In terms of statistical computing, R is recognized as one of the most advanced programming languages, open-source or not. The variety of libraries, contributed by the community over the years is unrivaled and its user-base is as wide as to guarantee stability and platform independence.

The use of R for the development of web-apps is recent, and has received a great boost with the development of Shiny, a package developed by the RStudio team. The use of reactive bindings allows interactivity between the inputs and outputs. Shiny allows the development of tailored applications, which can run locally or on the web.

In CICS-NOVA, shiny has been the chosen solution in the development of enterprise and research application. Through the demonstration of two web-apps, the first developed for the Portuguese Mail Company (CTT - http://www.ctt.pt) and the other developed to host interface between the community and the Comuns database, strengths and weaknesses will be highlighted. In particular, the Comuns interface, presently in beta-testing, presents a flexible interface allowing various analysis of geographical data, through the integration of javascript library Leaflet. R libraries allow the connection to a PostgreSQL Database Management System with PostGIS hosting Comuns, allowing to run spatial queries in real-time through the web interface.

It is the contention of the authors that R, through shiny, together with Leaflet (which today is one of the most popular tools for interactive mapping development) provide a development environment for web-based GIS applications, equipped with state-of-the-art statistical toolboxes.