JAMES Documentation

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2021-06-27

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Preface

Hi, welcome to JAMES!

This document contains documentation of the Joint Automatic Measurement and Evaluation System (JAMES). JAMES is fully programmed in R and makes it functionality available as an API running under OpenCPU.

This contents of the file is fully in the works. It is it neither complete nor garanteed to be accurate, consider it as a journey guide for your travel through JAMES. Nevertheless, I hope that it will help to understand basic ideas, technologies and applications.

Last version: June 2021.

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Introduction

1.1 Overview

This chapter gives a brief overview the Joint Automatic Measurement and Evaluation System (JAMES).

JAMES is an experimental web service for creating and interpreting charts of child growth and development. The current version

- 1. provides access to high-quality over 300 growth charts used by the Dutch youth health care;
- 2. interchanges data coded according to the Basisdataset JGZ;
- 3. screens for abnormal height, weight and head circumference;
- 4. converts developmental data into the D-score;
- 5. plot D-scores on special D-score charts;
- 6. predicts future growth and development.

The service can be used by anyone interested in high-quality charts for monitoring and evaluating childhood growth and development. This chapter highlights the components of JAMES.

1.2 Architecture

JAMES provides its services through OpenCPU, an open system for scientific computing and reproducible research. The system allows for easy integration of growth charts into any HTTPS compliant client by means of OpenCPU's API. The JAMES webservice is a RESTful Application Programming Interface (API).

The contents of the system consist of two parts:

- JAMES: A collection of R packages that provides back-end functionality
- **JESSE**: A gateway front-end JAMES that translates incoming and outcoming requests (not yet realised)

1.3 R packages

1.3.1 JAMES Active packages

Active packages reside on the JAMES server and provide all functionality.

| Package | Open | Description | |
|----------------|--------------|--|--|
| james | Y | Joint Automatic Measurement and Evaluation System | |
| nlreferen | ce∛s | Growth References for Children living in The Netherlands | |
| centile | Y | Translate Measurements, Z-Scores and Centiles with the | |
| | | RIF format | |
| chartbox | Y | Collection of Growth Charts | |
| chartcatalð⁄g | | Catalog of JAMES Growth Charts | |
| chartplotte\r | | Analysing and Plotting Growth Curves | |
| curvematching | | Personalised Prediction by Matching Invididuals | |
| donorload | e r N | Loads Donor Data from Package or Database | |
| brokensti | с¥У | Broken Stick Model for Irregular Longitudinal Data | |
| dscore | Y | D-Score for Child Development | |
| bdsreader Y | | Read Data from the Basisdataset Jeugdgezondheidszorg | |
| growthscreener | | Finding Children with Unusual Growth Patterns | |
| jamesclientY | | Client-side R Functions for JAMES | |
| jamesdemo | danta | Demo Data for JAMES | |

1.3.2 JAMES Support packages

Support packages produce half-fabricated materials, provide testing or store documentation. $\,$

| Package | Open | Description |
|---------------|------|--|
| donordata | N | Longitudinal Data for Curve Matching |
| chartdesigner | N | Design Growth Charts for JAMES |
| gateway | N | Entry to TNO online analytic growth modules |
| jamesdocker | N | JAMES Docker API |
| bdsschema | Y | Data Exchange Tools for the Basisdataset JGZ |
| jamesdemo | Y | App to interact with the JAMES chart site |
| minihealth | Y | Mini Dossier for Individual Health Data |
| clopus | N | Growth reference library |

1.4. JESSE 9

| Package | Open | Description |
|-----------|------|---------------------|
| jamesdocs | Y | JAMES Documentation |

1.4 JESSE

1.5 JAMES servers

- Production: https://groeidiagrammen.nl/ocpu/test/, Docs (outdated): https://groeidiagrammen.nl
- $\bullet \ \ {\rm Test:} \ https://vps.stefvanbuuren.nl/ocpu/test/$
- Future: james.tno.nl

1.6 Resources

- Demo JAMES at https://tnochildhealthstatistics.shinyapps.io/james_tryout/
- OpenCPU system
- OpenCPU API
- https://www.tno.nl/groei, https://www.tno.nl/growth

JAMES data format

2.1 Objective

This chapter describes the format of the input data accepted by JAMES. The specification

- closely follows the definition of the Basisdataset JGZ 3.25 (2018);
- defines data objects;
- defines the actions taken by JAMES in case of incorrect, missing or outof-range data;
- defines the error messages for informing the client.

