

File navigation from R

Intro to Programming in R

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File navigation is the process of locating files on your computer.

Every file has a “file path” - an address that tells your operating system where to find it on your hard drive(s).

Mac/UNIX: “Documents/Diving/dive_log.csv”

Windows: “Documents\Diving\dive_log.csv”

There are two kinds of file paths:
absolute, and relative.

Absolute file paths begin from your computer's
“root” directory

Mac: “~/Documents/Diving/dive_log.csv”
Windows: “C:\Documents\Diving\dive_log.csv”

Relative file paths begin from your current location, and point from there:

Current location: “~/Documents”

Absolute file path: “~/Documents/Diving/dive_log.csv”

Relative file path: “Diving/dive_log.csv”

We need to understand how to construct both types of paths - but relative file paths are what we'll be using most in our project-oriented workflow.

Lesson Objectives:

1. Be able to distinguish between absolute paths and relative paths
2. Build the correct absolute path and relative path to a file on your computer

1. Download some data from the course GitHub repository and save it to our desktop
2. Introduce `getwd()`, `list.files()`, and `read.csv()`
3. Create a new RStudio project
4. Build the correct file path to the data from within R
 - a. Using a relative path
 - b. Using an absolute path

Course GitHub repository:

<https://github.com/fishsciences/2020-R-Course>