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