DASHBOARDS

Shiny from RStudio™

OUTLINE

- Dashboards
  - What is in a dashboard?
  - Server
    - reactiveFileReader
    - reactivePoll
  - UI
    - Static vs. dynamic dashboards
    - flexdashboard
    - Shiny pre-rendered
  - shinydashboard
    - Body
    - Menu
    - Header

DASHBOARDS

Shiny from RStudio™

What is in a dashboard?

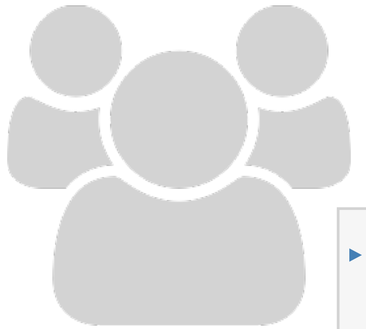
DASHBOARDS

- Automatically updating
  - Not just based on user gestures
  - But also when data source changes
- Many viewers looking at the same data
- May or may not be interactive

Server

MOTIVATION

- You have new data coming in — constantly, continuously, or on a schedule
- When new data comes in, it's automatically received, and transformed, aggregated, summarized, etc.
- May want to call attention to exceptional results



EXERCISE

- Why might this not be a good idea?

```
dataset <- reactive({
  result <- read.csv(“data.csv")
  invalidateLater(5000)
  result
})

output$plot <- renderPlot({
  plot(dataset()) # or whatever
})
```

SOLUTION

Lots of overhead!

reactiveFileReader

REACTIVEFILEREADER

- Reads the given file (`"data.csv"`) using the given function (`read.csv`)
- Periodically reads the last-modified time of the file
- If the timestamp changes, then (and only then) re-reads the file

Single file, on disk
(not database or web API)

```
dataset <- reactiveFileReader(
  intervalMillis = 1000,
  session = session,
  filePath = "data.csv",
  readFunc = read.csv
)

output$plot <- renderPlot({
  plot(dataset()) # or whatever
})
```

Must have data path as first argument

REACTIVEFILEREADER

```
dataset <- reactiveFileReader(
  intervalMillis = 1000,
  session = session,
  filePath = "data.csv",
  readFunc = read.csv,
  stringsAsFactors = FALSE
)

output$plot <- renderPlot({
  plot(dataset()) # or whatever
})
```

Add any named arguments

reactivePoll

REACTIVEPOLL

- `reactiveFileReader` is limited to files on disk. It doesn't work for non-file-based data sources like databases or web APIs
- `reactivePoll` is a generalization of reactiveFileReader
  - `checkFunc`: A function that can execute quickly, and merely determine if anything has changed
    - Should be fast as it will block the R process while it runs! The slower it is, the greater you should make the polling interval.
    - Should not return `TRUE` or `FALSE` for changed/unchanged. Instead, just return a value (like the timestamp, or the count); it's `reactivePoll`'s job, not yours, to keep track of whether that value is the same as the previous value or not.
  - `valueFunc`: A function with the (potentially expensive) logic for actually reading the data

Static vs. dynamic dashboards

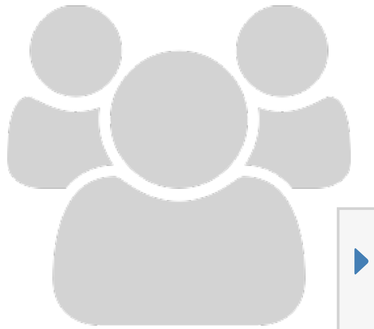
STATIC VS. DYNAMIC

- Static:
  - R code runs once and generates an HTML page
  - Generation of this HTML can be scheduled
- Dynamic:
  - Client web browser connects to an R session running on server
  - User input causes server to do things and send information back to client
  - Interactivity can be on client and server
  - Can update data in real time
  - User potentially can do anything that R can do

FLEX VS. SHINY DASHBOARD

flexdashboard	shinydashboard
R Markdown	Shiny UI code
Super easy	Not quite as easy
Static or dynamic	Dynamic
CSS flexbox layout	Bootstrap grid layout

