

Package ‘rextendr’

May 9, 2026

Title Build 'Rust' Powered 'R' Packages

Version 0.5.0

Description Provides a framework for creating high-performance 'R' packages powered by the 'Rust' programming language using the 'rextendr' Rust crate. It offers 'usethis'-like functions to scaffold and develop 'Rust' powered 'R' packages, including utilities for publishing to CRAN, managing dependencies, configuring development environments, and rendering 'Rust' code in 'knitr' documents. Additionally, it provides functions to compile and evaluate 'Rust' code directly from 'R' for interactive development.

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URL <https://rextendr.rs/rextendr/>, <https://github.com/rextendr/rextendr>

BugReports <https://github.com/rextendr/rextendr/issues>

Depends R (>= 4.2)

Imports brio, cli, desc, dplyr, glue (>= 1.7.0), jsonlite, lifecycle, pkgbuild (>= 1.4.0), processx, rlang (>= 1.0.5), rprojroot, stringi, vctrs, withr

Suggests devtools, knitr, lintr, rcmdcheck, rmarkdown, testthat (>= 3.1.7), usethis

VignetteBuilder knitr

Config/testthat/edition 3

Config/testthat/parallel true

Encoding UTF-8

RoxygenNote 7.3.3

SystemRequirements Rust 'cargo'; the crate 'libR-sys' must compile without error

NeedsCompilation no

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clean	<i>Clean Rust binaries and package cache.</i>
-------	---

Description

Removes Rust binaries (such as .dll/.so libraries), C wrapper object files, invokes `cargo clean` to reset cargo target directory (found by default at `pkg_root/src/rust/target/`). Useful when Rust code should be recompiled from scratch.

Usage

```
clean(path = ".", echo = TRUE)
```

Arguments

path	character scalar, path to R package root.
echo	logical scalar, should cargo command and outputs be printed to console (default is TRUE)

Value

character vector with names of all deleted files (invisibly).

Examples

```
## Not run:
clean()

## End(Not run)
```

cran	<i>CRAN compliant extendr packages</i>
------	--

Description

R packages developed using extendr are not immediately ready to be published to CRAN. The extendr package template ensures that CRAN publication is (fairly) painless.

CRAN requirements

In order to publish a Rust based package on CRAN it must meet certain requirements. These are:

- Rust dependencies are vendored
- The package is compiled offline
- the DESCRIPTION file's SystemRequirements field contains Cargo (Rust's package manager), rustc

The extendr templates handle all of this *except* vendoring dependencies. This must be done prior to publication using [vendor_crates\(\)](#).

In addition, it is important to make sure that CRAN maintainers are aware that the package they are checking contains Rust code. Depending on which and how many crates are used as a dependencies the vendor.tar.xz will be larger than a few megabytes. If a built package is larger than 5mb CRAN may reject the submission.

To prevent rejection make a note in your cran-comments.md file (create one using [usethis::use_cran_comments\(\)](#)) along the lines of "The package tarball is 6mb because Rust dependencies are vendored within src/rust/vendor.tar.xz which is 5.9mb."

document	<i>Compile Rust code and generate package documentation.</i>
----------	--

Description

[Deprecated]

As of `rextendr` 0.4.0, this function is no longer strictly necessary. Packages created with `use_extendr()` now include a document binary that generates `R/extendr-wrappers.R` as part of the normal cargo build step, so `devtools::document()` works directly without any `rextendr`-specific pre-processing. `rextendr::document()` is retained for backwards compatibility.

`rextendr::document()` updates the package documentation for an R package that uses `extendr` code. It is a wrapper for `devtools::document()`.

Usage

```
document(pkg = ".", quiet = FALSE, roclets = NULL)
```

Arguments

<code>pkg</code>	The package to use, can be a file path to the package or a package object. See as.package() for more information.
<code>quiet</code>	if TRUE suppresses output from this function.
<code>roclets</code>	Character vector of roclet names to use with package. The default, NULL, uses the roxygen roclets option, which defaults to <code>c("collate", "namespace", "rd")</code> .

Value

No return value, called for side effects.

eng_extendr	<i>Knitr engines</i>
-------------	----------------------

Description

Two knitr engines that enable code chunks of type `extendr` (individual Rust statements to be evaluated via `rust_eval()`) and `extendrsrc` (Rust functions or classes that will be exported to R via `rust_source()`).

