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Available R packages

To make the most of R for your data analysis, you will need to install packages. **Packages** are units of reproducible R code that you can use to add more functionality to R. The best part is that the R community creates and shares packages so that other users can access them! In this reading, you will learn more about widely used packages and where to find them.



Packages can be found in repositories, which are collections of useful packages that are ready to install. You can find repositories on [Bioconductor](#), [R-Forge](#), [rOpenSci](#), or [GitHub](#), but the most commonly used repository is the Comprehensive R Archive Network or [CRAN](#). CRAN stores code and documentation so that you can install packages into your own RStudio space.

Package documentation

Packages will not only include the code itself, but also documentation that explains the package's author, function, and any other packages that you will need to download. When you are using CRAN, you can find the package documentation in the DESCRIPTION file.

Check out Karl Broman's [R Package Primer](#) to learn more.

Choosing the right packages