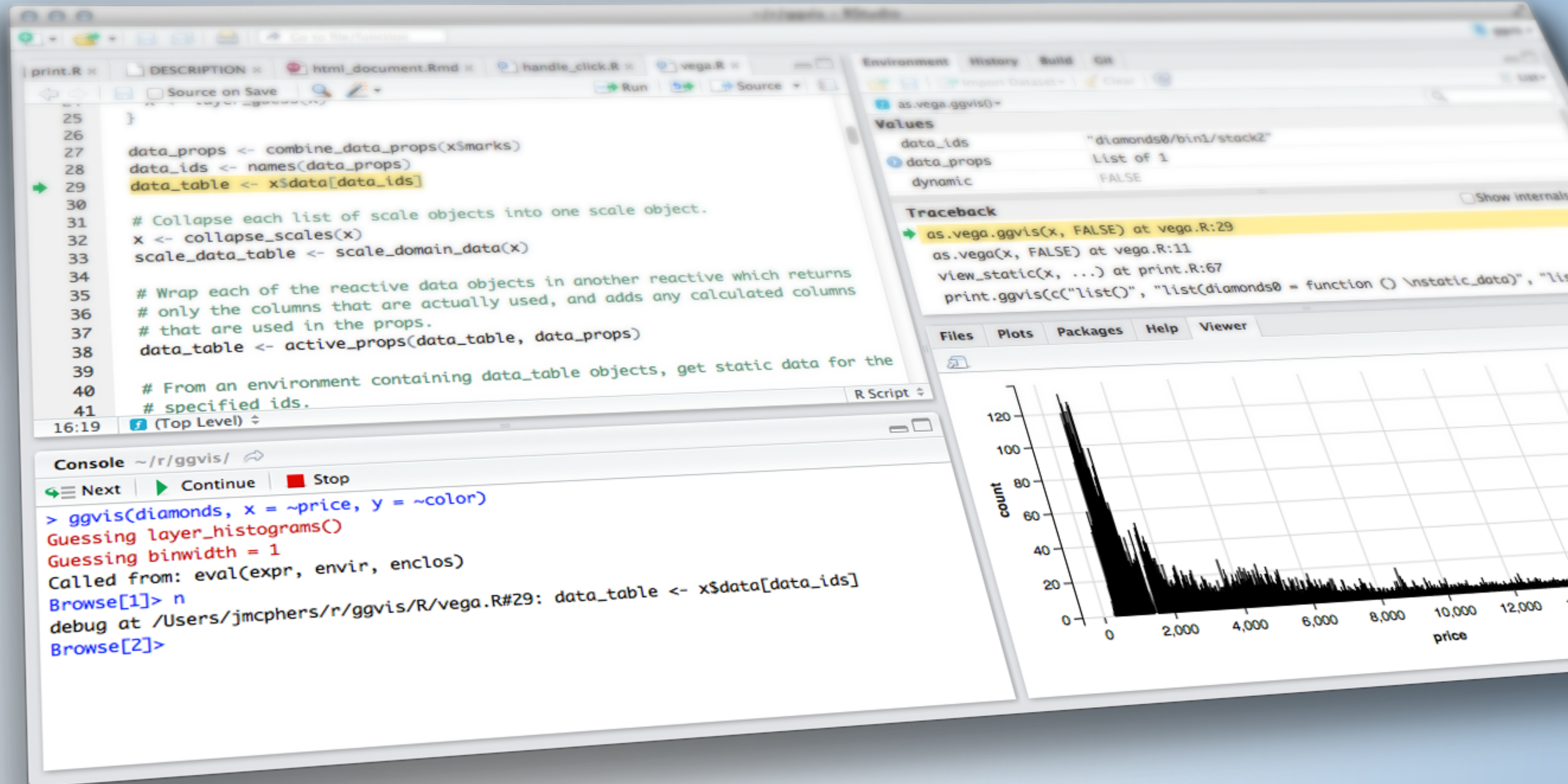


# API'S



# OUTLINE

- Course review
- What are API's and what do they do?
- Making an API Call
  1. Build your URL
  2. Encode the URL
  3. Process the content
    - Spatial Data with Esri
- Geocode Example
- Shiny Example





## Survey Monkey





Whats an API,  
and what does it do?

