

## Shiny Dashboards

What is Shiny

How does Shiny work?

Shiny apps versus embedding Shiny in R  
Markdown

Input elements

Building out your app

App elements

Your turn: Your first Shiny dashboard

Next level Shiny: Reactivity

Your turn: Build a reactive dashboard



RStudio Education  
[education.rstudio.com](http://education.rstudio.com)

# R Markdown and Interactive Dashboards

## Shiny

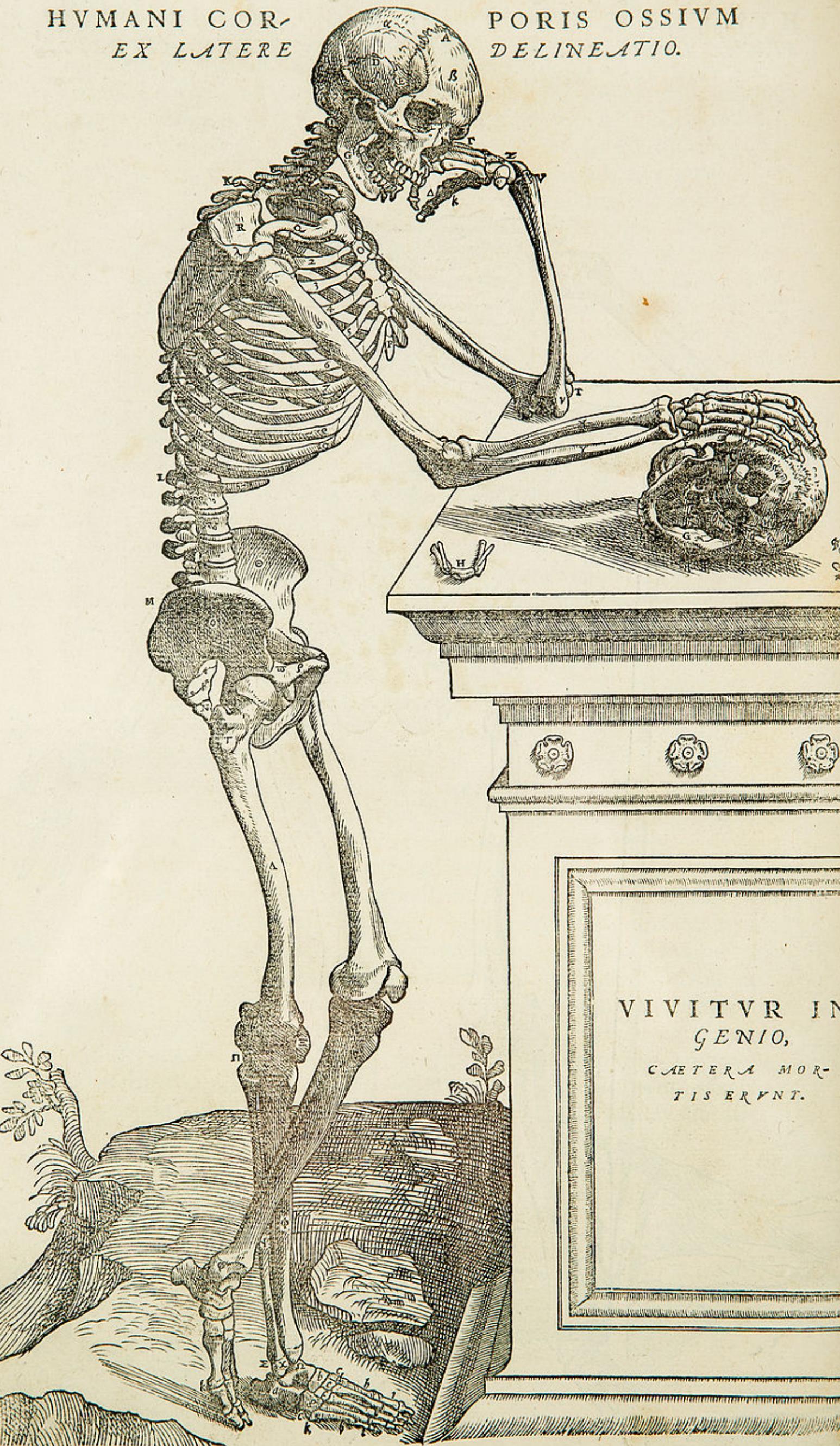
Shiny is an R package that  
makes it easy to build  
interactive web apps from R.

[shiny.rstudio.com](http://shiny.rstudio.com)

# IN THIS COURSE WE TEACH A SUBSET OF SHINY

- Shiny has all the mechanisms to create your own app with a fully custom UI
- In this course, we're teaching the essential inputs and outputs that will work within a flexdashboard layout
- There's much more to Shiny if you wish to explore it
- Learn more at [shiny.rstudio.com](https://shiny.rstudio.com)
- The Shiny cheat sheet lives at

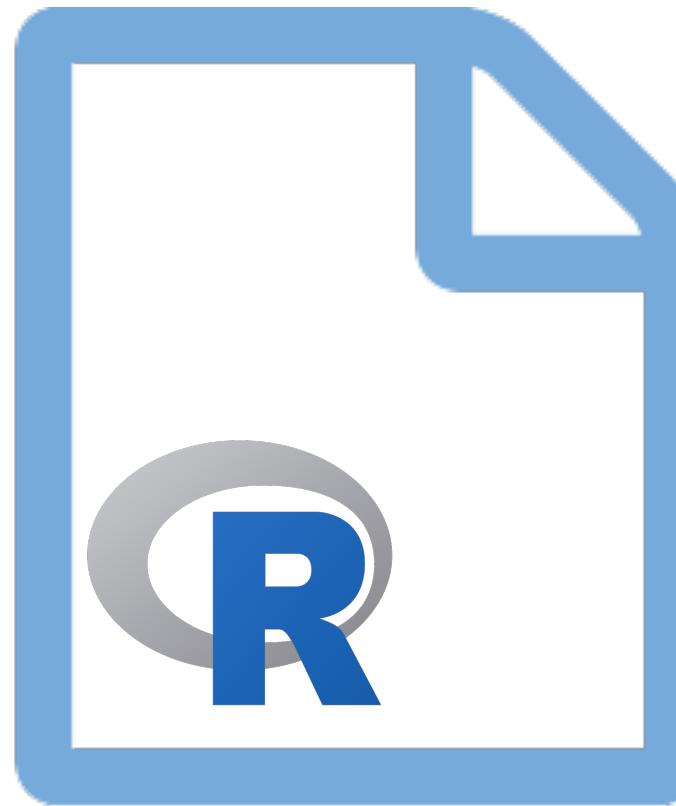
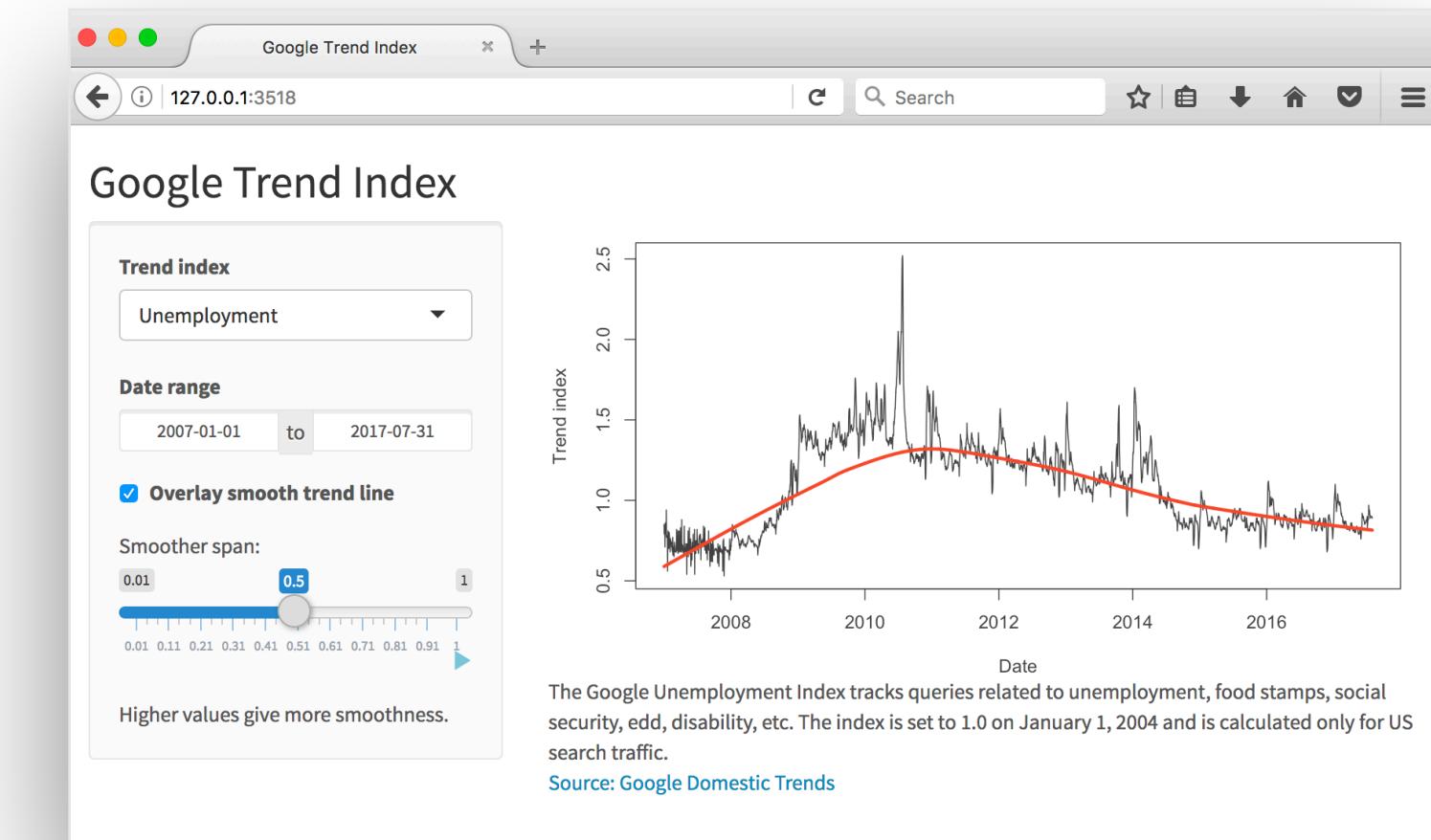
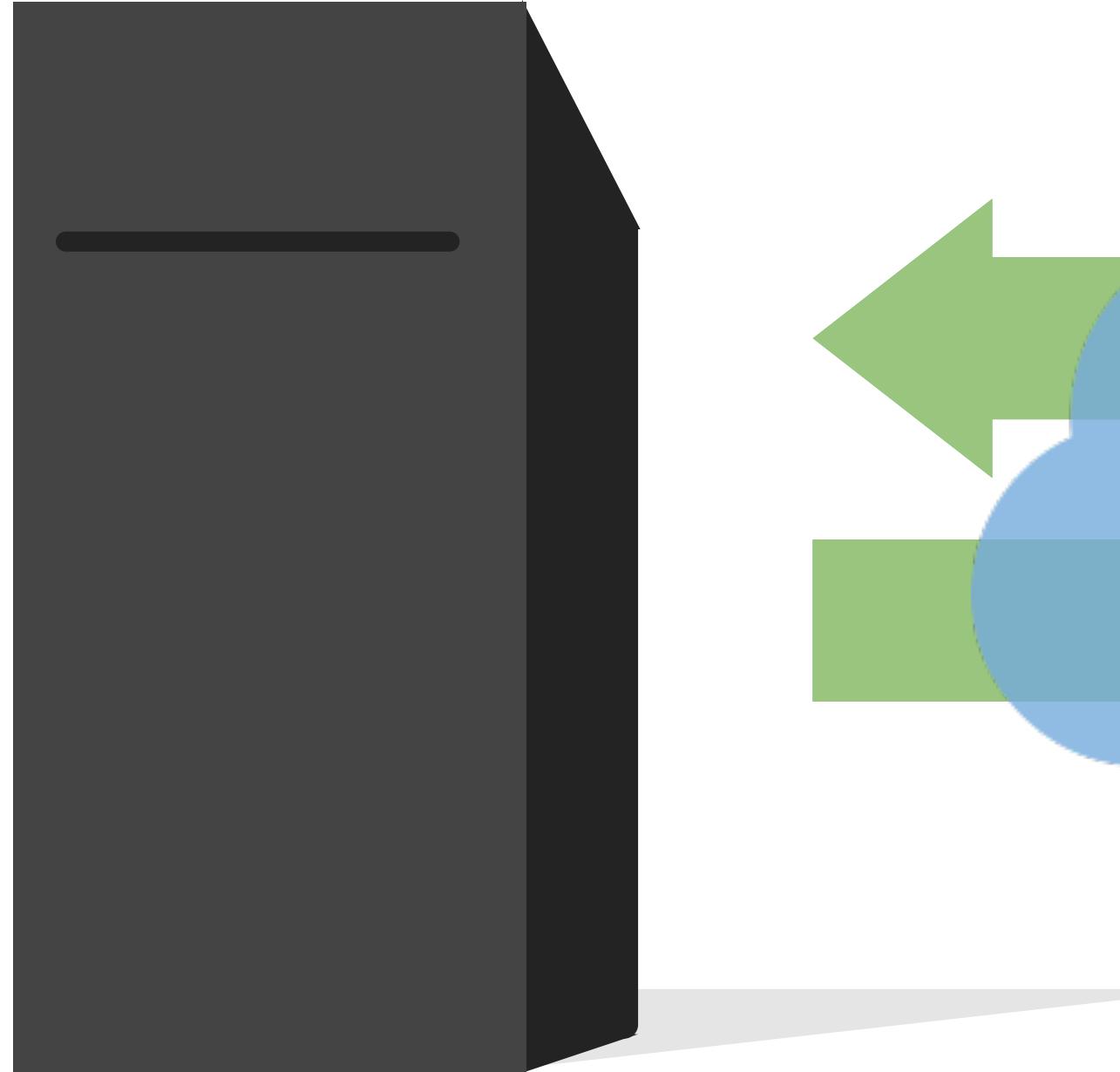
<https://github.com/rstudio/cheatsheets/raw/master/shiny.pdf>



