# Introduction to iNZight and iNZight Lite.

**To gain insights into the real world using data you need to produce graphs and summaries using statistical data-analysis software.**

**iNZight** is desktop software (i.e., it has to be installed on your computer). **iNZight Lite** is online software that you interact with using a web browser (e.g. Chrome, Firefox, Safari, or a recent version of Internet Explorer). iNZight has more capabilities but iNZight Lite is adequate for the course. iNZight and iNZight Lite are comparatively simple menu-driven (“point and click”) systems. **R** is a hugely-general, command-driven system widely used by statisticians and data scientists everywhere. So for those who wish, we will also show you how to obtain the same analyses using R.

We’ve structured this course so you can learn almost all the concepts without using software. However, if you’re ever going to do data analysis for yourself you’ll need software skills.

The conceptual part of the course gives the key concepts needed to analyse, spot and interpret the messages in computer-generated graphs and summaries of data. The videos and readings are all about ideas, which you put into practice in exercises, quizzes and tests. You only need to use computer software to do the exercises.

If you don’t plan or need to create graphs yourself but want to know how to interpret them, you may skip the exercises and just learn to spot the messages in the plots provided. However, if you create the graphs it will deepen your understanding of the processes and help you retain the concepts, as well as build data-analysis capabilities that you may need later.

## Quizzes and tests

The quizzes and tests are not designed to assess your knowledge of software use. Instead we will provide graphs and plots for you to interpret. This means that you can participate in all of the conceptual parts of the course even if you don’t use analysis software. [Recall, however, that access to tests is only available after [upgrading](https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/data-to-insight/8/upgrade) your course.]

## Can I use my own data?

If you’d like to experiment, you can use iNZight (or iNZight Lite) for your own data. It’s a fully functional data-analysis tool, not just a learning tool. We provide instructions for this in the Step 1.14 [Using your own data](https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/data-to-insight/8/steps/508319).

## Can I use software other than iNZight, iNZight Lite, or R?

If you’re new to statistics, we recommend you use our free software iNZight or iNZight Lite. We have tailored it to work with this course so producing the types of data-display we use is comparatively quick and easy. We give detailed instructions on how to do the exercises in iNZight or iNZight Lite. Also all the data sets we will use are actually packaged up within both programs. We also provide instructions for use of R, but this is not advised for anyone who has had no exposure to using command-driven systems, or coding.

If you want to use statistical software you’re already familiar with, you may, but if you strike any difficulties using it for the course, use iNZight or iNZight Lite instead.

If you use other software you will need to download the zip file from [**here**](https://www.stat.auckland.ac.nz/~wild/data/FutureLearn/All_files_in_zipfile.zip)that contains all the data sets you will use in the course.

## Common Questions

**How do I download and install iNZight or iNZight Lite?**This is done in the [next Step (1.10)](https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/data-to-insight/8/steps/508324)