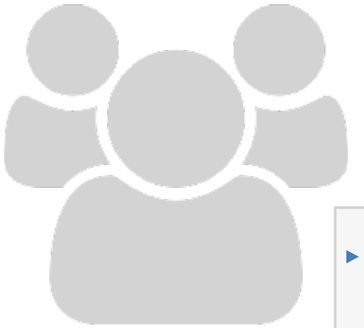
flexdashboard



EXERCISE

- `library(flexdashboard)`
- File → New file → R Markdown → From Template
- Create three plots that go in each of the panes using built-in R datasets or any data we have used in the worksho (or your own data)

3m 00s



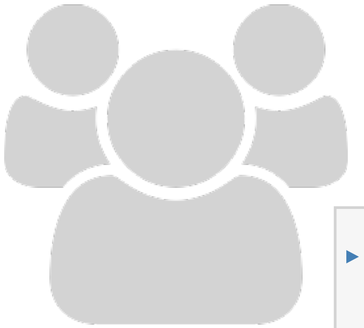
EXERCISE

- Open `apps/flexdashboard_01.Rmd`
- How is it different than Shiny apps we have been building so far, how is it similar?
- Make a change to the layout of the dashboard, see http://rmarkdown.rstudio.com/flexdashboard/using.html#layout for help
- Change the theme of the dashboard, see http://rmarkdown.rstudio.com/flexdashboard/using.html#appearance for help

5m 00s

SHINY DOCUMENTS

- Add runtime: shiny to header.
- Add `inputs` in code chunks.
- Add `renderXyz` functions in code chunks.
  - No need for `output$x <-` assignment, or for `xyzOutput` functions.



EXERCISE

- Continue working on `apps/dashboards/flexdashboard_01.Rmd`
- Add another UI widget, a radioButton, that allows the user to select whether the plot used to visualize the distribution of weight should be histogram or a violin plot

3m 00s

SOLUTION

Sample solution at `apps/dashboards/flexdashboard_02.Rmd`

SHINY DOCUMENT DRAWBACKS

- Start-up time: knits document every time someone visits it
- Resizing can trigger re-knit
- Auto-reconnection doesn’t work (i.e. client browsers cannot automatically reconnect afer being disconnected due to network problems)

- The solution: Pre-rendered Shiny Documents

Shiny

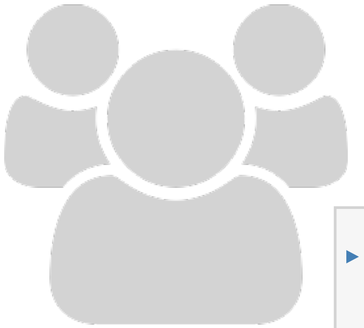
pre-rendered

SHINY PRE_RENDERED

- Rendering phase: UI code (and select other code) is run once, before users connect.
- Serving phase: Server code is run once for each user session.
- Each phase is run in a separate R sessions and can’t access variables from the other phase.

CONTEXTS FOR SHINY_PRERENDERED

- `"render"`: Runs in rendering phase (like `ui`)
- `"server"`: Runs in serving phase (like `server`)
- Additional contexts:
  - `"setup"`: Runs in both phases (like `global.R`)
  - `"data"`: Runs in rendering phase (any variables are saved to a file, and available to serving phase, useful for data preprocessing)
  - `"server-start"`: Runs once in serving phase, when the Shiny document is first run and is not re-executed for each new user of the document, appropriate for
    - establishing shared connections to remote servers (e.g. databases, Spark contexts, etc.)
    - creating reactive values to be shared across sessions (e.g. with `reactivePoll`, `reactiveFileReader`)



EXERCISE

- Start with `apps/flexdashboard_02.Rmd`
- Turn your document into `runtime: shiny_prerendered`
- Note: You will need to use `output$x <-` assignment and `xyzOutput` functions

