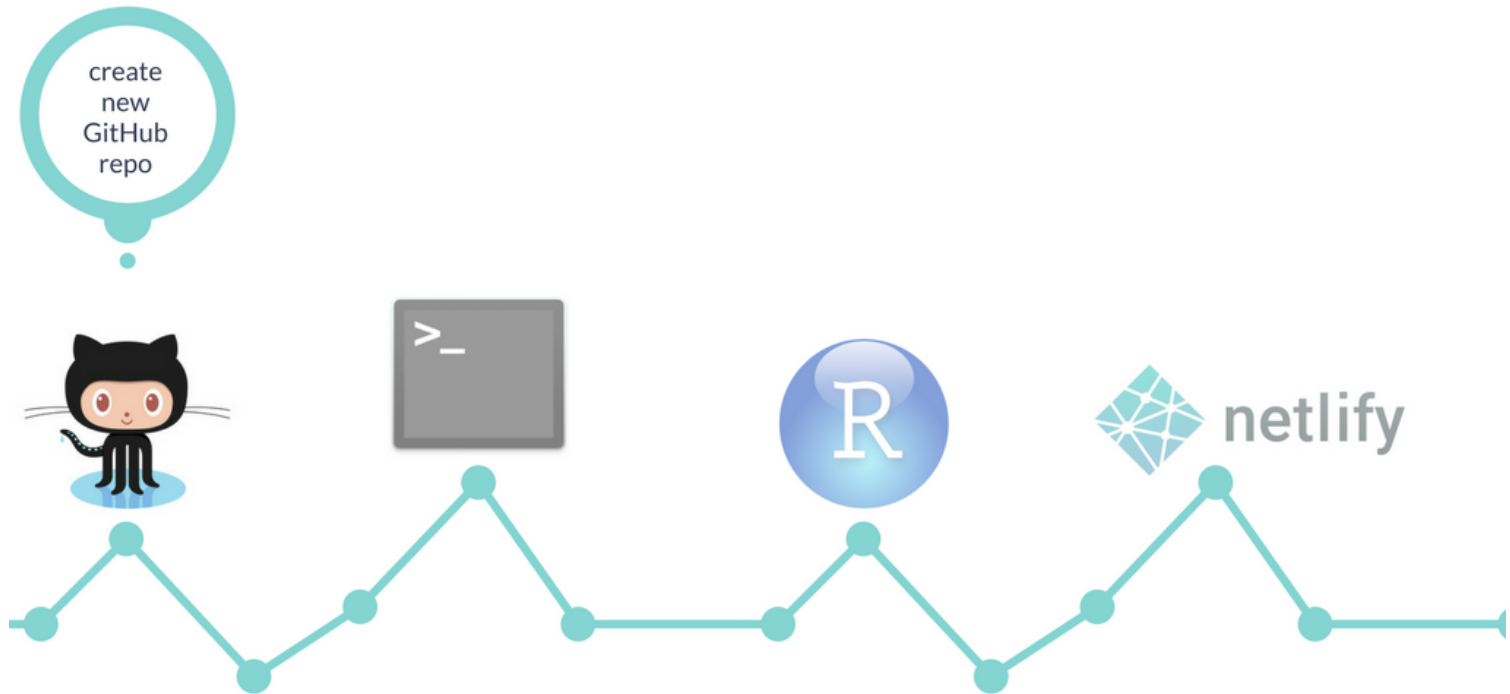# A simple way to create a website with Blogdown