2.2 Generic object model

2.2.1 EPremDossier Class

2.2.1.1 Object model

| EPremDossier | Instance | Class |
|--------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| -> -> | Contactmomenton | EPremGroep EPremContactmoment |

2.2.1.2 Syntax C#

public class EPremDossier

2.2.1.3 Public properties

| Name | Description | Required |
|-----------------|---|----------|
| Clientgegevens | Class with basic child data | Y |
| Contactmomenten | Class with data per visit | N |
| InstrumentCode | Integer identifying the instrument | Ignored |
| OrganisatieCode | Integer identifying the care organisation | Y |
| Referentie | String identifying the request | N |

2.2.2 EPremGroep Class

2.2.2.1 Object model

| EPremGroep | Instance | Class | |
|------------|----------------------|----------------------------|--|
| -> -> | Elementen Groepen | EPremElement EPremGroep | |
| -> | Groepen | EPremGroep | |

2.2.2.2 Syntax C#

public class EPremGroep

2.2.2.3 Public properties

| Name | Description | Required |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|----------|
| Elementen | Class with BDS-elements | Y |
| Groepen | Class with groups of BDS-elements | N |

2.2.3 EPremElement Class

2.2.3.1 Syntax C#

public class EPremElement

2.2.3.2 Public properties

| Name | Description | Required |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|----------|
| Bdsnummer | Integer identifying the BDS-field | Y |
| InternNummer | Integer identifying internal field | Ignored |
| Waarde | Value of the BDS-field | Y |
| Waardeomschrijving | Descriptive label for value | Ignored |

2.2.4 EPremContactmoment Class

2.2.4.1 Object model

| EPremContactmoment | Instance | Class |
|--------------------|----------|----------------------------|
| -> -> | | EPremElement EPremGroep |

2.2.4.2 Syntax C#

public class EPremContactmoment : EPremGroep

2.2.4.3 Public properties

| Name | Description | Required |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|----------|
| Elementen | Class with BDS-elements | Y |
| Groepen | Class with groups of BDS-elements | N |
| Tijdstip | Date of visit | Y |

2.3 BDS-elements

| BDS | Description | Value | Label | Required |
|-----|--------------------|------------|----------------------------|----------|
| 19 | Sex of child | "0" | Unknown | Y |
| | | "1" | Male | |
| | | "2" | Female | |
| | | "3" | Not specified | |
| 20 | Date of birth | "yyyymmdd" | year-month-day | Y |
| 62 | Caretaker relation | "01" | biological father | N |
| | | "02" | biological mother | |
| | | "03" | male partner, stepfather | |
| | | "04" | female partner, stepmother | |

| BDS | Description | Value | Label | Required |
|-----|--------------------------|------------|----------------------------|----------|
| | | "05" | adoptive father | |
| | | "06" | adoptive mother | |
| | | "07" | foster father | |
| | | "08" | foster mother | |
| | | "98" | other | |
| 63 | Caretaker date of birth | "yyyymmdd" | year-month-day | N |
| 66 | Caretaker education | "01" | no primary school | N |
| | | "02" | primary school, special ed | |
| | | "03" | VSO-MLK/IVBO/VMBO-LWOO | |
| | | "04" | LBO/VBO/VMBO-BBL&KBL | |
| | | "05" | MAVO/VMBO-GL&TL | |
| | | "06" | MBO | |
| | | "07" | HAVO/VWO | |
| | | "08" | HBO/HTS/HEAO | |
| | | "09" | WO | |
| | | "98" | Other | |
| | | "00" | Unknown | |
| 71 | Caretaker birth country | "dddd" | 4-digit code, Table 34 | N |
| 82 | Gestational age | "ddd" | in days | N |
| 91 | Smoking during pregnancy | "1" | yes | N |
| | | "2" | no | |
| | | "99" | unknown | |
| 110 | Birth weight | "dddd" | 3-4 digits, grammes | N |
| 235 | Length/height | "dddd" | 3-4 digits, millimeters | N |
| 245 | Body weight | "dddddd" | 3-6 digits, grammes | N |
| 252 | Head circumference | "ddd" | 2-3 digits, millimeters | N |
| 238 | Height biological mother | "dddd" | 3-4 digits, millimeters | N |
| 240 | Height biological father | "dddd" | 3-4 digits, millimeters | N |
| 510 | Passive smoking | "01" | No smoking in house | N |
| | | "02" | Never with child | |
| | | "03" | Not in last 7 days | |
| | | "04" | Yes | |

