

# Package ‘pkgload’

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**Title** Simulate Package Installation and Attach

**Version** 1.3.0

**Description** Simulates the process of installing a package and then attaching it. This is a key part of the 'devtools' package as it allows you to rapidly iterate while developing a package.

**License** GPL-3

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**BugReports** <https://github.com/r-lib/pkgload/issues>

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dev_example	<i>Run a examples for an in-development function.</i>
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### Description

dev\_example is a replacement for example. run\_example is a low-level function that takes a path to an Rd file.

### Usage

```
dev_example(topic, quiet = FALSE)

run_example(
  path,
  run_donttest = FALSE,
  run_dontrun = FALSE,
  env = new.env(parent = globalenv()),
  quiet = FALSE,
  macros = NULL,
  run,
  test
)
```

### Arguments

topic	Name or topic (or name of Rd) file to run examples for
quiet	If TRUE, does not echo code to console.
path	Path to .Rd file
run_donttest	if TRUE, do run \donttest sections in the Rd files.

run_dontrun	if TRUE, do run \dontrun sections in the Rd files.
env	Environment in which code will be run.
macros	Custom macros to use to parse the .Rd file. See the macros argument of <code>tools::parse_Rd()</code> . If NULL, then the <code>tools::Rd2ex()</code> (and <code>tools::parse_Rd()</code> ) default is used.
run, test	Deprecated, see run_dontrun and run_donttest above.

## Examples

```
## Not run:
# Runs installed example:
library("ggplot2")
example("ggplot")

# Runs development example:
dev_example("ggplot")

## End(Not run)
```

---

dev\_help

*In-development help for package loaded with devtools*


---

## Description

dev\_help searches for source documentation provided in packages loaded by devtools. To improve performance, the .Rd files are parsed to create to index once, then cached. Use dev\_topic\_index\_reset to clear that index.

## Usage

```
dev_help(
  topic,
  dev_packages = NULL,
  stage = "render",
  type = getOption("help_type")
)

dev_topic_index_reset(pkg_name)
```

## Arguments

topic	name of help to search for.
dev_packages	A character vector of package names to search within. If NULL, defaults to all packages loaded by devtools.
stage	at which stage ("build", "install", or "render") should <code>\\Sexpr</code> macros be executed? This is only important if you're using <code>\\Sexpr</code> macro's in your Rd files.
type	of html to produce: "html" or "text". Defaults to your default documentation type.
pkg_name	Name of package.

**Examples**

```
## Not run:
library("ggplot2")
help("ggplot") # loads installed documentation for ggplot

load_all("ggplot2")
dev_help("ggplot") # loads development documentation for ggplot

## End(Not run)
```

---

help

*Drop-in replacements for help and ? functions*


---

**Description**

The `?` and `help` functions are replacements for functions of the same name in the `utils` package. They are made available when a package is loaded with `load_all()`.

**Usage**

```
# help(topic, package = NULL, ...)

# ?e2
# e1?e2
```

**Arguments**

topic	A name or character string specifying the help topic.
package	A name or character string specifying the package in which to search for the help topic. If <code>NULL</code> , search all packages.
...	Additional arguments to pass to <code>utils::help()</code> .
e1	First argument to pass along to <code>utils::?</code> .
e2	Second argument to pass along to <code>utils::?</code> .

**Details**

The `?` function is a replacement for `utils::?()` from the `utils` package. It will search for help in devtools-loaded packages first, then in regular packages.

The `help` function is a replacement for `utils::help()` from the `utils` package. If `package` is not specified, it will search for help in devtools-loaded packages first, then in regular packages. If `package` is specified, then it will search for help in devtools-loaded packages or regular packages, as appropriate.

## Examples

```
## Not run:
# This would load devtools and look at the help for load_all, if currently
# in the devtools source directory.
load_all()
?load_all
help("load_all")

## End(Not run)

# To see the help pages for utils::help and utils::`?`:
help("help", "utils")
help("?", "utils")

## Not run:
# Examples demonstrating the multiple ways of supplying arguments
# NB: you can't do pkg <- "ggplot2"; help("ggplot2", pkg)
help(lm)
help(lm, stats)
help(lm, 'stats')
help('lm')
help('lm', stats)
help('lm', 'stats')
help(package = stats)
help(package = 'stats')
topic <- "lm"
help(topic)
help(topic, stats)
help(topic, 'stats')

## End(Not run)
```

---

inst

*Get the installation path of a package*

---

## Description

Given the name of a package, this returns a path to the installed copy of the package, which can be passed to other devtools functions.

## Usage

```
inst(name)
```

## Arguments

name            the name of a package.

**Details**

It searches for the package in `.libPaths()`. If multiple dirs are found, it will return the first one.

**Examples**

```
inst("pkgload")
inst("grid")
```

---

is_dev_package	<i>Is the package currently under development?</i>
----------------	--

---

**Description**

Returns TRUE or FALSE depending on if the package has been loaded by **pkgload**.

