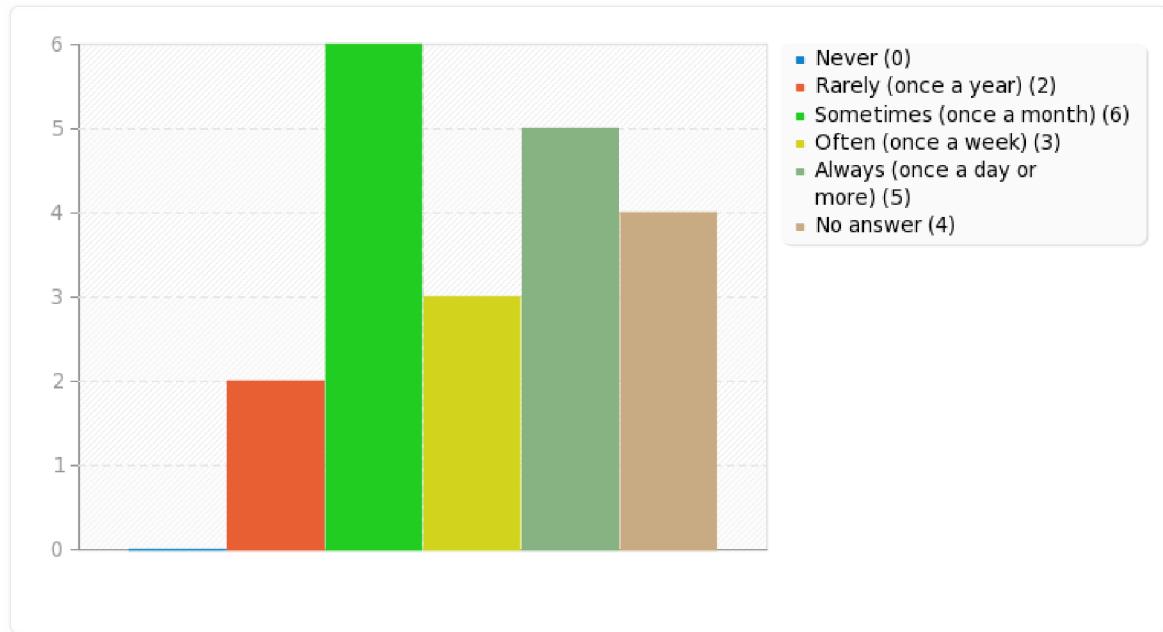
| Answer | Count | Percentage |
|---------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Never (1) | 2 | 10.00% |
| Rarely (once a year) (2) | 4 | 20.00% |
| Sometimes (once a month) (3) | 6 | 30.00% |
| Often (once a week) (4) | 2 | 10.00% |
| Always (once a day or more) (5) | 2 | 10.00% |
| No answer | 4 | 20.00% |



Field summary for MLInvolvement(3)

**How do you participate in the R-Help Mailing List?
[Browse for information]**

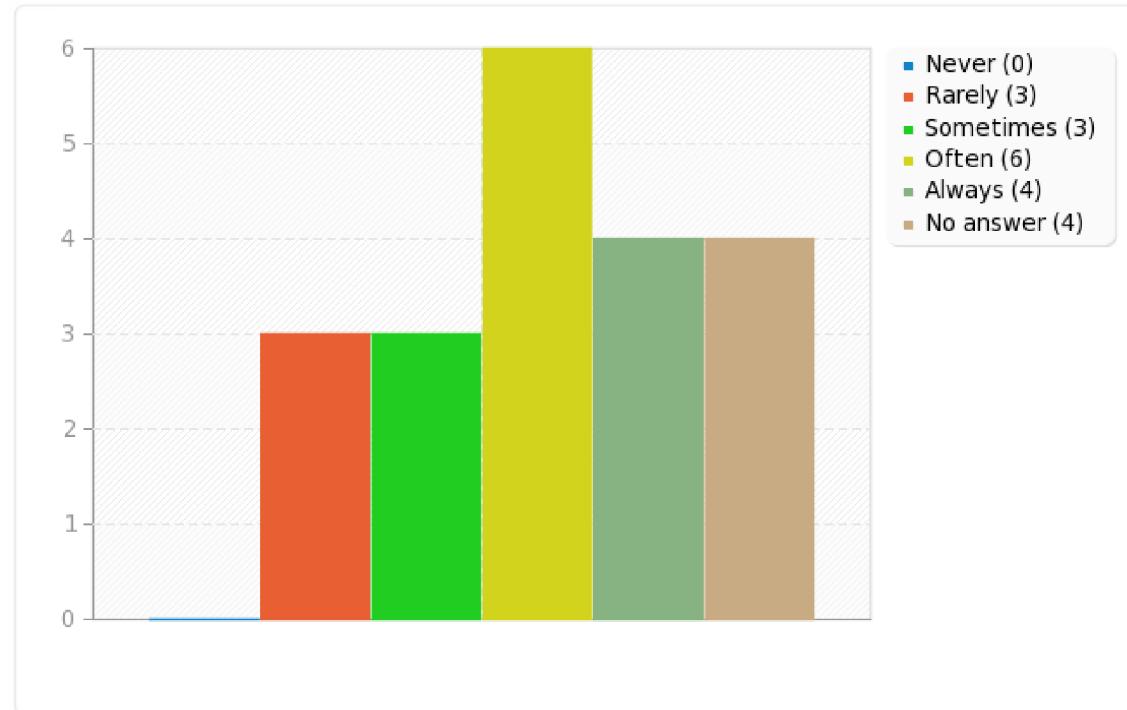
| Answer | Count | Percentage |
|---------------------------------|-------|------------|
| Never (1) | 0 | 0.00% |
| Rarely (once a year) (2) | 2 | 10.00% |
| Sometimes (once a month) (3) | 6 | 30.00% |
| Often (once a week) (4) | 3 | 15.00% |
| Always (once a day or more) (5) | 5 | 25.00% |
| No answer | 4 | 20.00% |



Field summary for MLLookingAnswer(1)

When looking for an answer, what do you read?
[The entire thread]

| Answer | Count | Percentage |
|---------------|-------|------------|
| Never (1) | 0 | 0.00% |
| Rarely (2) | 3 | 15.00% |
| Sometimes (3) | 3 | 15.00% |
| Often (4) | 6 | 30.00% |
| Always (5) | 4 | 20.00% |
| No answer | 4 | 20.00% |



Field summary for MLLookingAnswer(2)**When looking for an answer, what do you read?****[Answers that were validated by the author of the question (if any)]**

