

R-Shiny at TEA

March 17, 2020 UAI Data Science meeting



 The Energy Authority serves public utilities nationwide for trading and analytics.

We are owned by several public utilities.



March 16, 2020 2



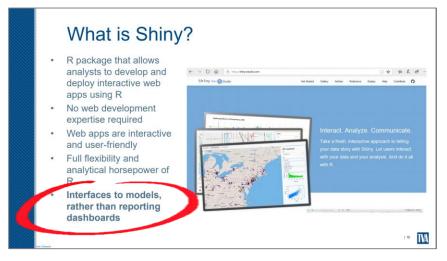
Agenda

Build on Matt Kocoloski(TVA)'s Presentation

- 1. Interfaces to Models
 - Examples of humanmachine collaboration

2. When "quick and dirty" moves to operational...

- 3. Tips & Tricks
 - For shiny users



Summary

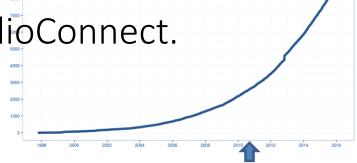
- Shiny is:
 - A great tool for 'quick and dirty' deployment of analytics applications
 - A great tool for a sping analytics apps, the flexibility of R
- Shiny can be:
 - A tool for developing and deploying enterprise-scale analytical tools
- · Shiny is not:
 - The best tool for pure data visualization
- Overall, Shiny has been tremendously helpful for TVA in delivering advanced analytical models to non-technical users
- Email: mlkocoloski@tva.gov

TVA



TEA's R & R-Shiny Adaptation

- TEA analytics has used R as one of the main modeling and analysis tools for about a decade.
 - Tidy verse was named in 2016.
- Purchased Shiny Server Pro license in 2015.
 - The 1st Shiny Developer Conference in 2016.
- Just started evaluation of RStudioConnect.





1. Interfaces to Models

EXAMPLES OF TEA APPS



TEA's Dashboard Solutions



- TEA's company-wide BI solution
 - With enterprise data warehouse.



