

How to Download R Studio

Sara Jamshidi, May 2024

Once you have downloaded R, you should download an IDE. The most popular is RStudio, which is what we will use in this class. It is specifically designed for R and that's why I recommend it. It does have one key drawback, namely that it can perform poorly with large datasets because its memory management is not as efficient as other options.

You do have other options, however. If you primarily program in R and Python, Jupyter Notebook is a great environment to consider. While it is not an IDE, the environment is optimized for data science. Using Jupyter Notebook for both does mean that you will need to be aware of the kernel you are using. If you program in several languages, Visual Studio is a great option. Although it does not have the many features RStudio has, it addresses this through R tools for Visual Studio.

Note: Make sure you have administrator privileges to install RStudio on your computer. RStudio Desktop should be **free** to download.

Steps

1. Install R. See “How to Download R Onto Your System” for more information.
2. Download RStudio Desktop through Posit here: <https://posit.co/download/rstudio-desktop/>
3. Once the download is complete, locate the downloaded file (it will be named based on the version you downloaded, like “RStudio-2024.04.0-735.dmg”) and double-click on it to open the installation process.
4. Follow the prompts to install RStudio Desktop.
5. Once the installation is complete, verify that RStudio has been downloaded by opening the application.