# THE ANATOMY OF A SHINY APP MADE WITH FLEXDASHBOARD

You'll learn

- What is a Shiny flexdashboard app
- How to build Shiny inputs for your dashboard
- How to render differing types of output



Server instructions

server.R



User interface

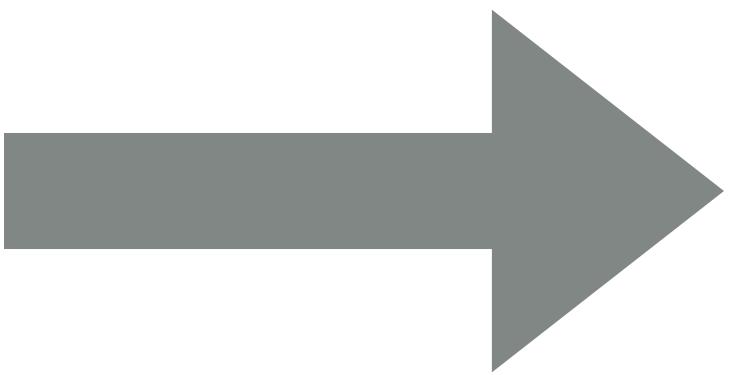
ui.R



Shiny offers user interface  
and rendering functions for  
input and output controls.

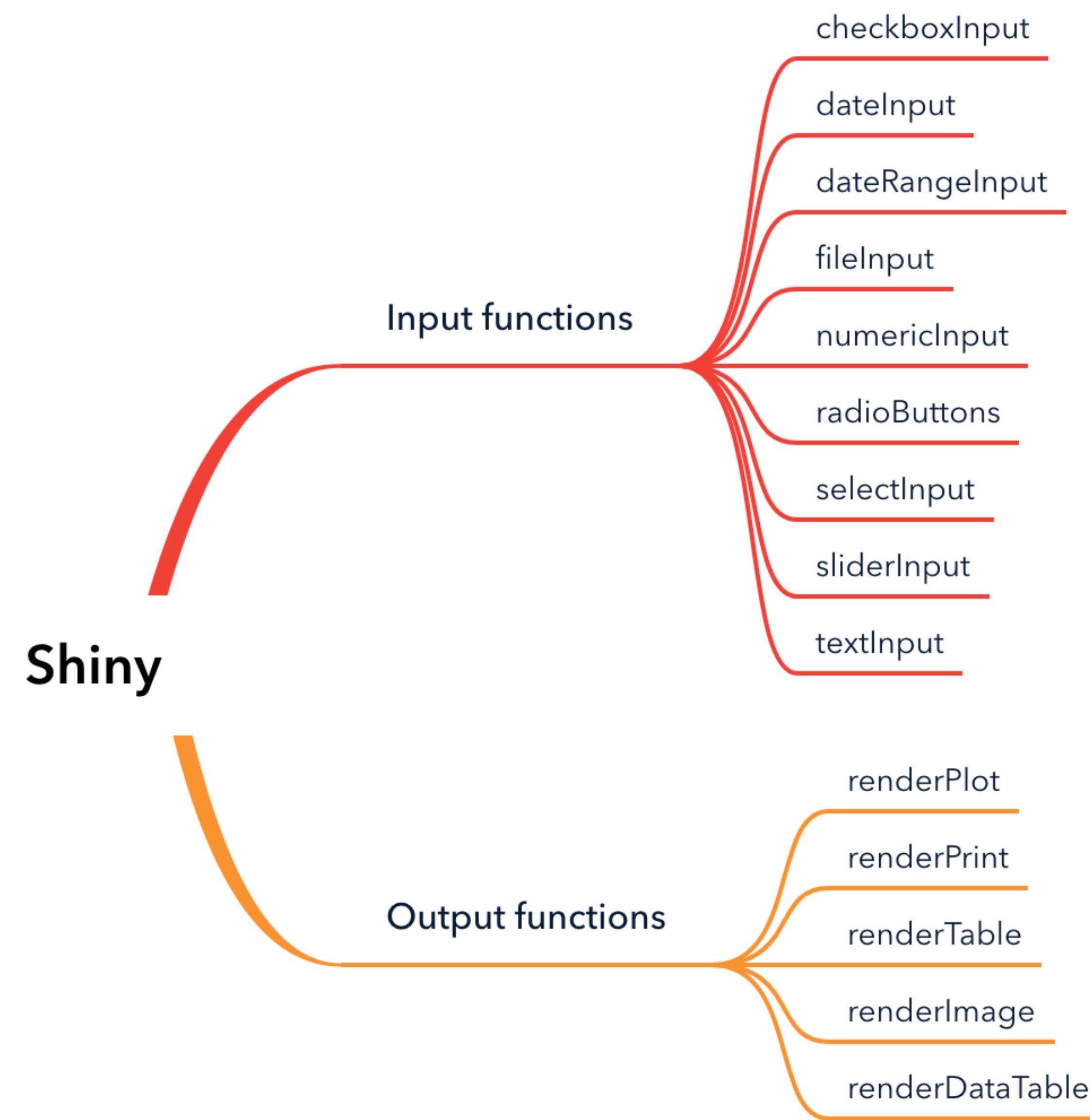


Inputs



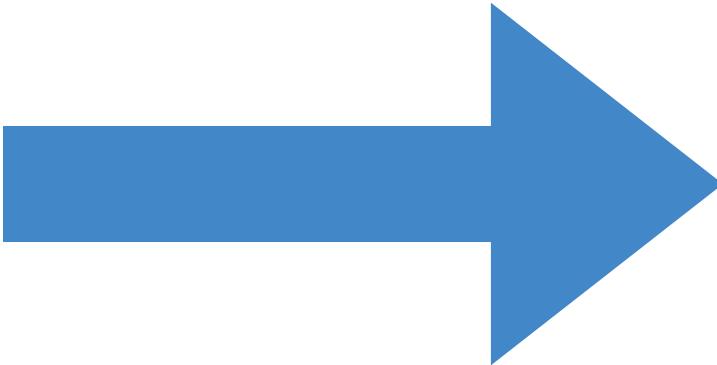
Outputs





# LET'S START WITH SELECTINPUT AND RENDERPLOT

```
selectInput(inputId = "x",  
           label = "X-axis:",  
           choices = choices,  
           selected = "critics_score")
```