# API EXAMPLES

- WPRDC
- Census
- Geocoders
- Esri Online Datasets
- Online Weather APIs
- Sport Score API
- And more!

# API'S

- Stands for: Application Programming Interface
- There are many kinds of API's
  - *Web service*
    - SOAP, XML-RPC, JSON-RPC, and **REST**
  - *WebSocket*
  - *Library-based*
  - *Class-based*
  - *OS functions and routines*
  - *Object remoting*
  - *Hardware*

# REST API'S

- End points - different URL's that tell the webserver what data you would like
- It's essentially a website where you request different "end points"
- There are 5 types of Requests you can make
  - GET (what we will use the most in this course)
  - POST (*sometimes necessary for authentication, if you're trying to write data somewhere*)
  - PUT
  - PATCH
  - DELETE

# Making an API Call



# THE STEPS

1. Build your URL
2. Encode the URL
3. Process the content
4. Transform to a usable format

# 1. BUILDING YOUR QUERY

Many tools that make life easier:

- *Insomnia*
- *Advanced REST Client*
- *PostMan*
- *And others...*



GET ▼

https://data.wprdc.org/api/3/action/datastore\_search\_sql

Send

Body ▼

Auth ▼

Query <sup>1</sup>

Header

Docs

URL PREVIEW

https://data.wprdc.org/api/3/action/datastore\_search\_sql?s  
ql=SELECT%20DISTINCT(%22type%22)%20from%20%22fbb50b02-2879-4  
7cd-abea-ae697ec05170%22

≡

sql

✎ 73 bytes

▼

✓

🗑

⚙

New name

New value

WPRDC API Call in Insomnia

# THE STEPS

1. Build your URL
2. Encode the URL
3. Process the content
4. Transform to a usable format





# DEMO

```
URLencode("someString", repeated = TRUE)
```

# THE STEPS

1. Build your URL
2. Encode the URL
3. Process the content
4. Transform to a usable format



# CONTENT

- ▶ Any API call will have multiple portions of it.
- ▶ 2 most important are:
  - ▶ Content
  - ▶ status\_code

# GETTING TO THE CONTENT

- ▶ Most API calls you will be making are GET requests.

```
get <- httr::GET("encodedURL")  
c <- jsonlite::fromJSON(content(get, "text"))
```

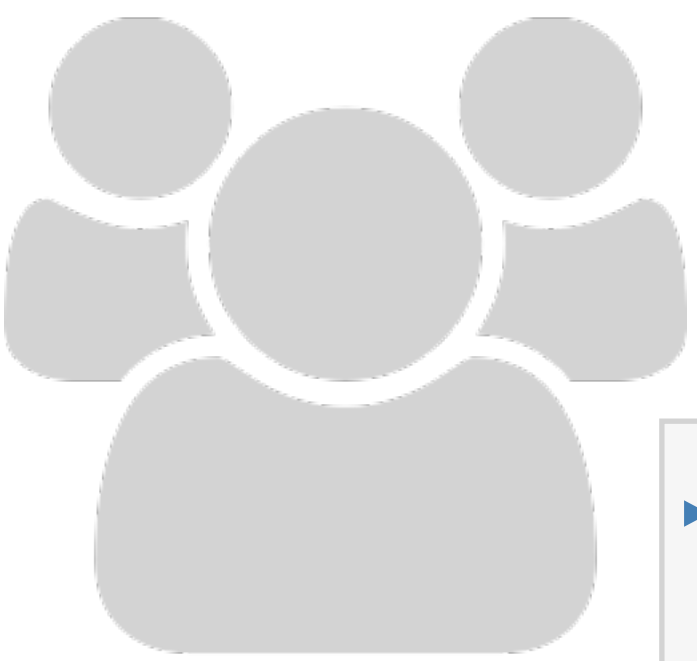
- ▶ Arguments you may need:
  - ▶ \$something after fromJSON function
  - ▶ flatten=TRUE



# ERRORS

- ▶ Status codes indicate the result of the HTTP request.
  - ▶ **100's** - *info*
  - ▶ **200's** - *success*
  - ▶ **300's** - *redirection*
  - ▶ **400's** - *client error (you messed up)*
  - ▶ **500's** - *server error (something went wrong on their end, but you still could have messed up)*