R à Québec Workshop

Mamadou Yauck

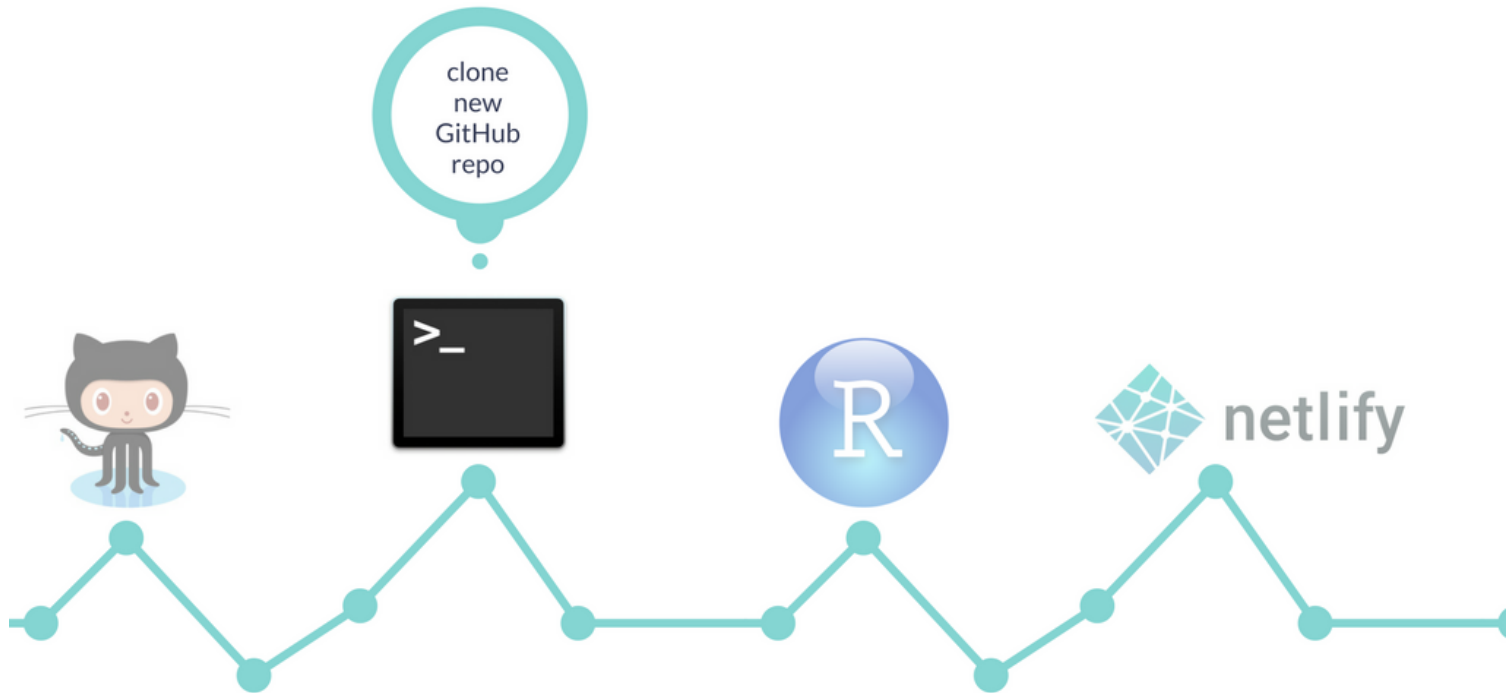2019-05-13

GitHub

Create a GitHub repository

1. Open your GitHub account and create a new repository (initialize with a `README` but don't add `.gitignore` for now).

2. Go to the main page of the repository, and under the repository name, click the **Clone or download** button.

3. In the **Clone with HTTPs** section, click on the clipboard icon to copy the clone URL for the new repository (we will paste this text into the terminal in the next section.)