X-axis:

critics\_score ▾

imdb\_rating

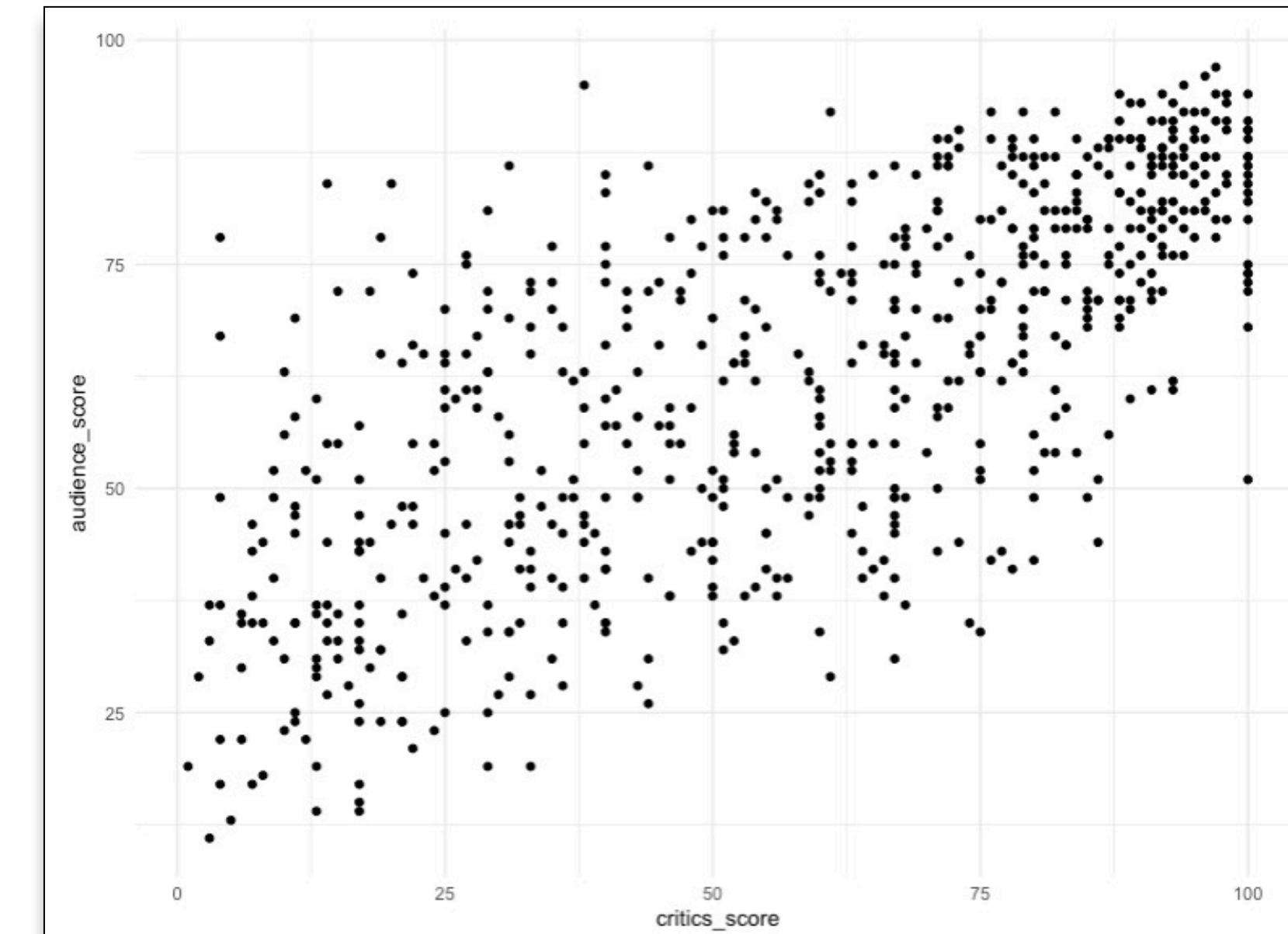
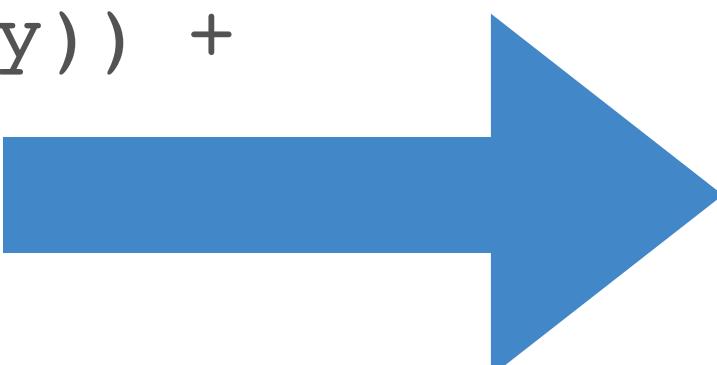
imdb\_num\_votes

critics\_score

audience\_score

runtime

```
renderPlot({  
  ggplot(data = movies,  
          aes_string(x = input$x, y = input$y)) +  
  geom_point()  
})
```



# BASIC SHINY DASHBOARD STRUCTURE

```
title: "Movies Dashboard with Shiny Inputs"
output:
  flexdashboard::flex_dashboard:
    orientation: columns
    vertical_layout: fill
    runtime: shiny
  ...
````{r setup, include=FALSE}
library(flexdashboard)
library(shiny)
library(ggplot2)
load("data/movies.Rdata")
theme_set(theme_minimal())
````

## Column {data-width=350}

#### Inputs

````{r}
choices <- c("imdb_rating", "imdb_num_votes", "critics_score", "audience_score", "runtime")

# Select variable for x-axis -----
selectInput(inputId = "x", # this is the name of a reactive input variable
           label = "X-axis:",
           choices = choices,
           selected = "critics_score")

#### Add another selectInput function for the y axis.

````

## Column {data-width=550}

#### Output

````{r}
renderPlot({
  ggplot(data = movies, aes_string(x = input$x, y = input$y)) +
    geom_point()
})
````
```

Flexdashboard with  
columns orientation

# BASIC SHINY DASHBOARD STRUCTURE

```
---
```

```
title: "Movies Dashboard with Shiny Inputs"
output:
  flexdashboard::flex_dashboard:
    orientation: columns
    vertical_layout: fill
  runtime: shiny
---
```

```
```{r setup, include=FALSE}
library(flexdashboard)
library(shiny)
library(ggplot2)
load("data/movies.Rdata")
theme_set(theme_minimal())
```

```

```
## Column {data-width=350}
### Inputs
```{r}
choices <- c("imdb_rating", "imdb_num_votes", "critics_score", "audience_score", "runtime")

# Select variable for x-axis -----
selectInput(inputId = "x", # this is the name of a reactive input variable
           label = "X-axis:",
           choices = choices,
           selected = "critics_score")

### Add another selectInput function for the y axis.
```

```

```
## Column {data-width=550}
### Output
```{r}
renderPlot({
  ggplot(data = movies, aes_string(x = input$x, y = input$y)) +
    geom_point()
})
```

```

Inputs get created by a Shiny function like **selectInput**.



