Professional R development

using git, GitHub, Travis CI, testthat, lintr, covr, Codecov and goodpractice

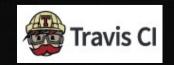
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http://www.github.com/richelbilderbeek/PresentationsAboutR















What? Why? Mastery?

- What: follow all good practices by default
- Why: proven to pay off
- Mastery: set up tools to follow all good practices by default

Not about ...

- How to create a package
 - See the talk 'How to develop a package'
- Extending a package
 - See the talk 'Test-driven development'

Setup

- Version control
- Code hosting
- Continuous integration
- Testing framework
- Coding standard
- Code coverage
- Static code analysis















Version control

Keeps a history of code



O'REILLY

Rule 9: Do source code management

Keynote Speech at useR!, 2014



Hadley Wickham

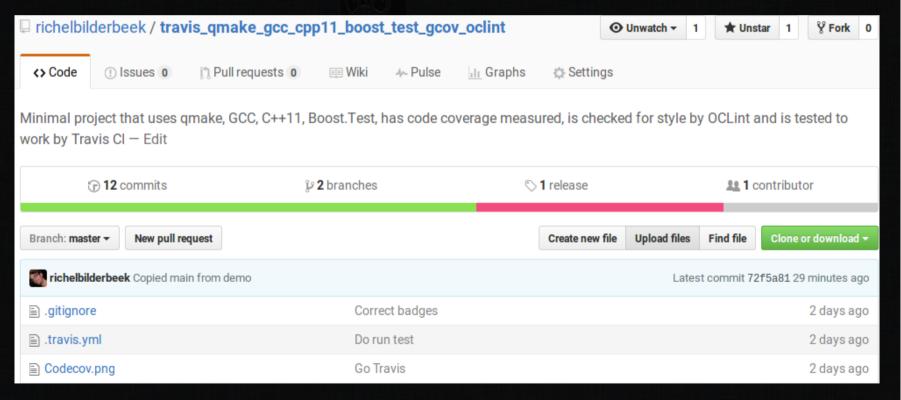
If you are serious about software development, you need to learn about git

Chapter 13: git and GitHub



Code hosting

- Host your (version controlled) code
- Using GitHub is good practice [1]

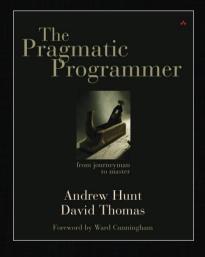


[1] Perez-Riverol, Yasset, et al. "Ten Simple Rules for Taking Advantage of git and GitHub." bioRxiv (2016): 048744.

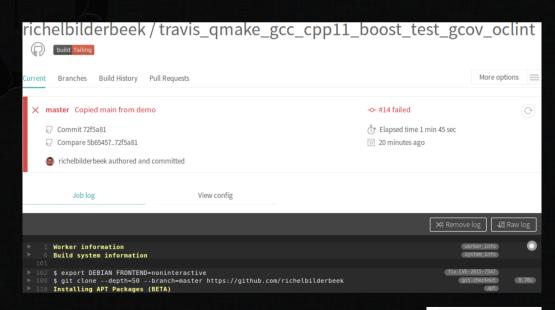


Continuous integration

Run scripts upon pushing new code



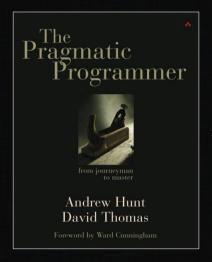
Tip 61: Don't Use Manual Procedures



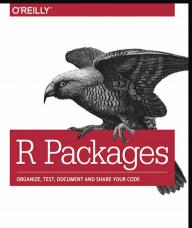


Testing framework

To test your code



Tip 62: Test Early.
Test Often. Test Automatically



Hadley Wickham

Testing is a vital part of package development

Fewer bugs
Better code structure
Easier restarts
Robust code

Chapter 7: Testing



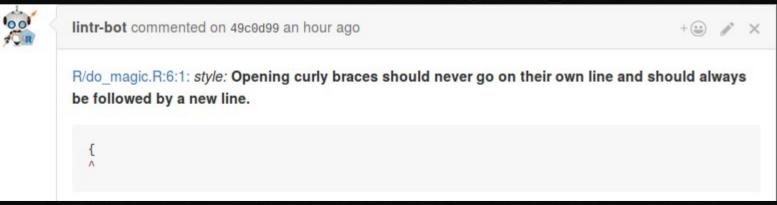
Coding standard

• Use a coding standard [1]



I strongly recommend that you use a consistent style

Chapter 3, paragraph 'Code Style'





Code coverage

- Measures code that is actually used
- Correlates with quality [1]



[1] Del Frate, Fabio, et al. "On the correlation between code coverage and software reliability." Software Reliability Engineering, 1995. Proceedings., Sixth International Symposium on. IEEE, 1995.