Usage

```
eng_extendr(options)
```

```
eng_extendrsrc(options)
```

Arguments

options A list of chunk options.

Value

A character string representing the engine output.

read_cargo_metadata *Retrieve metadata for packages and workspaces*

Description

Retrieve metadata for packages and workspaces

Usage

```
read_cargo_metadata(path = ".", dependencies = FALSE, echo = FALSE)
```

Arguments

path character scalar, the R package directory

dependencies Default FALSE. A logical scalar, whether to include all recursive dependencies in stdout.

echo Default FALSE. A logical scalar, should cargo command and outputs be printed to the console.

Details

For more details, see [Cargo docs](#) for cargo-metadata. See especially "JSON Format" to get a sense of what you can expect to find in the returned list.

Value

A list including the following elements:

- packages
- workspace_members
- workspace_default_members
- resolve
- target_directory
- version
- workspace_root
- metadata

Examples

```
## Not run:  
read_cargo_metadata()  
  
## End(Not run)
```

register_extendr	<i>Register the extendr module of a package with R</i>
------------------	--

Description

[Deprecated]

This function is deprecated because we now rely on a small Rust binary to generate wrappers, which is called during the package build process.

Usage

```
register_extendr(path = ".", quiet = FALSE, force = FALSE, compile = NA)
```

Arguments

path	Path from which package root is looked up.
quiet	Logical indicating whether any progress messages should be generated or not.
force	Logical indicating whether to force regenerating R/extendr-wrappers.R even when it doesn't seem to need updated. (By default, generation is skipped when it's newer than the DLL).
compile	Logical indicating whether to recompile DLLs: TRUE always recompiles NA recompiles if needed (i.e., any source files or manifest file are newer than the DLL) FALSE never recompiles

Value

(Invisibly) Path to the file containing generated wrappers.

See Also

[document\(\)](#)

`rust_eval`*Evaluate Rust code*

Description

Compile and evaluate one or more Rust expressions. If the last expression in the Rust code returns a value (i.e., does not end with `;`), then this value is returned to R. The value returned does not need to be of type `Robj`, as long as it can be cast into this type with `.into()`. This conversion is done automatically, so you don't have to worry about it in your code.

Usage

```
rust_eval(code, env = parent.frame(), ...)
```

Arguments

<code>code</code>	Input rust code.
<code>env</code>	The R environment in which the Rust code will be evaluated.
<code>...</code>	Other parameters handed off to <code>rust_function()</code> .

Value

The return value generated by the Rust code.

Examples

```
## Not run:
# Rust code without return value, called only for its side effects
rust_eval(
  code = 'rprintln!("hello from Rust!");'
)

# Rust code with return value
rust_eval(
  code = "
    let x = 5;
    let y = 7;
    let z = x * y;
    z // return to R; rust_eval() takes care of type conversion code
  "
)

## End(Not run)
```

`rust_sitrep`*Report on Rust infrastructure*

Description

Prints out a detailed report on the state of Rust infrastructure on the host machine.

Usage

```
rust_sitrep()
```

Value

Nothing

`rust_source`*Compile Rust code and call from R*

Description

`rust_source()` compiles and loads a single Rust file for use in R. `rust_function()` compiles and loads a single Rust function for use in R. `extendr_options()` is a helper function to make it easier to pass additional options when sourcing Rust code. It also provides defaults for each option and does additional type checking.

Usage

```
rust_source(  
  file = NULL,  
  code = NULL,  
  env = parent.frame(),  
  echo = FALSE,  
  quiet = FALSE,  
  opts = NULL,  
  ...  
)  
  
rust_function(  
  code,  
  extendr_fn_options = NULL,  
  env = parent.frame(),  
  echo = FALSE,  
  quiet = FALSE,  
  opts = NULL,  
  ...  
)
```

```

)

extendr_options(
  cache_build = TRUE,
  dependencies = NULL,
  extendr_deps = NULL,
  features = NULL,
  generate_module_macro = TRUE,
  module_name = "rextendr",
  patch.crates_io = getOption("rextendr.patch.crates_io"),
  profile = c("dev", "release", "perf"),
  toolchain = getOption("rextendr.toolchain"),
  use_dev_extendr = FALSE,
  use_extendr_api = TRUE,
  use_rtools = TRUE
)

## S3 method for class 'extendr_opts'
print(x, ...)

