Tools for making faster and better looking Shiny apps

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Shiny v1.6 major features

- Persistent caching via new bindCache() function
- Improved theming support via new {bslib} & {thematic} packages
- Accessibility improvements and many bug fixes

For details, see <u>the blog post</u>

Shiny v1.6 major features

 Persistent caching via new bindCache() function

 Improved theming support via new {bslib} & {thematic} packages

Accessibility improvements and many bug fixes

Explore your weather

Return to previous city	Search for a city		Try a random city
	Ann Arbor, MI	-	*2

Stations contributing data Click on station to go to its dataset.

Data sourced from NOAA Climate Normals generated by taking average temperatures from weather stations over the years 1982-2010. For cities with multiple weather stations the average across all reporting stations is used.

Fetching data from NOAA Downloading data from all found stations

*

Live app

weatherData ← reactive({ fetchData(input\$city) })

weatherData ← reactive({
 fetchData(input\$city)
}) %>%
bindCache(input\$city)

weatherData ← reactive({
 fetchData(input\$city)
}) %>%
bindCache(input\$city)

output\$plot ← renderPlot({
 plot(weatherData())
})

weatherData ← reactive({
 fetchData(input\$city)
}) %>%
bindCache(input\$city)

output\$plot ← renderPlot({
 plot(weatherData())
}) %>%
bindCache(weatherData())

See more in the <u>app story</u>

Previous cities are instantaneous!



reactive(...) %>%
bindCache(input\$city)

renderPlot(...) %>%
bindCache(input\$city)

renderText(...) %>%
bindCache(input\$city)

plotly::renderPlotly(...) %>%
bindCache(input\$city)

Configuring the cache

Size: Default cache size is 200 MB in memory.

Scope: By default, memory cache is shared across *all user sessions,* but may be scoped to each user.

Lifetime: A memory cache is discarded when the app exits or restarts. A disk-based cache can persist across app restarts, and can be shared among multiple processes with Connect or Shiny Server Pro.

For details, see bindCache()'s reference

Shiny v1.6 major features

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Before we get into usage, let's discuss Bootstrap CSS & Sass

Shiny's default UI is powered by **Bootstrap**

- An open source CSS framework, originally started at Twitter
- Now ubiquitous: used by millions of websites & top 10 project on GitHub (by stars)
- Easy to customize (if you're a web programmer)
 - {bslib} package makes customization easy via R

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Hello, world!

This is a template for a simple marketing or informational website. It includes a large callout called a jumbotron and three supporting pieces of content. Use it as a starting point to create something more unique.

Learn more »

Heading

Donec id elit non mi porta gravida at eget metus. Fusce dapibus, tellus ac cursus commodo, tortor mauris condimentum nibh, ut fermentum massa justo sit amet risus. Etiam porta sem malesuada magna mollis euismod. Donec sed odio dui.

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View details »

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Navbar		
 <u>Home (current)</u> Link 		
 <u>Disabled</u> <u>Dropdown</u> 		
Action Another action Something else here		
Search		

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 background-color: #fff;
}
input,
                                                                           button,
select,
textarea {
 font-family: inherit;
 font-size: inherit;
 line-height: inherit;
}
a {
 color: #337ab7;
 text-decoration: none;
}
a:hover,
a:focus {
 color: #23527c;
 text-decoration: underline;
}
a:focus {
 outline: 5px auto -webkit-focus-ring-color;
 outline-offset: -2px;
}
figure {
```

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col tex	<pre>a.text-primary:focus { color: #286090; }</pre>	
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out }	.bg-success { background-color: #dff0d8;
} a.te	} a.bg-success:hover.
۲ CO.	a.bg-success:focus {
	<pre>background-color: #c1e2b3; }</pre>









Sass is a better way to write CSS



Sass is a better way to write CSS



<u>The {sass} R package</u> provides a general Sass compiler for R

The {bslib} R package

- Easily customize Bootstrap Sass from R
 - Works with Shiny, R Markdown, {flexdashboard}, etc
- Seamless upgrading from Bootstrap 3 to 4 (and beyond)
- Easily leverage 'pre-packaged' Bootswatch themes

rstudio.github.io/bslib

Start using {bslib} with Shiny

library(shiny)

ui ← fluidPage(
 theme = bslib::bs_theme(),

Start using {bslib} with Shiny