**Usage**

```
is_dev_package(name)
```

**Arguments**

name	the name of a package.
------	------------------------

---

load_all	<i>Load complete package</i>
----------	------------------------------

---

**Description**

load\_all loads a package. It roughly simulates what happens when a package is installed and loaded with `library()`.

**Usage**

```
load_all(
  path = ".",
  reset = TRUE,
  compile = NA,
  attach = TRUE,
  export_all = TRUE,
  export_imports = export_all,
  helpers = TRUE,
  attach_testthat = uses_testthat(path),
  quiet = NULL,
  recompile = FALSE,
  warn_conflicts = TRUE
)

is_loading(pkg = NULL)
```

**Arguments**

path	Path to a package, or within a package.
reset	clear package environment and reset file cache before loading any pieces of the package. This largely equivalent to running <code>unload()</code> , however the old namespaces are not completely removed and no <code>.onUnload()</code> hooks are called. Use <code>reset = FALSE</code> may be faster for large code bases, but is a significantly less accurate approximation.
compile	If TRUE always recompiles the package; if NA recompiles if needed (as determined by <code>pkgbuild::needs_compile()</code> ); if FALSE, never recompiles.
attach	Whether to attach a package environment to the search path. If FALSE <code>load_all()</code> behaves like <code>loadNamespace()</code> . If TRUE (the default), it behaves like <code>library()</code> . If FALSE, the <code>export_all</code> , <code>export_imports</code> , and <code>helpers</code> arguments have no effect.
export_all	If TRUE (the default), export all objects. If FALSE, export only the objects that are listed as exports in the NAMESPACE file.
export_imports	If TRUE (the default), export all objects that are imported by the package. If FALSE export only objects defined in the package.
helpers	if TRUE loads <b>testthat</b> test helpers.
attach_testthat	If TRUE, attach <b>testthat</b> to the search path, which more closely mimics the environment within test files.
quiet	if TRUE suppresses output from this function.
recompile	DEPRECATED. force a recompile of DLL from source code, if present. This is equivalent to running <code>pkgbuild::clean_dll()</code> before <code>load_all</code>
warn_conflicts	If TRUE, issues a warning if a function in the global environment masks a function in the package. This can happen when you accidentally source a <code>.R</code> file, rather than using <code>load_all()</code> , or if you define a function directly in the R console. This is frustrating to debug, as it feels like the changes you make to the package source aren't having the expected effect.
pkg	If supplied, <code>is_loading()</code> only returns TRUE if the package being loaded is <code>pkg</code> .

**Details**

Currently `load_all`:

- Loads all data files in `data/`. See `load_data()` for more details.
- Sources all R files in the `R` directory, storing results in environment that behaves like a regular package namespace. See below and `load_code()` for more details.
- Compiles any C, C++, or Fortran code in the `src/` directory and connects the generated DLL into R. See `pkgbuild::compile_dll()` for more details.
- Loads any compiled translations in `inst/po`.
- Runs `.onAttach()`, `.onLoad()` and `.onUnload()` functions at the correct times.
- If you use **testthat**, will load all test helpers so you can access them interactively. `devtools` sets the `DEVTOOLS_LOAD` environment variable to "true" to let you check whether the helpers are run during package loading.

is\_loading() returns TRUE when it is called while load\_all() is running. This may be useful e.g. in onLoad hooks.

### Differences with loadNamespace() and library()

load\_all() tries its best to reproduce the behaviour of loadNamespace() and library(). However it deviates from normal package loading in several ways.

- It doesn't install the package on disk, so system.file() has no way of determining the location of the development files. To work around this, pkgload installs its own version of system.file() on the search path to make it easier to use interactively while developing. However this definition is only visible to the global environment, not to the namespaces of third party packages.  
One workaround for other packages to see the development files of your package while you're developing with devtools is for them to use fs::path\_package() instead of system.file().
- Whereas loadNamespace() and library() only load package dependencies when they are needed, load\_all() loads all packages referenced in Imports at load time.

### Namespaces

The namespace environment <namespace:pkgname>, is a child of the imports environment, which has the name attribute imports:pkgname. It is in turn is a child of <namespace:base>, which is a child of the global environment. (There is also a copy of the base namespace that is a child of the empty environment.)

The package environment <package:pkgname> is an ancestor of the global environment. Normally when loading a package, the objects listed as exports in the NAMESPACE file are copied from the namespace to the package environment. However, load\_all by default will copy all objects (not just the ones listed as exports) to the package environment. This is useful during development because it makes all objects easy to access.

To export only the objects listed as exports, use export\_all=FALSE. This more closely simulates behavior when loading an installed package with library(), and can be useful for checking for missing exports.

### Shim files

load\_all also inserts shim functions into the imports environment of the loaded package. It presently adds a replacement version of system.file which returns different paths from base::system.file. This is needed because installed and uninstalled package sources have different directory structures. Note that this is not a perfect replacement for base::system.file.