2.4 Error checking

Error checking of the JSON data occurs in three phases:

- 1. PHASE 1: Check whether the JSON data are valid JSON. The process terminates with an error message if the input JSON is not valid.
- 2. PHASE 2: Validate the JSON data against the JSON schema specification. The process terminates with an error if any required fields are miss-

ing. The process generates messages for data points that do not conform to the JSON schema, but continues.

3. PHASE 3: Check the range of the numeric data. The process generates messages for out-of-range values, but continues using the specified values.

The default JSON schema in phase 2 is the built-in JSON schema bds_schema_str.json, a data format implementing a version that accepts strings as values for BDS-elements. You may also choose JSON schema bds_schema.json, which requires numeric input to be specified as numeric (and not as string).

2.5 Note (added June 2, 2021)

The JAMES function now also reads, validates and interprets BDS fields related to the Van Wiechenschema (Dutch Development Instrument). See https://growthcharts.org/bdsreader/index.html and https://github.com/growthcharts/jamesdemodata.

23

300

301

n12010

preterm

preterm

340 preterm

HMBR

PMAHN28

PMAHN29

PMEAN32

Growth charts in JAMES

3.1 Chart naming conventions

The link https://groeidiagrammen.nl/ocpu/lib/james/www/ contains an interactive overview of the available growth charts. There are many different charts: for boys and girls, for preterms, for different age ranges, for specific ethnic groups, for height, weight, BMI, and so on. Each chart has a chart code, a character code identifying the design. This section explains the construction of the chart codes.

The GitHub repository https://github.com/growthcharts/chartbox contains the chart libraries that are available to JAMES. The list_charts() function produces a tabular overview.

```
charts <- chartbox::list_charts()</pre>
dim(charts)
## [1] 394
             8
charts[c(1, 22, 23, 300, 301, 340), ]
##
       chartgrp chartcode population
                                         sex design side language week
## 1
         n12010
                     HJAA
                                   HS
                                                   A front
                                                               dutch
                                        male
         n12010
## 22
                     HMBH
                                   HS female
                                                   В
                                                       hgt
                                                               dutch
```

HS female

PT female

PT female

PT female

В

Α

wfh

hgt

hgt

E front

dutch

dutch

dutch

dutch

28

29

32

The chartbox package currently contains three chart groups: $\tt nl2010, preterm$ and who. Each group collects charts of a similar type.

| Chart Group | N | Chart code | Description | Source |
|-------------|-----|------------|---|------------------------------|
| n12010 | 140 | CCCC | Dutch children 0-21 years, including minorities | Talma et al. (2010) |
| preterm | 240 | CCCCCNN | Dutch preterms, ga \leq 36 weeks, 0-4 years | Bocca-Tjeertes et al. (2012) |
| who | 14 | CCCC | WHO Child Growth Standards 0-4 years | WHO |

The chart code is an alpha-numeric code of four (for nl2010 and who) or seven (for preterm) that uniquely identifies each of the charts. The table below specifies the full coding schema used to construct the chart codes.

| Position | Field | Value | Description |
|----------|------------|--------------|------------------|
| | | | |
| 1 | Population | N | Dutch |
| | | Τ | Turkish |
| | | M | Moroccan |
| | | Η | Hindostan |
| | | Р | Preterm |
| | | W | WHO |
| 2 | Sex | J | Male |
| | | M | Female |
| 3 | Design | A | 0-15 months |
| | | В | 0-4 years, WFH |
| | | \mathbf{C} | 1-21 years |
| | | D | 0-21 years |
| | | \mathbf{E} | 0-4 years, WFA |
| 4 | Side | A | A4, front |
| | | В | A4, back |
| | | \mathbf{C} | A4, back, no hdc |
| | | D | square, dsc |
| | | H | square, hgt |
| | | O | square, hdc |
| | | Q | square, bmi |
| | | R | square, wfh |
| | | W | square, wgt |
| | | X | A4, double sided |
| 5 | Language | N | Dutch |
| | 0 0 | E | English |
| 6-7 | Week | 25-36 | Gestational age |

For illustration, code NJAA references to Dutch (N), boys (J), 0-15 month (A), front side (A). Likewise, PMEAN33 codes for the chart of preterm (M), girls (M), 0-4 years (E), front side (A), Dutch language (N) born at 33 weeks of gestation (33).

