

# How can I download files from the internet using R?

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## RECOMMENDED CITATION

stats writer (2024). *How can I download files from the internet using R?*. PSYCHOLOGICAL SCALES. Retrieved from <https://scales.arabpsychology.com/?p=159077>

To download files from the internet using R, follow these steps:

1. Install the "download.file" package by typing "install.packages("download.file")" in the R console.
2. Load the package by typing "library(download.file)".
3. Use the "download.file" function to specify the URL of the file you want to download and the destination path where you want to save it. For example, "download.file(url = "https://www.example.com/file.txt", destfile = "C:/Downloads/file.txt)".
4. If the download requires authentication, use the "username" and "password" arguments in the "download.file" function.
5. To check if the download was successful, use the "file.exists" function to see if the file was saved to the specified destination path.

By following these steps, you can easily download files from the internet using R.

## Download Files from the Internet Using R

You can use the following basic syntax to download a file from the internet using the R programming language:

**download.file(url, destfile)**

**where:**

**url:** A character string that contains the URL of the file

**destfile:** A character string that contains the location of where to save the file

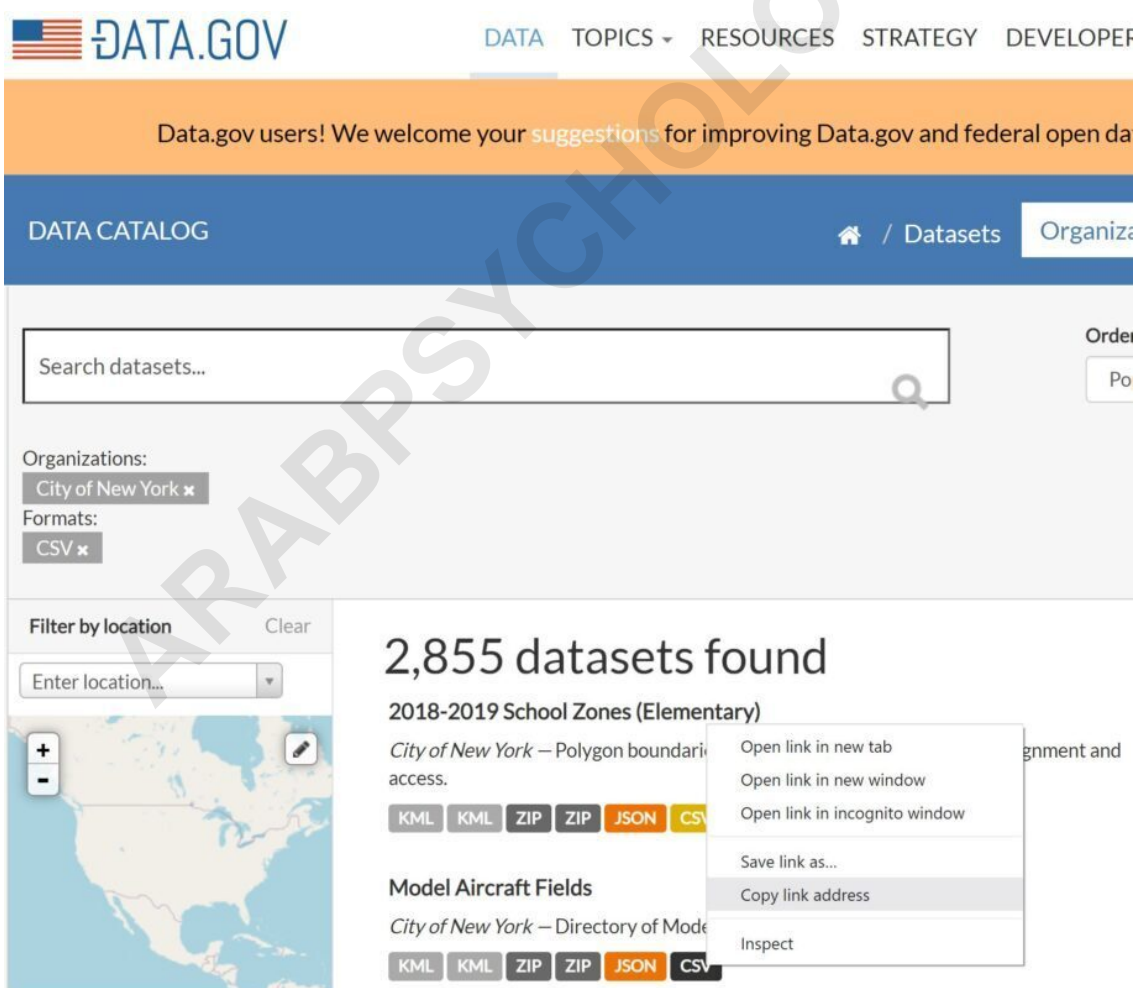
The following step-by-step example shows how to use