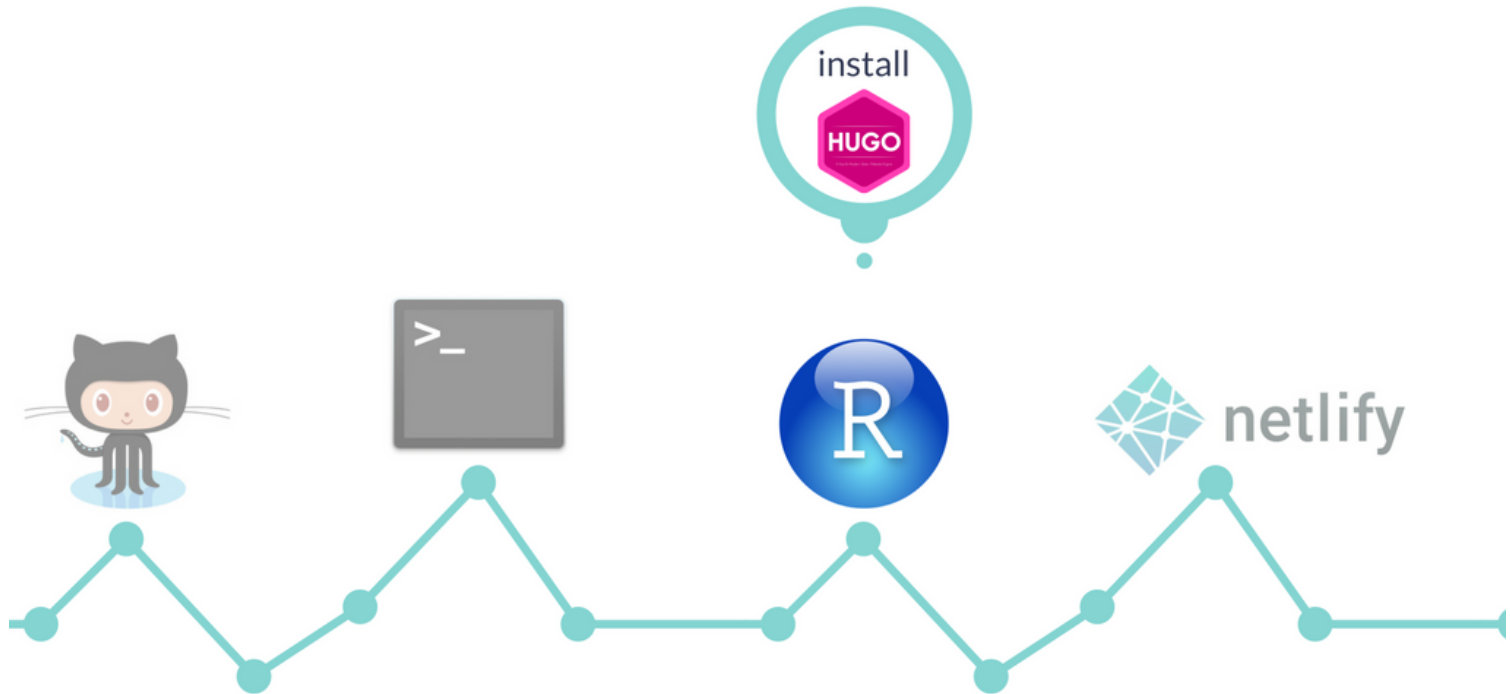
Command line/Terminal

Clone the GitHub repository

We are going to create a local copy of the repository on your computer so you can make the two locations communicate (using the command line tool for Windows or the Terminal for Mac OS X).

1. Use `cd` to indicate the directory where you want your repository to be located

2. Type: `git clone [paste]`.

3. Close the command line/terminal.

For more details, see clone your remote repository.