```

Arguments

file	character scalar, input rust file to source.
code	character scalar, input rust code to be used instead of file.
env	environment, the R environment in which the wrapping functions will be defined. Default is <code>parent.frame()</code> .
echo	logical scalar, whether to print standard output and errors of cargo commands to the console. Default is <code>FALSE</code> .
quiet	logical scalar, whether to print cli errors and warnings. Default is <code>FALSE</code> .
opts	<code>extendr_opts</code> list, set using <code>extendr_options()</code> . Default is <code>NULL</code> .
...	user supplied <code>extendr</code> options to be injected into the <code>extendr_opts</code> list (for backwards compatibility).
<code>extendr_fn_options</code>	A list of <code>extendr</code> function options that are inserted into the <code>#[extendr(...)]</code> attribute
cache_build	logical scalar, whether builds should be cached between calls to <code>rust_source()</code> .
dependencies	character vector, dependencies to be added to <code>Cargo.toml</code> .
extendr_deps	named list, versions of <code>extendr-*</code> crates. Defaults to <code>rextendr.extendr_deps</code> option (<code>list(`extendr-api` = "*")</code>) if <code>use_dev_extendr</code> is not <code>TRUE</code> , otherwise, uses <code>rextendr.extendr_dev_deps</code> option (<code>list(`extendr-api` = list(git = "https://github.com/extendr/extendr"))</code>).
features	character vector, <code>extendr-api</code> features that should be enabled. Supported values are <code>"ndarray"</code> , <code>"faer"</code> , <code>"either"</code> , <code>"num-complex"</code> , <code>"serde"</code> , and <code>"graphics"</code> . Unknown features will produce a warning if <code>quiet</code> is not <code>TRUE</code> .

generate_module_macro	logical scalar, whether the Rust module macro should be automatically generated from the code. Default is TRUE. Ignored for Rust source provided via file. The macro generation is done with <code>make_module_macro()</code> and it may fail in complex cases. If something doesn't work, try calling <code>make_module_macro()</code> on your code to see whether the generated macro code has issues.
module_name	character scalar, name of the module defined in the Rust source via <code>extendr_module!</code> . Default is "rextendr". If <code>generate_module_macro</code> is FALSE or if file is specified, should <i>match exactly</i> the name of the module defined in the source.
patch.crates_io	character vector, patch statements for crates.io to be added to Cargo.toml.
profile	character scalar, Rust profile. Can be either "dev", "release" or "perf". The default, "dev", compiles faster but produces slower code.
toolchain	character scalar, Rust toolchain. The default, NULL, compiles with the system default toolchain. Accepts valid Rust toolchain qualifiers, such as "nightly", or (on Windows) "stable-msvc".
use_dev_extendr	logical scalar, whether to use development version of extendr. Has no effect if <code>extendr_deps</code> are set.
use_extendr_api	logical scalar, whether use <code>extendr_api::prelude::*</code> ; should be added at the top of the Rust source provided via code. Default is TRUE. Ignored for Rust source provided via file.
use_rtools	logical scalar, whether to append the path to Rtools to the PATH variable on Windows using the <code>RTTOOLS4X_HOME</code> environment variable (if it is set). The appended path depends on the process architecture. Does nothing on other platforms.
x	an <code>extendr_opts</code> list

Value

For `rust_source()` and `rust_function()`, the result from `dyn.load()`, which is an object of class `DLLInfo`. See `getLoadedDLLs()` for more details. For `extendr_options()`, an `extendr_opts` list.