## this syntax in practice.

### Step 1: Find URL of File

For this example, I'll download a CSV file that contains information about model aircraft fields in New York located at the following URL:

To get the exact URL for this CSV file, I'll right click on the CSV button and then click Copy link address:



The screenshot shows the Data.gov website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for DATA, TOPICS, RESOURCES, STRATEGY, and DEVELOPER. Below this is a blue banner with the text "Data.gov users! We welcome your suggestions for improving Data.gov and federal open data". The main content area is titled "DATA CATALOG" and includes a search bar, filters for Organizations (City of New York) and Formats (CSV), and a map of the United States. The search results show "2,855 datasets found" and list two datasets: "2018-2019 School Zones (Elementary)" and "Model Aircraft Fields". A context menu is open over the CSV button for the "Model Aircraft Fields" dataset, with the option "Copy link address" highlighted.

I'll then save this URL as a string variable in R:

```
#define URL location
```

```
url<-
```

```
"https://data.cityofnewyork.us/api/views/brsj-szf5/rows.  
csv?accessType=DOWNLOAD"
```

Step 2: Define Destination for File

Next, I'll define the destination to save the file to:

```
#define destination for file
```

```
destfile <- "C:/Users/Bob/Downloads"
```

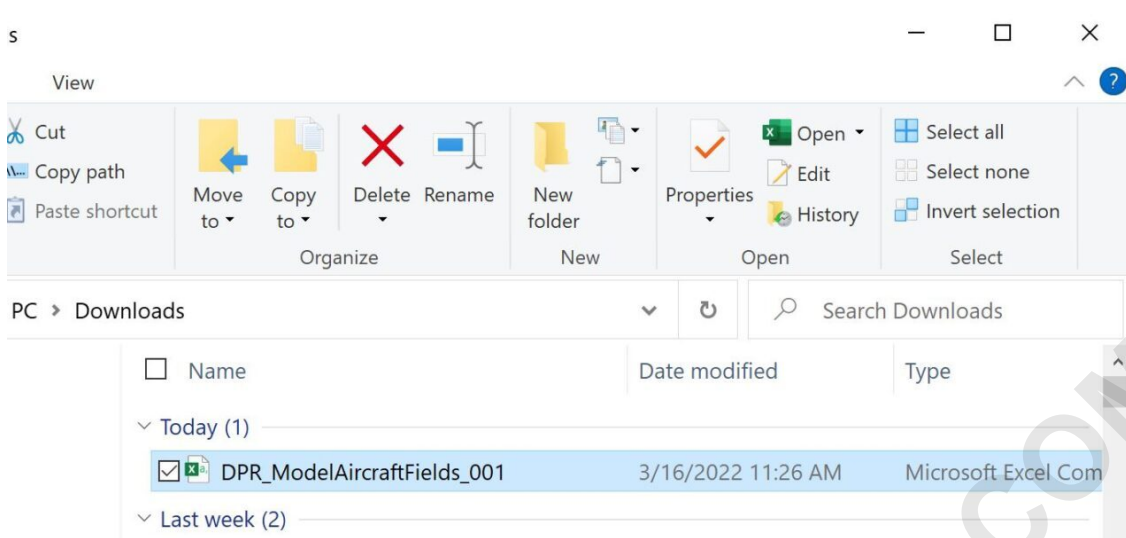
Step 3: Download and View File

Next, I'll use the following code to download the file:

```
#download file and save in specified destination
```

```
download.file(url, destfile)
```

Lastly, I'll navigate to the Downloads file where I saved the CSV file:



**If I double click the file, I can open and view the contents:**

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1	the_geom	SYSTEM	GISPROPNI	COMMUNI	COUNCILD	PRECINCT	ZIPCODE	BOROUGH	SHAPE_ST/	SHAPE_STLe
2	MULTIPOL	B057-AIRFI	B057	318	46	63	11234	Brooklyn	175918.7	1618.563
3	MULTIPOL	B125-AIRFI	B125	313	47	60	11214	Brooklyn	457157.5	2891.416
4	MULTIPOL	Q015-ZN0	Q015	482	30	102	11385	Queens	22622.2	533.8566
5	MULTIPOL	Q099-ZN2	Q099	481	24	110	11367	Queens	156689.9	1403.906
6	MULTIPOL	R013-AIRFI	R013	502	51	122	10314	Staten Islar	103450.7	1430.428
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## Additional Resources

**The following tutorials explain how to work with other types of files in R:**

ARABPSYCHOLOGY.COM