# EXERCISE



- ▶ Open `exercises/api_practice.Rmd` and use the chunk labeled “Blotter”
  - ▶ Like last class generate an API call that downloads all of the data from the City of Pittsburgh Police Blotter
    - ▶ It might be easier to build the query in Insomnia or something else first
    - ▶ Stretch: After you have built a query that calls all of the data, add a group by or filter of some kind

10<sub>m</sub> 00<sub>s</sub>

# Spatial Data



## Query: propertyowner6 (ID: 0)

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Where:                      | <input type="text"/>  |
| Object IDs:                 | <input type="text"/>  |
| Time:                       | <input type="text"/>  |
| Input Geometry:             | <input type="text"/>  |
| Geometry Type:              | Envelope  |
| Input Spatial Reference:    | <input type="text"/>  |
| Spatial Relationship:       | Intersects  |
| Result Type:                | None  |
| Distance:                   | 0.0   |
| Units:                      | Meters  |
| Return Geodetic:            | <input type="radio"/> True <input checked="" type="radio"/> False |
| Out Fields:                 | <input type="text"/>  |
| Return Geometry:            | <input checked="" type="radio"/> True <input type="radio"/> False |
| Return Centroid:            | <input type="radio"/> True <input checked="" type="radio"/> False |
| Feature Encoding:           | esriDefault   |
| Geometry MultiPatch Option: | xyFootprint   |
| Max Allowable Offset:       | <input type="text"/>  |
| Geometry Precision:         | <input type="text"/>  |
| Output Spatial Reference:   | <input type="text"/>  |
| Datum Transformation:       | <input type="text"/>  |
| Apply VCS Projection:       | <input type="radio"/> True <input checked="" type="radio"/> False |
| Return IDs Only:            | <input type="radio"/> True <input checked="" type="radio"/> False |
| Return Unique IDs Only:     | <input type="radio"/> True <input checked="" type="radio"/> False |
| Return Count Only:          | <input type="radio"/> True <input checked="" type="radio"/> False |

SQL like where statement to get one the data you want

Same as the select portion of a SQL query

# GETTING SPATIAL DATA

- ▶ For ESRI API's so long as your format is set to GEOJSON...

```
data <- read0GR("encodedURL")
```

- ▶ Its that easy

# EXERCISE



- ▶ Open `exercises/api_practice.Rmd` and go to the chunk labeled “Esri”
  - ▶ Look at the fields on the May 2019 Election layer from the Allegheny County Esri API: [https://services1.arcgis.com/vdNDkVykv9vEWFx4/ArcGIS/rest/services/Allegheny\\_County\\_Polling\\_Places\\_May2019/FeatureServer/0](https://services1.arcgis.com/vdNDkVykv9vEWFx4/ArcGIS/rest/services/Allegheny_County_Polling_Places_May2019/FeatureServer/0)
  - ▶ Get all of the polling places in just the City of Pittsburgh and load it into R from the URL