Examples

```
## Not run:
# creating a single rust function
rust_function("fn add(a:f64, b:f64) -> f64 { a + b }")
add(2.5, 4.7)

# creating multiple rust functions at once
code <- r"(
#[extendr]
fn hello() -> &'static str {
    \"Hello, world!\"
}

#[extendr]"
```

```

fn test( a: &str, b: i64) {
  rprintln!("Data sent to Rust: {}, {}", a, b);
}
)"

rust_source(code = code)
hello()
test("a string", 42)

# use case with an external dependency: a function that converts
# markdown text to html, using the `pulldown_cmark` crate.
code <- r"(
  use pulldown_cmark::{Parser, Options, html};

  #[extendr]
  fn md_to_html(input: &str) -> String {
    let mut options = Options::empty();
    options.insert(Options::ENABLE_TABLES);
    let parser = Parser::new_ext(input, options);
    let mut output = String::new();
    html::push_html(&mut output, parser);
    output
  }
)"

rust_source(
  code = code,
  opts = extendr_options(
    dependencies = list(`pulldown-cmark` = "0.8")
  )
)

md_text <- "# The story of the fox
The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.
The quick *brown fox* jumps over the lazy dog."

md_to_html(md_text)

# see default options
extendr_options()

## End(Not run)

```

to_toml

Convert R list() into toml-compatible format.

Description

`to_toml()` can be used to build Cargo. toml. The cargo manifest can be represented in terms of R objects, allowing limited validation and syntax verification. This function converts manifests writ-

ten using R objects into toml representation, applying basic formatting, which is ideal for generating cargo manifests at runtime.

Usage

```
to_toml(..., .str_as_literal = TRUE, .format_int = "%d", .format_dbl = "%g")
```

Arguments

`...` A list from which toml is constructed. Supports nesting and tidy evaluation.

`.str_as_literal` Logical indicating whether to treat strings as literal (single quotes no escapes) or basic (escaping some sequences) ones. Default is TRUE.

`.format_int, .format_dbl` Character scalar describing number formatting. Compatible with `printf`.

Value

A character vector, each element corresponds to one line of the resulting output.

Examples

```
# Produces [workspace] with no children
to_toml(workspace = NULL)

to_toml(patch.crates_io = list(`extendr-api` = list(git = "git-ref")))

# Single-element arrays are distinguished from scalars
# using explicitly set `dim`
to_toml(lib = list(`crate-type` = array("cdylib", 1)))
```

update_scaffold	<i>Update extendr scaffolding</i>
-----------------	-----------------------------------

Description

When a new version of extendr or rextendr is released, this function updates relevant scaffolding files to the new specification.

Usage

```
update_scaffold(path = ".", crate_name = NULL, lib_name = NULL, quiet = FALSE)
```

Arguments

path	File path to the package for which to generate wrapper code.
crate_name	String that is used as the name of the Rust crate, specifically [package] name in Cargo.toml. If NULL (default), sanitized R package name is used instead.
lib_name	String that is used as the name of the Rust library, specifically [lib] name in Cargo.toml. If NULL (default), sanitized R package name is used instead.
quiet	Logical indicating whether any progress messages should be generated or not.

Details

This function does not touch any build artifacts or files or folders generated when vendoring cargo. Cargo.lock and Cargo.toml are also left unchanged. Only the following files are re-written:

- src/entrypoint.c
- src/Makevars.in
- src/Makevars.win.in
- cleanup
- cleanup.win
- src/rust/document.rs
- tools/msrv.R
- tools/config.R
- configure
- configure.win

After updating these files, `update_scaffold()` will print a message that explains what to do next to get your package up-to-date with the latest versions of `extendr` and `rextendr` (provided `quiet = FALSE`, anyway). That will typically include handling dependency resolution, updating `Cargo.toml` and `Cargo.lock`, and vendoring crates for CRAN compliance. Usually, this will be accompanied by a more detailed blog post explaining the update process.

Value

a logical scalar indicating whether scaffold updating was successful

use_crate

Add dependencies to a Cargo.toml manifest file

Description

Analogous to `usethis::use_package()` but for crate dependencies.

Usage

```
use_crate(
  crate,
  features = NULL,
  git = NULL,
  version = NULL,
  optional = FALSE,
  path = ".",
  echo = TRUE
)
```

Arguments

crate	character scalar, the name of the crate to add
features	character vector, a list of features to include from the crate
git	character scalar, the full URL of the remote Git repository
version	character scalar, the version of the crate to add
optional	boolean scalar, whether to mark the dependency as optional (FALSE by default)
path	character scalar, the package directory
echo	logical scalar, should cargo command and outputs be printed to console (default is TRUE)

Details

For more details regarding these and other options, see the [Cargo docs](#) for cargo-add.