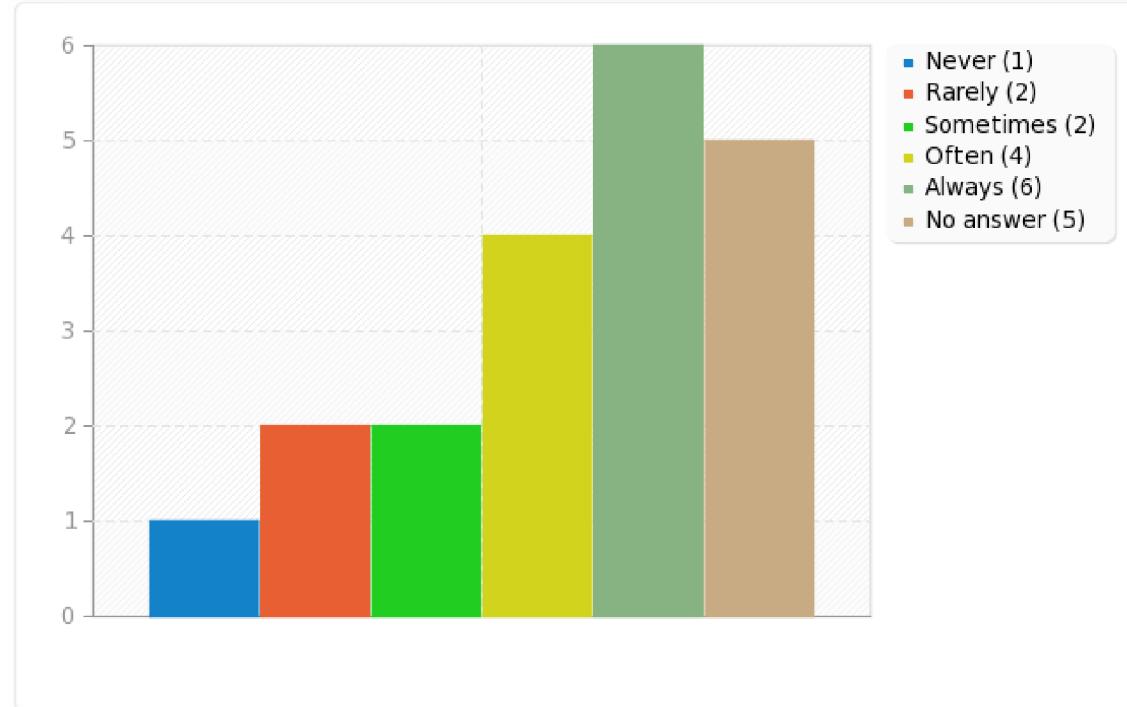
| Answer | Count | Percentage |
|---------------|-------|------------|
| Never (1) | 1 | 5.00% |
| Rarely (2) | 3 | 15.00% |
| Sometimes (3) | 3 | 15.00% |
| Often (4) | 2 | 10.00% |
| Always (5) | 4 | 20.00% |
| No answer | 7 | 35.00% |



Field summary for MLLookingAnswer(3)

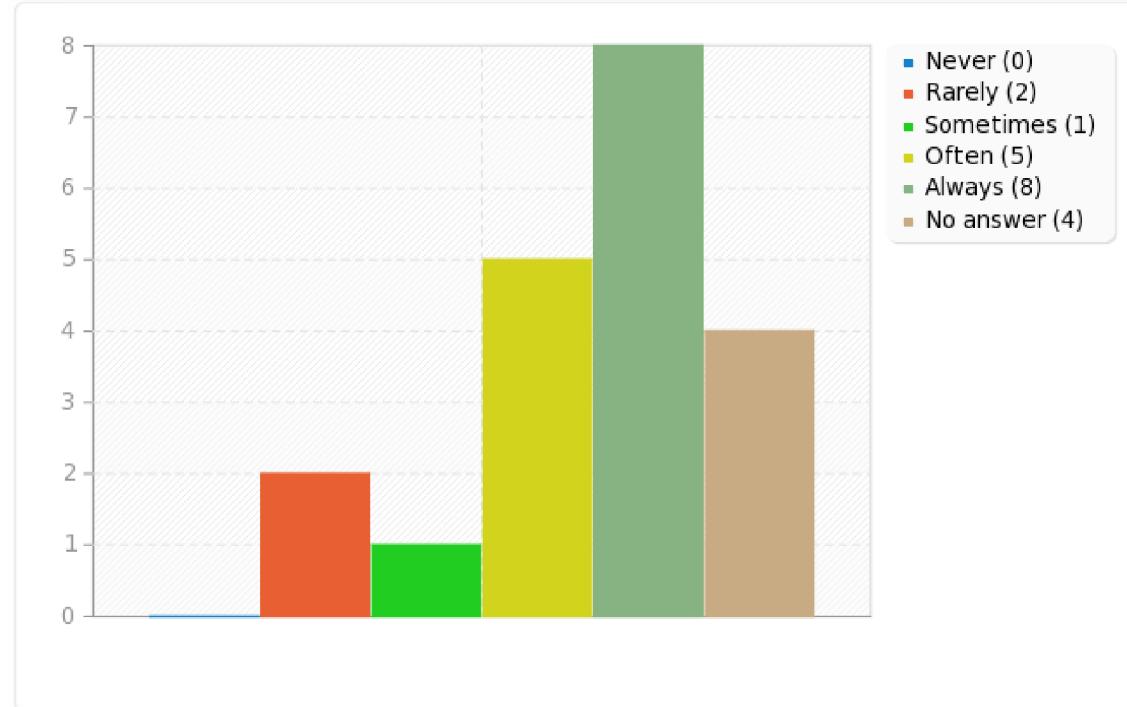
When looking for an answer, what do you read?
[The answers of recognized users]

| Answer | Count | Percentage |
|---------------|-------|------------|
| Never (1) | 1 | 5.00% |
| Rarely (2) | 2 | 10.00% |
| Sometimes (3) | 2 | 10.00% |
| Often (4) | 4 | 20.00% |
| Always (5) | 6 | 30.00% |
| No answer | 5 | 25.00% |



Field summary for MLLookingAnswer(4)**When looking for an answer, what do you read?****[Read the answers until find something that works for you]**

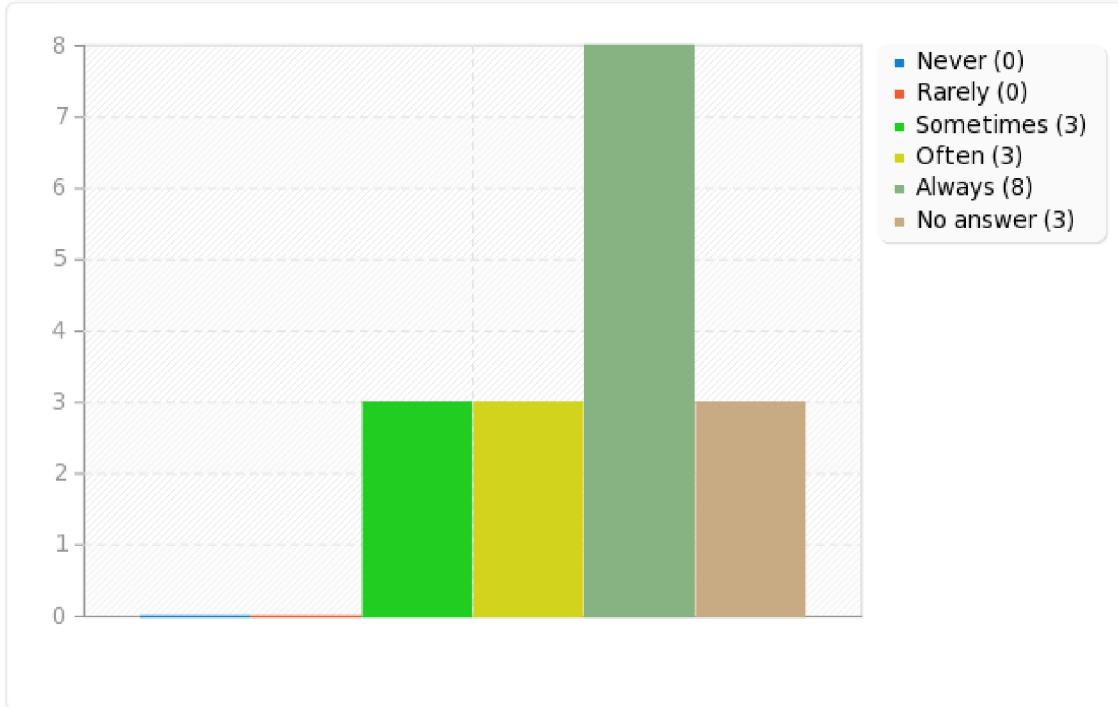
| Answer | Count | Percentage |
|---------------|-------|------------|
| Never (1) | 0 | 0.00% |
| Rarely (2) | 2 | 10.00% |
| Sometimes (3) | 1 | 5.00% |
| Often (4) | 5 | 25.00% |
| Always (5) | 8 | 40.00% |
| No answer | 4 | 20.00% |