Some forms hold multiple growth charts. For example, the NJAA chart is de-

signed for A4 paper size (297mm \times 210mm) and contains three growth charts: head circumference by age, length by age, and weight by age. Some others have no diagram, like NJAB. All square formats hold just one growth chart. All of the square forms have equal sizes (160mm \times 160mm).

The following table lists the measures per design-form combination.

| Design | Side | Measure | Description |
|--------------|-----------------|---------|------------------------------------|
| A | A | hdc | Head circumference by age, 0-15 mo |
| | | hgt | Length by age, 0-15 mo |
| | | wgt | Weight by age, 0-15 mo |
| | В | | Backside explanations |
| | D | dsc | D-score by age, 0-15 mo |
| | Η | hgt | Length by age, 0-15 mo |
| | O | hdc | Head circumference by age, 0-15 mo |
| | W | wgt | Weight by age, 0-15 mo |
| В | A | wfh | Weight for height, 0-4 yr |
| | | hgt | Length by age, 0-4 yr |
| | В | hdc | Head circumference by age, 0-4 yr |
| | $^{\mathrm{C}}$ | | Backside explanations |
| | D | dsc | D-score by age, 0-4 yr |
| | Η | hgt | Height by age, 0-4 yr |
| | O | hdc | Head circumference by age, 0-4 yr |
| | \mathbf{R} | wfh | Weight for height, 0-4 yr |
| | W | wgt | Weight by age, 0-4 yr |
| \mathbf{C} | A | wfh | Weight for height, 1-21 yr |
| | | hgt | height by age, 1-21 yr |
| | В | bmi | BMI by age, $1-21 \text{ yr}$ |
| | | hdc | Head circumference by age, 1-21 yr |
| | \mathbf{C} | bmi | BMI by age, 1-21 yr |
| | Η | hgt | Height by age, 1-21 yr |
| | O | hdc | Head circumference by age, 1-21 yr |
| | Q | bmi | Body mass index by age, 1-21 yr |
| | \mathbf{R} | wfh | Weight for height, 1-21 yr |
| \mathbf{E} | A | wgt | Weight by age, 0-4 yr |
| | | hgt | height by age, 0-4 yr |
| | В | hdc | Head circumference by age, 0-4 yr |
| | $_{\mathrm{H}}$ | hgt | Height by age, 0-4 yr |
| | O | hdc | Head circumference by age, 0-4 yr |
| | W | wgt | Weight by age, 0-4 yr |

Methods

We describe our methods in this chapter.

D-score implementation

This document describes the actions taken to implement the D-score into JAMES. The functionality of JAMES is distributed over multiple packages. This set of actions may be of interest when implementing new features.

5.1 Actions

| Package | PR | Description |
|------------|----------|---|
| minihealth | 03a32f1 | Create milestones |
| | | descriptions |
| dscore | f0013ce | Link BDS number to Van |
| | | Wiechen milestones |
| dscore | 6886854 | Fine tuning of milestone |
| | | labels |
| minihealth | | Create the bds_lexicon |
| | | object |
| minihealth | 4893982 | Add milestones to BDS |
| | | validation JSON schema |
| minihealth | 0069671 | Add convert_ddi_gsed() |
| | | to convert BDS-milestones |
| | | into GSED items |
| minihealth | 8ab1392 | Add a new class |
| | | individualDS for storing |
| | | milestones, D-score and |
| | | DAZ |
| clopus | 1182 cb0 | Add Dutch and GCDG |
| | | D-score references |

