Chapter 2: Building Your Analytics Toolbox: A Primer on Using R & Python For Security Analysis

Before we jump right into the various use cases in the book it’s important to ensure you at least have a basic familiarity with the two most prominent languages featured in practically all of the scenarios: Python and R. While there are an abundance of tools available for data analysis, we feel these two provide nearly all the features necessary to help you go from data to discovery with the least amount impedance.

As you move throughout the book, you should see a similar sub-theme (one of many, in fact) appear in most of the chapters. This theme is one that may be a bit new to those with a development background in traditional compiled languages and even most scripting languages. The acts of performing data analysis and creating informative visualizations are highly interactive endeavors. Standalone Python and R do not truly enable rich, dynamic interaction with data; but, when coupled with their interactive counterparts—IPython and RStudio, respectively—