Field summary for MLBeforeAns(1)

Before writing your answer, what do you read?
[The entire thread]

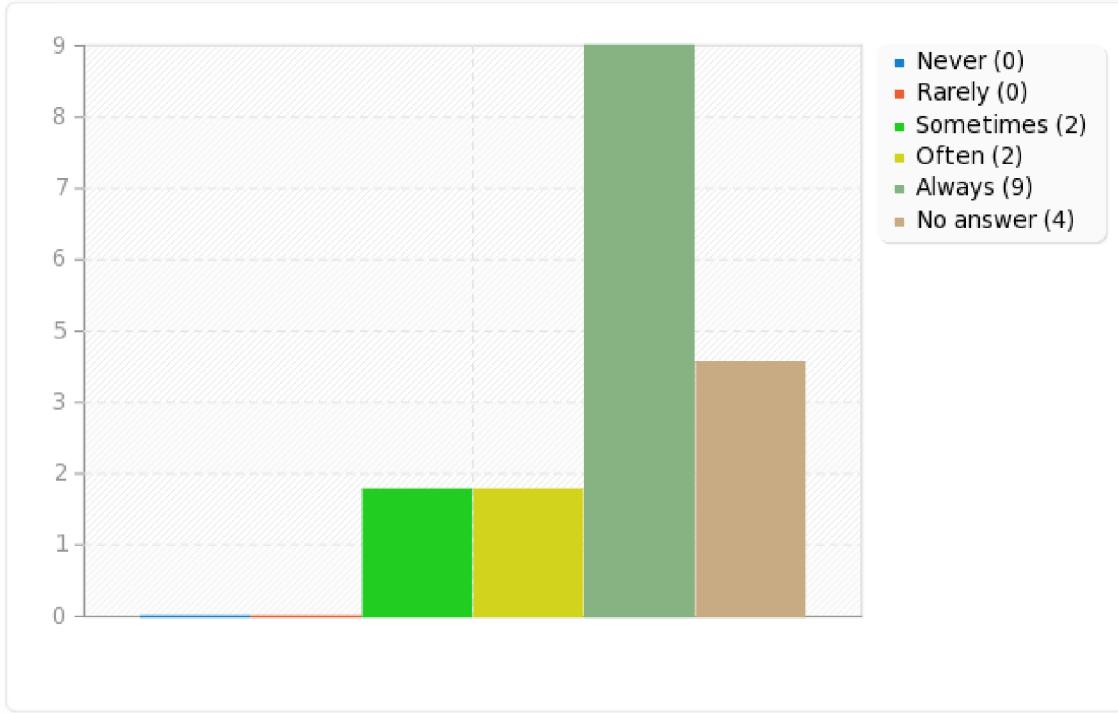
| Answer | Count | Percentage |
|---------------|-------|------------|
| Never (1) | 0 | 0.00% |
| Rarely (2) | 0 | 0.00% |
| Sometimes (3) | 3 | 17.65% |
| Often (4) | 3 | 17.65% |
| Always (5) | 8 | 47.06% |
| No answer | 3 | 17.65% |



Field summary for MLBeforeAns(2)

Before writing your answer, what do you read?
[The answers of recognized users]

| Answer | Count | Percentage |
|---------------|-------|------------|
| Never (1) | 0 | 0.00% |
| Rarely (2) | 0 | 0.00% |
| Sometimes (3) | 2 | 11.76% |
| Often (4) | 2 | 11.76% |
| Always (5) | 9 | 52.94% |
| No answer | 4 | 23.53% |



Field summary for MLChallenges

Have you experienced any challenges using the R-Help Mailing List? Please elaborate.

| | Count | Percentage |
|-------------------------------|-------|------------|
| Answer Browse | 13 | 65.00% |



- �� Search is bad, threading as well
- �� No.
- �� There is always the fear of being Ripley'd :-)

Very friendly group. Brian Ripley is often severe, but is always very thorough and helpful.

- �� There is too much traffic to read all the emails; and email is such a poor way relative to web 2.0 to present computer/software related problems
- �� The volume of questions and responses and lack of categorization
- �� Some of the most experienced developers can be a bit harsh when a question is badly posed, or if they dont see the meaning of the question. Usually not a big problem though. I think it is the worst for those who address r-help as a company customer support.
- �� As the list is officially in English, non-English speaking respondents often ask very obscure questions.
- �� Users posting in HTML, users posting without reproducible examples
- �� The people on R-help are often very mean. Some people are mean and angry so often that I will not read their emails.
- �� I created a separate alias for receiving mail in the R community, and I sometimes forget to send mail to the list from that address.

While I have some proficiency in mathematics, Statistics is not one of the fields to which my proficiency extends. As one consequence of this, the line between an "R question" (suitable for the list) vs. a "statistics question" (which is not) isn't quite as clear-cut for me as it might be for some.

It is common (in the list) to want posers of questions to provide sample data & code; often, I am trying to figure out how to do something in R (e.g., that I could do in Perl, if one were to abuse a Perl hash to act as an R data.frame). And given my lack of a "Statistics" background, I don't think in "Statistics terminology."

The vast bulk of the content of the list is (obviously, fortunately for me) of no interest (or conceivable use) for me, so I delete most messages on the list unread.

- �� No
- �� -
- �� -
- �� -
- �� -
- �� -
- �� -
- �� -
- �� -
- �� -
- �� -
- �� -

 I wish there was a way that large data sets could be linked as opposed to in-line. The data is just repeated over and over as the discussion becomes wider.