| Package | PR | Description |
|-------------------------|--------------------|--|
| clopus | 7bdbcd9 | Construct age-shifted D-score references for |
| clopus | ceab7f9 | preterms Import the D-score references into clopus |
| chartdesigner | 6883190 | Add chart constructor functions for D-score, both |
| chartdesigner | 511f456 | terms and pre-terms Extend internal set.axes.design() to |
| chartdesigner | 6582af8 | D-score charts Extend to axes.locations object to D-score charts |
| chartdesigner | 47e3cc3 | Create dchart() function and extend its helper |
| chartdesigner | fbbc7c8 | functions Function chartcode() factory, make one function |
| chartcatalog | cc46788 | for each chart code Extend the chart naming system to D-score charts |
| chartcatalog | 84aaded | Extend the lookup table ynames_lookup to handle |
| chartbox | aa31067 | new D-score charts Extend chart box with all D-score charts |
| james | 6412840 | Add radio button for D-score charts |
| minihealth chartplotter | 06a04c9 4b58638 | Calculate D-score and DAZ Skip the dsc field for finding matches |
| minihealth | 816be33 | Add D-score and DAZ to class individualAN |
| donordata | 77e01b4 | Add milestones to SMOCC donor data |
| donordata | ecb3413 | Calculate D-score and DAZ for SMOCC data |
| donordata | 3 fa 9 d4 d | Fit and store brokenstick model for D-score on SMOCC data |
| donorloader | c22c446 | Update internal data after changes in donordata |
| jamesdocs | TBD | Document steps (this file) |

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| Package | PR | Description |
|-------------|---------|--|
| donordata | 7983c3 | Saves the item scores to create JSON files |
| donordata | 1537182 | Save mapping between SMOCC and BDS coding scheme |
| donorloader | e9a8ed | Make smocc_bds available to JAMES |
| jamestest | 648419 | Regenerate smocc JSON files to include DDI scores |
| jamestest | ce1dbe | Update the installed.cabinets object with the new individual milestones data |
| minihealth | 4dda8d | Add class individual RW to store and convert raw milestones data |
| minihealth | 9e03e7 | Complete the JSON validator schema |

OpenCPU deployment

6.1 Objective

This chapter describes how to install JAMES on the server that run OpenCPU. This is the classic way to install and run OpenCPU applications, and has the advantage that AppArmor prevents various types of malicious behaviour. In the future, we will replace this procedure by containerised deployment using Docker.

6.2 Pre-requisites

- The server runs Ubuntu 18.04 (or later, not tested on Ubuntu 20.04).
- The user needs sudo access to the server that run OpenCPU.

6.3 Installation of JAMES in

Here is a set of commands that removes R and its libraries, installs the latest R fresh from source, install JAMES and puts the machine to work.