- BI solution for cloud-hosted data
 - With cloud-hosted data lake



More than BI

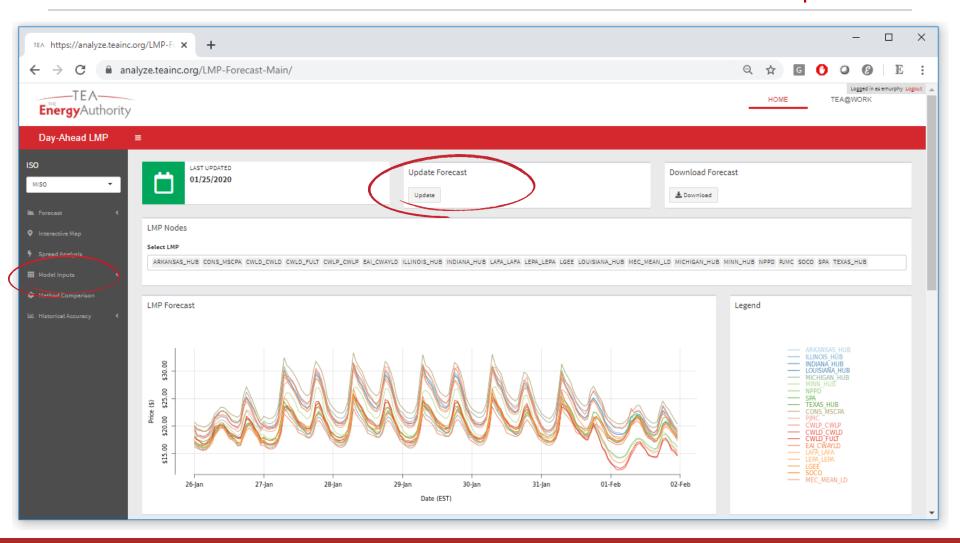


- Interfaces to Models
 - Scheduled Tasks + Shiny
 - Run models from UI



DA Power Price Forecast

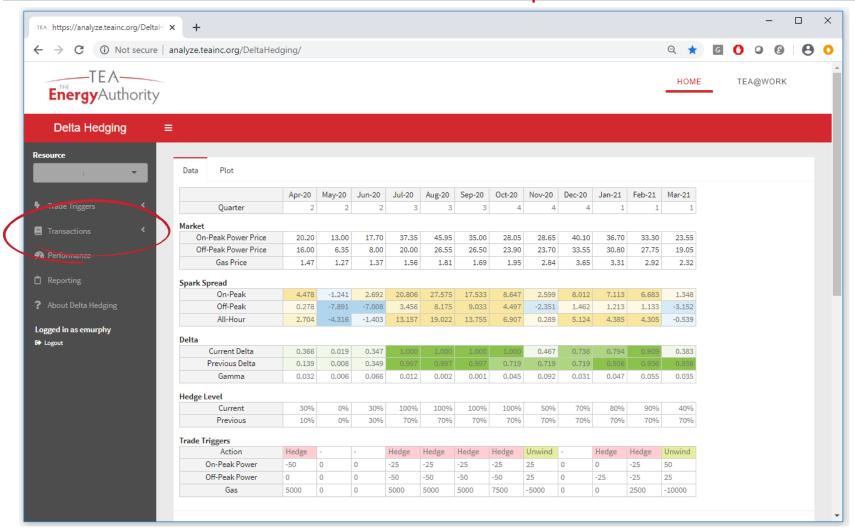
Load Trained Model + Rerun It with Modified Inputs