5m 00s

SOLUTION

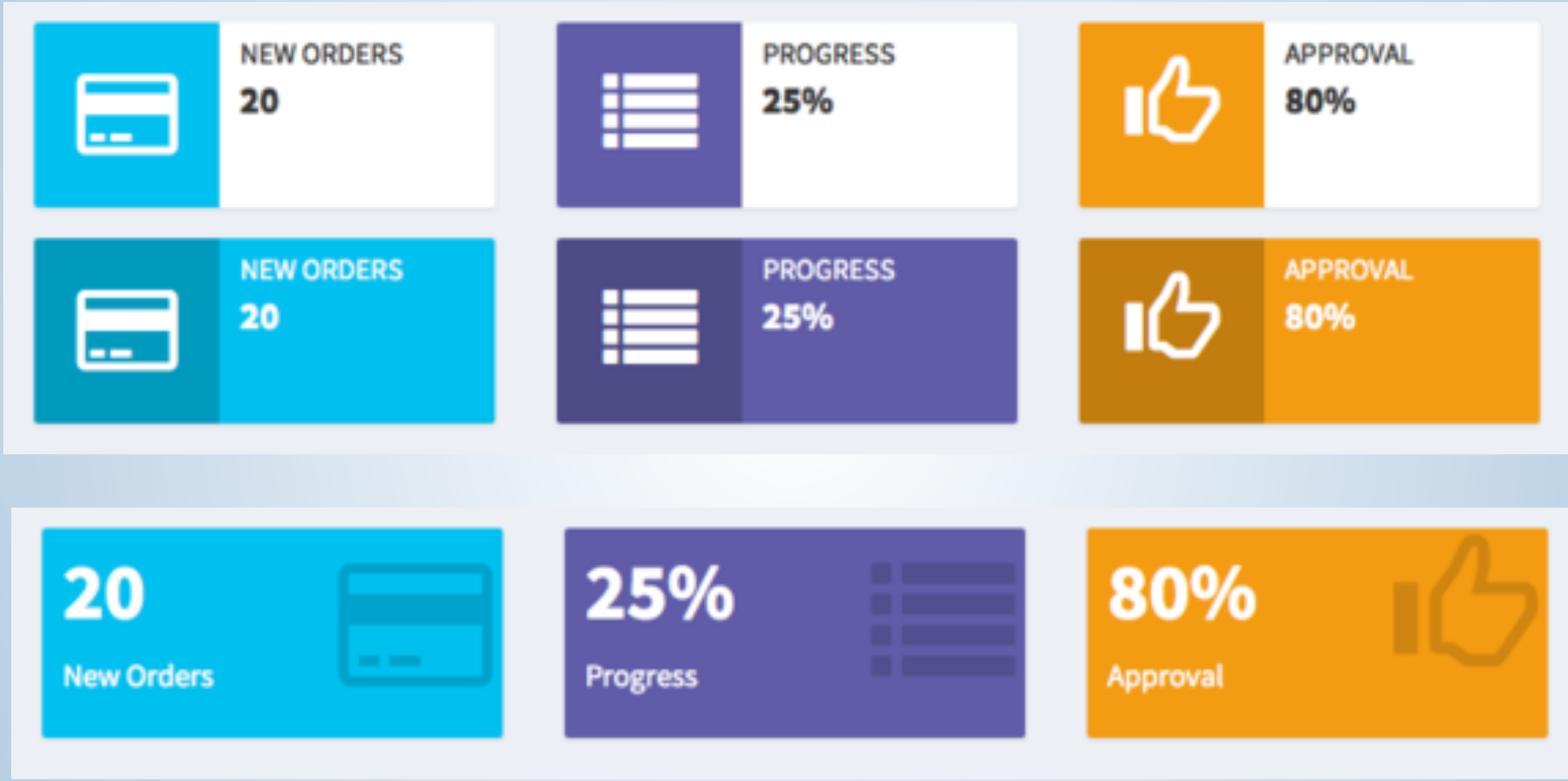
Sample solution at `apps/flexdashboard_03.Rmd`

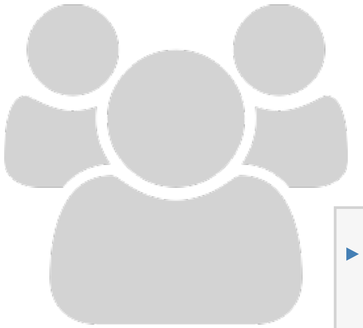
shinydashboard

FORMAT

- shinydashboard is an advanced layout of a typical shiny app
- The ui has more arguments
  - header
  - sidebarMenu
  - body (similar to fluid pages)
  - title
  - skin (color of the page)