A lot can go wrong. Please be patient to check each step.

```
#!/bin/bash
# Re-install opencpu-server, R and the libs

# make system up to date
sudo apt-get update
sudo apt-get upgrade
```

```
# disable opencpu
sudo a2dissite opencpu
sudo apachectl restart
# disable pubertyplot & webtool (only on testserver)
sudo a2dissite puberty
sudo a2dissite webtool
sudo apachectl restart
# save configuration files
mkdir conf
cp -rv /etc/opencpu/ ~/conf/
cp -rv /etc/apache2/ ~/conf/
# uninstall opencpu server & full
sudo apt-get purge opencpu-server
sudo apt-get purge opencpu-full
# remove all R libs
R -e '.libPaths()'
sudo rm -rf /usr/local/lib/R/site-library
sudo rm -rf /usr/lib/R/site-library
sudo rm -rf /usr/lib/R/library
# remove R
sudo apt-get purge r-base-core
sudo apt-get purge r-base
sudo apt-get autoremove
# add backport repositories for Ubuntu packages required by some R packages
sudo add-apt-repository 'deb https://mirror.nl.datapacket.com/ubuntu/ bionic main'
sudo add-apt-repository 'deb-src https://mirror.nl.datapacket.com/ubuntu/ bionic main'
# install R. See https://cran.r-project.org/bin/linux/ubuntu/
# update indices
sudo apt update -qq
# install two helper packages we need
sudo apt install --no-install-recommends software-properties-common dirmngr
# import the signing key (by Michael Rutter) for these repo
sudo apt-key adv --keyserver keyserver.ubuntu.com --recv-keys E298A3A825C0D65DFD57CBB6
# we use R 4.0 (however note this actually installs R 4.1!! (May 2021))
sudo add-apt-repository 'deb https://cloud.r-project.org/bin/linux/ubuntu bionic-cran4
# in the future: use cran-41
sudo apt install r-base
# install r-base-dev because we want to compile from source
```

```
sudo apt-get install r-base-dev
# install opencpu-server
sudo add-apt-repository -y ppa:opencpu/opencpu-2.2
sudo apt-get update
sudo apt-get upgrade
sudo apt-get install -y opencpu-server
# restart opencpu
sudo a2ensite opencpu
sudo apachectl restart
# manually check https://vps.stefvanbuuren.nl/ocpu
# or https://www.groeidiagrammen.nl/ocpu
# install application package: pubertyplot - only on dev server
sudo R -e 'install.packages("/home/stef/packages/pubertyplot_1.3.tar.gz", repos = NULL)'
sudo a2ensite puberty
sudo apachectl restart
# install application package: webtool - only on dev server
sudo R -e 'install.packages("RMySQL")'
sudo R -e 'install.packages("/home/stef/packages/webtool_1.1.tar.gz", repos = NULL)'
sudo a2ensite webtool
sudo apachectl restart
# install JAMES packages - this may take a while - you need the right priveledges
sudo R -e 'install.packages("remotes")'
sudo R -e 'remotes::install github("growthcharts/james")'
# remove duplicate packages
# evade errors: "namespace 'vctrs' 0.3.6 is already loaded, but >= 0.3.8 is required"
sudo R -e 'remove.packages(c("ellipsis", "pillar", "vctrs"), "/usr/lib/opencpu/library")'
# copy back opencpu configuration for JAMES (if they were OK, otherwise tweak)
sudo rm -rf /etc/opencpu
sudo cp -rv ~/conf/opencpu /etc/opencpu/
# active JAMES
sudo apachectl restart
# check on https://tnochildhealthstatistics.shinyapps.io/james_tryout/
# clean up: delete ~/conf/ after everything works
rm -rf conf
```

Dockerfile for JAMES

7.1 Objective

This chapter describes how to build and deploy JAMES as a Docker container.

7.2 Pre-requisites

JAMES is currently constructed from a collection of R packages. The top-level package at https://github.com/growthcharts/james also defines a Javascript interface in the inst/www directory. Deployment of JAMES relies on the OpenCPU server. In principle, it is enough to install the james package on the OpenCPU server, and will also install all dependencies.

The following is needed to build and run a JAMES image:

- Permission to read from the following private repo's:
 - growthcharts/chartplotter
 - growthcharts/curvematching
 - growthcharts/donorloader
 - growthcharts/jamesdocker
- If needed, a personal Github token with repo scope from here, Generate a token with only scope repo.
- Install Docker Desktop on your local machine, and run some tutorials

7.3 Dockerfile

The Dockerfile is at https://raw.githubusercontent.com/growthcharts/jamesdocker/master/Dockerfile, which is located in the private repo https://github.com/growthcharts/jamesdocker. You need authentication to use this resource.

- Clone the growthcharts/jamesdocker repo to your machine
- · Set working directory to root of jamesdocker
- If needed: Add the file docker/opencpu_config/Renviron with contents GITHUB_PAT=fa2... with your own GITHUB_PAT.

7.4 Docker commands

Build the james image, type in a terminal

```
docker build -t james .
```

This may takes a long time (30 minutes), in which the entire application is downloaded from various web-locations. After (hopefully successful) completion, check the image

```
docker images -a
```

If all is well, the top line is called james. Now run the container on your local machine:

```
docker run -t -d -p 80:80 james
```

If the ports are already taken by other containers, stop and remove all containers:

```
docker stop $(docker ps -a -q)
docker rm $(docker ps -a -q)
```

Reissue the docker run, and the container should now run. Check by

```
docker ps
```

which should list a container created from the james image.

If you want to enter the container use

docker exec -i -t 6c /bin/bash

where 6c are the first two characters of the container ID.

Inside the container, check font matching of Arial as

fc-match Arial

7.5 Checks with the browser

http://localhost

should show Apache2 Ubuntu default screen.

http://localhost/ocpu/test/

should show OpenCPU test page.

http://localhost/rstudio/

should start the Rstudio IDE - if installed. Use opencpu:opencpu to log in.

http://localhost/ocpu/library/james/www/

should start the JAMES javascript interface.