Delta Hedging App

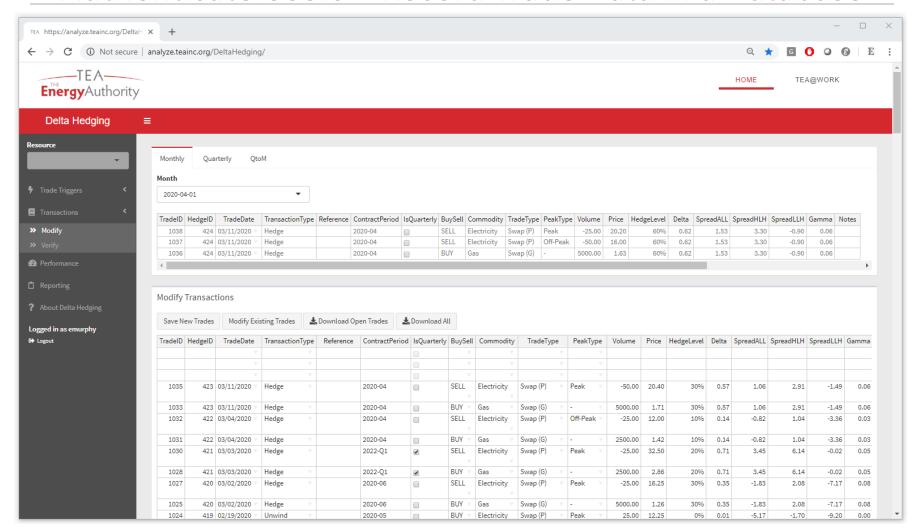
Excel-like Interactive Input Tables





Delta Hedging App

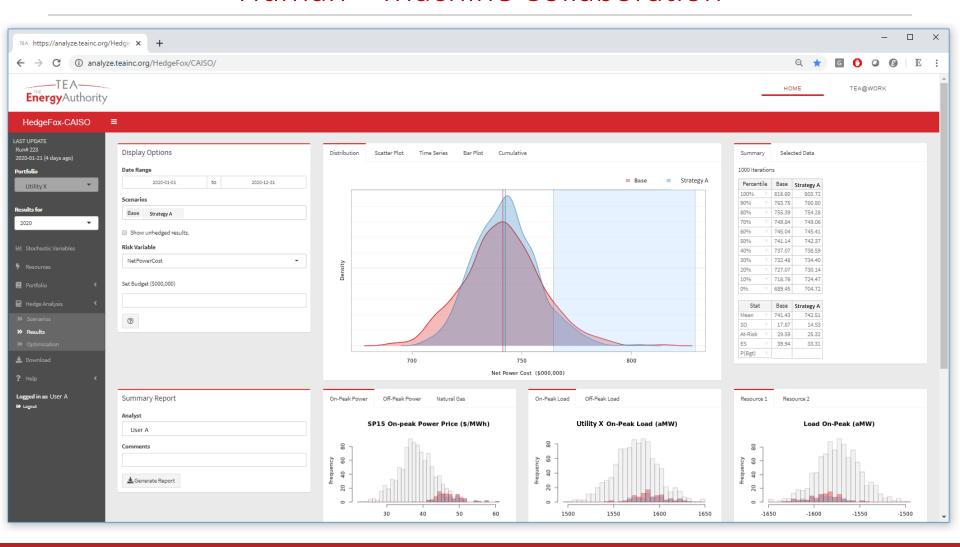
Authenticate Users + Record Trade Data in a Database





Portfolio Risk Analysis

Human + Machine Collaboration

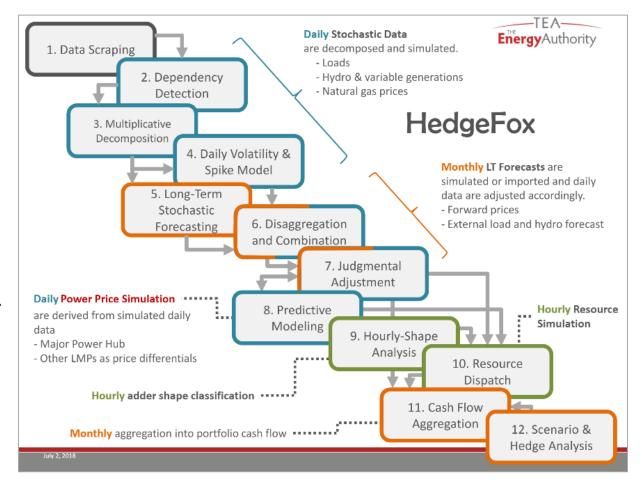




Background on this model

Stats + ML in R

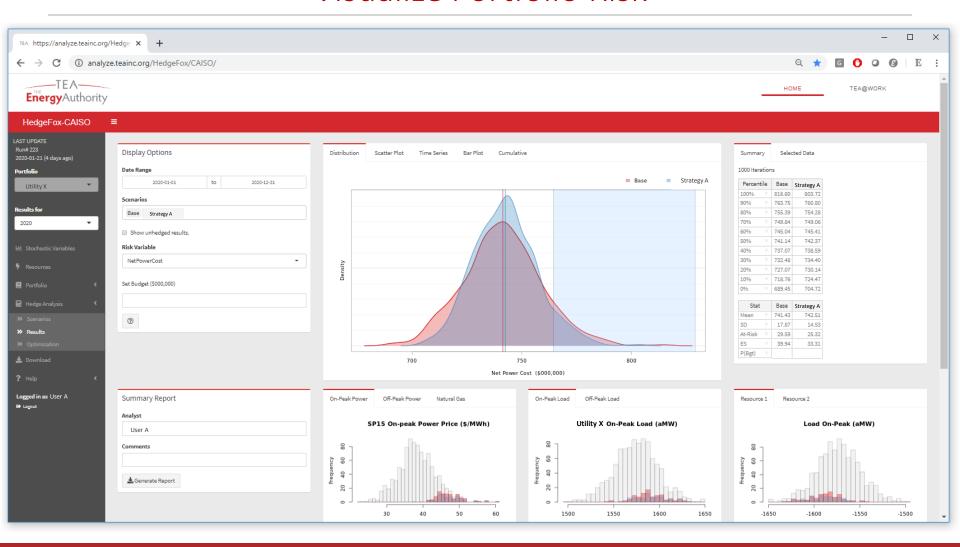
- Quantify portfolio risk
- Combines statistical and, machine learning methods.
- All written in R
 - Scheduled model runs.
 - Interactive shiny UI.