```
library(shiny)
```

Bootstrap versioning

library(shiny)

 $\bullet \bullet \bullet$

Defaults to *currently* recommended version for *new* apps

Bootstrap versioning

library(shiny)

 $\bullet \bullet \bullet$

Bootstrap 4 is *currently* recommended

Bootstrap versioning

library(shiny)

 $\bullet \bullet \bullet$

ui ← fluidPage(theme = bslib::bs_theme(version = 4),

Specify version for better reproducibility (default may change to 5, 6, etc)

Legacy apps

library(shiny)

Shiny currently defaults to Bootstrap 3

Bootswatch themes

library(shiny)

21 Bootswatch 4 themes available!



Custom base colors

```
library(shiny)
```

Custom accent colors

```
library(shiny)
```

```
ui \leftarrow fluidPage(
 theme = bslib::bs_theme(
  bg = "#121212", fg = "#E4E4E4",
  primary = "#BB86FC",
  secondary = "#48DAC6"
            The most important
              accent colors
```

Custom fonts

```
library(shiny)
```

```
ui \leftarrow fluidPage(
 theme = bslib::bs_theme(
  bg = "#121212", fg = "#E4E4E4",
  primary = "#BB86FC",
  secondary = "#48DAC6",
  base_font = font_google("Open Sans")
            Intelligently
          download, cache, and
           import font files
```
Targeted theming

