

VU DMT 2012 – Quick help with RapidMiner

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1 Introduction

This document aims to provide you with some basic information on how to get access to, and how to learn to use RapidMiner, which is the default DM software for the VU's Data Mining Techniques course in 2012. As mentioned in Lecture 1, you can use other software as well to work on the assignments, this is just what I recommend you to start with unless you have previous experience with other software that do the job¹.

2 Access to RapidMiner

2.1 Download

RapidMiner can be downloaded from <http://rapid-i.com/>. It is RapidMiner what we need, other software such as RapidAnalytics and RapidNet are not needed. Click on download and choose your operating system (to state the obvious). You will then need to fill in a form, but don't worry, they won't ask you to pay for the Community version of the software, and they are not going to spam you later either. If you do not want to give away any of your information though, you might consider using the version available from the VU lab computers (see next section).

2.2 RapidMiner on a VU machine

According to our Help-desk, "RapidMiner 5.1 is available via T:\Rapid-I\RapidMiner5 (drive T: is automatically mounted to \\winapps\practica during login). Users should be able to install extensions on their own". If this one does not work, please come to me, we'll go to the Help-desk, and they will make it work.

2.3 'Extensions'

RapidMiner comes with so called extensions, modules with additional functionality that you might want/need. Have a look at <http://rapid-i.com/>

¹And please remember that Weka cannot be used for Assignment 1.

`content/view/202/206/`, and read the descriptions. The Weka and Community extensions might come handy, I haven't used the others extensively, though when I installed the main software, I installed all the extensions just to be sure...

3 Tutorials and help

The software comes with several useful tutorials (<http://rapid-i.com/content/view/189/198/>). I recommend you to watch them and redo what they show, particularly because this kind of solves any Assignment 1 related problems you might have in general. <http://rapidminerresources.com> might also be useful (the link to this site is also on the tutorial page mentioned above).

To solve problems, I found that a forum search is often useful (<http://forum.rapid-i.com/>), more so than a web search query. As far as I could see, googling RapidMiner-related issues is not really something that always works well, so I would like to encourage you to use the forum's search facility to find answers.

Also, if you have problems you think your classmates can solve, please post your question in the forum. As I said, "useful activity might be rewarded", meaning that people answering your questions might get some extra marks if the answers prove to be useful.

Good luck, and feel free to contact me (Zoli) if you need help. Please include **VUDMT2012** in the subject of your email when contacting me.