They appear as variables like **input\$x**

# BASIC SHINY DASHBOARD STRUCTURE

```
---
```

```
title: "Movies Dashboard with Shiny Inputs"
output:
  flexdashboard::flex_dashboard:
    orientation: columns
    vertical_layout: fill
  runtime: shiny
--
```

```
```{r setup, include=FALSE}
library(flexdashboard)
library(shiny)
library(ggplot2)
load("data/movies.Rdata")
theme_set(theme_minimal())
```

```

```
## Column {data-width=350}
```

```
### Inputs
```

```
```{r}
choices <- c("imdb_rating", "imdb_num_votes", "critics_score", "audience_score", "runtime")

# Select variable for x-axis -----
selectInput(inputId = "x", # this is the name of a reactive input variable
           label = "X-axis:",
           choices = choices,
           selected = "critics_score")

### Add another selectInput function for the y axis.
```

```
```

```

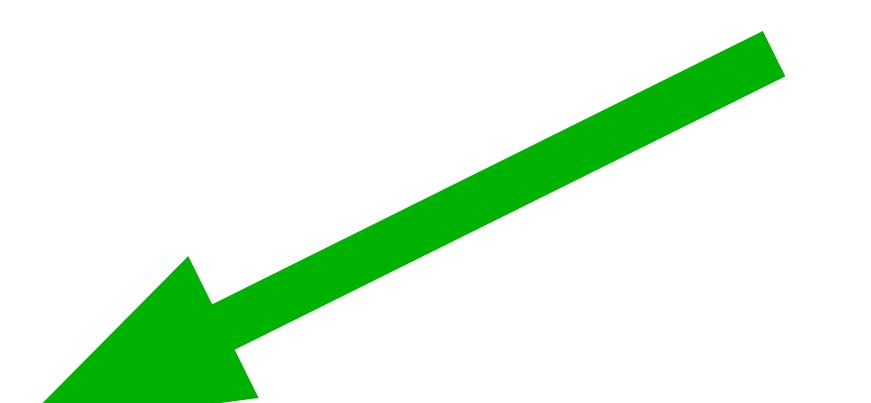
```
## Column {data-width=550}
```

```
### Output
```

```
```{r}
renderPlot({
  ggplot(data = movies, aes_string(x = input$x, y = input$y)) +
    geom_point()
})
```

```

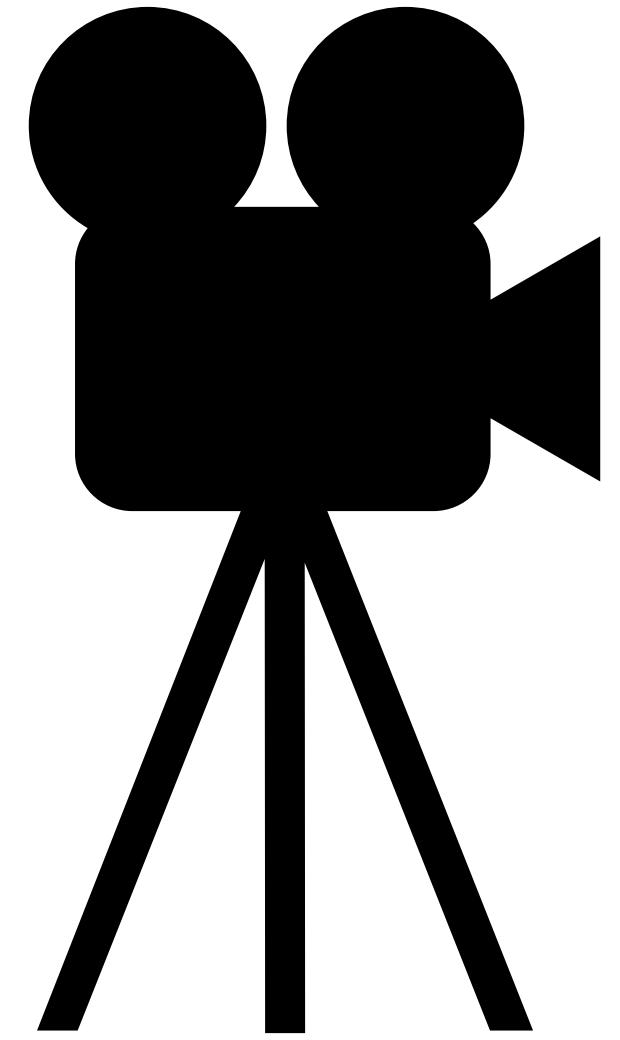
Output usually gets put in another flexdashboard pane using a function like `renderPlot`.



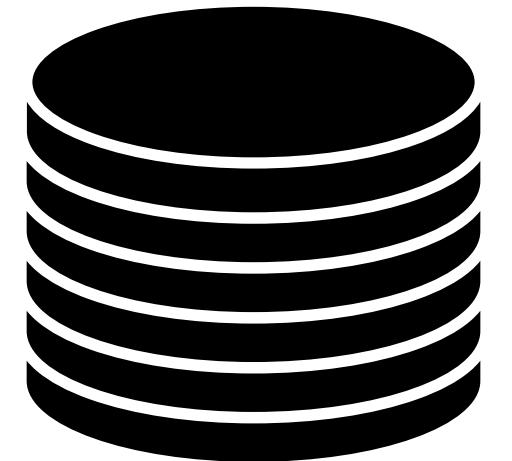
# WHAT IS THIS SYNTAX ABOUT?

```
renderPlot( {  
  ggplot(data = movies,  
          aes_string(x = input$x,  
                      y = input$y)) +  
  geom_point()  
} )
```

- renderPlot takes an ggplot output object that generates a plot.
- The code inside the {} is code generates that output object, but it doesn't get evaluated until renderPlot asks it to.
- The funny syntax of `renderPlot( {plotting_code} )` is simply a way to say, "When you render the plot, use plotting\_code to do so".



# Let's build a simple movie browser app!



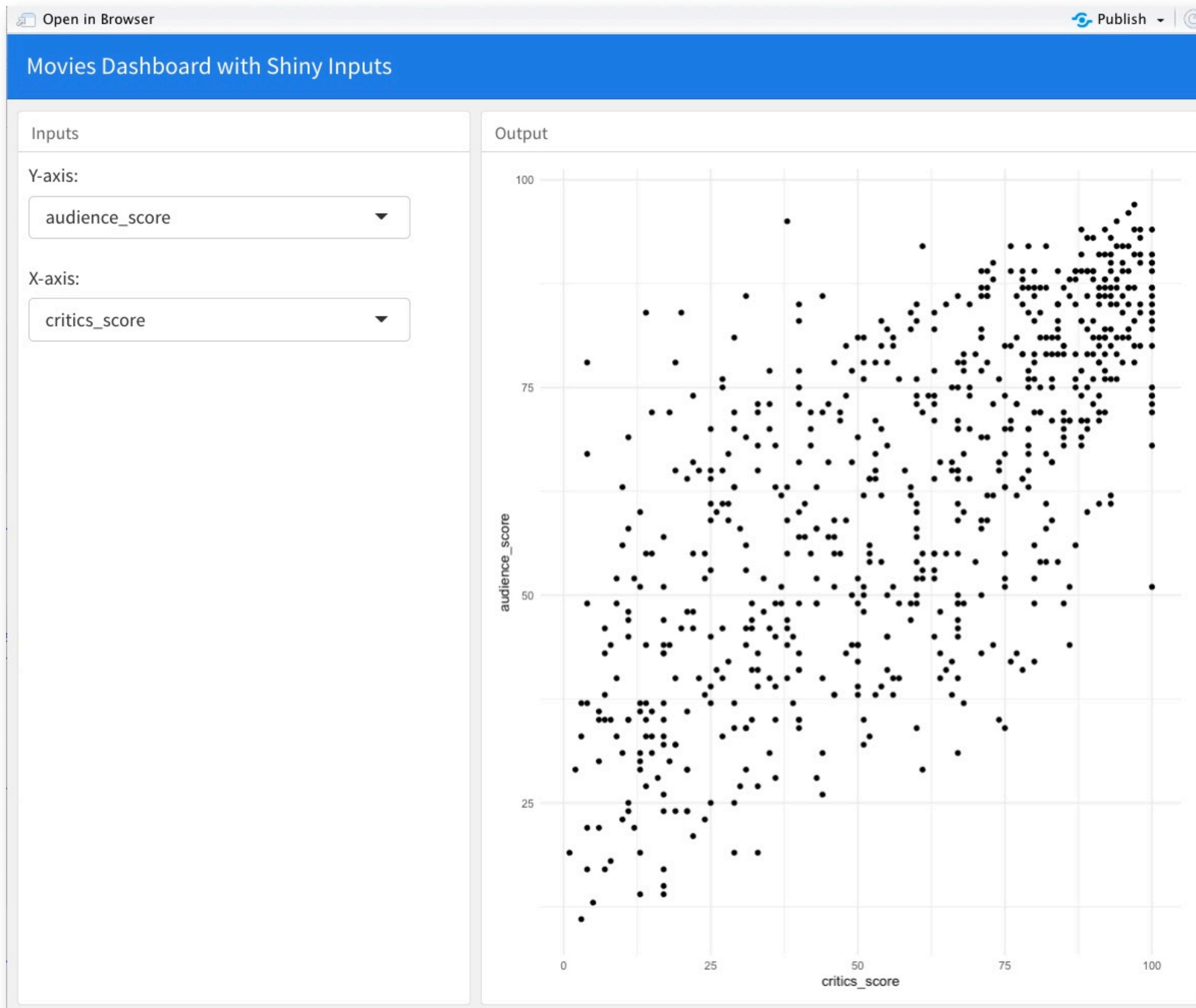
`data/movies.Rdata`

Data from IMDB and Rotten Tomatoes on random sample  
of 651 movies released in the US between 1970 and 2014

## Build A Movie Brower

1. Open the project **05-RMAID-shiny**
2. Click on **51-movies1.Rmd** in the Files pane to open that file
3. Add in a second **selectInput** function to set the variable **y**
4. Click on *Run App*. Note that *Knit* isn't available.

5<sub>m</sub> 00<sub>s</sub>



## Add Color

1. Using the same file, now add a **selectInput** function to set the variable **z**.
2. Make the choices for **z** be `c("title_type", "genre", "mpaa_rating", "critics_rating", "audience_rating")`
3. Modify the `ggplot` routine to add an aesthetic value **color=z**.
4. Run your app.

5m 00s

## Movies Dashboard with Shiny Inputs

Inputs

Y-axis:

audience\_score

X-axis:

critics\_score

Color by:

mpaa\_rating



## Add Transparency

1. Using the same file, now add a `selectInput` function to set the variable `alpha`.
2. 3. Modify the `ggplot` chunk to add an aesthetic value `alpha=alpha`.
4. Run your app.

