Introduction to R — Working Directories and RStudio Projects

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2024-09-03

Working Directory

1. What is a directory?

- A pointer, a map, a set of directions, A FILE SYSTEM
- How your computer knows where your files are in the hard drive/SSD, in memory.
- Also known as a PATH.

2. What is a working directory?

- Where you are working right now.
- Points to the sub directory you are using.
- Prevents you from having to specify the whole path each time.

3. How do you set your working directory?

- Use `setwd()` in console or at the begining of your R file.
- Has this structure on MAC: /Users/williampoirier/Dropbox/etc
    - `option + command + c`
- Has this structure on PC: C:\Users\williampoirier\Dropbox\etc
    - This sucks because the `setwd()` function expects this format: C:/Users/williampoirier/Dropbox/etc.
    - `shift + right click > Copy as Path`

3. A note on organisation

- REALLY IMPORTANT TO CREATE A STRUCTURE!
- t+10 years you is gonna be thankfull.

RStudio Projects

1. Not necessary, but very helpfull when working on multiple things.
2. That's because it:

- Sets a working directory.
- Remembers which files were openned when last closed.
- Saves your last environement (if you want it to).

3. Let's create a project!

- File > New Project > Existing Directory > where the workshop folder is