Test for good practices

- Checks code beyond the interpreter and lintr
 - Coding style
 - Functions that have a superior alternative
 - Cyclomatic complexity

It is good practice to

* omit trailing semicolons from code lines. They are not needed and most R coding standards forbid them



This presentation

- Introduce the package 'magicr'
 - Code that can be improved
 - https://github.com/richelbilderbeek/prde
- Put it on GitHub
- Activate Travis CI
- Activate other tools

do_magic.R

```
#' Multiples all values by two,
# '
     except 42, which stays 42
   @param x input, must be numeric
   @return magicified output
# '
   @export
do magic <- function(x)</pre>
{
  if (!is.numeric(x)) {
    stop("x must be numeric");
  }
  out = x * 2;
  out = replace(out, out == 84, 42);
  out;
```

test-do_magic.R

```
context("do magic")
test that ("do magic: use", {
  expect equal(do magic(42), 42)
  expect equal(do magic(1), 2)
})
```

Output

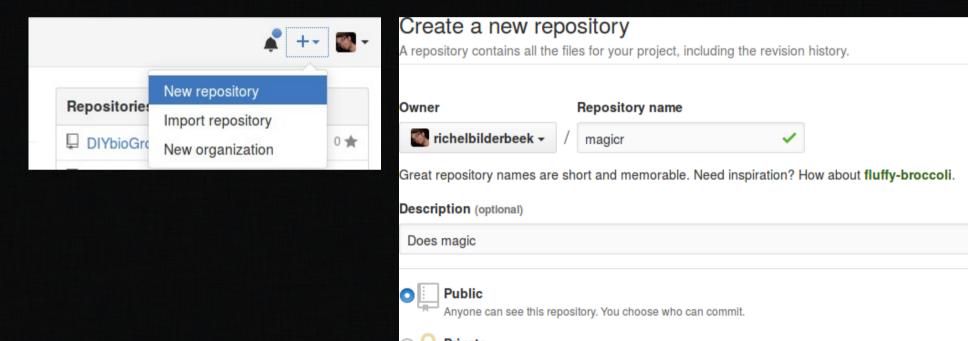
```
> devtools::check()
Updating prde documentation
Loading prde
[...]
* checking tests ...
  Running 'testthat.R'
 OK
* DONE
Status: OK
R CMD check results
0 errors | 0 warnings | 0 notes
```

Next steps

- Create a GitHub repository
- Clone it to the local computer
- Put your code in that folder
- Upload the code

Create a GitHub repository

Create a new repository



You choose who can see and commit to this repository.

This will let you immediately clone the repository to your computer. Skip this step if you're importing an existing repository.