Portfolio Risk Analysis

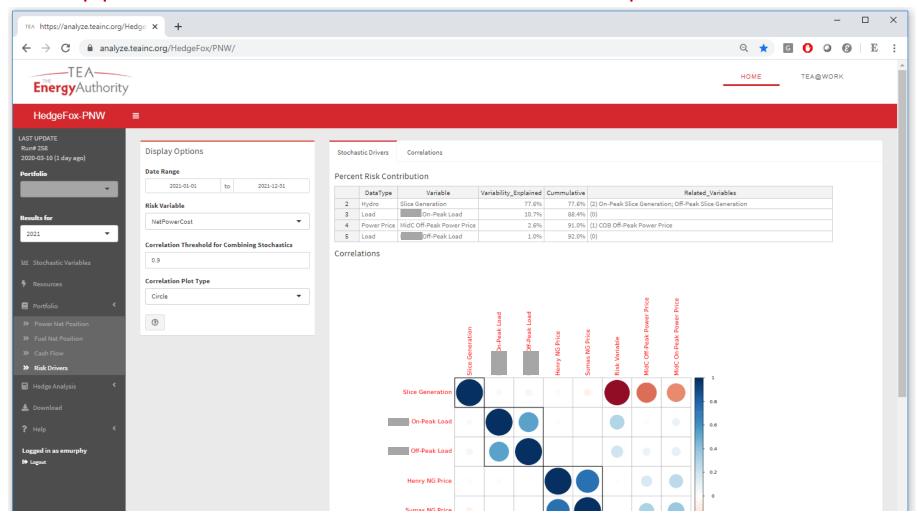
Visualize Portfolio Risk





Whitening Black Boxes

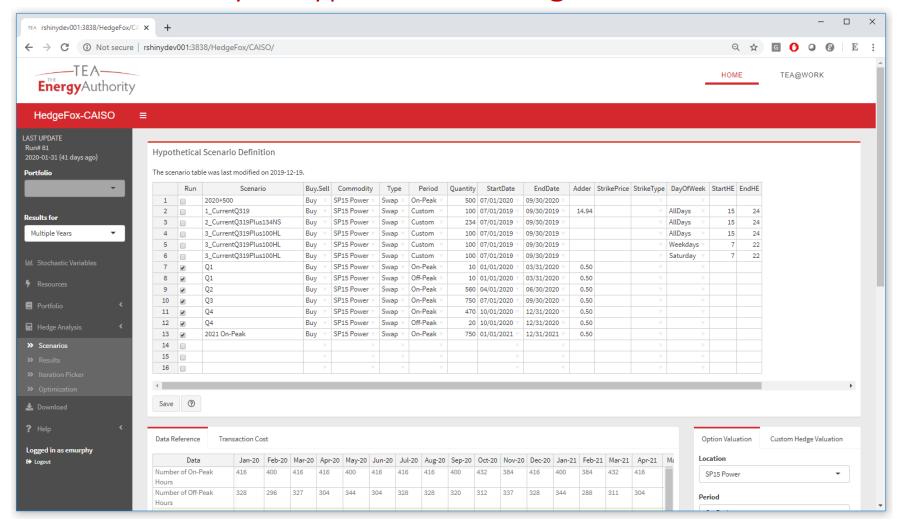
Approximate a Black Box with an Interpretable Model





Hedge Analysis

Analyze Hypothetical Hedge Scenarios

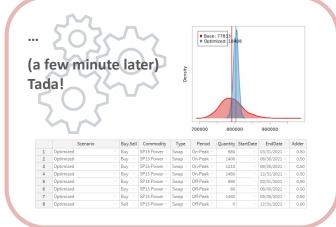




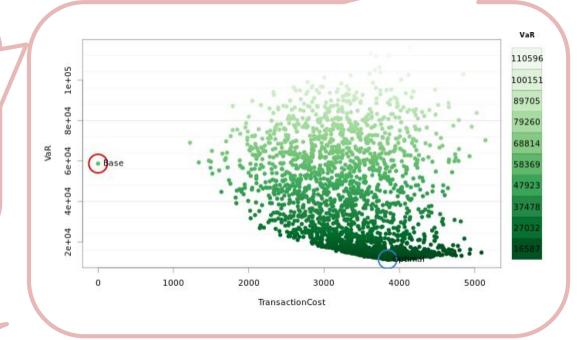








How do I know this is optimal?