See also https://registry.hub.docker.com/r/opencpu/rstudio

7.6 Security

- 1. Don't use the intermediate container, since it will contain your token in /.Renviron. The latest (james) container does not hold your token, and can be shared.
- 2. The container is shielded from the machine on which it runs. However, the materials within the container are only protected by R_LIMITS. In general, for production it is wise to add restriction on the OpenCPU server.

Certificates

8.1 Objective

The use of htpps requires that Apache runs with proper and validated certificates. Users can assess the status of the certificate by clicking on the slot in the browser bar. Certificates are issues by a Certificate Authority (CA) and are valid for one year. The period of one year is just enough to forget how to install and update certificates. This text shows how to renew the certificate.

8.2 vps.stefvanbuuren.nl

The server runs Ubuntu 18.04 LTS. The Apache configuration file /etc/apache2/sites-enabled/default-ssl.con contains the following lines

```
SSLCertificateFile /etc/ssl/crt/vps.stefvanbuuren.nl.chained.crt
SSLCertificateKeyFile /etc/ssl/crt/vps.stefvanbuuren.nl.key
```

The file .key is the private key, which should not leave the machine and only be read/write by sudoers. The file ..chained.crt is the certificate file, which needs to be updated after expiry. There is some hand work involved in creating this file.

8.2.1 Step 1: Create the CSR file

```
ssh into vps.stefvanbuuren.nl
cd /etc/ssl/crt
openssl req -new -newkey rsa:2048 -nodes -keyout vps.stefvanbuuren.nl.key -out vps.stefvanbuuren.
```

You need to answer some questions (See http://edtechchris.com/2020/02/11/generate-csr-with-openssl-on-ubuntu/). Show the result:

```
cat vps.stefvanbuuren.nl.csr
```

Copy the contents of the CSR file onto the clipboard. Save also on desktop under Package/james/certificates_vps.stefvanbuuren.nl/{expiryyear} for archiving.

8.2.2 Step 2: Buy new certificate

The current CA is Network Solutions. Log into their website, and pay their renewal fee (about \$86 per year). Select Apache/Ubuntu, paste CSR clipboard file into appropriate box, and submit.

Within 30 minutes you get a request to validate in the mailbox. After that is done, you get a new mail saying that certificates are available. Download everything.

8.2.3 Step 3: Create the crt file

Collect the following four files into Package/james/certificates vps.stefvanbuuren.nl/{expiryyea

```
dv_chain.txt
DV_NetworkSolutionsDVServerCA2.crt
DV_USERTrustRSACertificationAuthority.crt
VPS.STEFVANBUUREN.NL.crt
```

Create a new file as follows:

- Open with text editor dv_chain.txt and VPS.STEFVANBUUREN.NL.crt
- Paste the contents of VPS.STEFVANBUUREN.NL.crt before the contents of dv_chain.txt. There will be three sections.
- Save the result under file name vps.stefvanbuuren.nl.chained.crt

8.2.4 Step 4: Transfer to server

Copy the file onto the server, home directory, by ftp. Move it in place by

sudo mv vps.stefvanbuuren.nl.chained.crt /etc/ssl/crt/vps.stefvanbuuren.nl.chained.crt

This overwrites the expired certificate.

8.2.5 Step 5: Restart Apache2

If you changed /etc/apache2/sites-enabled/default-ssl.conf check for syntactic validity.

apachectl configtest

If OK, then

sudo apachectl restart

If all is well, Apache restarts and uses the updated certificate.

8.2.6 Troubleshooting

If it doesn't work, check whether the results of the following statements are identical.

openssl x509 -noout -modulus -in vps.stefvanbuuren.nl.chained.crt | openssl md5 sudo openssl rsa -noout -modulus -in vps.stefvanbuuren.nl.key | openssl md5

If not, there is a mismatch between private key and certificate. See https://stackoverflow.com/questions/26191463/ssl-error0b080074x509-certificate-routinesx509-check-private-keykey-values?rq=1 for fixes.

For others errors, consult the standard log

sudo tail -f /var/log/apache2/error.log

Bibliography

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