Value

NULL (invisibly)

Examples

```
## Not run:
# add to [dependencies]
use_crate("serde")

# add to [dependencies] and [features]
use_crate("serde", features = "derive")

# add to [dependencies] using github repository as source
use_crate("serde", git = "https://github.com/serde-rs/serde")

# add to [dependencies] with specific version
use_crate("serde", version = "1.0.1")

# add to [dependencies] with optional compilation
use_crate("serde", optional = TRUE)

## End(Not run)
```

use_extendr	<i>Set up a package for use with Rust extendr code</i>
-------------	--

Description

Create the scaffolding needed to add Rust extendr code to an R package. `use_extendr()` adds a small Rust library with a single Rust function that returns the string "Hello world!". It also adds wrapper code so this Rust function can be called from R with `hello_world()`.

Usage

```
use_extendr(  
  path = ".",  
  crate_name = NULL,  
  lib_name = NULL,  
  quiet = FALSE,  
  overwrite = NULL,  
  edition = c("2021", "2018")  
)
```

Arguments

<code>path</code>	File path to the package for which to generate wrapper code.
<code>crate_name</code>	String that is used as the name of the Rust crate, specifically [package] name in Cargo.toml. If NULL (default), sanitized R package name is used instead.
<code>lib_name</code>	String that is used as the name of the Rust library, specifically [lib] name in Cargo.toml. If NULL (default), sanitized R package name is used instead.
<code>quiet</code>	Logical indicating whether any progress messages should be generated or not.
<code>overwrite</code>	Logical scalar or NULL indicating whether the files in the path should be overwritten. If NULL (default), the function will ask the user whether each file should be overwritten in an interactive session or do nothing in a non-interactive session. If FALSE and each file already exists, the function will do nothing. If TRUE, all files will be overwritten.
<code>edition</code>	String indicating which Rust edition is used; Default "2021".

Details

Generated files:

- `R/extendr-wrappers.R`: auto-generated R wrappers. Do not edit by hand.
- `src/entrypoint.c`: C entry point forwarding R's routine registration to the Rust library.
- `src/Makevars.in / src/Makevars.win.in`: Makefile templates compiled and employed at package build time.
- `src/<pkg>-win.def`: Windows DLL export definitions.
- `src/.gitignore`: Ignores compiled artifacts, Cargo directories, and generated Makevars files.

- `src/rust/Cargo.toml`: Rust package manifest with crate name, edition, `extendr-api` dependency, and release profile settings.
- `src/rust/src/lib.rs`: Main Rust library with an example `hello_world()` function and the `extendr_module!` macro.
- `src/rust/document.rs`: Rust binary that writes `R/extendr-wrappers.R` by introspecting exported function metadata at build time.
- `tools/msrv.R`: Verifies the installed Rust toolchain meets the `MSRV` in `DESCRIPTION`.
- `tools/config.R`: Reads `tools/msrv.R`, checks `DEBUG/NOT_CRAN` env vars, and writes the final `Makevars` file from the `.in` template.
- `configure/configure.win`: Shell scripts run before compilation that invoke `tools/config.R` via `Rscript`.
- `cleanup/cleanup.win`: Shell scripts that remove `src/Makevars` on package uninstall.

Value

A logical value (invisible) indicating whether any package files were generated or not.

<code>use_extendr_badge</code>	<i>extendr README badge</i>
--------------------------------	-----------------------------

Description

Add the version of `extendr` being used by an R package to its `README`.

Usage

```
use_extendr_badge(path = ".")
```

Arguments

`path` File path to the package for which to generate wrapper code.

Details

Requires `usethis` to be available.

Examples

```
## Not run:
use_extendr_badge()

## End(Not run)
```

use_msrv	<i>Set the minimum supported rust version (MSRV)</i>
----------	--

Description

use_msrv() sets the minimum supported rust version for your R package.

Usage

```
use_msrv(version, path = ".", overwrite = FALSE)
```

Arguments

version	character scalar, the minimum supported Rust version.
path	character scalar, path to folder containing DESCRIPTION file.
overwrite	default FALSE. Overwrites the SystemRequirements field if already set when TRUE.