If there was a link with a repository for the data in the queries there would be less scrolling. Of course someone would have to create, maintain and pay for a data-repository that would be coherent with the postings.

| | | |
|-----------|---|--------|
| No answer | 7 | 35.00% |
|-----------|---|--------|



Field summary for MLMotivations

What motivates you to answer questions on the R-Help Mailing List? Please elaborate.

| | Count | Percentage |
|----------------------|-------|------------|
| Answer Browse | 14 | 70.00% |



- 郁闷 A desire to help people who seem to have a genuine problem (rather than those who expect an answer without having looked for a solution themselves).
- 郁闷 If the question is well formed with all necessary data, it is not attractive and will likely be answered very quickly by someone. However, if the intent is clear, but the user is not quite up to the task of expressing the question, I enjoy helping formulate the question and provide possible solutions.
- 郁闷 I no longer use R-Help. When I did it was to feed back to the community that helped me and answered my questions when i first started to use R. Now I don't use it because it's time has passed. We should all be using SO instead.
- 郁闷 Supporting the community
- 郁闷 It is good to return something to the community, as I benefit from it. Additionally I would guess that it is easier to get good help if you are also recognized as someone who is able to answer other types of questions.
- 郁闷 If I see a question that I can answer, and no answer of equal or better value (in my opinion) has been posted,
- 郁闷 Often to handle questing related to the sig list I administrate or packages I maintain, where I feel that I have a relevant comment
- 郁闷 Helping others in need.
- 郁闷 Writing an answer helps me learn more and increases my reputation.
- 郁闷 I try to treat other folks as I would like for them to treat me.
- 郁闷 Someone needs to do it.
- 郁闷 Because I rely on searches of the R-help archive to support my own work, it is my duty to give back to the community.
- 郁闷 -
- 郁闷 Help people. Clarify or amplify existing answers or questions. Note that I rarely answer questions as I don't consider myself an expert.

| | | |
|-----------|---|--------|
| No answer | 6 | 30.00% |
|-----------|---|--------|



Field summary for MLreplaced

**Why do you think the R-Help Mailing List has not been replaced by Stack Overflow?
Please elaborate.**

| | Count | Percentage |
|-------------------------------|-------|------------|
| Answer Browse | 21 | 80.77% |



- �� Search functionality is very bad, threading makes reading difficult
- �� Because listserv still exists? People aren't quite tired of getting yelled at yet? It's still 1995?
- �� Older users are probably more familiar with mailing lists and these are the same people who are most knowledgeable.
- �� More convenient, no need to monitor yet another information stream.
- �� Many of the core developers and primary educators provide great answers, that are well documented on R-help. It is certainly more focused.
- �� 1. Established R users are probably accustomed to using the R-Help Mailing List, or mailing lists in general.
2. It offers another source of information.
- �� I'm not sure, I really don't use the mailing list that often.
- �� Email is familiar to many of the established R users with lots of experience. They get mail alongside their other email messages. Inertia...
- �� Historical reasons. The R-Help Mailing List has been around for a long time.
- �� It allows me to keep up with a random flow of how other people do things.
- �� R-core is actively supporting and using the mailing list, so many of the best helpers can still be found there. It also takes time to change the community. The activity on the mailing list has dropped by 50-80 percent since some years ago, despite an increasing number of active users, so there is definitely a huge change going on.
- �� There are many help fora on the internet, and I suspect that users select one with which they are familiar or have found on a search engine. Obviously questions about R are more likely to find their way to the R help list through the latter method.
- �� Because many developers share my view that SO is a very bad model, and that the pulverisation of information into answers to apparent questions removes the value added by reading list traffic that doesn't seem directly relevant to a currently conceptualised question, but which may lead to a new conceptualisation (out of the frame thinking). SO cannot do that.
- �� I would say the main reason is taste: enough users of the mailing list like it better to keep it viable. These tend to be long term users, so they give good answers.

A secondary reason is prejudice against commercially supported projects. I don't know how SO is funded, but it looks for-profit, and many R users won't support it for that reason. There's also a concern that it may shut itself down at some point, and all the

... 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100 ...

postings on it will be lost. There are multiple archives of the R-help list, so that's unlikely. There can't be multiple archives of SO, because they claim copyright on the compilation.

- » R-help is easy to get, consists of extremely helpful people and has the official R stamp of approval.
- » Some people are slow to change.
- » I hadn't thought about it, as I only "use" Stack Overflow incidentally (as described above). If the list were to disappear, I have no reason to believe that my "use" of Stack Overflow would change. For that matter, I might start my own list -- I've been using mailing lists for decades; I've created my own mailing list management software (around 1989); I've acted as "postmaster@" for various organizations (again, for decades); I even implemented a crude form of email on an IBM mainframe running MVS back around 1987.... Basically, I don't really care if "everyone else" goes to Stack Overflow (or wherever) -- I use mailing lists because I find them useful.
- » I find the mailing list format to be more useful than the web forum format.
- » I'm not sure. Some possibilities: StackOverflow may be intimidating to those relatively new to coding. StackOverflow has more limited range of help topics (help for code only), whereas R-help is broader (philosophy, posting announcements, etc.).
- » Fits better in somebodys workflow
- » I like the daily digest format. Does Stack Overflow have that? I also don't really care for the Stack Overflow format. I find the little comments and asides to be a distraction. I don't like the "final answer" form of questions. Also it seems way too formal.

No answer 5

19.23%



Field summary for SOoverML

**In what situations would you choose Stack Overflow over the R-Help Mailing List?
Please elaborate.**

| | Count | Percentage |
|-------------------------------|-------|------------|
| Answer Browse | 22 | 84.62% |



- » All questions that are not answered on the mailing list or other SO questions
- » Any and all.

- If I actually want an answer and not a lecture.
- » Always. R help mailing list is difficult to navigate.
- » If I were on a device on which I hadn't set up my usual environment.
- » SO shines when searching because of tags and ratings.
- » Never. When searching for information, I do not make a choice. I search both without prejudice.
- » I would strongly prefer Stack Overflow over the mailing list, unless I am unable to find an answer to my problem on Stack Overflow.
- » Pretty much all of them.
- » All; I can't think of a reason that I would now write to R-Help or struggle to search it beyond what Google returned when I did a web search.
- » Can usually find answers on Stack Overflow easier with a search engine.
- » When I have a specific problem
- » Maybe in cases where the question is not only relevant for R, for example if it also includes something related to RStudio. I would probably also consider it if I am interested in good practice, rather than the exact solution to a problem.
- » If I asked a question on the R help list and did not get a suitable answer.
- » Never
- » Some topics have more activity there, e.g. things related to knitr or Shiny.
- » python, searching for R online
- » Almost always I find StackOverflow better.
- » If a Stack Overflow page turned up in a Web search, I'd look at it if I didn't yet have an answer to my question.
- » None.
- » I tend to prefer Stack Overflow for posting questions. The response time is often quite fast. The question and answers are preserved cleanly for the future.
- » Browsing for information
- » Never. As I said above. I just don't like the way the information is delivered. I don't like the fact that discussions get "stamped" closed. I don't like badges. I don't like the fact that in some cases you have to be "certified" to post an answer.

No answer 4

15.38%



Field summary for MloverSO

In what situations would you choose R-Help Mailing List over Stack Overflow ? Please elaborate.

| | Count | Percentage |
|-------------------------------|-------|------------|
| Answer Browse | 21 | 80.77% |



Never

If I'm feeling just a little too good about myself and I want someone on the internet to tell me what a n00b I am.

Most of the time.

it's right there in my email. I read it every day. if I see something interesting sometimes I answer.

If I want to take a break and learn some R, I read R-help for pleasure.

