

How to fix RStudio running slow

2022 Autumn Term

OVERVIEW

As many of you may have experienced, RStudio can often run very slowly on the campus PCs. While awaiting an official fix, we can save our R work in a specific drive of the computer, which will help it to run faster.

Firstly, you should open your RStudio. Make sure to close any scripts and projects that are open when the program starts up. Once this is done, you can close RStudio down again.

Now, follow the steps below.

1. Step 1: Finding the correct drive

i We want to save our work into the 'z' drive. On the school computers, this has been labelled as the 'home' drive. To find this, follow the steps beneath.

- (1) Open your **files** by clicking on documents (one way to do this is by clicking the windows key and start typing documents. You should see a folder come up labelled 'documents'. Click on this – a folder should open up).
- (2) Click on '**this PC**' (on the left-hand sidebar)
- (3) Look under the 'network locations' banner, and click the folder that says **home**

This is your z drive! Keep this open, we'll need it again in a second.

2. Step 2: Locating your current PSYC3000 Folder

i We now want to find your current RStudio work, so that we can copy it across to your z drive. The following instructions will be specifically if you followed the instructions for saving your work in week 9 (so, if you have moved your work, you will need to locate it yourself).

- (1) Open your **files** by clicking on documents (same as step 1.1)

(2) Click on '**this PC**' (on the left-hand sidebar)

(3) Look under the 'folders' banner and then click on **desktop**

3. Step 3: Copying your RStudio across into the new folder

i You should now have 2 different folders open: the 'z' drive folder labelled home, and your desktop folder. We now want to 'drag and drop' your RStudio work (i.e., the 'PSYC3000' folder) from the desktop to the z drive.

(1) Click back onto the 'z' drive folder that you opened in Step 1. Drag this (by clicking and holding the top of the folder) to the left-hand side of your screen

(2) Now, click back to your desktop folder that you opened in Step 2. Drag this to your right side of the screen.

You should now be able to see both folders on your screen, side by side.

4. Step 4: Moving your work across

i Now, you simply drag and drop your PSYC3000 folder into the z drive folder that you have open. Before dropping it into the z drive folder, you should see a 'copy PSYC3000 folder' tooltip appear.

Once you let go of the folder, it should now copy across into the z drive folder. This may take a second.

5. Step 5: Open up RStudio

i Now, you should open up RStudio and open up a project from a previous week. **Make sure that you open up the project from the correct folder!!!** Open up a script and run some code quickly. You should notice that any functions are now executed a lot quicker.

(1) Open up RStudio

(2) Click **file, open project**

Now, **it is important** that you open up the project from the correct folder. So, when the file explorer pops up after clicking **open project**:

- (3) Click on **'this PC'** on the left-hand sidebar
- (4) Click the z drive which is labelled **'home'**
- (5) Click on your **PSYC3000** folder and then open up your week 11 folder.
- (6) Open up the R project and create a new script. Then, type in some code, such as the code in yellow below:

```
data("ToothGrowth")
```

```
ToothGrowth$len
```

```
hist(ToothGrowth$len)
```

```
mean(ToothGrowth$len)
```

```
median(ToothGrowth$len)
```

```
library(DescTools)
```

```
Mode(ToothGrowth$len)
```

Run each line of code. Hopefully, you can see that each line of code was executed far quicker than before.

6. Step 6: Working from the right folder in future

i Until this issue is resolved, it is important that you keep working from the correct folder. SO, each week you need to make sure that you're working from the correct PSYC3000 folder **in your z drive**. So, when you are trying to look at your past work, of when selecting a directory to save your new RStudio work in, remember to follow the same procedure (file pathway):

- (1) Open up your files
- (2) Click 'This PC' on the left-hand side bar

- (3) Click on the z drive (remember it is the folder which is labelled 'home').
- (4) Then click your PSYC3000 folder
- (5) Click the folder corresponding to the week of work you are doing (e.g., Week 11).

7. Help?

i If you have any issues while following these instructions, either ask one of your AIs for help in your next Stats Lab Session, ask for help on the Moodle page forum, or ask me at O.Herdson@kent.ac.uk

If emailing me, make the subject line 'Help with R running slow'.