The University of Texas at Austin
McCombs School of Business

The Master of Science Programs caught up recently with Business Analytics Alumni Charvi Mittal. After working in the field, she's realized the need for analysts and data scientists to be able to continue to learn needed skills in the field. She's launched a course to help fill this gap, and we're excited to hear about the work she's doing.

Talk about your lecture series:

RShiny lecture series has been designed primarily for data analysts and data scientists to help them present their data and models in the most intuitive sense possible. Shiny is a package by R which helps design web applications and dashboards. This course is mainly based on my learnings in R Shiny over the past couple of years and hence, contains collated end-end solutions for app building and some of the most common problems encountered.

Why did you create the lecture?

This lecture covers video lectures, quizzes, and projects to give appropriate hands-on learning for learners to build their first app. This also covers various use cases and how it compares with some of the other alternate options. It teaches basic of the file structure, app design and how input-output functions are all integrated together. The learners can show their learnings by working on the final project which has also been covered in this blog post.

With a basic knowledge of R, you can develop your own applications and host them on servers. The best about Shiny is you don't need to write event handlers as part of servers as it has already been taken care by its vast packages. This leads to a very fast learning curve. I find it one of the best tools out there for easy and fast prototyping. Some of the amazing use cases of R Shiny can be found here which can be well replicated once you have a basic understanding of its file structure.

What advantage does this provide for analysts?

RShiny is a wonderful software for presenting the analysis in the most layman sense. Although a lot of drag and drop tools exist in the market which requires much less coding, the use cases these are trying to solve is completely different. Shiny makes use of R's extensive data wrangling features to manipulate data and its extensive machine learning libraries to build modeling pipelines. Getting all this in one place with Shiny is the most attractive reasons for using this. It provides a unique end to end solution for extracting data, exploration and visualizing. Being open source, it has amazing visualization packages contributed as seen here and here.

Link for the lecture: R Shiny lecture series
Project App: Project App
Project code: Project Github code
Blog Post: Blog Post