I would consider the mailing list if I am unable to find an answer to my question on Stack Overflow.

If a Google search turns up something from the mailing list that isn't on SO then I'll read it, but that rarely happens.

None; I can't think of a reason that I would now write to R-Help or struggle to search it beyond what Google returned when i did a web search.

None that I can think. I read the R-Help Mailing List to find out what R user's are asking about.

It is less confronting to help out on the mailing list.

If I really want an answer from someone in R-core or closely related people, I would definitely choose the mailing list.

I usually do as R is one of the main applications I use

Always, the SO model, and especially the gamified version of authority is really stupid. The R community thrives because knowledge of how things work propagates by reproducible examples which are expounded and checked (function help pages with examples run nighly on multiple platforms, etc).

For general browsing and looking for problems with R.

always. but only for R.

StackOverflow will close threads that are only "discussions", so these must happen on R-help.

If I can formulate my question appropriately for the list, I'll use the list. I won't post on Stack Overflow, as I'm not comfortable with that environment.

All of them.

If my question was not 100% help-me-code-this.

Posing a specific question

Always.

No answer 5

19.23%



Field summary for ClickLinks

When you see a link on a question, answer or comment. Do you click on it? Why? Please elaborate.

| | Count | Percentage |
|-------------------------------|-------|------------|
| Answer Browse | 22 | 84.62% |



- 双眼 If it links to more official documentation resources, yes.
- 双眼 Sure. Links are semiotics that signal "Hey, here's where you can find more information." Why wouldn't someone look deeper into a freely given resource like that?
- 双眼 Often, if the link seems relevant
- 双眼 It depends on how interested I am in the topic and whether the link looks interesting.
- 双眼 this is not a good question. it depends.
- 双眼 Only if it points to something I want to know and on a site that I trust. If I do not know the site but want the information, I initiate a directed search.
- 双眼 It really depends on the context. If I think it's a link to relevant information, sure, why not?
- 双眼 Yes, to see if it will help me solve my problem.
- 双眼 Sometimes; it depends what that link is to, or how it relates to the question. If I understand enough from the question/comment what the issue is or how the solution works I don't need to follow a link. I would follow if the link looked interesting given the context.
- 双眼 Sometimes. To see more information about the issue.
- 双眼 Yes. Unless it looks dodgy.
- 双眼 If the link apparently explains what I am looking for, I would click on it, unless it looks fishy. If something has been well explained in the past, there is no reason for the author of the answer to repeat everything, a link is sufficient.
If the link is for data, I would only click on it if I want to check the code in the question.
- 双眼 If the link is necessary to understanding the question or answer I do. This is particularly the case when the question is about graphics and the link is to some representation of the desired result.
- 双眼 No HTML postings. I add links to relevant material, articles, etc. I resent being obliged to visit links where a summary could be included verbatim. Links are references to information, questions and answers should be self contained.
- 双眼 Rarely. Links in R-help are generally not useful: people summarize earlier threads rather than linking to them.
- 双眼 Because I run linux and am invincible. I click on links with a vengeance!
- 双眼 Yes.
- 双眼 If it appears to me that chasing the link might be helpful, I may do so. If doing so is

- obviously not necessary or looks as if it would not likely be helpful, I don't.
- eldom. Questions should be self-contained as much as possible. Exceptions: recognizable links such as CRAN, R documentation, etc.
- ften. Depends on what the link is for, how it's presented, if I think it's helpful beyond what's posted on the original page.
- Yes, if it looks promising giving additional information
- Rarely. If it seems interesting, appropriate or fitting for what I am currently working on or interested in.

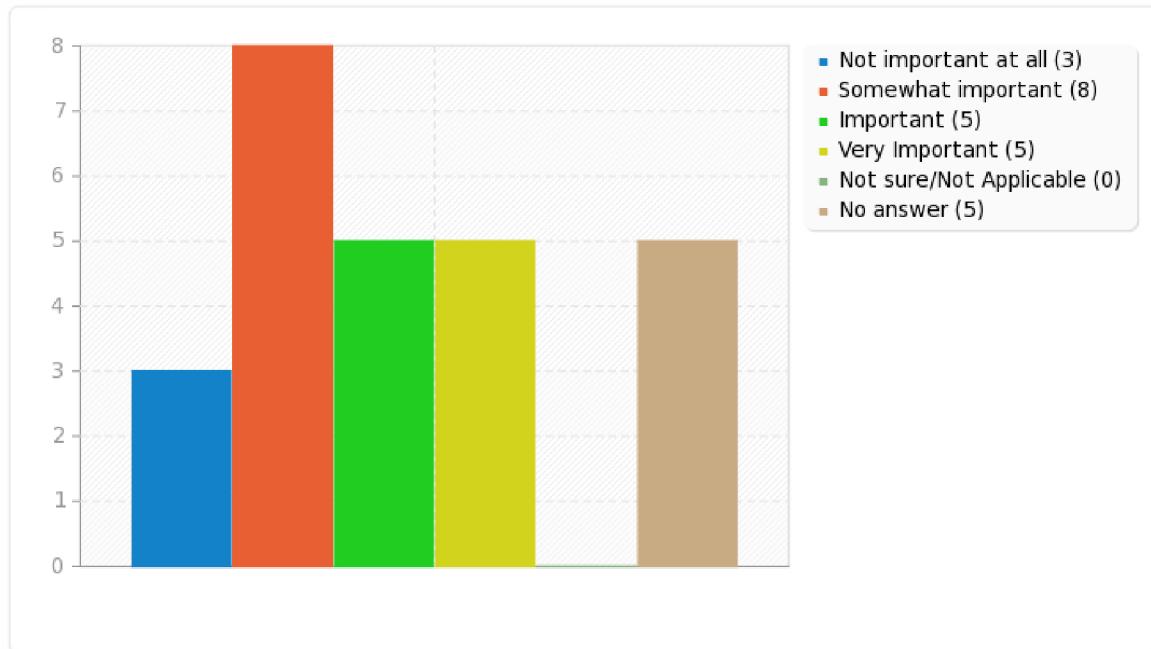
| | | |
|-----------|---|--------|
| No answer | 4 | 15.38% |
|-----------|---|--------|



Field summary for LinksShare(1)

In your opinion, links are mechanisms to share...
[Input data]

