

Edinburgh Carpentries (EdCarp)

CERSE Meeting, 13 May 2020



Training - Carpentries



- Started by Greg Wilson in North America
 - The Software Sustainability Institute primary in spreading to UK/Europe
- Teach basic computing skills to students/staff
- Started with Software Carpentries (software-carpentry.org) then ...
 - Data Carpentry (datacarpentry.org)
 - Library Carpentry (librarycarpentry.org)
 - HPC Carpentry – in development (hpc-carpentry.github.io)
 - etc.
- S/W, Data, Library come under “The Carpentries” (carpentries.org)
- Type of carpentry emphasizes the subject modules that are taught

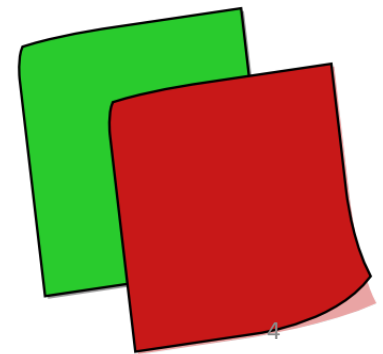
So what is taught?



- Bash shell (0.5 d)
 - Git (0.5 d)
 - Python (1 d)
 - Intro to data (0.5 d)
 - Unix shell (0.5 d)
 - Open Refine (0.5 d)
 - Intro to git/Python (0.5 d)
 - Spreadsheets (0.25 d)
 - Open Refine (0.25 d)
 - R (1.5 d or 1 d + SQL 0.5 d)
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- Typically run over 2 days but other scenarios possible
 - Content is customisable – can swap modules in/out
 - Focus is on good practice
 - Can be tailored to specific domains, e.g. ecology, genomics, etc.
 - Lessons available on-line under a CC-BY licence
 - Free to use but to call yourself a Carpentry and use infrastructure a fee is involved
 - Edinburgh University taken out a Gold organizational membership

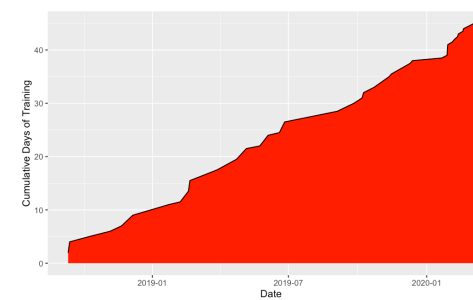
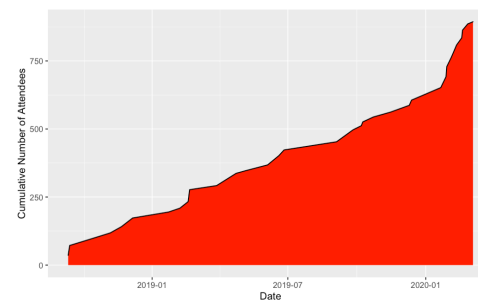
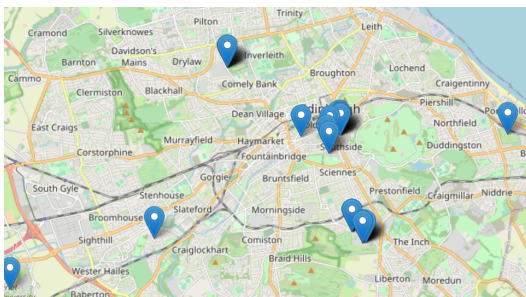
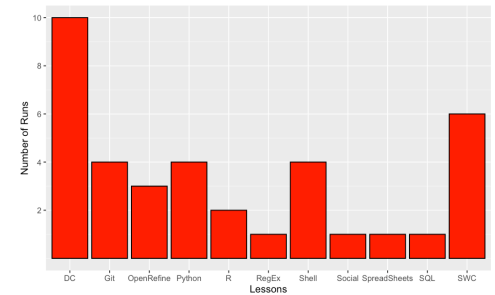
How is it taught?

- Instructor led
 - Instructor at the front types content on own laptop
- Students
 - Type content on own laptops (most of the time)
 - End up with a working copy of application/software on own machine
 - Take away copies of software
 - Given red/green post-it notes
- Helpers
 - Help students who run into (a) problem(s)
 - Signal by sticking the red post-it note at the top of the laptop



What is EdCarp?