5m 00s

## Movies Dashboard with Shiny Inputs

Inputs

Y-axis:

audience\_score

X-axis:

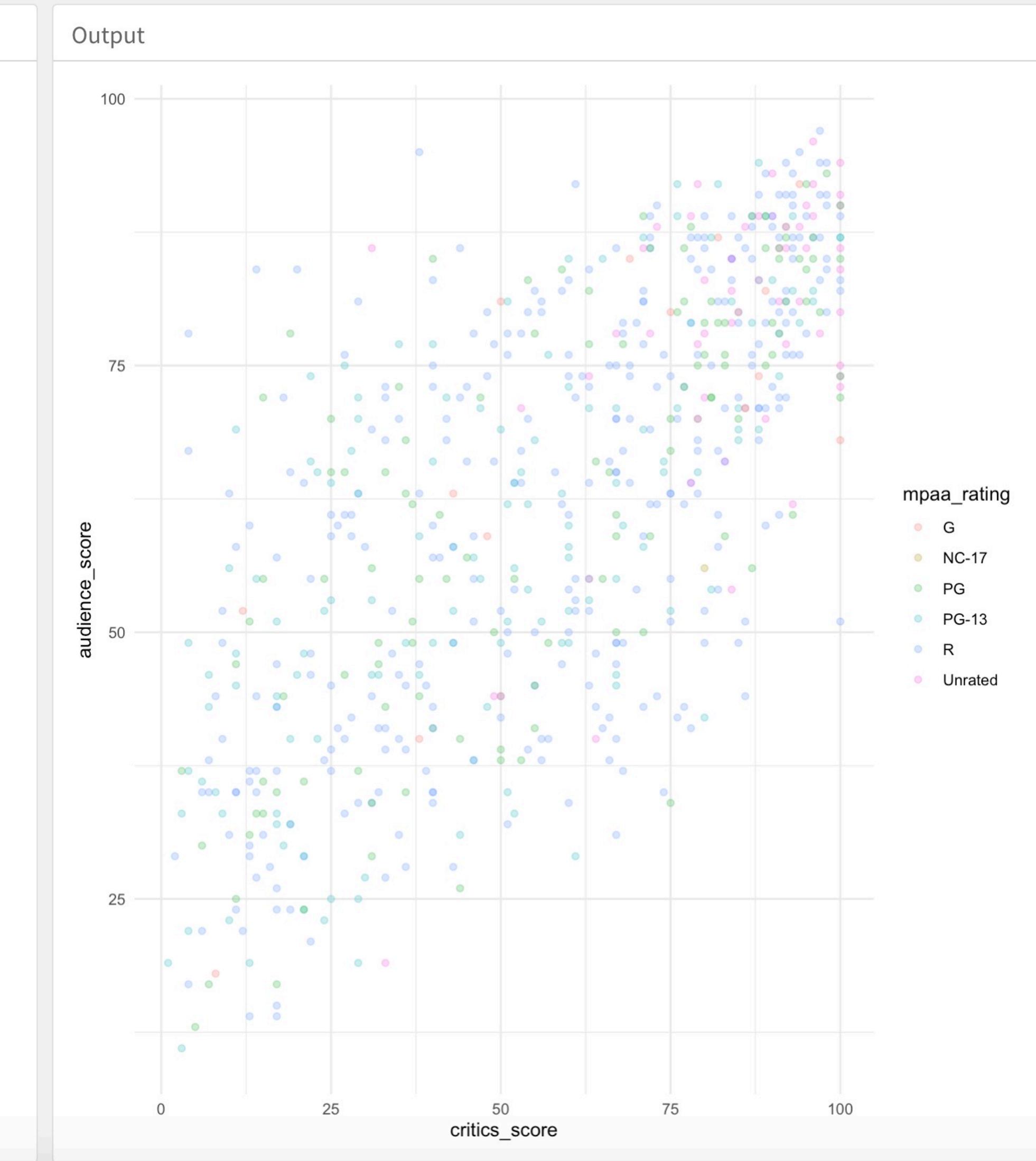
critics\_score

Color by:

mpaa\_rating

Alpha:

0 0.25 1



## EXERCISE 54

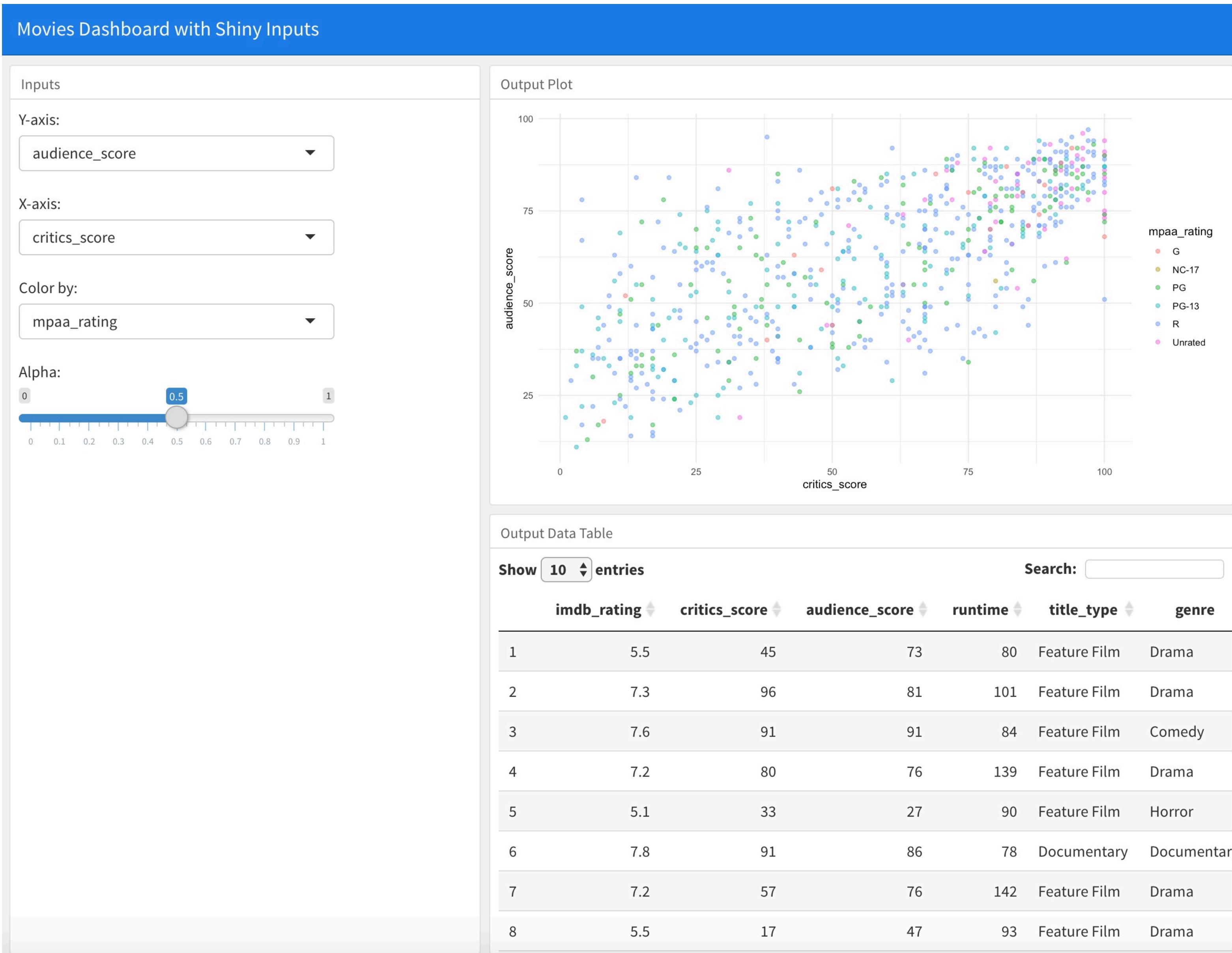
## Add DataTable Output

1. Open file **54-movies-4.Rmd**
2. Add another RMarkdown pane below the plot using a level 3 header (### something)
3. Within that pane, add a renderDataTable for movies using the following code:

```
DT::renderDataTable({  
  DT::datatable(data = movies %>% select(selected_columns),  
    options = list(pageLength = 10,  
      rownames = FALSE))  
})
```

5. Run your app.

5m 00s



## Filtering Results

1. Open file 55-movies5-doesnt-work.Rmd
2. Examine the code we added below #### \$\$\$\$.
3. Run the app and see what happens.

5<sub>m</sub> 00<sub>s</sub>

# What is

Error in .getReactiveEnvironment()  
\$currentContext: Operation not allowed  
without an active reactive context. (You  
tried to do something that can only be  
done from inside a reactive expression or  
observer.)?

