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Turning your R (or Python) models into APIs

August 9, 2015

By [Jo-fai Chow](#)

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(This article was first published on [Blend it like a Bayesian!](#), and kindly contributed to [R-bloggers](#))

The image shows the Domino API platform interface and a terminal window. The interface includes a 'Publish an API Endpoint' section with a 'Publish' button, a 'Releases' table, and a 'Specify your script file and a specific function in that file' section. The terminal window shows a curl command being executed and the resulting JSON output.

Specify your script file and a specific function in that file. Domino sources your script, running any initialization code. Incoming HTTP requests execute your specific function and return its results.

Execute your model with HTTP/S calls from any programming language or software system.

Parameters in the HTTP request get passed into your R or Python function.

Publish an API Endpoint

model.R

The file containing the code to be hosted.

cloudify

The function to be hosted.

Publish

Releases

Version	Created	Context	Download
v1.0.1 (2014-08-12 27:00) Active	(19543)	cloudify/_cloudify.R	Download
v1.0.1 (2014-08-10 00:00) Archived	(19475)	cloudify/_cloudify.R	Download
v1.0.1 (2014-08-12 22:00) Archived	(19474)	cloudify/_cloudify.R	Download

Domino keeps a history of your "releases" so you can easily roll back to past versions. Changing your files won't update your API until you explicitly republish your changes.

Terminal Output:

```
bash /users/nick ~$ curl -v -X POST \
> http://rt.dominop.com:9000/v1/nick/demo/rt \
> -H "Content-Type: application/json" \
> -d '{"parameters": [{"foo": "bar", "bar": 1.433}]}' \
> -H "X-Domino-api-key: *****"
* Connected to rt.dominop.com (54.244.234.147) port 9000 (#0)
> POST /v1/nick/demo/rt HTTP/1.1
* upload completely sent off: 29 out of 29 bytes
< HTTP/1.1 200 OK
< Content-Type: text/plain; charset=utf-8
< Content-Length: 188
* Connection #0 to host rt.dominop.com left intact
{"result": [{"foo": "bar", "bar": 1.433}]}
Results are returned as JSON.
```

More and more real-world systems are relying on data science and analytical models to deliver sophisticated functionality or improved user experiences. For example, Microsoft combined the power of advanced predictive models and web services to develop the real-time voice translation feature in [Skype](#). Facebook and Google continuously improve their deep learning models for better face recognition features in their photo service.

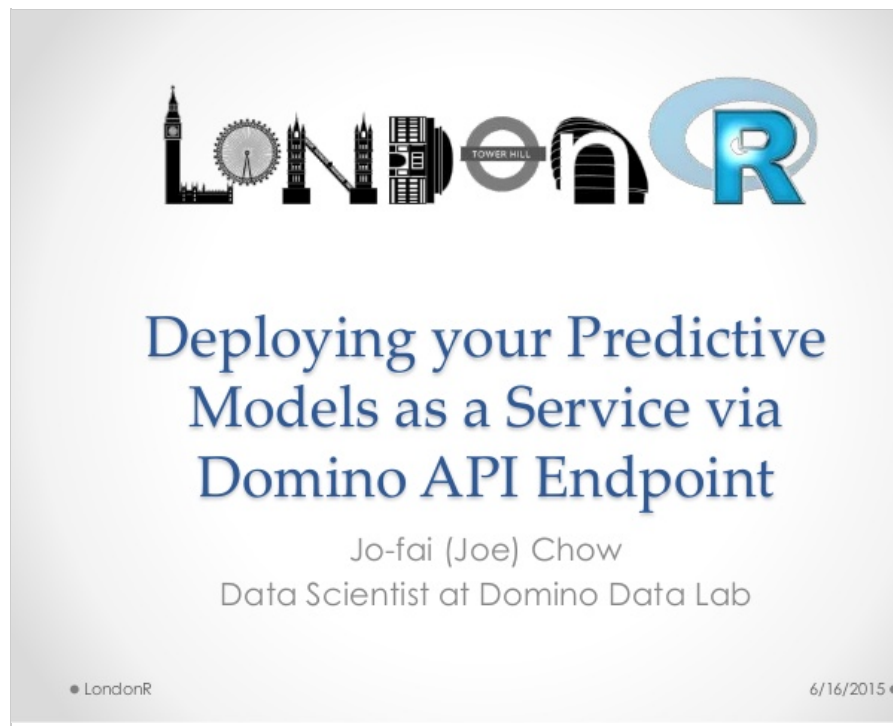
Some have characterised this trend as a shift from Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) to an era of [Models-as-a-Service \(MaaS\)](#). These models are often written in statistical programming languages (e.g., R, Python), which are especially well suited to analytical tasks.

With analytical models playing an increasingly important role in real-world systems, and with more models being developed in R and Python, we need powerful ways of turning these models into APIs for others to consume.

But how?

It is actually a lot easier than you might think. I wrote a step-by-step guide about deploying analytical models as REST APIs. This guide will walk you through how to set up your own MaaS **WITHOUT** a team of full-stack developers/engineers. All you need are the R/Python models you develop and a [Domino Data Lab](#) account. You can find the full article on ProgrammableWeb [here](#).

You can also find my slides for the related [LondonR](#) talk here:



[Deploying your Predictive Models as a Service via Domino](#) from [Jo-fai Chow](#)

When I created this blog back in 2013, my aim was simply to [learn ggplot2](#). Thanks to the feedback and advice from the R community, I continued to learn new stuff and somehow found an opportunity to work for [Domino](#) and [Virgin Media](#). I wouldn't say I have seen enough to make a fair comparison with other programming communities. But so far the support from the R community, for me, has been truly special! I believe blogging is one of the best ways to contribute so I better get back to the writing habit! For the next post, I would like to talk about using R with other Microsoft tools (SQL Server, PowerPoint) in a commercial environment.

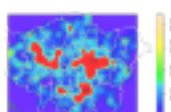
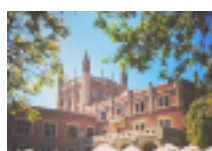
London Kaggle Meetup

I met [Alex Glaser](#) and [Wojtek Kostecki](#) after my LondonR talk. They have already set up a meetup for Kagglers. We are working on a collaborative project to build / test / stack models on the [Domino](#) platform. For more information, join the [meetup](#) first. Let's Kaggle together!

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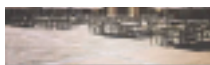


Turning your R (or Python) models into a service



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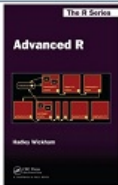
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