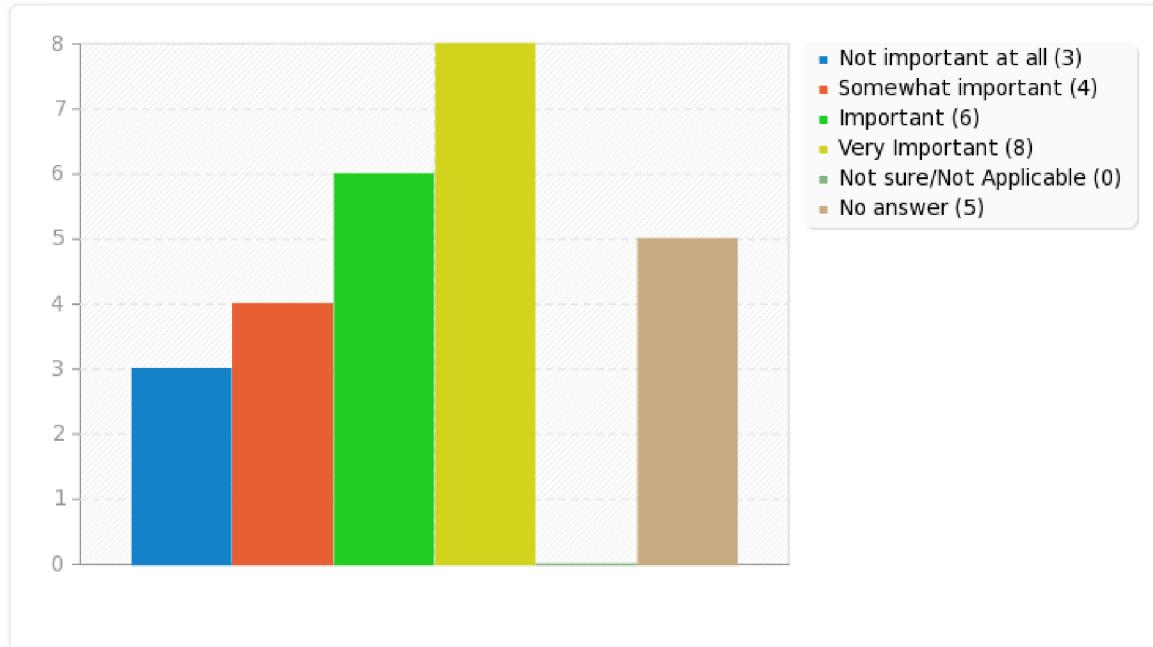
| Answer | Count | Percentage |
|-----------------------------|-------|------------|
| Not important at all (1) | 3 | 11.54% |
| Somewhat important (2) | 8 | 30.77% |
| Important (3) | 5 | 19.23% |
| Very Important (4) | 5 | 19.23% |
| Not sure/Not Applicable (5) | 0 | 0.00% |
| No answer | 5 | 19.23% |



Field summary for LinksShare(2)

**In your opinion, links are mechanisms to share...
[Source code]**

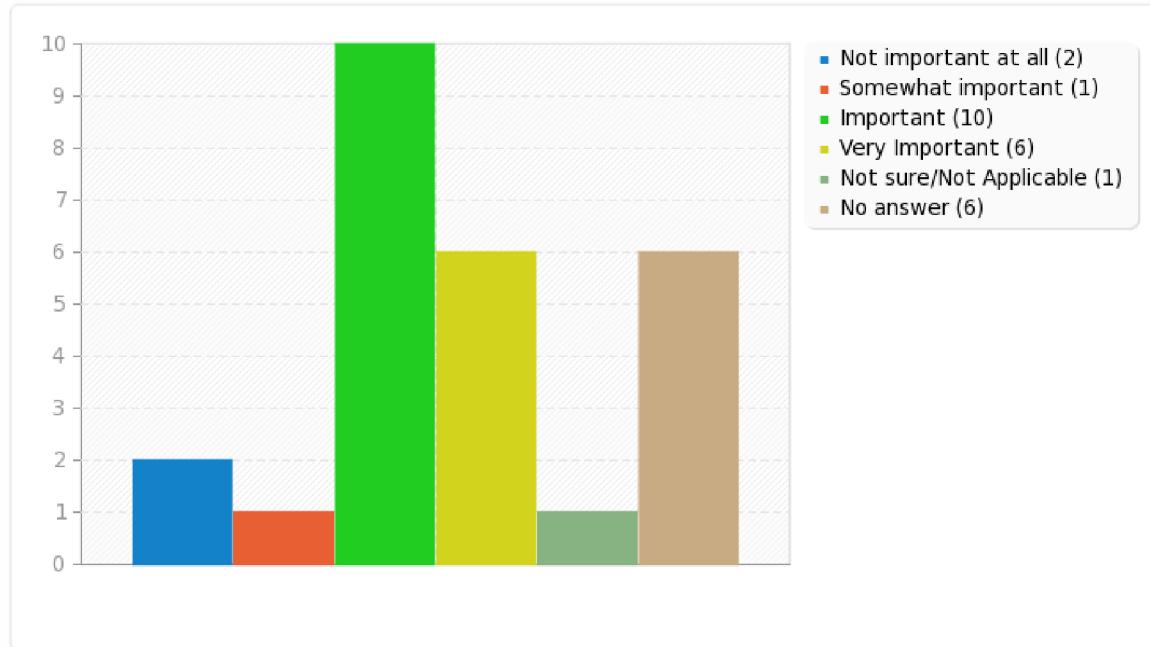
| Answer | Count | Percentage |
|-----------------------------|-------|------------|
| Not important at all (1) | 3 | 11.54% |
| Somewhat important (2) | 4 | 15.38% |
| Important (3) | 6 | 23.08% |
| Very Important (4) | 8 | 30.77% |
| Not sure/Not Applicable (5) | 0 | 0.00% |
| No answer | 5 | 19.23% |



Field summary for LinksShare(3)

**In your opinion, links are mechanisms to share...
[Documentation]**

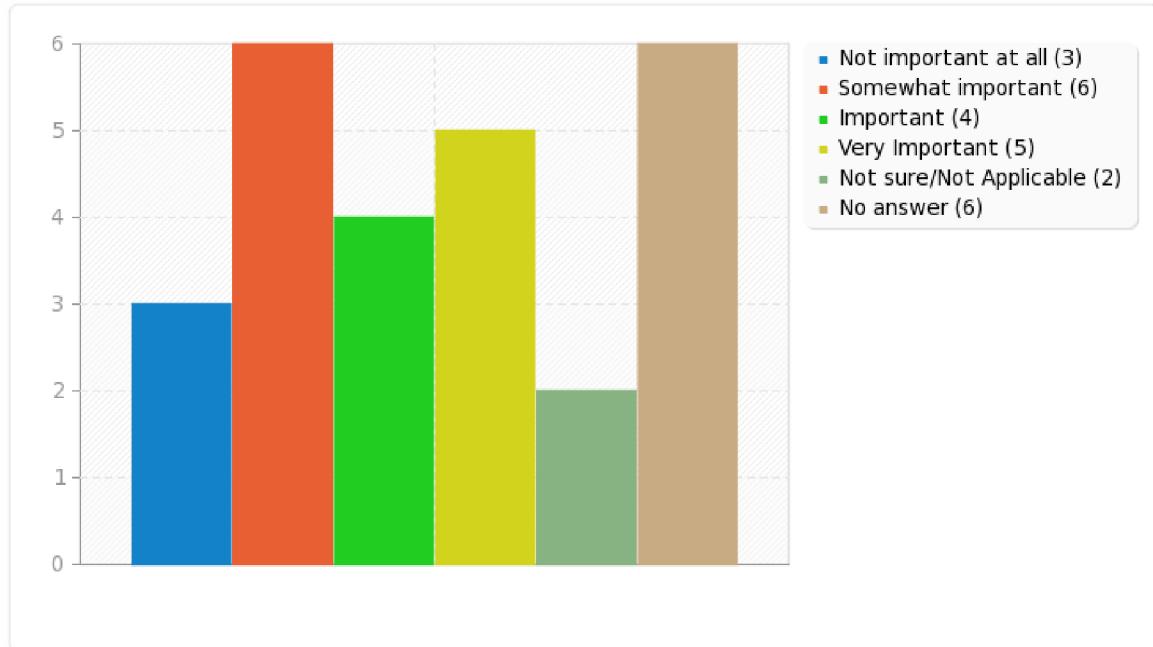
| Answer | Count | Percentage |
|-----------------------------|-------|------------|
| Not important at all (1) | 2 | 7.69% |
| Somewhat important (2) | 1 | 3.85% |
| Important (3) | 10 | 38.46% |
| Very Important (4) | 6 | 23.08% |
| Not sure/Not Applicable (5) | 1 | 3.85% |
| No answer | 6 | 23.08% |