Shiny inputs drive outputs  
through *reactivity*



# THIS CODE DOESN'T WORK BECAUSE....

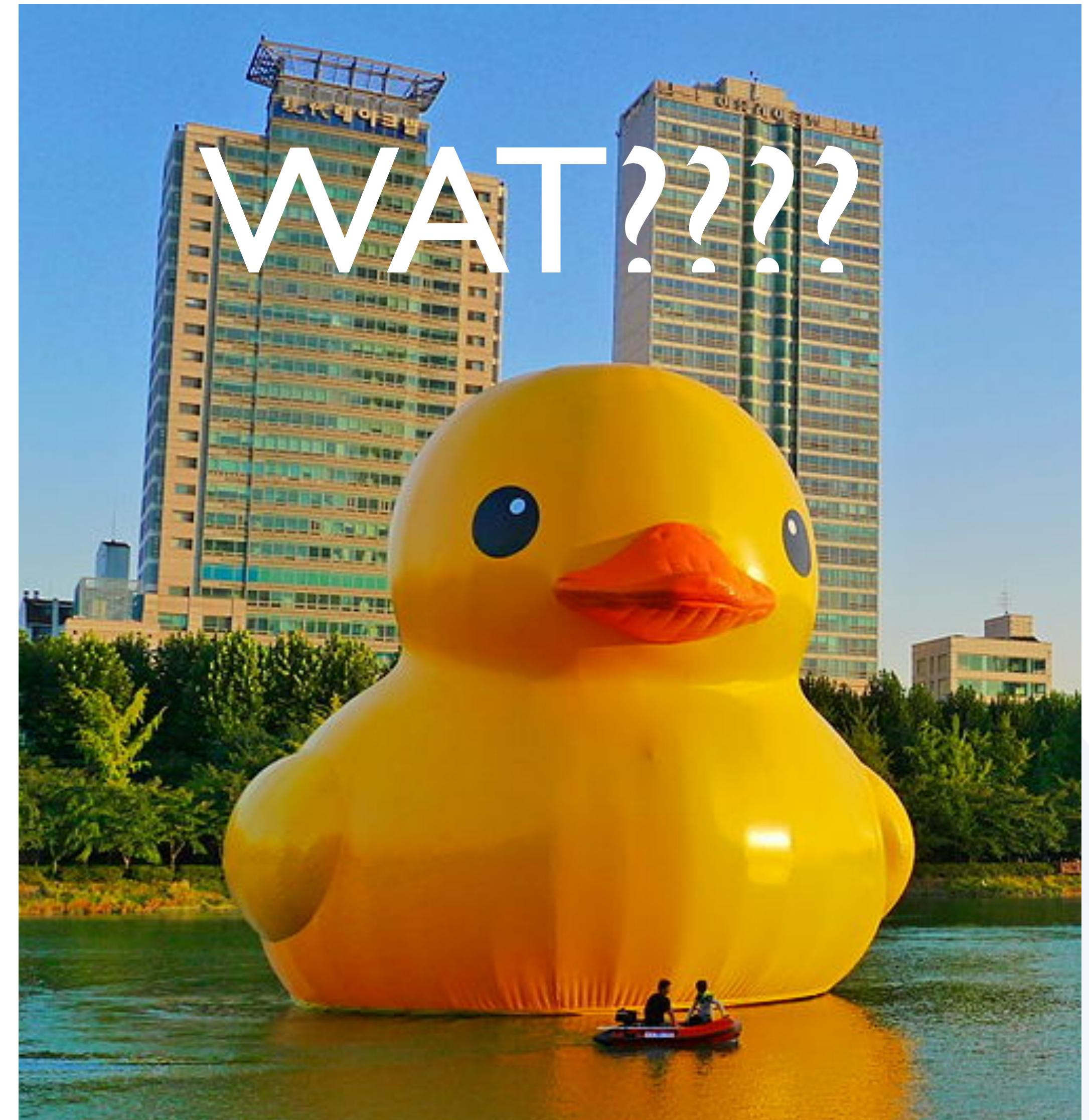
```
# Select genre for filtering
  selectInput(inputId = "genre_selection",
              label = "Filter by genre:",
              choices = movies %>% select(genre) %>% unique(),
              selected = "mpaa_rating")

filtered_movies <- movies %>%
  filter(genre == input$genre_selection)
```

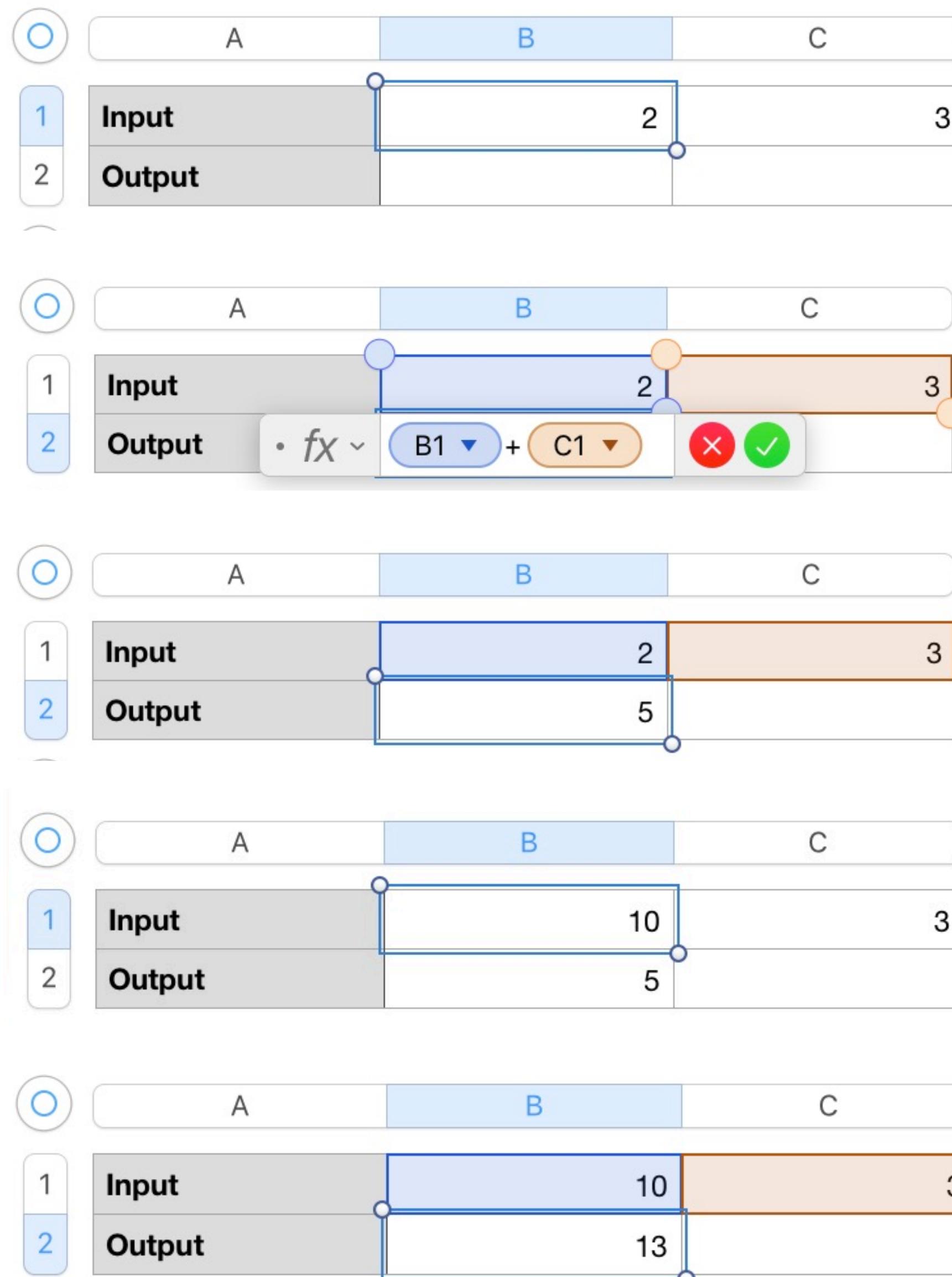
input\$genre\_selection isn't an ordinary variable  
it's a reactive input that can change value with time

# REACTIVITY

- Shiny input results of the form `input$variable` are **reactive** variables
- `input` variables can be used directly inside `render` expressions
- Any other uses of `input` variables must be inside a `reactive( {} )` expression
- Reactive expressions yield functions that are reactive when called as functions.



# THINK OF A SPREADSHEET



- The value 13 was computed by **reacting** to B1 changing from 2 to 10
- All cells in spreadsheets are reactive by default
- In Shiny, only input variables created by Shiny input functions are reactive by default

# WE TELL SHINY ABOUT REACTIVITY WITH THE REACTIVE FUNCTION

We have to change this:

```
filtered_movies <- movies %>%
  filter(genre == input$genre_selection)
```

To this:

```
reactive_movies <- reactive({ movies %>%
  filter(genre == input$genre_selection)
})
```

And when we want the value of reactive\_movies, we have to invoke a function instead of just referencing it:

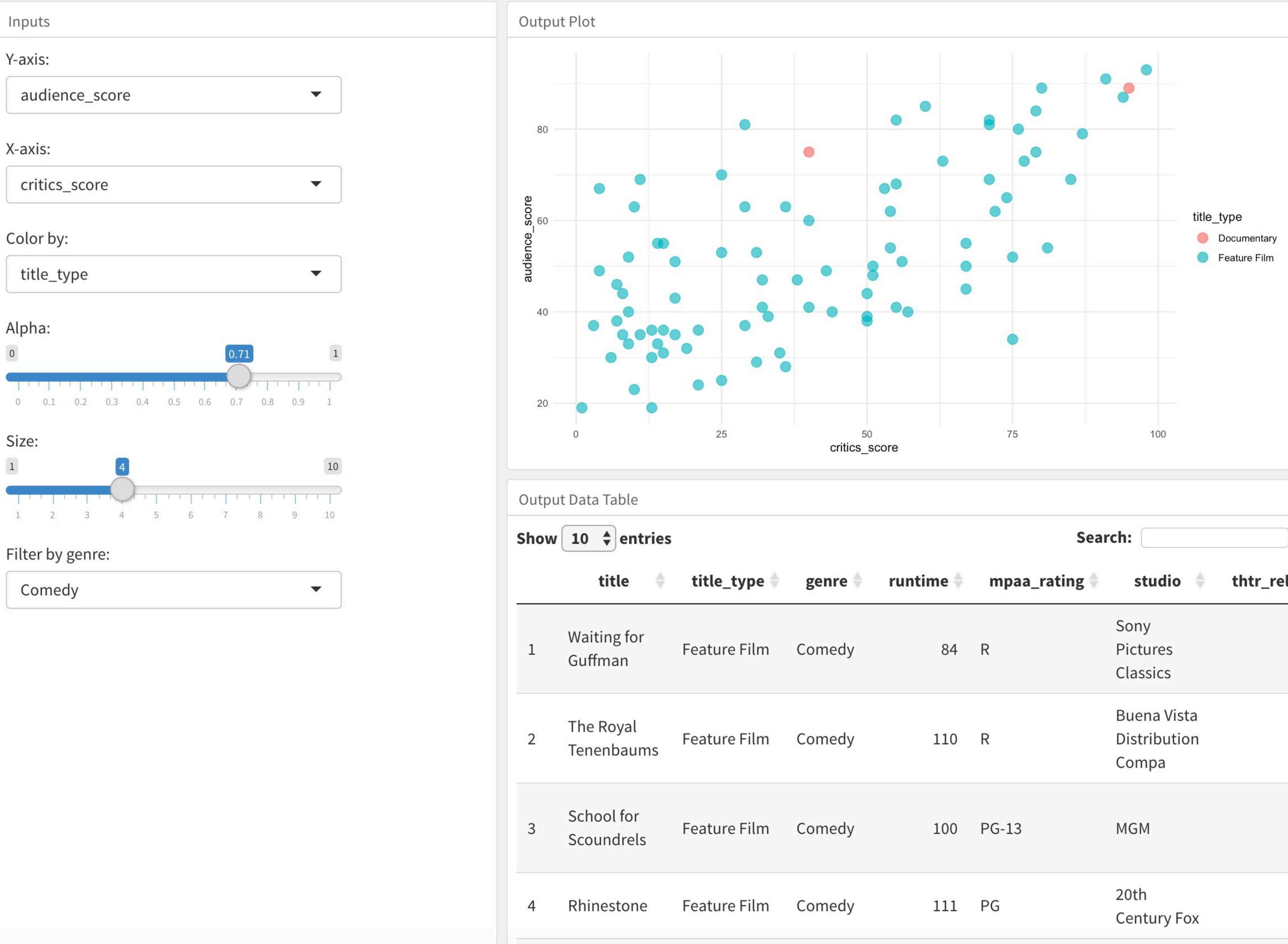
```
ggplot(data = reactive_movies(), ...)
```

## Filtering Results

1. Open file `55-movies5.Rmd`
2. Change `filtered_movies` to a new reactive expression,  
`reactive_movies` where \$\$\$ appears
3. Also change references to `filtered_movies` to  
`reactive_movies()`
4. Run the app and see what happens.

5m 00s

## Movies Dashboard with Shiny Inputs



Publishing Shiny apps  
requires a server that runs R.

[shinyapps.io](https://shinyapps.io) and RStudio

Connect are two easy options

# PUBLISHING SHINY APPS

- Unlike HTML widgets that just rely on HTML and Javascript, Shiny apps must be published to a server that can run R.
- RStudio runs a public server called [shinyapps.io](https://shinyapps.io) that you can publish Shiny apps to.
- To publish your app so others can use it, hit the *Publish* button in the IDE.
- Create an account on [shinyapps.io](https://shinyapps.io) when asked and publish your app there.
- Note that [shinyapps.io](https://shinyapps.io) will only allow you to run 5 apps without paying, so be sure to kill off apps when you no longer want them.

# SHINY TIPS AND TRICKS

- Debugging Shiny apps can be VERY challenging because of their real-time nature
  1. Start by writing a static plotting application without Shiny
  2. Build out your UI in R Markdown without Shiny
  3. Encapsulate your application and UI within Shiny functions

You can use HTML Widgets in  
your Shiny app by modifying  
your render functions

# RENDER FUNCTIONS FOR 2 HTML WIDGETS

| If you want to use... | render using... | Instead of....       |
|-----------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Plotly plots          | renderPlotly    | renderPlot           |
| Leaflet maps          | renderLeaflet   | making your own maps |

