**R4Beginners: Getting Started**

**Getting Started with Posit Cloud**

Hi everyone and welcome to this R4Beginners tutorial on how to get started using Positcloud. Positcloud is very similar to RStudio, but it’s complete on the cloud so completely online. This is great for those of you who are bran new to R because this mean you can get started straight away without the hassle of installing R or Rstudio.

So while there are several ways you can get started on the R4Beginners lessons, but I highly recommend this method for complete beginners.

The first thing we’ll do is navigate to the R4Beginners homepage. From here, all we need to do is click on this posit cloud link. You’ll need to sign up for a free account. This is a very easy process and as you can see there are several ways you can sign up. If you already have an account, you can go ahead and sign in.

\*\*\*log in with GOOGLE\*\*\*

Once you have signed in, you’ll see a “workspace” called r4beginners-lessons has automatically been created.

If you’ve never used R or Rstudio before, this may look a bit overwhelming, but I promise it’s easy to get started!

In the files tab, you can see the most up to date lessons saved with the extension .Rmd for R Markdown

Click on the lesson you want to complete and the code will open in the upper left pane. You may need to install a few things, so if you see a warning at the top asking if you’d like to install anything, you can go ahead and select install.

And now you can go through the lesson!

A few things to note if this is your first time:

* All code will be in the grey boxes
* Everything else like regular text will be outside the grey boxes
* Compare lesson on homepage to posit cloud
* TEMP copy

We are constantly developing new lessons for R4Beginners, so what happens if you come back in 2 months and you see new lessons on the website that you want to try out?

1. You can go through the same exact process again, follow the link to posit cloud which will create a new workspace and you can save another permanent copy which will have all of the latest lessons
   1. One thing to note here – you do have a limited number of projects and total hours using the free account on posit cloud. If you ever reach these limits, I would suggest downloading R and RStudio to your computer
   2. If you decide to do this, then you can follow the tutorial below on how to get started using github

**Getting Started with GitHub**

Hi everyone and welcome to this R4Beginners tutorial on how to get started using GitHub. GitHub is a platform primarily used for version control and collaboration.

While there are several ways you can get started on the R4beginners lessons, I recommend using this method if you already have R and RStudio installed on your computer. It’s okay if you have never used GitHub before – you don’t even need a GitHub account to get started on the R4beginners lessons.

The first thing we’ll do is navigate to the R4Beginners homepage. From here, all we need to do is click on this GitHub link. This will take you to a GitHub repository – which contains all of the project files and resources to the r4beginner lessons.

From here, click on the green code button and download the zip files

* Open the zip folder
* Save the folder somewhere safe on your computer
* Open the folder
* Open r4beginners-lessons project
* You can see it’s open the entire project so you can see all the files are in your working directory
* So now you can open up any lesson and get started!
* Open lesson1
* Run code
* Knit file

Alright! So you are all set to go ahead and get started on the r4beginners lessons.

We are constantly developing new lessons for R4Beginners, so what happens if you come back in 2 months and you see new lessons on the website that you want to try out?

You can go through the same exact process again -> go to the r4beginners homepage, follow the link to github -> and download the files which will be up-to-date with all the latest lessons

Now there is a more advanced method where you can copy the URL path and create a new R project linked directly to your github account. However, this method requires you to have a GitHub account and some knowledge of how GitHub and RProjects work. Since this is a tutorial for beginners, I won’t go into the details of this method, but I just wanted to let point it out because this is yet another great feature of R – it’s capability to connect with GitHub.

2 ways to getting started

1. Positcloud (which is a essentially RStudio on the cloud)
   * Temporary copy
   * Need to save as a permanent copy or changes will not be automatically saved
   * Now you can see your project saved to your workspace
   * Add new lessons and show what happens
     1. R4beginners lessons -> push to github (add lessons 4 and 5)
2. Downloading zip files from GitHub
   * Github icon on homepage
   * Readme has steps
   * Just download zip -> save to desktop -> open R project
3. Very briefly mention: “for those of you who are familiar with github and using R Projects, you can also clone the project”
4. ~~Cloning GitHub Repository to your local computer~~
   * ~~Github icon on homepage~~
   * ~~Clone repo~~
   * ~~Open new Rstudio~~
   * ~~Create new project~~
   * ~~Set up username and email~~
   * ~~Test on Phil’s computer – clone and saves as a new repo to his files? Easy to pull?~~

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|  | Recommended for: | Pros | Cons |
| Use Positcloud | Complete beginners | Can use without having R and RStudio installed  Can get started straight away | Need to set up a (free) Positcloud account  Limited number of projects and hours in the free version (but should be more than enough to go through the lessons)  Work is done on the cloud, so it is not saved to your local computer  May not see latest lessons?? |
| Download zip files | Beginners | Easy to get set up in just a few simple steps  Work directly on your local computer | Must have R and RStudio installed |
| Clone GitHub repository | Some knowledge of R and RStudio | Work directly on your local computer  Easy to get the most recent lessons | Must have R and RStudio installed  Useful to have some understanding of GitHub and R Projects |
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