```
library(shiny)
```

```
ui \leftarrow fluidPage(
 theme = bslib::bs theme(
  bg = "#121212", fg = "#E4E4E4",
  primary = "#BB86FC",
  secondary = "#48DAC6",
  base_font = font_google("Open Sans")
  "progress-bar-bg" = "orange"
```

100s of Bootstrap Sass variables are available

Preview a theme

bslib::bs_theme_preview(theme)

Iheme demo Inputs Plots Tables Notifications Fonts Options	
inputPanel() wellPanel()	
sliderInput() selectizeInput() selectizeInput(multiple=T)	dateInput() 2020-12-07
	« December 2020 »
dateRangeInput() 2020-12-24 to 2020-12-31	Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 29 30 1 2 3 4 5
	6 7 8 9 10 11 12
Below are the values bound to each input widget above	20 21 22 23 24 25 26
<pre>\$ sliderInput : int [1:2] 30 70 \$ selectizeInput : chr "AL" \$ selectizeMultiInput: chr "AZ"</pre>	27 28 29 30 31 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
<pre>\$ dateInput : Date[1:1], format: "2020-12-07" \$ dateRangeInput : Date[1:2], format: "2020-12-24"</pre>	

Here are some actionButton() s demonstrating different theme (i.e., accent) colors

Primary

✓ Success i Info



C Dark

Real-time theming

bslib::bs_theme_preview(theme)

Theme demo Inputs Plots	Tables Notifications Fonts	Options		Theme customizer
inputPanel() wellPanel()				Basic colors
				Background color
sliderInput()	selectizeInput()	selectizeInput(multiple=T)	dateInput()	#202123 ^I
0 30 70 100	AL 👻		2020-10-06	The background color for the page
0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100				Foreground color
dateRangeInput()				#B8BCC2
2020-10-06 to 2020-10-13				The color for foreground elements, including text
Below are the values bound to ea	ach input widget above			Accent colors
List of 5				Fonts
<pre>\$ sliderInput : int [\$ selectizeInput : chr " \$ selectizeMultiInput: NULL</pre>	[1:2] 30 70 "AL"			Options
\$ dateInput : Date[\$ dateRangeInput : Date[[1:1], format: "2020-10-06" [1:2], format: "2020-10-06"			Spacing

Here are some actionButton() s demonstrating different theme (i.e., accent) colors

P Primary

Secondary (default)



Changes captured as code

> bs_theme_preview(theme)

Listening on http://127.0.0.1:7327

Real-time theme your app library(shiny)

• • •

Requires Bootstrap 4

Implement your own theming



Plots don't reflect theme 😞

Theme demo Inputs Plots Tables Notifications Fonts Options

-

Choose an example





Plots don't reflect theme 😞



thematic::thematic_shiny()

Theme demo Inputs Plots Tables Notifications Fonts Options

Choose an example

GeomSmooth





thematic::thematic_shiny()



Auto-theme any plotOutput()

Enables auto-coloring

library(shiny)
thematic::thematic_shiny()

ui ← fluidPage(
 theme = bslib::bs_theme(),

 $\bullet \bullet \bullet$

shinyApp(ui, function(...) { })

Auto-theme any plotOutput()

library(shiny)
thematic::thematic_shiny(font='auto')

Translate fonts as well

 $\bullet \bullet \bullet$

shinyApp(ui, function(...) { })

Auto-theme any plotOutput()

library(shiny)
thematic::thematic_shiny(font='auto')

ui ← fluidPage(
 theme = bslib::bs_theme(),

 $\bullet \bullet \bullet$

Works only if using Google Fonts or fonts known to R

shinyApp(ui, function(...) { })

The {thematic} R package

- Auto theme R plots in Shiny, R Markdown, and RStudio.
- Provides a simplified interface for theming {ggplot2}, {lattice}, and {base} graphics in any R runtime.



rstudio.github.io/thematic

Auto-theme plots in RStudio

D O O the	matic - master - RStudio	
🔪 • 👒 🥁 • 🕞 🔂 🥌 / Addins •		🚯 thematic 🕤
JEWS.md × 🗢 custom.Rmd × 🗢 README.Rmd × 🕘 Untitled17* × 💷 pkgdown.yaml × 🔤 R-CMD- » 👝	Console Terminal × R Markdown × Jobs ×	
← □ A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A	~/github/thematic/ 🗇	1
<pre>1 thematic::thematic_on() I 2 3 demo_plot ← function() { 4 rsthemes::use_theme_favorite() 5 6 ggplot(mtcars, aes(wt, mpg, label = rownames(mtcars), color = factor(cyl))) +</pre>		
/ geom_point() +		
8 ggrepel::geom_text_repel(max.overlaps = 25)		
10		
11 demo plot()		
12	Files Plots Packages Help Viewer	Publish 🖌 🥝
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6:80 f demo_plot() \$	Ferrari Dino Hornet Sportabout Valiant Pontiac Firebird	
Environment History Connections Build Git Tutorial	Merc 280C Merc 450SL	
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	10- Lincoln Continental	
	2 3 4 5	
	wt	

Using {bslib} with R Markdown



Arguments to
bslib::bs_theme()

Using {bslib} with R Markdown

output: html_document: theme: bg: "#121212" fg: "#E4E4E4" primary: "#BB86FC" base_font: google: Open Sans

> Same intelligent font importing as: bs_theme(base_font = font_google("Open Sans"))

Using {bslib} with R Markdown

output: flexdashboard::flex_dashboard: theme: bg: "#121212" fg: "#E4E4E4" primary: "#BB86FC" base_font: google: Open Sans

{flexdashboard},
 {pkgdown}, and
 {bookdown} support
 coming to CRAN soon

flexdashboard-pkg.netlify.app/articles/theme.html

Real-time theme Rmd docs



Real-time theme flexdashboard



Auto-theme plots in HTML



Auto-theme plots in HTML



Theme R plots anywhere



General {thematic} usage

- Three ways to enable globally: thematic_shiny(), thematic_rmd(), and thematic_on()
 - You can also <u>enable thematic for one-time use</u>
- Auto theming is the default behavior, but you can also directly specify colors and fonts.

Provide colors directly

thematic_on(
 bg = "#002B36",
 fg = "#FDF6E3",
 accent = "#2AA198"
)
library(ggplot2)
ggplot(mtcars, aes(wt, mpg)) +
 geom_point() +
 geom_smooth()



Provide fonts directly





Any font known to R or any Google Font works so long as {showtext} or {ragg} is installed

{thematic} sets global theme() defaults



Plot specific styles takes priority over global defaults

Don't add complete theme to plot

