

# Version 2 of the R Commander

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The R Commander provides a graphical user interface (GUI) for *R* based on standard menus, buttons, and dialog boxes. Implemented in the **Rcmdr** package [4], the R Commander uses *Tcl/Tk* widgets via the **tcltk** package [6], which is included in the standard *R* distribution. As a consequence, the R Commander is simple to install and use on all of the computing platforms on which *R* commonly runs — Windows, Mac OS X, and Linux/Unix. The R Commander also uses the message-translation facilities in *R* [7], and it has been translated into a number of different languages.

Since its introduction about 10 years ago [2], the R Commander has evolved substantially. An early innovation was the capacity to accommodate plug-in packages [3], which extend the capabilities of the R Commander, and more than 30 of these are currently available on CRAN. Recently, we introduced version 2 of the R Commander, which incorporates a variety of interface improvements, including tabbed dialogs; a more consistent appearance employing themed *Tcl/Tk* widgets (thanks to the **tcltk2** package, 5); *Apply* buttons that reopen dialogs in their current state after executing *R* commands; and the automatic generation of reports using editable R Markdown and  $\LaTeX$  documents, via the **markdown** [1] and **knitr** [8] packages. These documents compile respectively to HTML and PDF files at the press of a button in the R Commander interface.

The overall goal of the R Commander remains largely unchanged, however: To provide a simple, intuitive, extensible GUI to *R*, primarily for basic and occasional use of *R*, such as in introductory and intermediate-level statistics courses, as an open-source alternative to GUI-based commercial software such as *SPSS*.

## References

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