RKWard - Manual

8/25/23

Table of contents

Welcome

This is a **RKWard** book manual. RKWard is an easy to use and easily extensible IDE/GUI for R.

The RKWard used in this book is the version **0.7.5 - 24 Oct 2022**.

Versions

The R Version is: 4.2.0

Windows 10 x64 (build 19045)

x86_64-w64-mingw32/x64 (64-bit)

Last update:: 08/25/2023 - 22:59:49 -03

1 About RKWard

1.1 RKWard Mission statement

RKWard is meant to become an easy to use, transparent frontend to the R-language, a very powerful, yet hard-to-get-into scripting-language with a strong focus on statistic functions. It will not only provide a convenient user-interface, however, but also take care of seamless integration with an office-suite. Practical statistics is not just about calculating, after all, but also about documenting and ultimately publishing the results.

RKWard then is (will be) something like a free replacement for commercial statistical packages. In addition to ease of use, three aspects are particularily important:

- It will be a transparent interface to the underlying R-language. That is, it will not hide the powerful syntax, but merely provide a convenient way, in which both newbies and R-experts can accomplish most of their tasks. A GUI can never provide an interface to the whole power of a language like R. In some cases users will want to tweak some functions to their particular needs and esp. to automate some tasks. By making the "inner workings" visible to the user, **RKWard** will make it easy for the user to see where and how to use R-syntax to accomplish their goals.

- For the output, **RKWard** strives to separate content and design to a high degree. It will not try to design its own tables/graphs, etc, which have to be converted to the style used in the rest of a publication by hand. Currently **RKWard** uses HTML for its output. Using appropriate style definitions reformatting this output to match the rest of the publication will be easily doable. In future releases **RKWard** will even seek stronger integration with existing office suites.

- It relies on a language, that is not only very powerful, but also extensible, and for which dozens of extensions already exist.

And of course, it is free (as in free speech).

Current status

Perhaps the best way to get an impression of the current state of **RKWard** (other than installing and trying it) is to have a look at the Screenshots. A status page focused on the internal components is here.

In summary:

4

RKWard currently offers a lot of useful features for developing R code. This functionality makes **RKWard** highly useful as an IDE for R experts, today. The number of graphical dialogs to give access to statistical functions is still rather limited. Users coming from competing graphical statistics suites will find a lot is still missing, but possibly the functionality you need most is already implemented in the growing number of plugins. Why don't you give it a try to find out? It is also possible to add your own dialogs as plugins (see Developer Information#Plugin developers). As far as office integration is concerned, **RKWard** still has a long way to go. However, results are stored to in HTML format, however, making it easy to copy-and-paste or import them into text-processing or other office tools.