### Examples

```
## Not run:
# Load the package in the current directory
load_all(".")

# Running again loads changed files
load_all(".")
```



```
# With reset=TRUE, unload and reload the package for a clean start
load_all(".", TRUE)

# With export_all=FALSE, only objects listed as exports in NAMESPACE
# are exported
load_all(".", export_all = FALSE)

## End(Not run)
```

---

load\_code

*Load R code.*

---

### Description

Load all R code in the R directory. The first time the code is loaded, `.onLoad` will be run if it exists.

### Usage

```
load_code(path = ".", quiet = NULL)
```

### Arguments

path	Path to a package, or within a package.
quiet	if TRUE suppresses output from this function.

---

load\_data

*Load data.*

---

### Description

Loads all `.RData` files in the data subdirectory.

### Usage

```
load_data(path = ".")
```

### Arguments

path	Path to a package, or within a package.
------	---

---

load_dll	<i>Load a compiled DLL</i>
----------	----------------------------

---

**Description**

Load a compiled DLL

**Usage**

```
load_dll(path = ".")
```

**Arguments**

path	Path to a package, or within a package.
------	---

---

packages	<i>Helper functions for working with development packages.</i>
----------	--

---

**Description**

All functions search recursively up the directory tree from the input path until they find a DESCRIPTION file.

**Usage**

```
pkg_path(path = ".")
```

```
pkg_name(path = ".")
```

```
pkg_desc(path = ".")
```

```
pkg_version(path = ".")
```

```
pkg_ns(path = ".")
```

**Arguments**

path	Path to a package, or within a package.
------	---

**Functions**

- `pkg_path`: Return the normalized package path.
- `pkg_name`: Return the package name.
- `pkg_desc`: Return the package DESCRIPTION as a `desc::desc()` object.
- `pkg_version`: Return the package version.
- `pkg_ns`: Return the package namespace.

---

package_file	<i>Find file in a package.</i>
--------------	--------------------------------

---

**Description**

It always starts by finding by walking up the path until it finds the root directory, i.e. a directory containing DESCRIPTION. If it cannot find the root directory, or it can't find the specified path, it will throw an error.

**Usage**

```
package_file(..., path = ".")
```

**Arguments**

...	Components of the path.
path	Place to start search for package directory.

**Examples**

```
## Not run:
package_file("figures", "figure_1")

## End(Not run)
```

---

system.file	<i>Replacement version of system.file</i>
-------------	---

---

**Description**

This function is meant to intercept calls to `base::system.file()`, so that it behaves well with packages loaded by devtools. It is made available when a package is loaded with `load_all()`.

**Usage**

```
shim_system.file(..., package = "base", lib.loc = NULL, mustWork = FALSE)
```

**Arguments**

...	character vectors, specifying subdirectory and file(s) within some package. The default, none, returns the root of the package. Wildcards are not supported.
package	a character string with the name of a single package. An error occurs if more than one package name is given.
lib.loc	a character vector with path names of R libraries. See 'Details' for the meaning of the default value of NULL.
mustWork	logical. If TRUE, an error is given if there are no matching files.

## Details

When `system.file` is called from the R console (the global environment), this function detects if the target package was loaded with `load_all()`, and if so, it uses a customized method of searching for the file. This is necessary because the directory structure of a source package is different from the directory structure of an installed package.

When a package is loaded with `load_all`, this function is also inserted into the package's imports environment, so that calls to `system.file` from within the package namespace will use this modified version. If this function were not inserted into the imports environment, then the package would end up calling `base::system.file` instead.

---

unload

*Unload a package*

---

## Description

`unload()` attempts to cleanly unload a package, including unloading its namespace, deleting S4 class definitions and unloading any loaded DLLs. Unfortunately S4 classes are not really designed to be cleanly unloaded, and so we have to manually modify the class dependency graph in order for it to work - this works on the cases for which we have tested but there may be others. Similarly, automated DLL unloading is best tested for simple scenarios (particularly with `useDynLib(pkgname)` and may fail in other cases. If you do encounter a failure, please file a bug report at <https://github.com/r-lib/pkgload/issues>.

`unregister()` is a gentler version of `unload()` which removes the package from the search path, unregisters methods, and unregisters the namespace. It doesn't unload the namespace or its DLL to keep it in working order in case of dangling references.

## Usage

```
unload(package = pkg_name(), quiet = FALSE)
```

```
unregister(package = pkg_name())
```

## Arguments

<code>package</code>	package name.
<code>quiet</code>	if TRUE suppresses output from this function.

## Examples

```
## Not run:
# Unload package that is in current directory
unload()

# Unload package that is in ./ggplot2/
unload(pkg_name("ggplot2/"))
```

```
library(ggplot2)
# unload the ggplot2 package directly by name
unload("ggplot2")

## End(Not run)
```

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