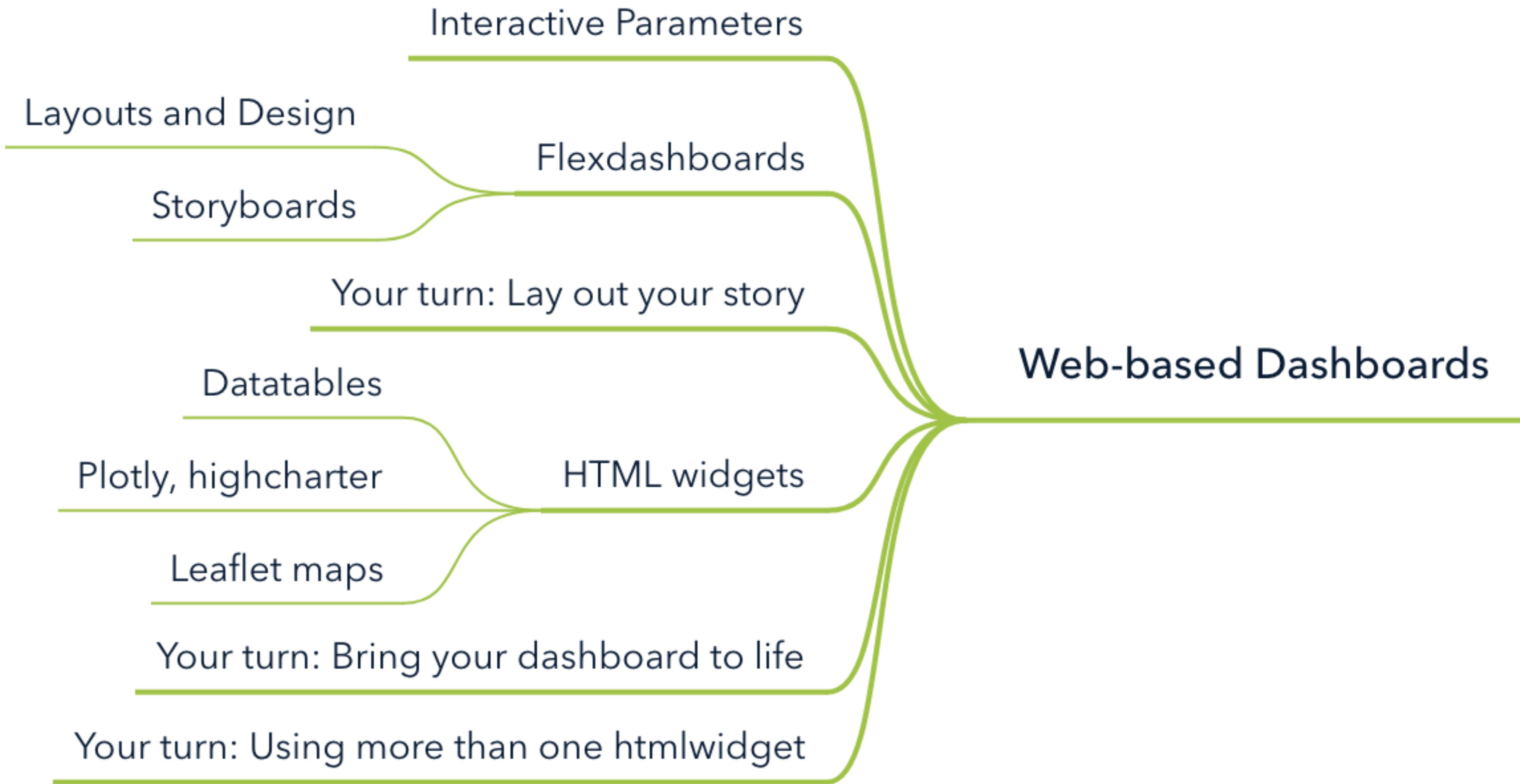
## EXERCISE 46

## Pull It All Together

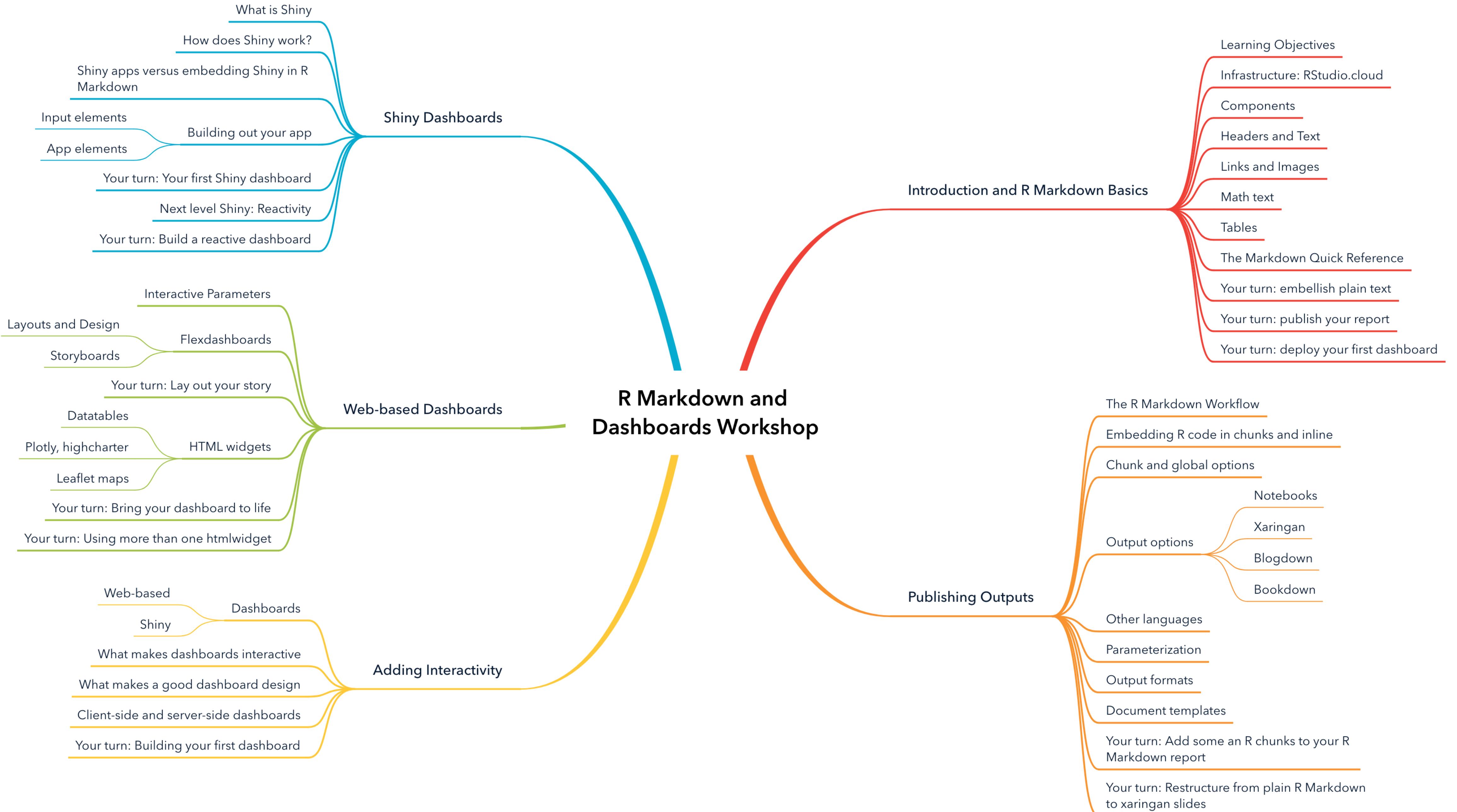
1. Open file **56-movies-and-earthquakes.Rmd**
2. Modify the existing plots to use **plotly**
3. Collect the existing materials into a single first level header **# Movies**
4. Create a new first level header page titled **# Earthquakes** that plots recent earthquakes using **leaflet** and **renderLeaflet**. You can find the leaflet code in the dashboard **01-my-first-dashboard.Rmd** in the **01-Introduction** directory; you will, however, want to remove the layer with temperatures and the grouping legend code.
5. Extra credit: add a datatable below your leaflet map with the most recent earthquakes



# WRAP UP



# R Markdown and Dashboards Workshop



## Introduction and R Markdown Basics

### Learning Objectives

Infrastructure: RStudio.cloud

Components

Headers and Text

Links and Images

Math text

Tables

The Markdown Quick Reference

Your turn: embellish plain text

Your turn: publish your report

Your turn: deploy your first dashboard

# R Markdown is a language for creating *computational* *documents\**

Donald Knuth's name for computational documents was *Literate Programming*, which he defined in a book of the same name. I prefer computation documents because it is more intuitively descriptive.

Metadata for an R Markdown  
document is written at the  
top of the document in YAML

R Markdown flags structural  
elements of our text for  
special treatment



Code chunks delimited by  
``` glyphs allow us to add  
computation to our  
document.



R Markdown code chunks  
support many languages.



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## Publishing Outputs

### The R Markdown Workflow

Embedding R code in chunks and inline

Chunk and global options

Notebooks

Xaringan

Blogdown

Bookdown

Output options

Other languages

Parameterization

Output formats

Document templates

Your turn: Add some an R chunks to your R  
Markdown report

Your turn: Restructure from plain R Markdown  
to xaringan slides

*R Markdown is a system for  
creating structured  
computational documents*

R Markdown can knit to  
many document types



*HTML-based R Markdown  
documents can be shared  
using the publish button in  
the RStudio IDE*

R Markdown similar to that  
for reports and slides can  
also generate dashboards.

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## Adding Interactivity

Web-based

Dashboards

Shiny

What makes dashboards interactive

What makes a good dashboard design

Client-side and server-side dashboards

Your turn: Building your first dashboard

Interactivity is the gateway  
drug that hooks users on  
your content



R Markdown supports three  
different types of  
interactivity: one-time, web-  
based, and server-side

Tailor your interactivity plan  
to your data and user goals

TRI

## Adding Interactivity

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Your turn: Building your first dashboard

## Web-based Dashboards

Interactive Parameters

Layouts and Design

Storyboards

Flexdashboards

Your turn: Lay out your story

Datatables

Plotly, highcharter

HTML widgets

Leaflet maps

Your turn: Bring your dashboard to life

Your turn: Using more than one htmlwidget

Web-based

Dashboards

Shiny

Dashboards have three  
building blocks:

1. Controls
2. Displays
3. Layouts

R Markdown layouts use  
header information to mark  
rows and columns on pages

HTML widgets create display  
interactivity using the user's  
browser



We build interactive controls  
using either knitting with  
parameters or using Shiny

## Web-based Dashboards

Interactive Parameters

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Shiny inputs drive outputs  
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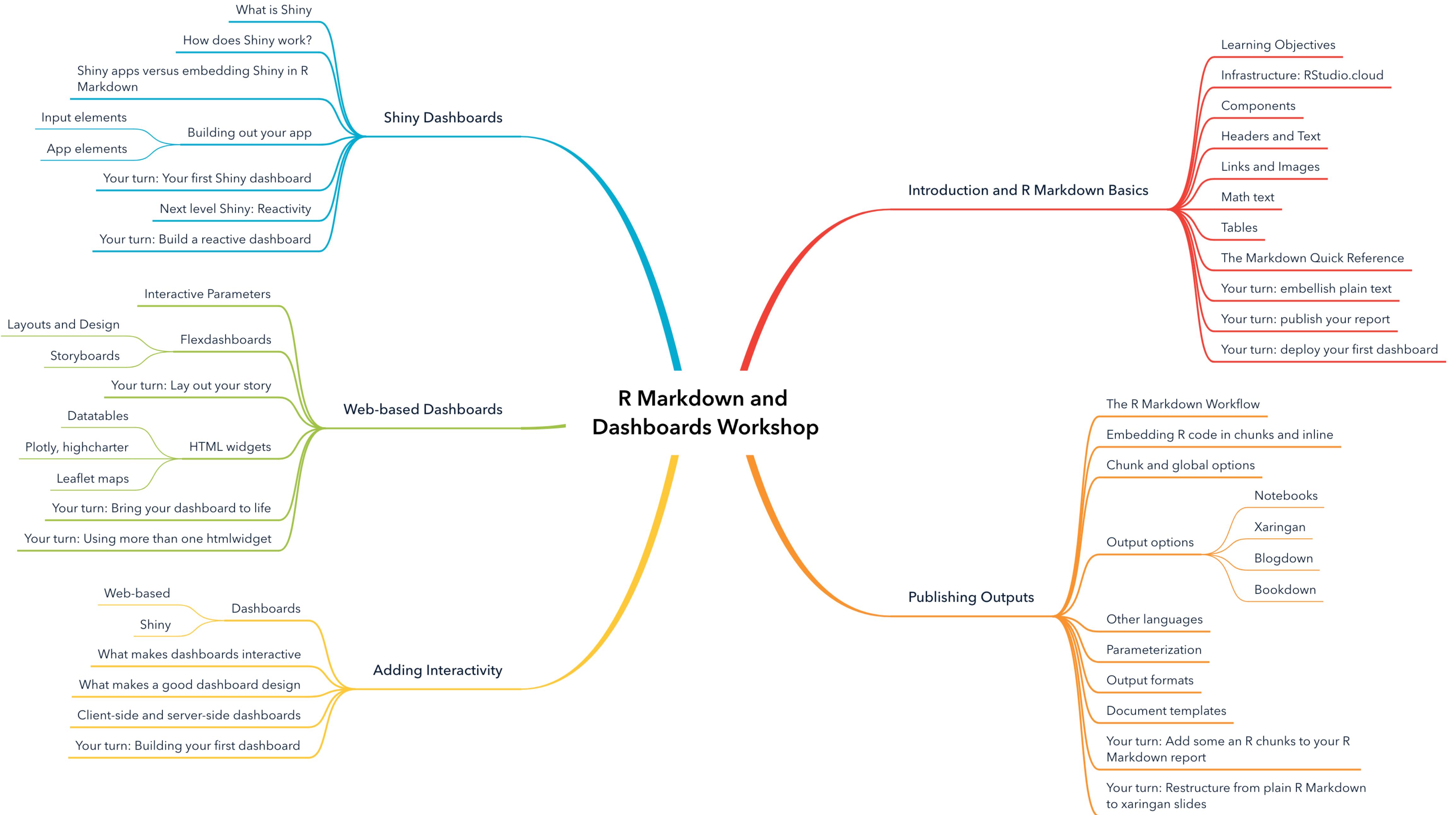
App elements

Your turn: Your first Shiny dashboard

Next level Shiny: Reactivity

Your turn: Build a reactive dashboard

# R Markdown and Dashboards Workshop





# R Markdown and Interactive Dashboards

Carl Howe, Director of Education, RStudio  
Kelly O'Brient, Solutions Engineer, RStudio