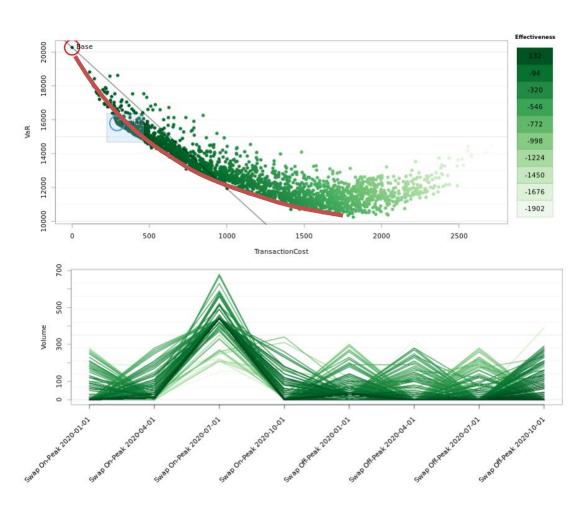
Can I pick another strategy?



Explore alternative solutions

Lessons Learned

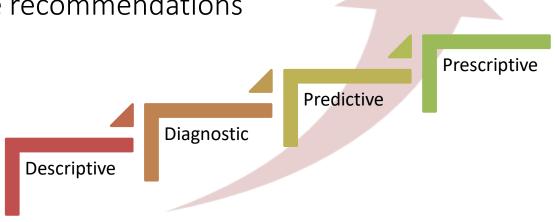
- Users didn't want the answer.
- Instead...
 - Get insights.
 - Change input to the model.
 - Explore alternatives.





Human + Machine Collaboration

- As the use of AI spread beyond point-forecasting, to decision making and prescriptive analytics, people will want to participate in finding a solution.
- Interactions with AI
 - Explore insights
 - Multiple/alternative recommendations
 - Inputs to Al





2 "Data Scientist" as IT

WHEN "QUICK AND DIRTY" MOVES TO OPERATIONAL...

March 16, 2020 CONFIDENTIAL & PROPRIETARY



An App is "Operational" When

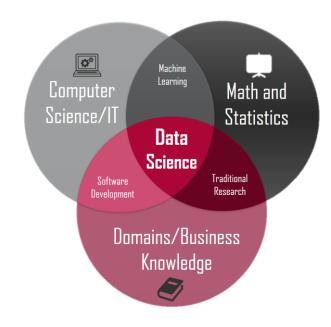
- It continually supports critical business operations
- It is connected to live data.





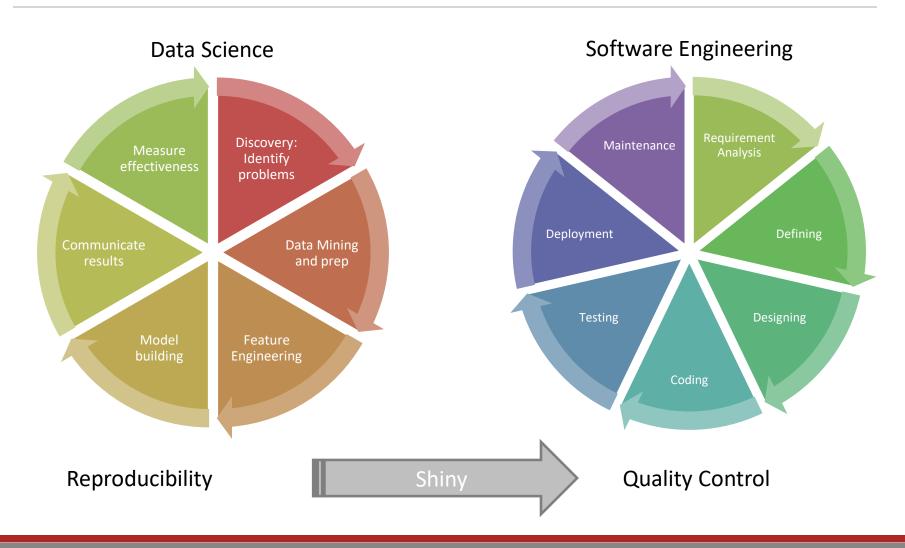
How many hats do you wear?

