

N8 CIR Newsletter

Welcome

Despite many of us still being off-campus and away from one another we've still been busy preparing and hosting events.

This newsletter contains details of resources from our most recent events. Firstly a guide to using Python to gather data and analyse data from Twitter and secondly an introduction to reproducible analyses using R and RStudio. You can also read details of our new training survey as we search for individuals from across the partnership to help develop research and high performance computing skills.

Training Survey

Since its inception N8 CIR have been gathering training requirements from across the N8 Research Partnership with the intention of helping more academic domains to benefit from high performance computing.

We now have a clear idea of some of the most important skills required by researchers and are seeking individuals from across the partnership to deliver some of these courses.

Our new training survey outlines these workshops and asks people to let us know if they are able to deliver them. It also gives you the opportunity to identify additional support you may need to deliver them.

You can complete the survey at: <http://bit.ly/32SwJzB>



Python for Web Scraping

Towards the end of July we hosted three workshops to help researchers get to grips with the Python and R programming languages.

The first two events covered the use of Python for Web Scraping in Digital Health and Digital Humanities. They began with an introduction to Python and its interface. From there, there was an extensive guide to working with Twitter's Developer API to gather data for later analysis. The session finished with an overview of topic modelling using 'gensim.'

You can see the speakers' slides and presentations here: <https://n8cir.org.uk/events/event-resource/python-web-scraping/>

We are grateful to Tahir Aduragba, Zhongtian Sun and Jialin Yu of Durham University for delivering these workshops.

Reproducible Analyses in R

On 21 July Emma Rand from the University of York hosted a two hour workshop to introduce R and RStudio to enable researchers to develop reproducible analyses of their work.

The course was delivered using a mixture of slides and practical demonstration. The slides were hosted on GitHub so that participants were able to copy and paste the taught code directly into RStudio enabling the course to cover a lot of ground, and participants to see results relatively quickly.

The slides and video from this workshop are available on our website here: <https://n8cir.org.uk/events/event-resource/analyses-r/>

They include an introduction to the RStudio interface, adding data and performing simple calculations, plotting data with ggplot, using the manual and importing, and finally, tidying and working with data.



Event Feedback

Over the last couple of weeks we have begun to send out surveys for our most recent events. These include questions that will help us to ensure that we are able to better understand and support the community we serve. They also include the opportunity to provide feedback on the speakers and course materials, and offer quotes that we can use to promote our future events.

If you've attended and benefited from a workshop, please do take the time to complete the survey. Although they are free to attend, there are significant time costs to the trainers. Constructive feedback will help them, and indeed the N8 CIR community, to grow and improve which will be integral to the success of the programme.

Microsoft Azure Workshop

On 22 July Microsoft's Education team ran a workshop introducing their Azure platform and explaining how it can benefit researchers. More than 50 people joined the session from across the partnership and were able to see some of the hardware available on Azure, a demonstration of CycleCloud and some of the different approaches taken by different sectors who already use the platform.

We are hoping to work with Microsoft to organise further workshops, including a hands-on session in Azure and a virtual data centre tour. As soon as the dates, times and content of these sessions is confirmed we'll announce them on Twitter and to the mailing list

Using Bede in Your Research

If you are hoping to use Bede in your research in the coming months then you will need to acknowledge the facility in presentations and papers using the following text:

"We acknowledge the N8 Centre for Computationally Intensive Research (N8 CIR) for computational resources established through EPSRC (EP/T022167/1)"

A high-resolution version of our logo, for use in talks or on posters can be found here: <https://n8cir.org.uk/about/n8-cir-logo/>

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