Body


NEW ORDERS
20
PROGRESS
25%
APPROVAL
80%
NEW ORDERS
20
PROGRESS
25%
APPROVAL
80%
20
New Orders
25%
Progress
80%
Approval



EXERCISE

- Open starwars_01.R
  - Add an info or value box counting for mass and height respectively (lines 120 or 125)
    - Hint: First run the app to figure out what measurements might make sense
      - Stretch goal: Create the other kind of box

5m 00s

Tab1 Tab2 **First tabBox**

First tab content

Tab3 Tab2 Tab1

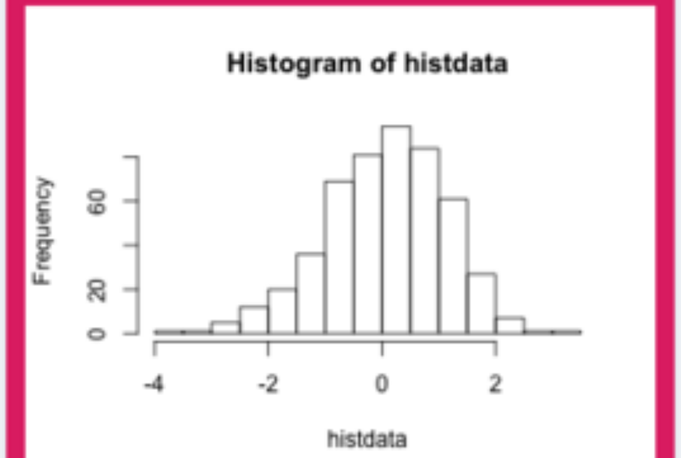
Note that when side=right, the tab order is reversed.

Tab1 Tab2 **tabBox status**

Currently selected tab from first box:

Tab1

Histogram



Inputs

Box content here

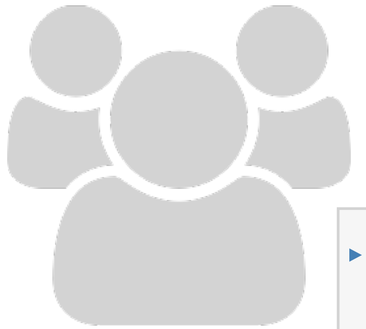
More box content

Slider input:

50

1 11 21 31 41 51 61 71 81 91 100

Text input:



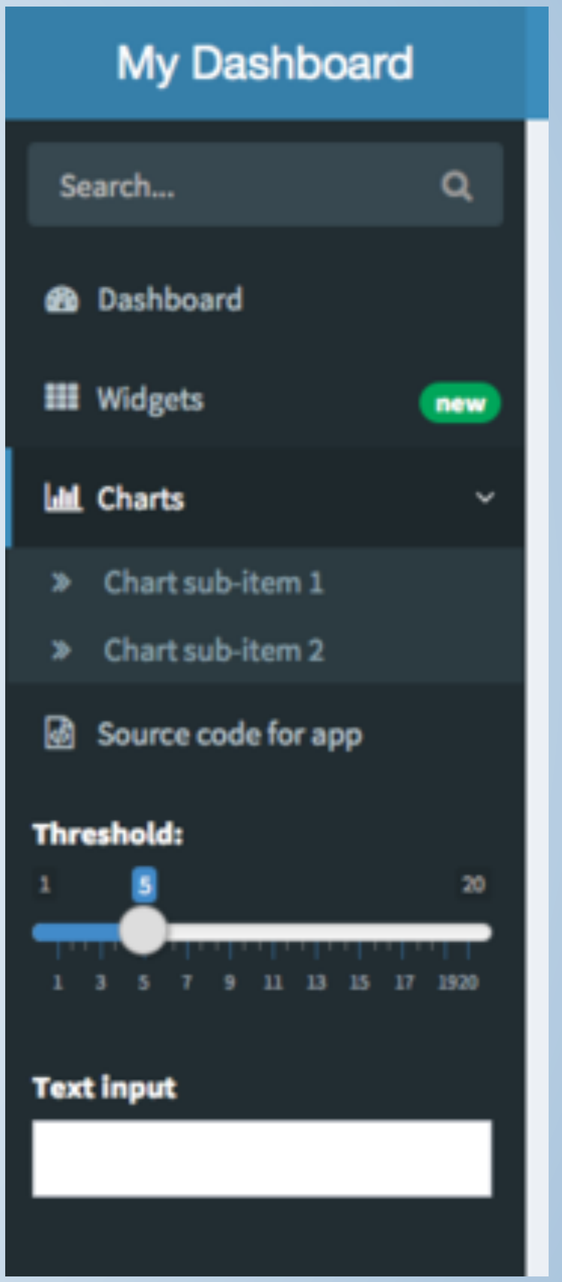
EXERCISE

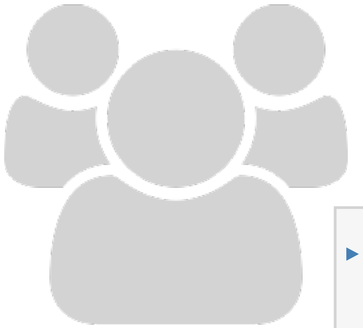
- Open starwars_02.R
  - Add a tabBox in the body that holds the output of both the plots for mass and height.
    - What arguments do you need to pass to the box so the table fits?
      - Stretch goal: Give the box a title

5m 00s

Menu


Simple tabs
Dashboard
Widgets
new
Widgets tab content


My Dashboard
Search...
Dashboard
Widgets
new
Charts
Chart sub-item 1
Chart sub-item 2
Source code for app
Threshold:
1
5
20
1 3 5 7 9 11 13 15 17 1920
Text Input

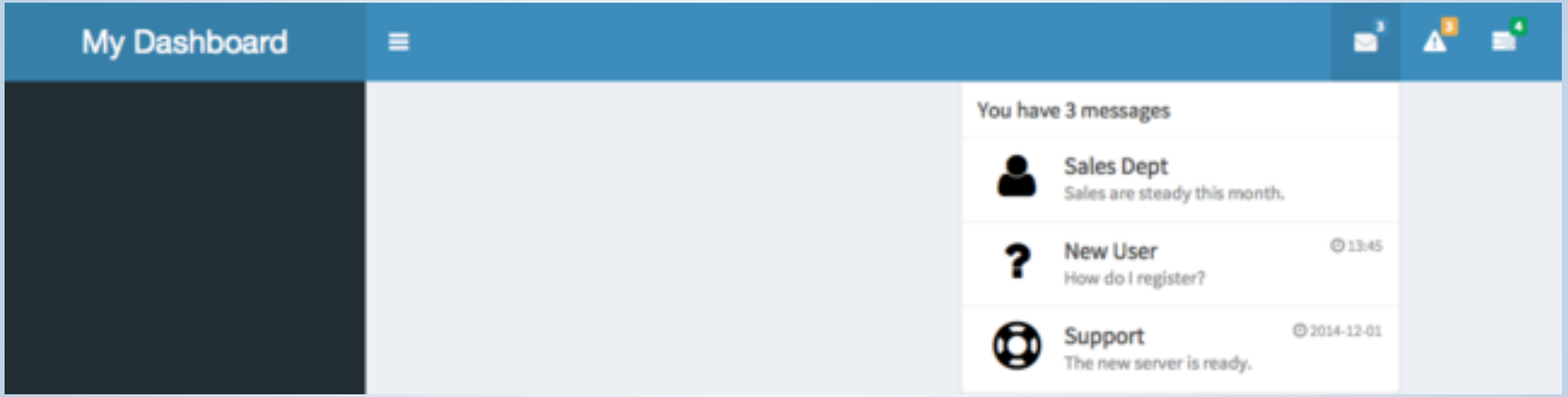


EXERCISE

- Open starwars_03.R
  - Add a new menu item that allows users to access the table page

5m 00s

Header


My Dashboard
You have 3 messages
Sales Dept
Sales are steady this month.
New User
13:45
How do I register?
Support
2014-12-01
The new server is ready.

HEADER

- Headers have three types of information that can be displayed
  - messageItem - text information along with date/time information
  - notificationItem - basic text information
  - taskItem - show progress towards a goal
- All of these items can be dynamically updated and rendered in the server function
  - For examples see the shinydashboard docs

DEMO

`starwars_04.R`

DASHBOARDS

Shiny from RStudio™

HOMEWORK

Project 1