1.2 About RKWard

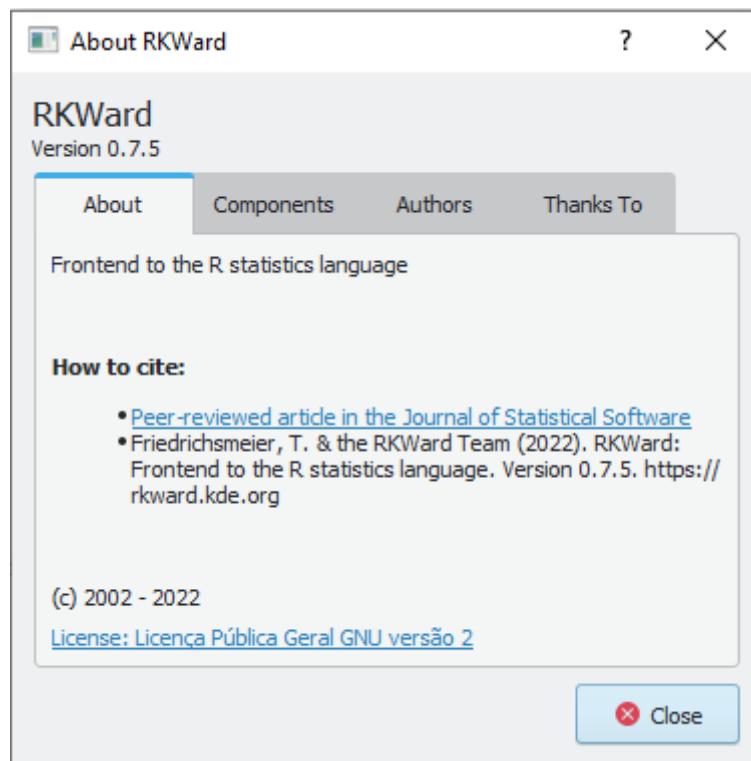**RKWard** is developed by a community of volunteers.
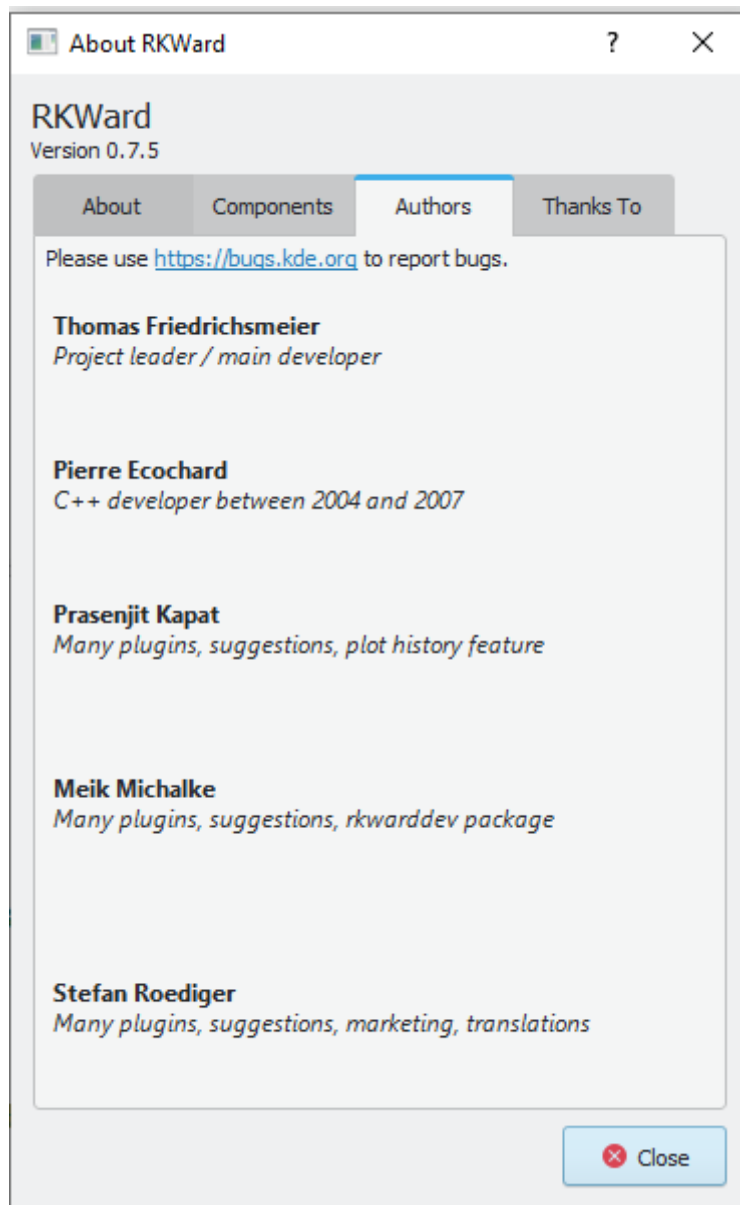