Add a license: GNU General Public License v3.0

Initialize this repository with a README

Add .gitignore: R -

Create repository

Clone it to the local computer

git clone https://github.com/[username]/[repository name]

```
richel@arduinorood:~

File Edit Tabs Help

richel@arduinorood:~$ git clone https://github.com/richelbilderbeek/magicr

Cloning into 'magicr'...

remote: Counting objects: 5, done.

remote: Compressing objects: 100% (4/4), done.

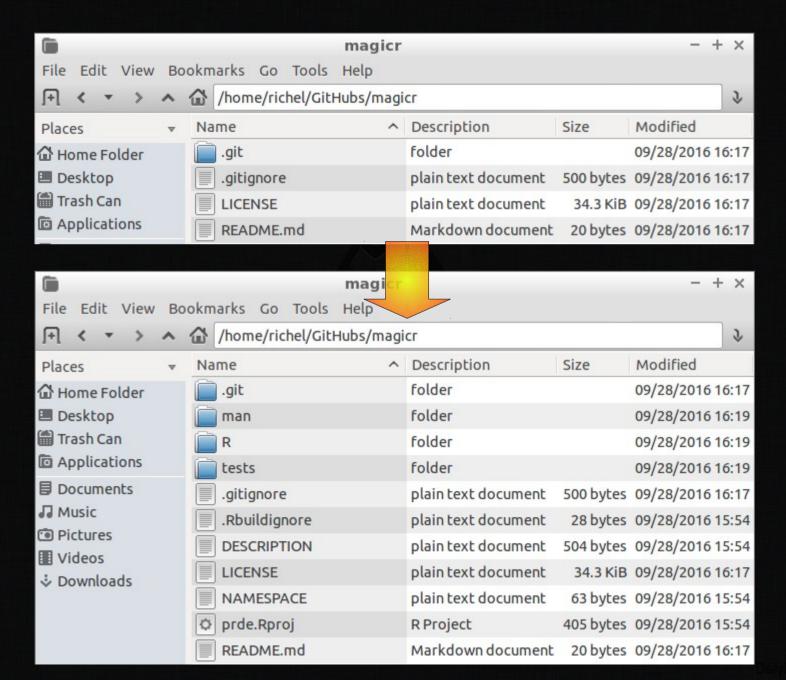
remote: Total 5 (delta 0), reused 0 (delta 0), pack-reused 0

Unpacking objects: 100% (5/5), done.

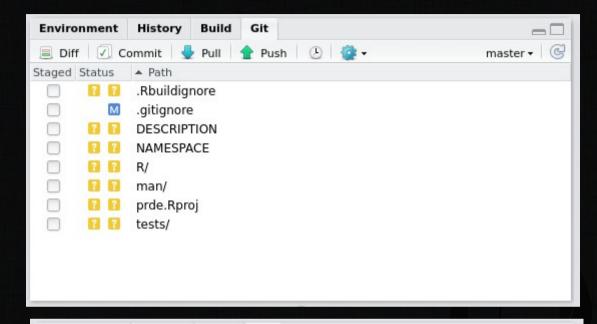
Checking connectivity... done.
```

 (Wouldn't it be nice if this step could also be done from R studio?)