- Traditionally "Data Scientists" focused on analyzing data and prototyping models.
 - Operationalizing & maintenance by IT.
- Shiny is a way to operationalize models.
 - Data scientists directly provide access to models ↔ Users need support directly from data scientists





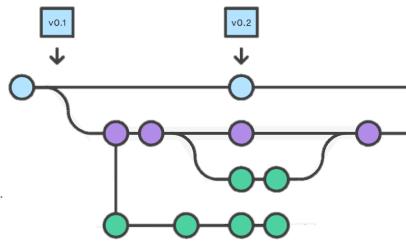
Life Cycles



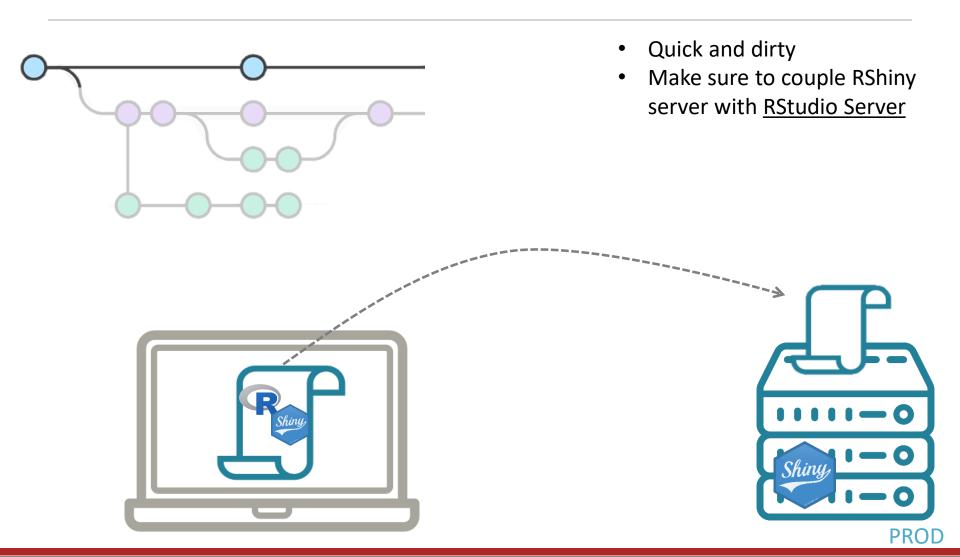


Quality Control

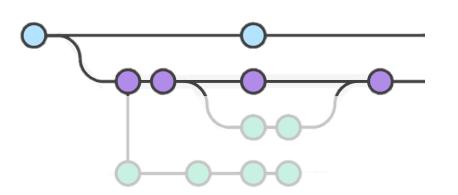
- Separation of Dev/Staging/PROD environments
 - Scripts, databases, shiny servers.
- Use of source control
 - Git + GitHub
- Support plans
 - Apps and models always fail at the most inconvenient times.
- Error handling
 - Users always come up with a way to produce errors.











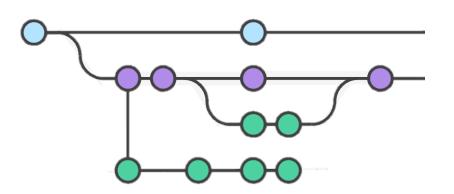
 Run something stably on PROD while working on improvements on the side











 Couple shiny apps with scheduled tasks and live data.