RStudio

What is Blogdown ?
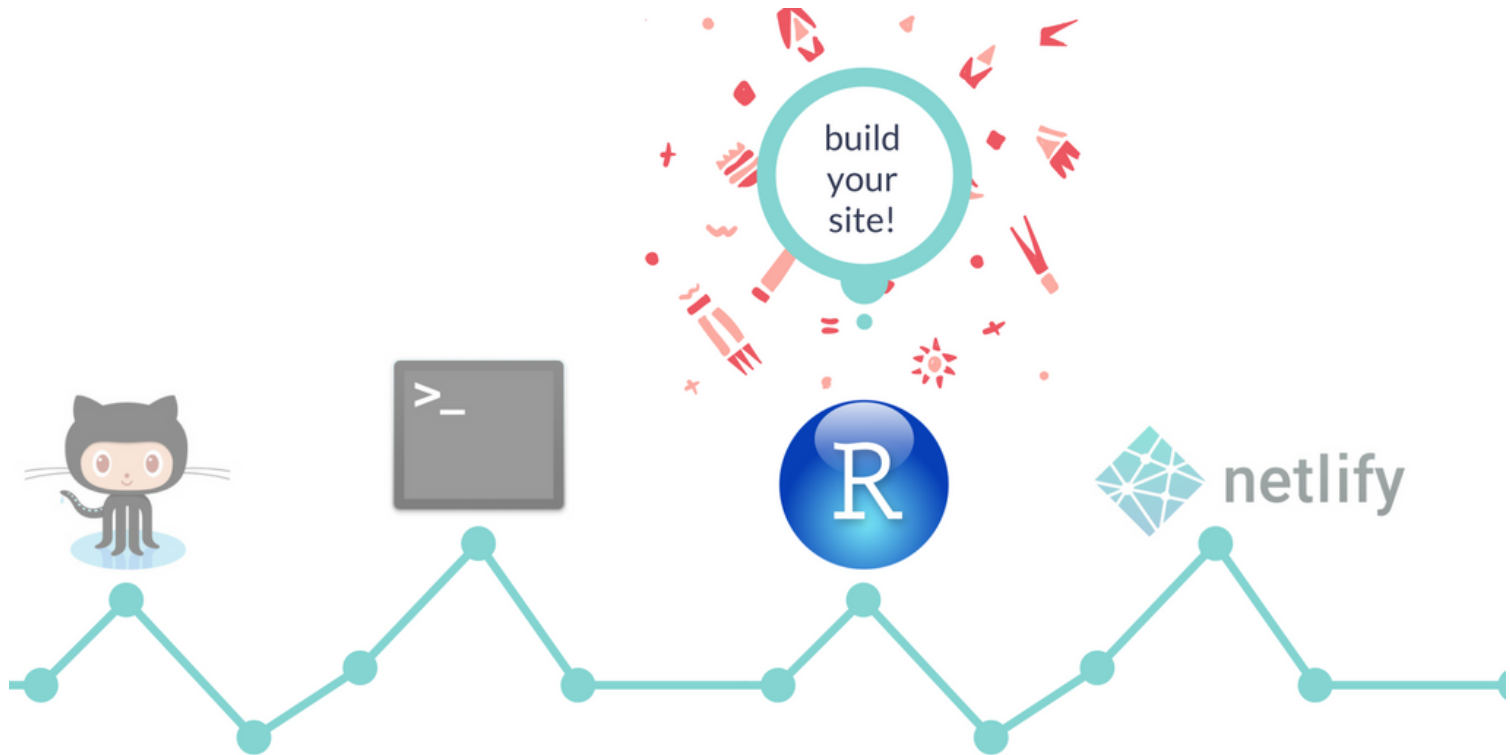
Blogdown and Hugo

- Install the package `blogdown` from RStudio or use `install.packages("devtools")` `devtools::install_github("rstudio/blogdown")`

- Install Hugo:

```
blogdown::install_hugo()
library(blogdown)
install_hugo()
```

- Use the `File` button in RStudio to select `File -> New Project -> Existing Directory`, then browse to the directory on your computer where your GitHub repository is and click on **Create Project**.

- Edit the `*gitignore` file. If you want to use Netlify to deploy your website, you should add the `public/` line (for more info.)

```
.Rproj.user
.Rhistory
.RData
.Ruserdata
blogdown
.DS_Store # Thumbs.db for Windows users
public/ # for Netlify
```

Build your site

Choose a theme !

To choose a theme, see Hugo themes. To save time, see Bookdown suggested themes.

- You can use the default `lithium` theme:

```
blogdown::new_site()
```

- If you choose a theme, you can specify it while calling the `new_site` function. If you choose the `academic` theme:

```
blogdown::new_site(theme = "gcushen/hugo-academic", theme_example = TRUE)
```

