# The Past, Present, and Future of the R Project – Development in the R Project

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The development of R is a multi-tiered process, with a core team providing a base system only, and even key statistical functionality available via contributed extension packages. We review some of the basic milestones of this development process, discuss current patterns, and speculate on what the future might have in store. Particular emphasis is given to the fact that the number of available R packages keeps growing at amazing speed, making it increasingly challenging for both users and developers to deal with the size and the complexity of the R project. Given the complexity of the social network underlying R, we emphasize that no single information technology solution can satisfy the R community's desire for information, and discuss how and by whom the community might be served.