Effective Programming Practices for Economists

Texts, Typesetting, and Text Data

Writing Readme Files

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Readme.md

- Everybody sees this first when they visit your repository

  → Always format nicely using markdown

- In large projects, it could be a short visit

  → DRY. Just point to where the information below can be found

- In small projects, it might be the only place with text (≠ code)

  → Provide all relevant information

Points to address

- Entry point to the project: What is the goal? How is that being achieved?

- How do I get it to run?

    - For experienced users: Make it easy to find the bare minimum (assumptions about sytem, precise commands)

    - For less experienced users: Provide links to background information

- Does it look like you cared?

    - about the project

    - about the reader (don't make it too long!)

Example: optimagic