First of her name: Fostering R usage as the first bioinformatician in my department

Kim Dill-McFarland

2021.06.05 · Cascadia R

The setting

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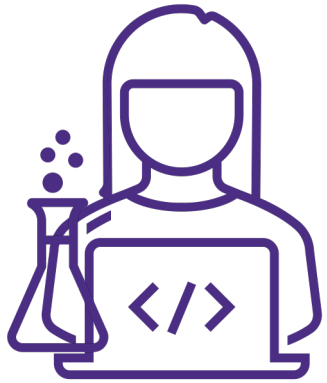

What I wanted to do

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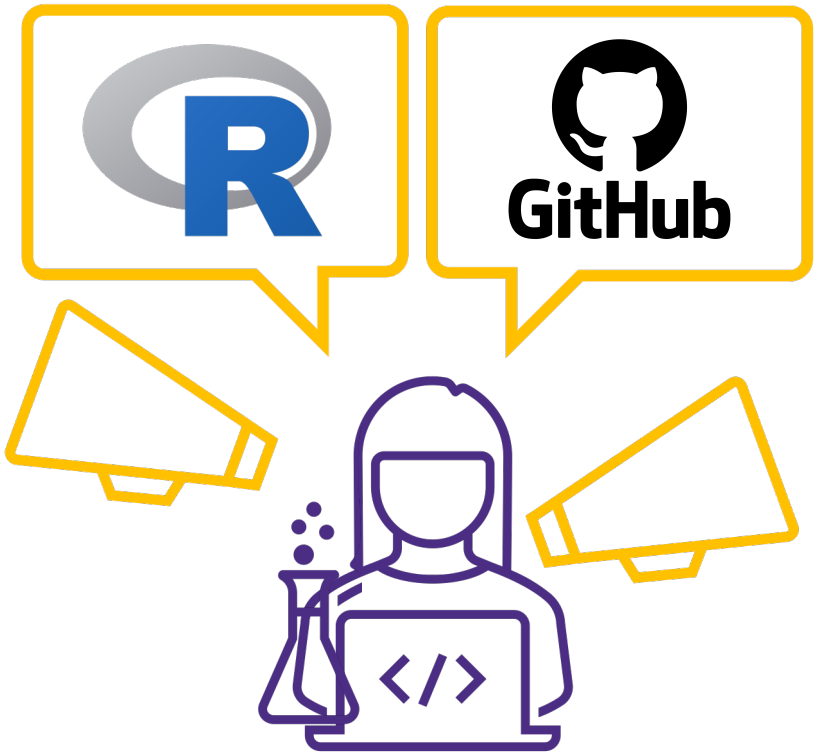