- If you want to add a theme later:

```
library(blogdown)
new_site() # default theme
install_theme("gcushen/hugo-academic", theme_example = TRUE, update_config = TRUE)
```
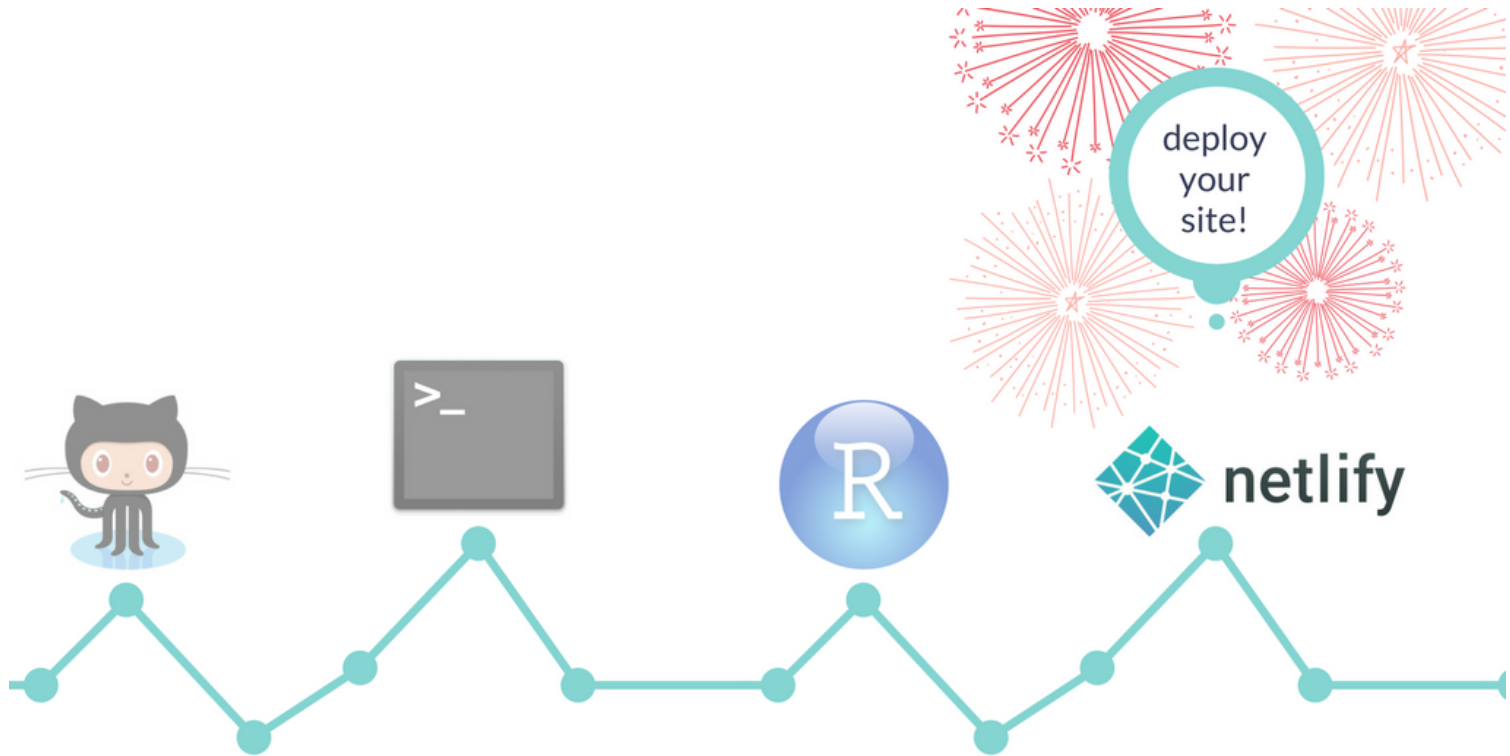
Some basic edits

- Update project options by doing `Tools -> Project Options` and following Bookdown instructions.

- Edit the `baseurl` in your `config.toml` file. The URL *should always* end with a `/`:

```
baseurl = "https://website.com/"
baseurl = "/"
```

Feel free to edit other elements of the `config.toml` file ! For more details on configuration settings, read Bookdown chapter on configuration.

- To view your new site locally, use the **Serve Site** button, or run `blogdown::serve_site`

Deploy your site in Netlify

Steps to deploy your site

- `Commit` your changes and `push` to `GitHub`.

- Go to Netlify and **Sign Up** using your `GitHub` account.

- Log in and click on: `New site from Git -> Continuous Deployment: GitHub`.

- Select the `GitHub` repository already in use with `blogdown`, then specify the `build` command and the `publish directory` (to `public`).

- Your website is now deployed ! Netlify will assign you a subdomain name of the form `somethingbizarre.netlify.com`. You can change the subdomai name, for example to `mamadouyauck.netlify.com`.

When you change your subdomain name, you must update the `baseurl` in your `config.toml` file,for example to `baseurl = "https://mamadouyauck.netlify.com/"`.

For more details, see Bookdown deployment instructions, or deploy with Netlify through GitHub.

Contact me

Personal website
GitHub repository
Twitter page