Module 5 – lesson 02: Disseminating Your Reports Using RPubs and Github

Script

After you complete your reports, you may want an easy way to disseminate your reports using the Internet. For HTML based reports, one of the easiest ways to “publish” your reports is through Rpubs which is specifically setup for people to publish their R markdown documents from RStudio onto the Internet.

To get started, go ahead and sign up a free account at <https://rpubs.com/>. Once you register your account, go ahead and log into your account.

Start RStudio and open the project for “Module5\_project1”. Open your “wcBase.Rmd” and KNIT to HTML to create the report for the Weather Check article. When this article opens in the Viewer window, you will notice a blue icon in the upper right part of the Viewer window that looks like 2 curves with a blue dot in the middle. Next to the icon it says “Publish” – click Publish Document. This might ask you to install a package – go ahead and install the package. Then a window will open asking where you want to publish to – choose Rpubs. There is also an option for RStudio Connect which is a service provided by RStudio. We will not cover RStudio Connect in this course, but I encourage you to learn more at the RStudio website. When you click on Rpubs it should “publish” your document and open a browser window for your Rpubs account. Then it will ask you to put in a title and a “slug” which is just a short description of your file – keep this short but descriptive. This is building a custom URL which is where your document will be published on the internet. You can then share this URL with anyone and they can access your report via the Internet.

You can also publish to Rpubs for HTML slides. Open your “wcPresentation.Rmd” and KNIT to ioslides(HTML) and when the viewer window opens again at the top right you can click on the blue icon for Publish. Then follow the steps to publish your HTML slides on the Internet as well.

I encourage you to spend some time browsing the other articles and documents published on RPubs. At the home page you can always see the most recently published files. Often you can get ideas for report layouts and such based on what other people are doing.

Once you have some documents published on the Internet, you can put the URLs for these documents in instructions to others on how to use your templates for writing reports based on your templates. For example, we could add some information to the readme file for your “Module5\_project1” Github repository and project.

Open RStudio and open the project for Module5\_project1. Click on the readme.md file to edit the file. Edit the readme file as follows:

# Module 5 - Project 1

This project provides templates for creating both an article and presentation slides for Weather Information Preferences in the United States.

To see an example of the article template see []()

To see an example of the presentation slides template see []()

Then go to your Rpubs account and find the 2 files you just published – the one for your weather check article and the one for your weather check presentation slides. Copy and paste the URL from your browser window into your readme file between the square brackets and the parentheses. My example here shows the links to the files in my Rpubs account – yours will look slightly different. [COMPUTER DEMO]

Next Save your Readme.md file. And back everything up to your Github repository. Open Git Bash and make sure you are in the correct directory:

C:\RepTemplates\Module5\_project1

Once in that directory, type in the following 4 Git commands to check the status of your local files compared to your Github cloud repository; add or stage the modified files; commit your changes; and then push the changes to your Github cloud repository.

git status

git add .

git commit –m “update readme”

git push

Go to your Github repository and refresh to see your changes. Now anyone visiting your Github repository can see examples of your templates.

You also have the option of adding Github Pages through the Settings options of your Github repository. To do this, go back to your local drive for

C:\RepTemplates\Module5\_project1

And create a New Folder called “docs”.

Then copy and paste the HTML files for your article and presentation slides into this docs directory. Then use Git Bash to sync up these changes with your repository.

git add .

git commit –m “add html files to docs directory”

git push

git status

Then go to your Github repository for Module5\_project1 and click on Settings. Scroll down to the Github Pages options and change Source from None to master branch/docs folder and click save. When the page refreshes scroll back down and see the URL provided. For example, you’ll get something like

<https://melindahiggins2001.github.io/Module5_project1/>

However, if you click on this file, you will get an error since this URL assumes there is a file name “index.html” in your /docs directory and you don’t have one. That is OK. We simply have to add the name of the HTML file on the end. For your wcBase.html file you would type in

<https://melindahiggins2001.github.io/Module5_project1/wcBase.html>

So, now you have the option to update your readme file and put in the URL links for the example HTML files from your Github repository /docs directory OR the URL links from your Rpubs account. Feel free to explore these options further on your own.