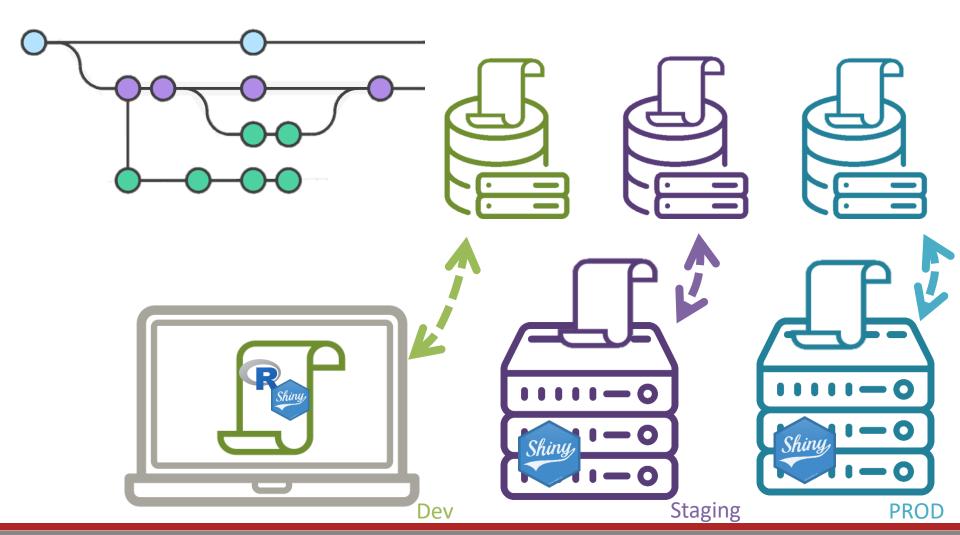






March 16, 2020 CONFIDENTIAL & PROPRIETARY 25





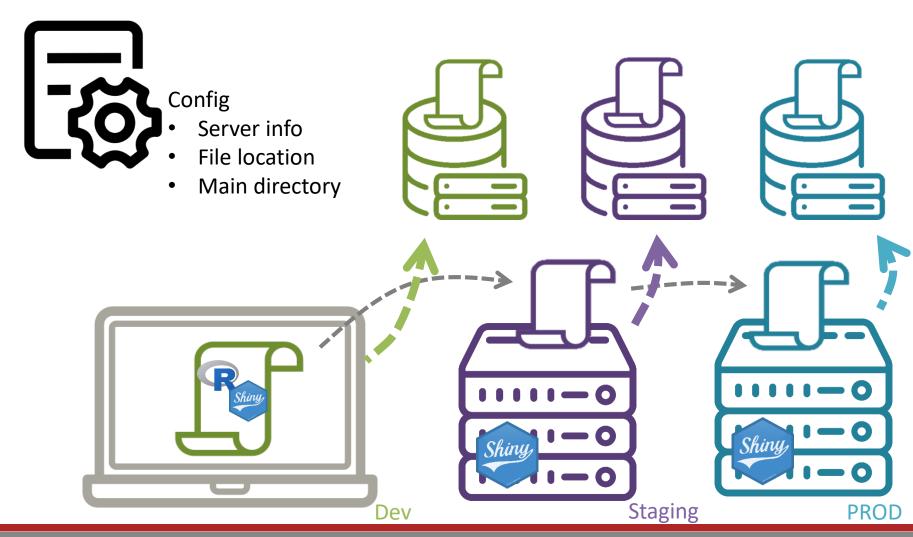


(Random) Tips and Tricks

FOR SHINY USERS



Managing environments





'Config' package

- Config.yaml
 - One file for all credentials and server info and directories.
 - Access to mounted Windows file system from linux.
 - Anything environmentspecific. (e.g. the sanitize.errors option)
 - Deployment is easier.

```
Master config file
    < Cascadia >
    author: Eina Ooka
      Note: Please do not change this file without asking the aut
 dir_main: "C:/Users/{USERNAME}/Desktop/{proj}/"
 dir.main_shiny: "C:/Users/{USERNAME}/Desktop/{proj}/"
  # Analytics DB
 Ozette.dsn: "Driver={SQL Server}; Server=
 Ozette_shiny.dsn: "Driver={SQL Server}; S
 HedgeFox.dsn: "Driver={SQL Server}; Serve
 HedgeFox_shiny.dsn: "Driver={SQL Server};
  # Zema
  zema.username:
 zema.password:
  # shiny settings
 shiny.sanitize.errors: FALSE
 dir.restart: "C:/Users/{USERNAME}/Desktop/{proj}/RCode/shiny/"
PROD:
  # shinv settings
 shiny.sanitize.errors: TRUE
 dir.main_s
```