What I did

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What I did later

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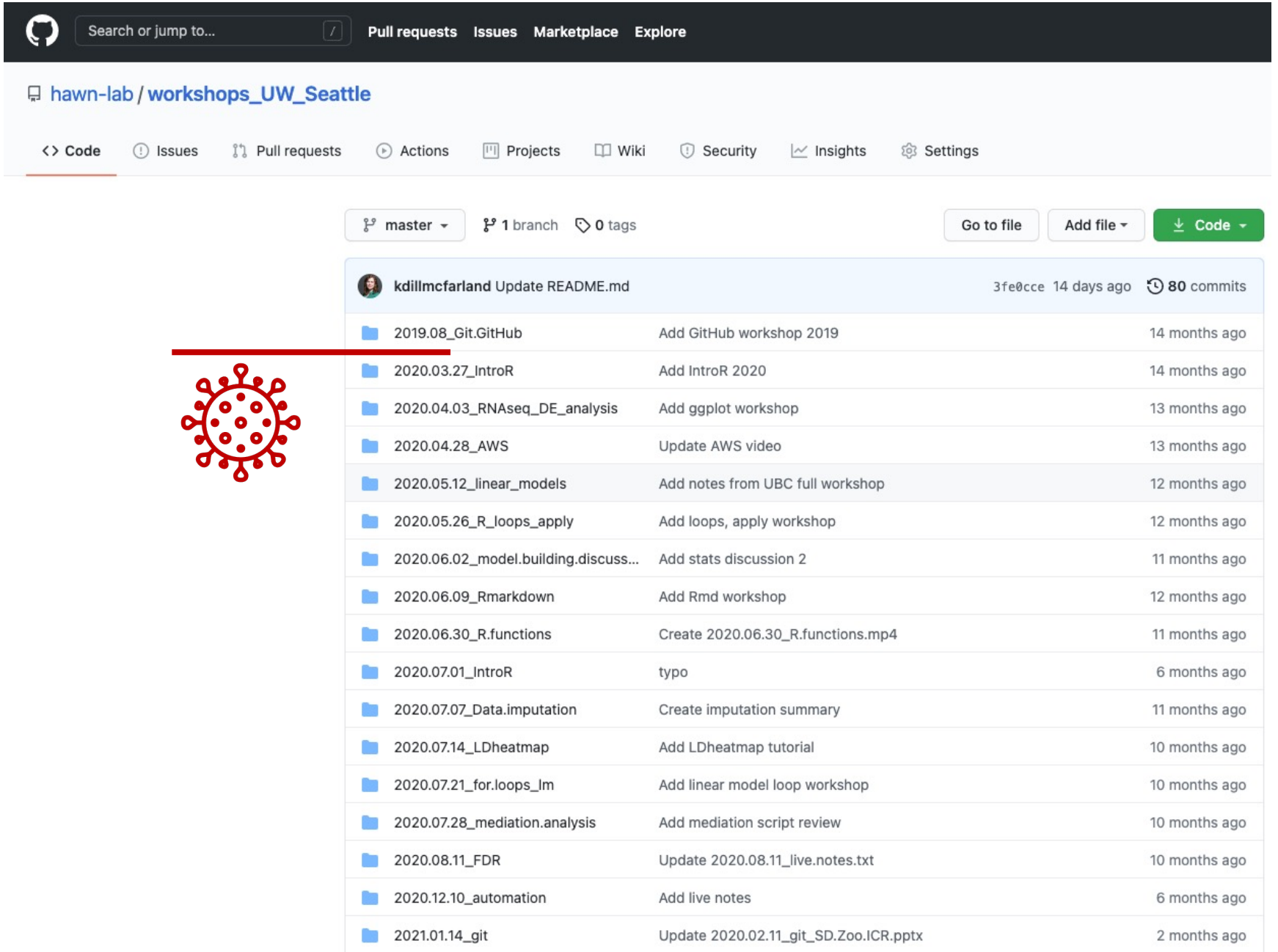
Workshops



https://github.com/hawn-lab/workshops_UW_Seattle

Maximize workshop effects

- Customize content to work tasks or skills
- Several, shorter sessions
- Get higher-ups to attend
- Eliminate costs for learners
- Record and share recordings

Workshop pitfalls to avoid

- Coding beyond foundational knowledge (statistics!)
- Teaching what *you* think they should know
- Being too practiced and polished

Open office hours

Maximize office hours

- Consider a remote format for accessibility
- Have another task like TidyTuesday to collaborate on or use the time to respond to related messages
- Define themed events to coincide with work deadlines

Office hour pitfalls to avoid

- Repeatedly changing time, day, location, or canceling
- Letting it turn into a social hour
- Taking too many additional meetings for individual questions

Things that didn’t work / worked less well

- Waiting for them to come to me
- Department-wide Slack channel and office hours
- Bioinformatics seminar series

Key take-aways

- Dedicate time and personnel to make a change
- Organize custom, targeted workshops
- Create a casual forum for getting help
- Build a community of practice

- Not everyone needs to become a super user
- You’re not alone!

Free R workshop resources

- The Carpentries
  - https://carpentries.org/workshops-curricula/

- EDUCE at UBC
  - https://github.com/EDUCE-UBC/workshops_access

Dr. Thomas Hawn's lab

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