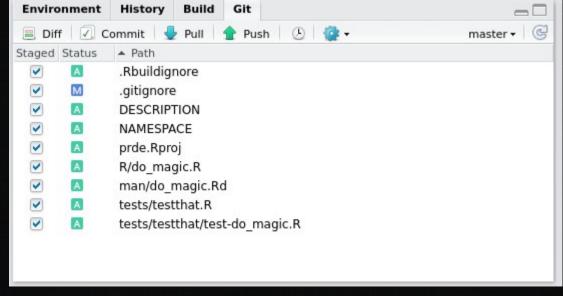
Put your code in that folder



Upload to GitHub

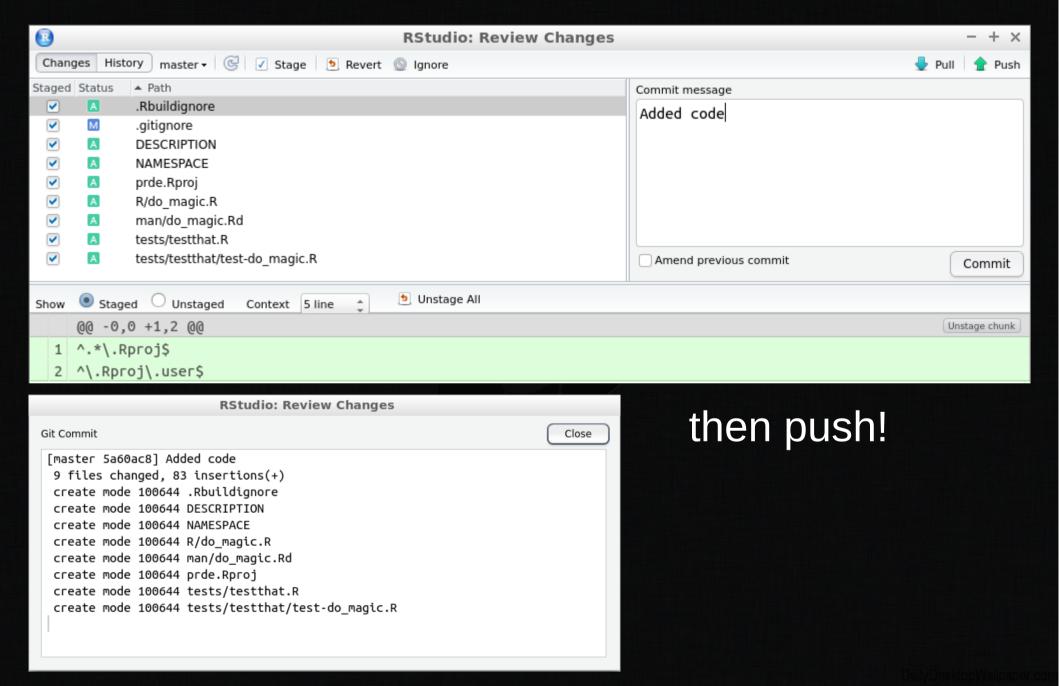


Stage

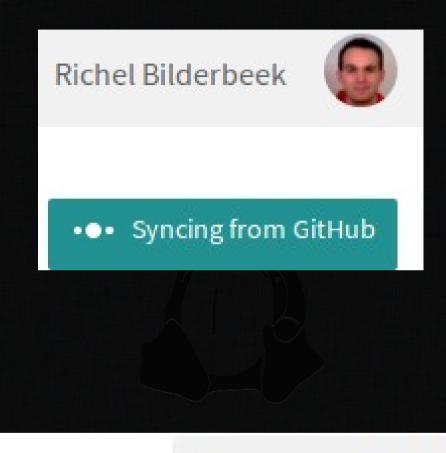


Commit

Push to GitHub



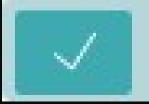
Activate Travis CI







richelbilderbeek/magicr





richelbilderbeek/magicr

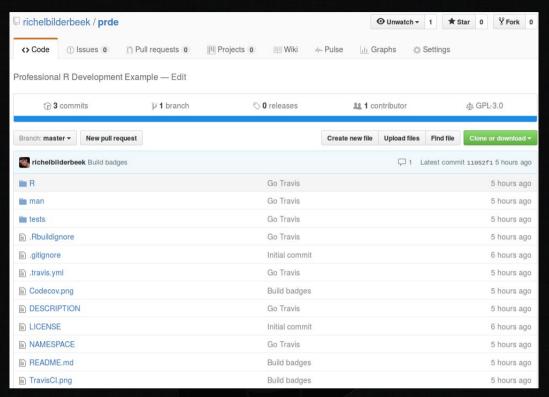
Add file .travis.yml to root of package

language: r

cache: packages

- Then push to GitHub
- Then wait ...

Success



richelbilderbeek / magicr



build passing

Current Branches Build History Pull Requests

✓ master Go Travis

Commit 54bdc7c

Compare 5a60ac8..54bdc7c

ignorphises richelbilderbeek authored and committed

More options

Compare 5a60ac8..54bdc7c

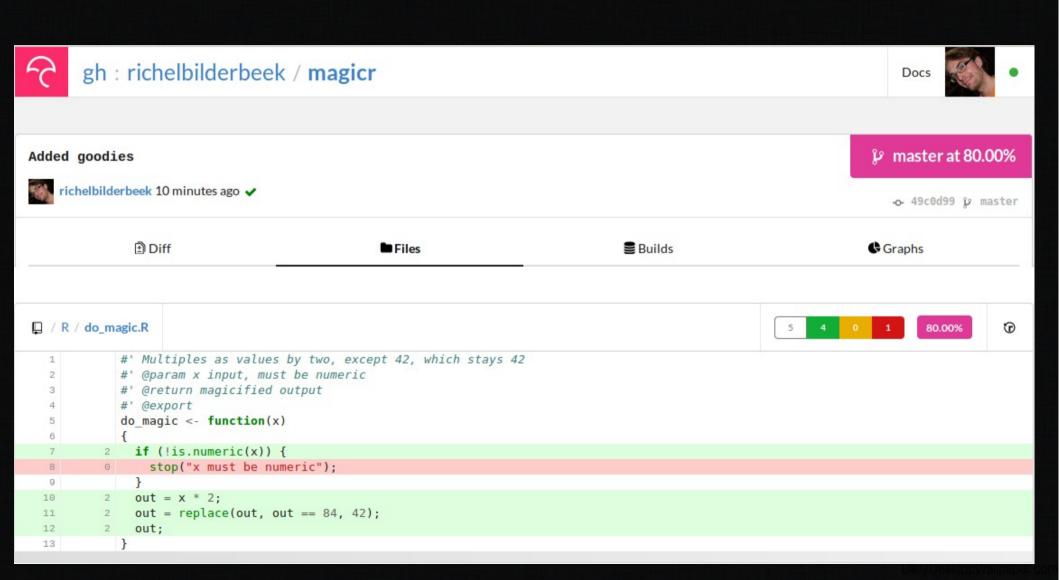
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Activate other tools

```
language: r
cache: packages
r github packages:
  - jimhester/lintr
  - jimhester/covr
  - MangoTheCat/goodpractice
after success:
  - Rscript -e 'lintr::lint package()'
  - Rscript -e 'library(covr); codecov()'
  - Rscript -e 'library(goodpractice); gp()'
```