Error Handling

- Base R
 - tryCatch(..., error=function(e){...})
- Shiny
 - Req() and Validate(need(..., message = ""))
 - options(shiny.sanitize.errors = TRUE)
 - safeError() for controlled error messages.

Uncontrolled R's native error message:

It may not make sense to users. It might be revealing of sensitive information.

Controlled safe message:

Messages are more meaningful.

Error: cannot open the connection

Error: Data was not found for MISO.

Uncontrolled with error-sanitizer:

Error: An error has occurred. Check your logs or contact the app author for clarification.



Module

Reactive Spaghetti to Reactive Ravioli



You should consider writing a function whenever you've copied and pasted a block of code more than twice (i.e. you now have three copies of the same code).

Hadley Wickham, from "R for Data Science"

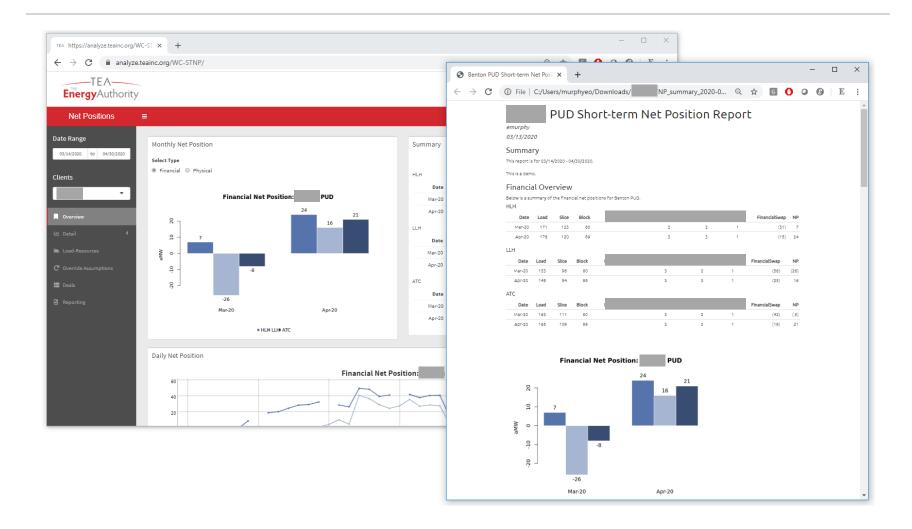


- Shiny structure makes it difficult to follow this advice, unless you use "module."
- Great way to section server & ui scripts even when there is no repetition.
 - Smaller, testable, self-contained, re-usable.
 - A couple thousand lines of reactive "spaghetti" became self contained "ravioli".





RMarkdown

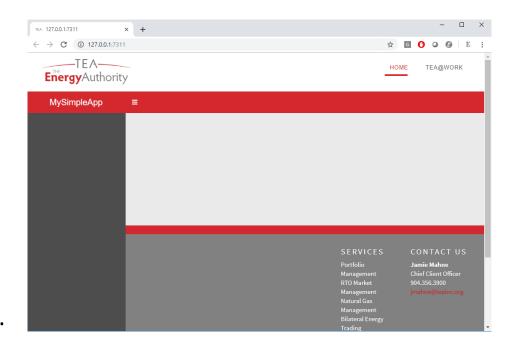




Branding & Template

 Set templates and formatting helps create consistency.

- Shinydashboard
 - Open source AdminLTE
 - Create our own "teadashboard" package.
 - Self-publish it in github.





Naming

- 1. What is it?
- 2. What's the purpose?
- 3. A symbol that captures the concept?







Thank you!

Contact:

eooka@teainc.org