

## R Commander Installation


In STAT 216 this summer, we will be using a statistical software package called **R**. **R** and the corresponding graphics user interface (GUI) **R-Commander** are available as free downloads from [www.r-project.org](http://www.r-project.org) for Unix, Windows and Mac platforms. This handout serves as a step-by-step guide for installing **R** and **R-Commander** on your home computer.

1. Go to the [www.r-project.org](http://www.r-project.org) web page and click on **download R** in the “Getting Started” box. This will take you to a list of “CRAN mirrors”. Select <http://cran.cnr.berkeley.edu> as the CRAN mirror by clicking it. In the “Download and Install R” box, click on **Windows** to open the “R for Windows” page. Click **base** to open the “R-2.11.0 for Windows” download page. Finally, click **Download R 2.11.0 for Windows** to download the base R package installation file **R-2.11.0-win\_32.exe**.
2. An icon with the name “R-2.11.0-win\_32.exe” will appear on your desktop. Double-click this icon to begin the **R** installation process. Choose **English** as the language, and then click **Next & Next** again. At this point, you will see a destination folder for the location of the **R** software. You can decide to change this if you want, but once you have selected a destination folder, click **Next**.
3. This brings up the **Select Components** page. You can select different components to be installed if desired, but it is sufficient and recommended to just click **Next**. This will then bring up the **Startup Options** page. It should have **No (accept defaults)** selected. Click **Next**. This will bring up the **Select Start Menu Folder** page. **R** will be installed in a subfolder named “R” unless otherwise specified. Click **Next**. Finally, the **Select Additional Tasks** page will appear. Click **Next**.
4. At this point, **R** will be installed on your computer. Click **Finish** when it’s done (it shouldn’t take very long). You should now see a blue icon in the shape of a capital **R** on your desktop. Double-click the “Blue R” icon to open **R**.

Completing the four steps above will install the base package of **R** on your computer. To further install the graphics user interface **R-Commander** for use with **R**, follow the steps below.

1. Once in **R**, select **Packages - Install Package(s)** from the main menu header. Select a “CRAN mirror” from the list given. I always choose “USA(CA 1)” as I have never had a problem installing packages from this site. A list of “Packages” will appear. Find the package “**Rcmdr**” in this list. Note that packages beginning with capital letters appear first before those beginning with small letters. Once you have highlighted “**Rcmdr**”, click **OK**. This will install the **Rcmdr** package.
2. Now that **R-Commander** is installed, we need to load it into memory. To do this, select **Packages - Load package**, highlight **Rcmdr**, and click **OK**. A warning will appear telling you that several packages used by **Rcmdr** are missing and you are asked whether you would like to install these missing packages. Click **Yes**. This brings up the “Install Missing Packages” window. Make sure “CRAN” is selected and click **OK**. Select a CRAN mirror (again, I just choose “USA (CA 1)”) and click **OK**. The missing packages will be loaded; this may take awhile so be patient! When finished, a window will appear in **R** called **R-Commander**.
3. The final step in the process is to allow for **R-Commander** to work properly with **R** using a single-document RGUI interface (SDI). First, close **R**. To enable the SDI, make a copy of the **R** desktop icon (right-click the icon, drag it to a different location on the desktop, select *Copy Here* from the menu). Right-click the new icon and select *Properties*. Add “-sdi” without the quotes (preceded by a single space) to the *Target* field on the *Shortcut* tab of the *Properties* dialog box. When you are finished, the field should read something like: “C:\Program Files\R\rw2010\bin\Rgui.exe” -sdi. Click **OK**.

Optional but Recommended: If you would like **R-Commander** to open automatically when you open **R** (by clicking on the blue **R** icon), you can do the following. Navigate to **R**’s *etc* directory on your hard drive.



It should be in a location such as: "C:\Program Files\R\R-2.11.0\etc". In the *etc* directory, there should be a file called **Rprofile.site**. Open this file using a text editor such as Notepad, Wordpad, or Word. At the end of this file, you need to add the following lines, exactly as they are typed below:

```
local({  
  old <- getOption("defaultPackages")  
  options(defaultPackages = c(old,"Rcmdr"))  
})
```

When you have typed in these four lines (please check them carefully for accuracy!), click **File - Save** to save these changes and then close the file. Now, when you click the blue icon to begin an **R** session, **R-Commander** should open automatically as well.