- Coordinated approach to teach Carpentries in Edinburgh
 - Provision of Instructors and helpers
 - Using a GitHub organizational repository:
 - <https://github.com/edcarp>
- From Sep 2018 – May 2020
 - Run about 37 events (45 days of training)
 - Trained about 894 people (missing some data)

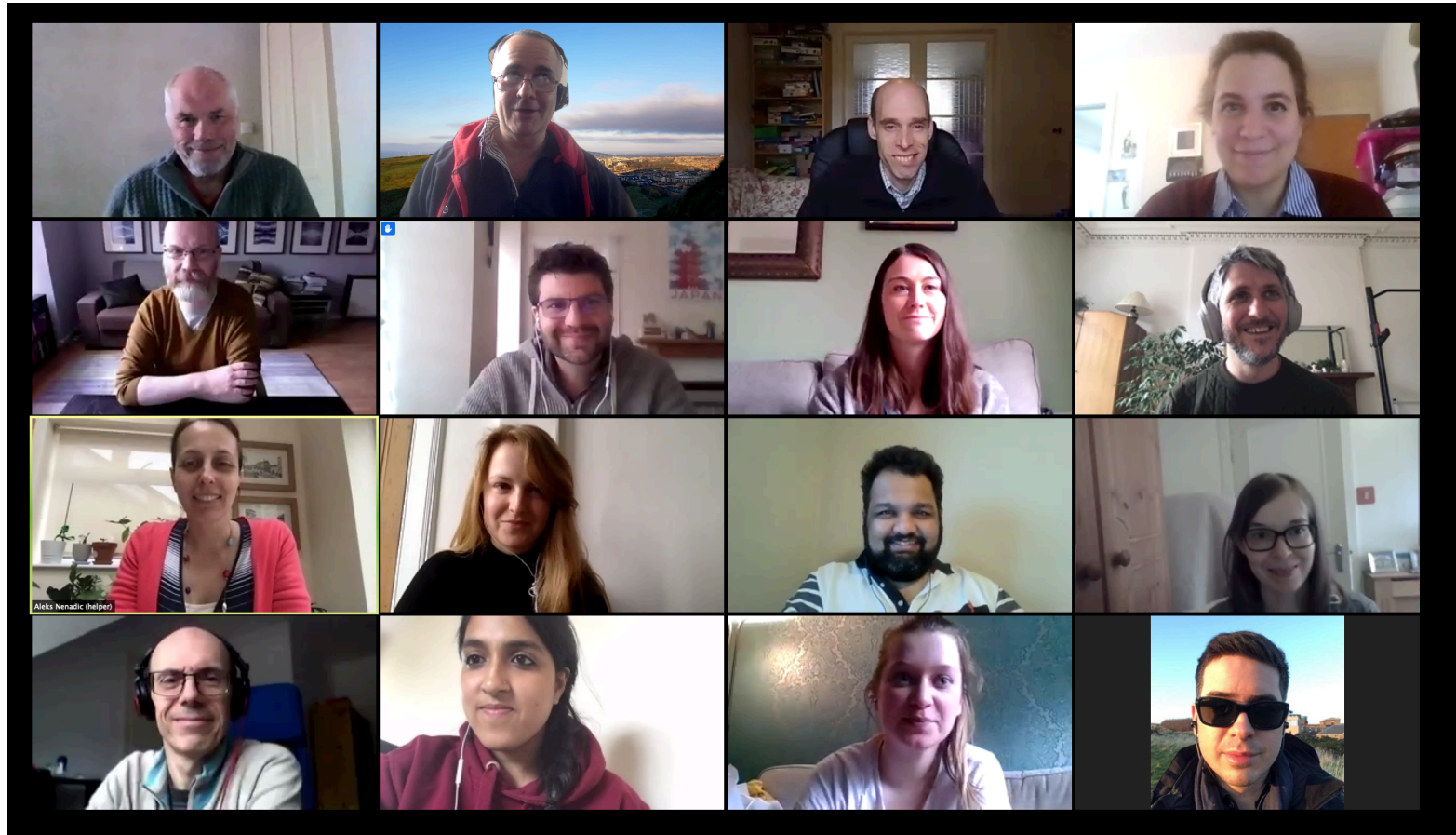


Typical example (in ye olden days)



Software Carpentry at HW on 28/03/2019. Data Carpentry at HW on 26/06/19.

The new norm (for now)



SFC Data Carpentry on 29-30 April 2020 on Zoom.

Why do I want to be involved?

- As a learner:
 - Learn new skills
 - Go from a learner -> Helper -> Instructor
- As a helper (voluntary):
 - Problem solver/thinking on your feet
 - Deeper learning
 - CV material
- As an instructor (voluntary):
 - Even deeper learning to be able to teach
 - Improve your teaching (feedback)
 - Formalise (become a certified instructor + extra CV points)
 - Join an exciting/dynamic community

Find out more

- GitHub Org io pages:
 - <https://edcarp.github.io/>
 - Slack channel: edinburghcarpentries.slack.com
 - Email contact: edcarp@ed.ac.uk
 - Email list (join): <http://eepurl.com/gl4MsX> (more for announcements)
- If you want to be involved, please get in touch
 - You could host a Carpentry event
 - Always on the look-out for Instructors/Helpers
 - Attendee -> Helper -> Instructor