- Then push to GitHub
- Then wait ...

Results: code coverage



Results: lintr

```
1784 $ Rscript -e 'lintr::lint package()'
                                                                                                                       after success
     R/do magic.R:6:1: style: Opening curly braces should never go on their own line and should always be followed by a new line.
     R/do magic.R:10:7: style: Use <-, not =, for assignment.
       out = x * 2;
     R/do magic.R:11:7: style: Use <-, not =, for assignment.
       out = replace(out, out == 84, 42);
```



lintr-bot commented on 49c0d99 an hour ago





R/do magic.R:6:1: style: Opening curly braces should never go on their own line and should always be followed by a new line.

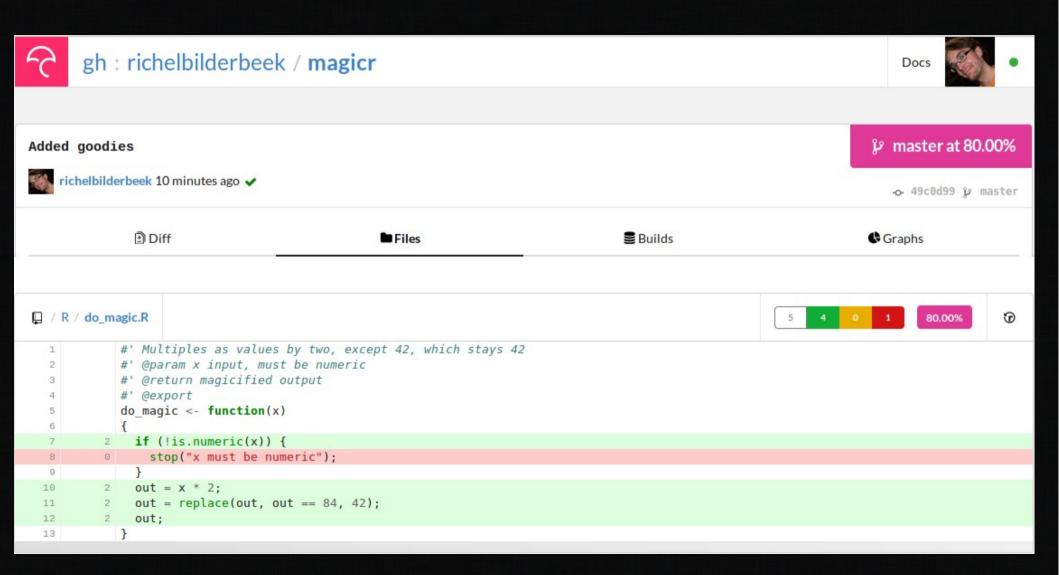
R/do_magic.R:10:7: style: Use <-, not =, for assignment.

```
out = x * 2;
```

R/do magic.R:11:7: style: Use <-, not =, for assignment.

```
out = replace(out, out == 84, 42);
```

Results: code coverage





Results: goodpractice

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My experiences

- Due to this setup, I have
 - Responded to bugs faster build passing
 - Found and removed dead code Codecov 100%
 - Learned a professional R coding standard
 - Reduced complexity of working code
 - Learned new things
 - Indirectly teach collaborators/students the same lessons

Conclusion

- It is doable to follow all good practices in three Good Steps:
 - Follow a package structure
 - Put that package on GitHub
 - Add Travis CI and other tools
- I think this setup is useful for
 - R newbies
 - R pros



Professional R development

Richel Bilderbeek



http://www.github.com/richelbilderbeek/PresentationsAboutR