Details

The minimum supported rust version (MSRV) is determined by the SystemRequirements field in a package's DESCRIPTION file. For example, to set the MSRV to 1.67.0, the SystemRequirements must have rustc >= 1.67.0.

By default, there is no MSRV set. However, some crates have features that depend on a minimum version of Rust. As of this writing the version of Rust on CRAN's Fedora machine's is 1.69. If you require a version of Rust that is greater than that, you must set it in your DESCRIPTION file.

It is also important to note that if CRAN's machines do not meet the specified MSRV, they will not be able to build a binary of your package. As a consequence, if users try to install the package they will be required to have Rust installed as well.

To determine the MSRV of your R package, we recommend installing the cargo-msrv cli. You can do so by running `cargo install cargo-msrv`. To determine your MSRV, set your working directory to `src/rust` then run `cargo msrv`. Note that this may take a while.

For more details, please see [cargo-msrv](#).

Value

version

Examples

```
## Not run:  
use_msrv("1.67.1")  
  
## End(Not run)
```

use_vscode	<i>Set up VS Code configuration for an rextendr project</i>
------------	---

Description

This creates a `.vscode` folder (if needed) and populates it with a `settings.json` template. If already exists, it will be updated to include the `rust-analyzer.linkedProjects` setting.

Usage

```
use_vscode(quiet = FALSE, overwrite = NULL)
```

```
use_positron(quiet = FALSE, overwrite = NULL)
```

Arguments

`quiet` If TRUE, suppress messages.

`overwrite` If TRUE, overwrite existing files.

Details

Rust-Analyzer VSCode extension looks for a `Cargo.toml` file in the workspace root by default. This function creates a `.vscode` folder and populates it with a `settings.json` file that sets the workspace root to the `src` directory of the package. This allows you to open the package directory in VSCode and have the Rust-Analyzer extension work correctly.

Value

TRUE (invisibly) if the settings file was created or updated.

vendor_crates	<i>Vendor Rust dependencies</i>
---------------	---------------------------------

Description

`vendor_crates()` is used to package the dependencies as required by CRAN. It executes `cargo vendor` on your behalf creating a `vendor/` directory and a compressed `vendor.tar.xz` which will be shipped with package itself. If you have modified your dependencies, you will need need to repack-age the vendored dependencies using `vendor_crates()`.

[Deprecated]

`vendor_pkgs()` was renamed to `vendor_crates()`.

Usage

```
vendor_crates(path = ".", quiet = FALSE, overwrite = NULL, clean = FALSE)
```

```
vendor_pkgs(path = ".", quiet = FALSE, overwrite = NULL, clean = FALSE)
```

Arguments

path	File path to the package for which to generate wrapper code.
quiet	Logical indicating whether any progress messages should be generated or not.
overwrite	Logical scalar or NULL indicating whether the files in the path should be overwritten. If NULL (default), the function will ask the user whether each file should be overwritten in an interactive session or do nothing in a non-interactive session. If FALSE and each file already exists, the function will do nothing. If TRUE, all files will be overwritten.
clean	logical(1) indicating whether the vendor/ directory should be removed after creating the vendor.tar.xz file. Defaults to FALSE.

Value

- `vendor_crates()` returns a data.frame with two columns `crate` and `version`

Examples

```
## Not run:
vendor_crates()

## End(Not run)
```

write_license_note	<i>Generate LICENSE.note file.</i>
--------------------	------------------------------------

Description

[Experimental]

Usage

```
write_license_note(path = ".", quiet = FALSE, force = TRUE)
```

Arguments

path	character scalar, the R package directory
quiet	logical scalar, whether to signal successful writing of LICENSE.note (default is FALSE)
force	logical scalar, whether to regenerate LICENSE.note if LICENSE.note already exists (default is TRUE)

Details

LICENSE.note generated by this function contains information about all recursive dependencies in Rust crate.

The authors field in Cargo metadata is deprecated upstream (see <https://github.com/rust-lang/cargo/issues/16458>). This function relies on that field and may produce incomplete or missing author information as crates stop populating or removes the field entirely.

Value

text printed to LICENSE.note (invisibly).

Examples

```
## Not run:  
write_license_note()  
  
## End(Not run)
```

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