Figure 1.1: About **RKWard**
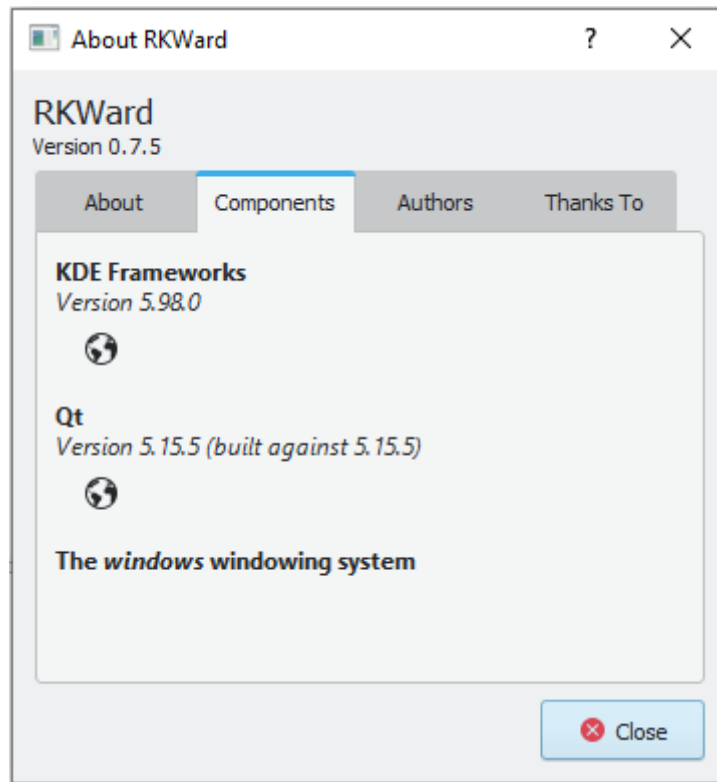
Figure 1.2: **RKWard** Auhtors
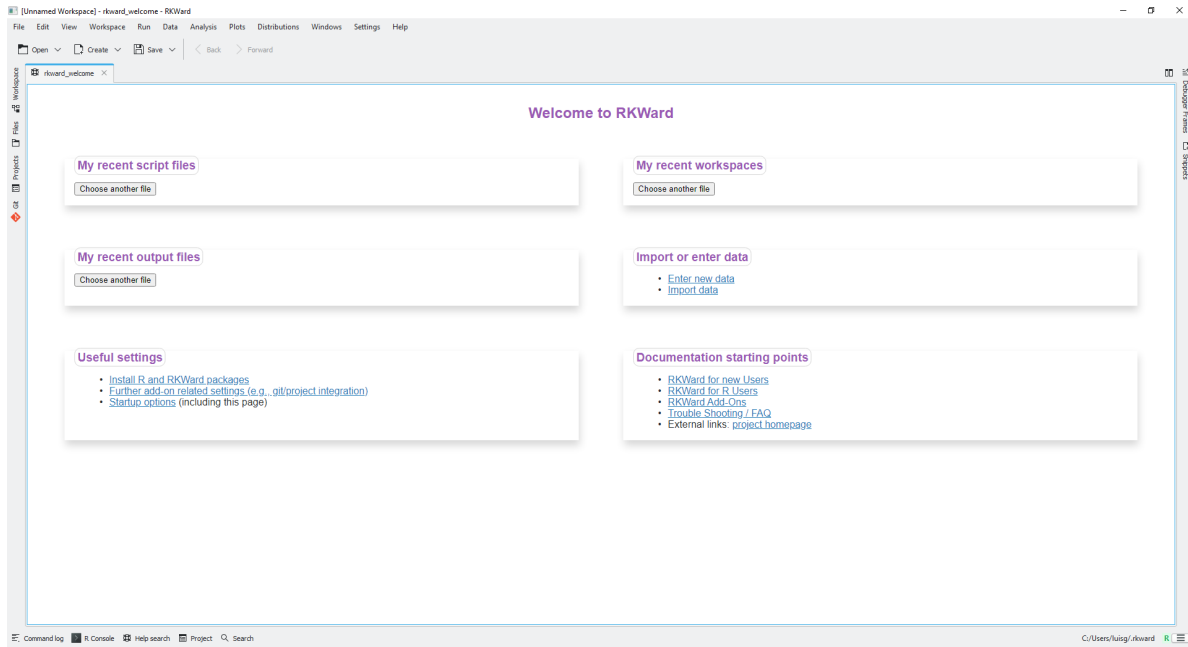
Figure 1.3: **RKWard** Components

Figure 1.4: Initial Window

1.3 Initial Window

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