Field summary for LinksShare(4)

In your opinion, links are mechanisms to share...
[External libraries]

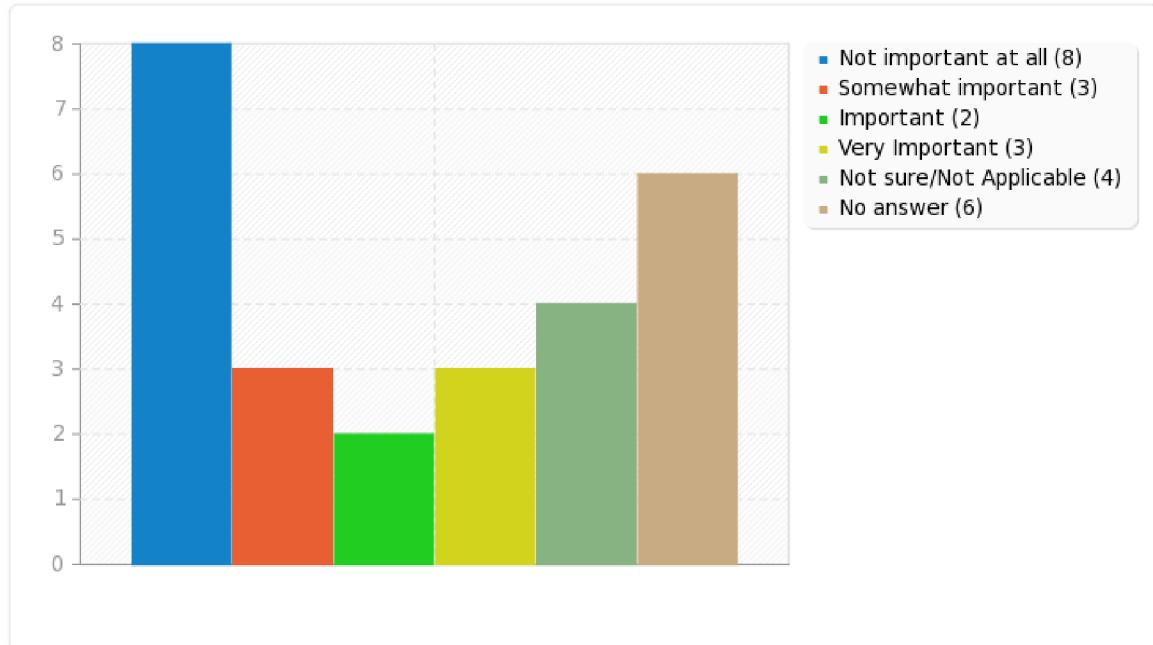
| Answer | Count | Percentage |
|-----------------------------|-------|------------|
| Not important at all (1) | 3 | 11.54% |
| Somewhat important (2) | 6 | 23.08% |
| Important (3) | 4 | 15.38% |
| Very Important (4) | 5 | 19.23% |
| Not sure/Not Applicable (5) | 2 | 7.69% |
| No answer | 6 | 23.08% |



Field summary for LinksShare(5)

**In your opinion, links are mechanisms to share...
[Authors/users]**

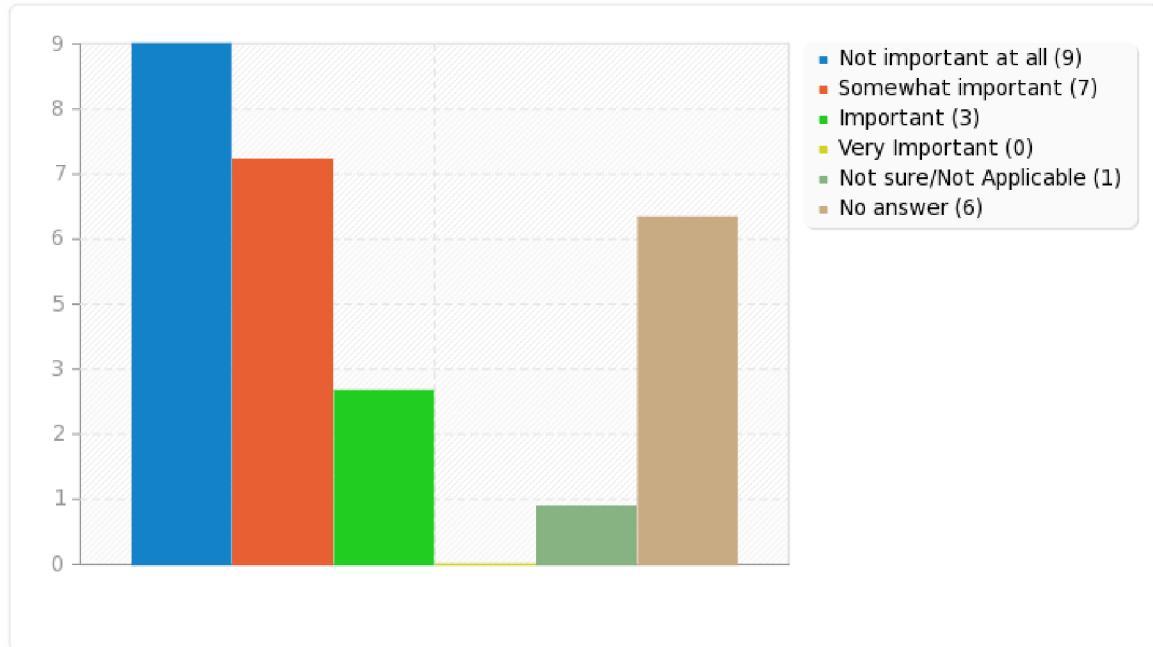
| Answer | Count | Percentage |
|-----------------------------|-------|------------|
| Not important at all (1) | 8 | 30.77% |
| Somewhat important (2) | 3 | 11.54% |
| Important (3) | 2 | 7.69% |
| Very Important (4) | 3 | 11.54% |
| Not sure/Not Applicable (5) | 4 | 15.38% |
| No answer | 6 | 23.08% |



Field summary for LinksShare(6)