10<sub>m</sub> 00<sub>s</sub>



# SOLUTION

Solutions to both of today's exercises are in:  
`api_practice_solutions.R`

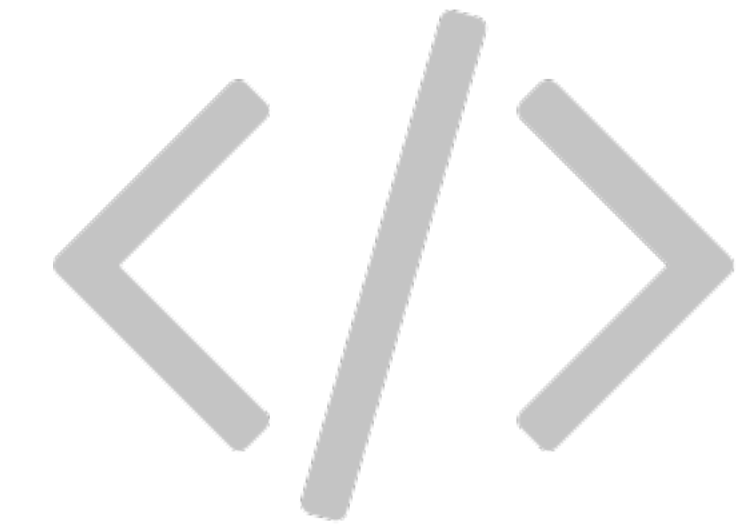


# THE STEPS

1. Build your URL
2. Encode the URL
3. Process the content
4. **Transform to a usable format**

# Geocode

## Example



DEMO

alco\_geocode.R

# Shiny

## Example

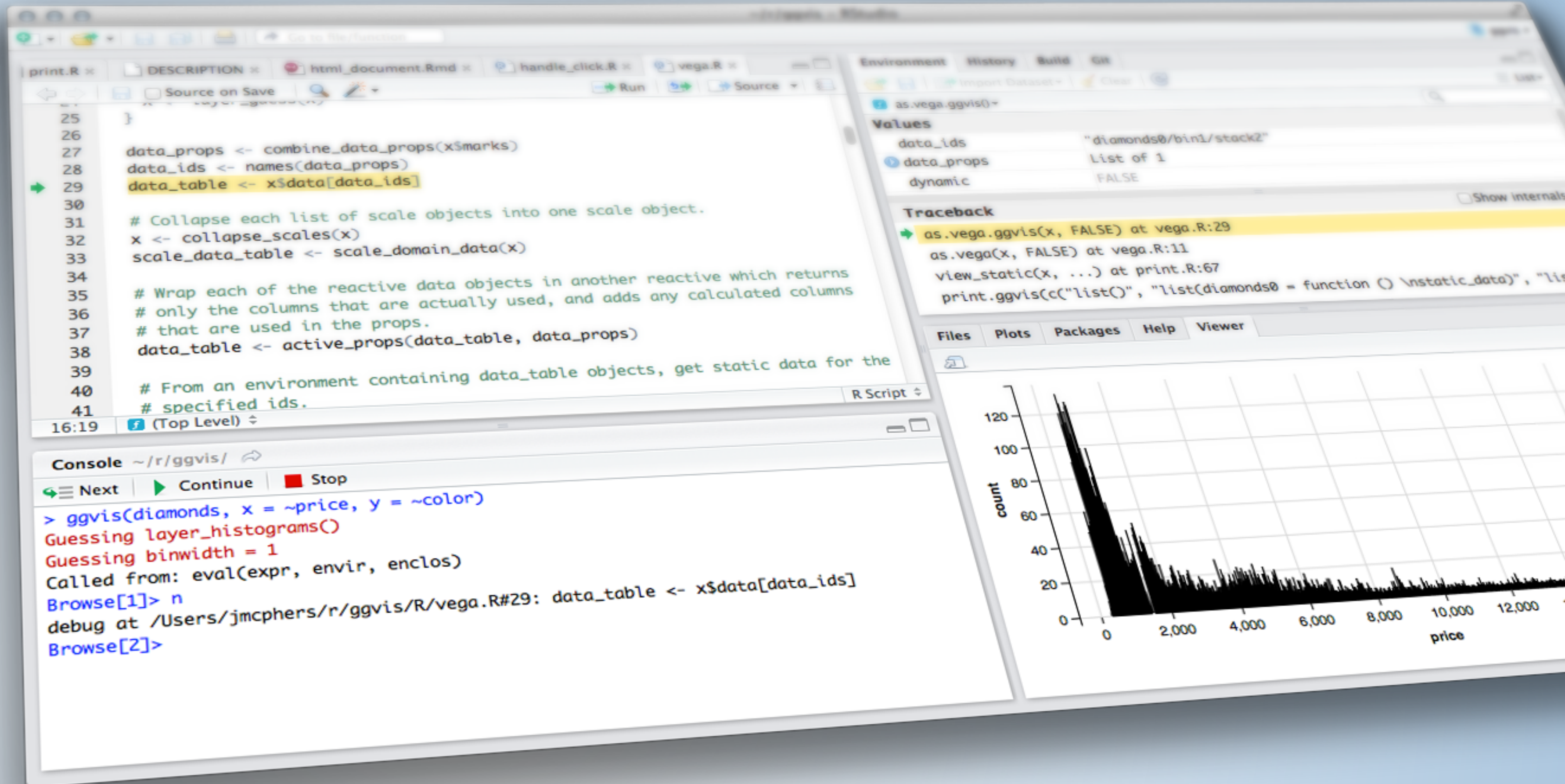




# DEMO

app/311\_dashboard.R

# API'S







**That's how extra credit  
is supposed to feel.**