```
thematic_on(
    bg = "#002B36",
    fg = "#FDF6E3",
    accent = "#2AA198",
    font = "Pacifico"
)
library(ggplot2)
ggplot(mtcars, aes(wt, mpg)) +
    geom_point() +
    geom_smooth() +
    theme_bw()
```



theme_bw() 'overrides' all the global theme() defaults

Set complete themes globally

```
theme_set(theme_bw())
thematic_on(
    bg = "#002B36",
    fg = "#FDF6E3",
    accent = "#2AA198",
    font = "Pacifico"
)
library(ggplot2)
ggplot(mtcars, aes(wt, mpg)) +
    geom_point() +
    geom_smooth()
```



{thematic} will even 'respect' the complete theme's semantics

Set complete themes globally

```
theme_set(ggthemes::theme_tufte())
thematic_on(
    bg = "#002B36",
    fg = "#FDF6E3",
    accent = "#2AA198",
    font = "Pacifico"
)
library(ggplot2)
ggplot(mtcars, aes(wt, mpg)) +
    geom_point() +
    geom_smooth()
```



{thematic} will even 'respect' the complete theme's semantics

Also works with plotly::ggplotly()



{thematic} also sets global scales

Sets qualitative colorscale to (colour-blind safe) Okabe-Ito

```
thematic_on(
    bg = "#002B36",
    fg = "#FDF6E3",
    accent = "#2AA198",
    font = "Roboto Condensed"
)
library(ggplot2)
ggplot(mtcars, aes(wt, mpg)) +
    geom_point(aes(color=factor(cyl)))
```



Scale defaults are also customizable

Customize with any vector of color codes

thematic_on(
 bg = "#002B36",
 fg = "#FDF6E3",
 accent = "#2AA198",
 font = "Roboto Condensed",
 qualitative = c(
 "#1B9E77", "#D95F02", "#7570B3"
)
library(ggplot2)
ggplot(mtcars, aes(wt, mpg)) +
 geom_point(aes(color=factor(cyl)))

For **ggplot2**, qualitative is only relevant if there are enough colors to encode the levels.



Use {ggplot2} defaults (if you really need to)

```
thematic_on(
    bg = "#002B36",
    fg = "#FDF6E3",
    accent = "#2AA198",
    font = "Roboto Condensed",
    qualitative = NA
)
library(ggplot2)
ggplot(mtcars, aes(wt, mpg)) +
    geom_point(aes(color=factor(cyl)))
```



In summary

- Use shiny :: bindCache() to avoid redundant computation
- Use bslib::bs_theme() to customize Bootstrap CSS
 - In R Markdown, provide arguments to theme:
- Use bslib::bs_themer() to customize in real-time
- Translate CSS to R plots with thematic_shiny()
- {thematic}'s auto-theming also works in RStudio (thematic_on()) and R Markdown (thematic_rmd())
- Use and customize {thematic} themes anywhere by providing colors and fonts directly

Thank you!

Learn more: <u>rstudio.github.io/bslib</u> <u>rstudio.github.io/thematic</u>

Slides: <u>bit.ly/wb-shiny-2021</u>

Contact:





<u>carson@rstudio.com</u>

<u>cpsievert.me</u>