**In your opinion, links are mechanisms to share...
[Publicity]**

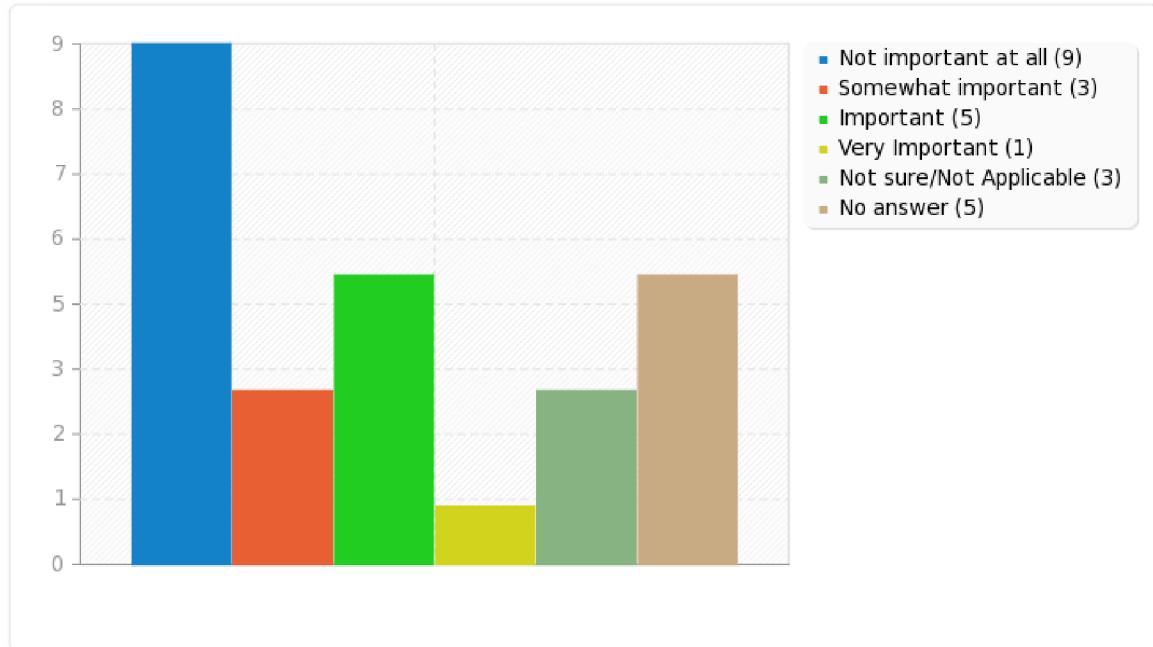
| Answer | Count | Percentage |
|-----------------------------|-------|------------|
| Not important at all (1) | 9 | 34.62% |
| Somewhat important (2) | 7 | 26.92% |
| Important (3) | 3 | 11.54% |
| Very Important (4) | 0 | 0.00% |
| Not sure/Not Applicable (5) | 1 | 3.85% |
| No answer | 6 | 23.08% |



Field summary for LinksShare(7)

**In your opinion, links are mechanisms to share...
[Apps]**

| Answer | Count | Percentage |
|-----------------------------|-------|------------|
| Not important at all (1) | 9 | 34.62% |
| Somewhat important (2) | 3 | 11.54% |
| Important (3) | 5 | 19.23% |
| Very Important (4) | 1 | 3.85% |
| Not sure/Not Applicable (5) | 3 | 11.54% |
| No answer | 5 | 19.23% |



Field summary for LinkUsage

Within the context of Stack Overflow and the R-Help Mailing List, can you think of any other benefits of using links? Please elaborate.

| | Count | Percentage |
|-------------------------------|-------|------------|
| Answer Browse | 13 | 50.00% |



On stack, links are great for crediting other users by pointing back to their original answers and/or work.

Links to previous discussion thread can help to avoid repetition.

link to other answers



They expand the realm of information that is available.

Not sure if old answers is included in documentation? R-help emails often refer to old R-help emails if the question has been asked before, or if answers to old questions are relevant to the new questions.



See above - DOI links are helpful.

I don't really understand the previous question. I'd think that links could be most useful as ways of providing additional information that may be useful, but is not necessary, in understanding a question, answer, or context.

Sometimes the question involves publicly available datasets. That's another reasonable use, but again the link should be to a recognizable source.

The most important links are those to similar, previously posed and possibly answered questions.

Nope.

| | | |
|-----------|----|--------|
| No answer | 13 | 50.00% |
|-----------|----|--------|



Field summary for ExtraComments**Do you have any additional comments that you want to share with us?**

| | Count | Percentage |
|-------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Answer Browse | 10 | 38.46% |



nope.

No.

Links have such a high security risk, they loose much of their appeal.

Question 23 would not allow me to click any of the "bubbles".

No.

The colors of your survey are very hard to read. Gray on gray is horrible for users. See this: <http://contrastrebellion.com/>

No.

I find it unfortunate you haven't asked age and gender. I suspect both will have major influence on participation levels (there are almost no women active on R-help), and on mailing list vs web (suspect the latter skews younger).

No

Nope.

No answer 16

61.54%



Field summary for OptInterview

If you are up for a Skype interview, please enter your email address so we can learn more about your responses!

| | | Count | Percentage |
|--------|------------------------|-------|------------|
| Answer | Browse | 6 | 23.08% |
| | | | |

✉ gousiosg@gmail.com
✉ msharp@TxBiomed.org
✉ ucfagls@gmail.com
✉ Rhydwyn.beta@gmail.com
✉ Roger.Bivand@nhh.no
✉ kw1958@gmail.com

| | | |
|-----------|----|--------|
| No answer | 20 | 76.92% |
|-----------|----|--------|

✖

Field summary for SOUsername

What is your Stack Overflow username?

| | | Count | Percentage |
|-----------|--|-------|------------|
| Answer | Browse | 8 | 30.77% |
| | | | |
| 👤 | 👤 | | |
| 👤 | gousiosg | | |
| 👤 | Gavin Simpson (429846) | | |
| 👤 | Jon | | |
| 👤 | I don't have one | | |
| 👤 | Use G+ login, no idea | | |
| 👤 | http://stackoverflow.com/users/155151/kevin-wright | | |
| 👤 | jean-v-adams | | |
| 👤 | user1775372 | | |
| No answer | | 18 | 69.23% |
| | | | |
| ✖ | ✖ | | |

Field summary for RHelpEmail**What is your email address on the R-Help Mailing List?**

| | | Count | Percentage |
|-----------|---|-------|------------|
| Answer | Browse | 8 | 30.77% |
| |    msharp@TxBiomed.org  ucfagls@gmail.com  jon.skoien@jrc.ec.europa.eu  drjimlemon@gmail.com  Roger.Bivand@nhh.no  r@catwhisker.org  jvadams@usgs.gov  kw1958@gmail.com | | |
| No answer | | 18 | 69.23% |



Field summary for Informed

Would you like to be informed about the outcome of this study and potential publications? If so, please type your email address here:

| | | Count | Percentage |
|--------|------------------------|-------|------------|
| Answer | Browse | 10 | 38.46% |
| | | | |

✉ gousiosg@gmail.com
✉ noneuclideansnacking@yahoo.com
✉ mhairi.mcneill@gmail.com
✉ msharp@TxBiomed.org
✉ ucfagls@gmail.com
✉ skaluzny@tibco.com
✉ jon.skoien@jrc.ec.europa.eu
✉ Roger.Bivand@nhh.no
✉ jvadams@usgs.gov
✉ kw1958@gmail.com

No answer 16 61.54%





LimeSurvey

Version 2.06+ Build 150911

