Quick R Package, And more

Laurent Gatto
lg390@cam.ac.uk

RSS conference
4^{th} Sept 2013

Plan

A minimal example

More

- Dependencies
- Documentation
- The build/chec/install cycle
- Vignettes
- Even more

Distributing packages

Overview

We are about to create the QuickPackage `R` package:

1. Create a dummy function to come into the package
2. Create the package structure
3. Update the package content
4. Build/check/install
5. Enjoy!

```
> ## This is the dummy function that will return
> ## information about our 'QuickPackage'
> qpf <- function()
+   packageDescription("QuickPackage")
```

```
> ## This creates the package template
> package.skeleton("QuickPackage", list = c("qpf"))

Creating directories ...
Creating DESCRIPTION ...
Creating NAMESPACE ...
Creating Read-and-delete-me ...
Saving functions and data ...
Making help files ...
Done.
Further steps are described in
'./QuickPackage/Read-and-delete-me'.
```

QuickPackage structure:

```
QuickPackage/
|-- DESCRIPTION
|-- man
|   |-- qpf.Rd
|   `-- QuickPackage-package.Rd
|-- NAMESPACE
|-- R
|   `-- qfd.R
`-- Read-and-delete-me
```

- Read and delete `Read-and-delete-me`
- Update `DESCRIPTION`
- Write a proper package documentation file or delete it (this is the only optional documentation) and update the man page for `qpf` (see next slide)

```
\name{qpf}
\alias{qpf}
\title{ A test function }
\description{ Returns package information. }

\usage{
qpf()
}
\value{
  An object of class \code{packageDescription}.
}
\examples{
qpf()
}
```

In a terminal:

1. Build the package with
   `R CMD build QuickPackage`
2. Check the package with
   `R CMD check QuickPackage_1.0.tar.gz`
3. If any, fix errors and warnings and repeat steps 1 and 2.
4. Install the package with
   `R CMD INSTALL QuickPackage_1.0.tar.gz`

```
> library("QuickPackage")
> qpf()

Package: QuickPackage
Type: Package
Title: A quick and mini R package
Version: 1.0
Author: Laurent Gatto <lg390@cam.ac.uk>
Maintainer: Laurent Gatto <lg390@cam.ac.uk>
Description: Mini intro on building R packages.
License: GPL-2
Packaged: 2013-09-04 07:36:02 UTC; lgatto
Built: R 3.1.0; ; 2013-09-04 07:36:23 UTC; unix

-- File: /home/lgatto/R/x86_64-unknown-linux-gnu-library/3.
```

Plan

Terminology

A **package** is loaded from a **library** by the functions `library` or `require`. A library is a directory containing installed packages.

Calling `library("foo", lib.loc = "/path/to/bar")` loads the package (book) foo from the library bar located at `/path/to/bar`.

Dependencies

In the `DESCRIPTION` file, should one add the package to the `Depends` and `Imports` field?

Is your user expected to use all/most of the functionality of the dependency? Would she anyway load it with `library` and add it to the search path?

Imports specifications

Specify the imported symbols in the `NAMESPACE` with `import(package)`, `importFrom(package, function, class, method)`.

Rd

Different `R` objects must be documented with specific sections. All the details are available in the `R-Ext` reference.

Templates can be generated automatically using `prompt`, `promptData`, `promptClass`, `promptMethod` and, optionally, `promptPackage`.

Inline documentation with the roxygen2 package.

```
##' A simple function for the QuickPackage demo.
##'
##' The function calls the \code{\link{packageDescription}}
##' function to retrieve the code{QuickPackage} description.
##' @title The QuickPackage description
##' @return An object of class \code{packageDescription}.
##' @author Laurent Gatto
##' @examples
##' qpf()
qpf <-
function()
  packageDescription("QuickPackage")
```

```
> library("roxygen2")
> roxygenize("QuickPackage", roclets = "rd")
```

Other `roclets`: `namespace` and `collate`.

Package development

Building/checking/installing a package to test every changes is not practical.

- Source the updated code in your R session. But the global environment does not correspond to the package namespace.
- Load the new code directly into the package namespace using
  - The devtools package
  - ESS developer mode
  - Possibly other solutions (RStudio?)

Reproducible research

Vignettes are documents that combine text and `R` code. When compiled, the `R` code is executed and the output (text, figures, data.frame/tables) is inserted in the original document source and a pdf (or html) is generated. The syntax is originally LaTeX. Recent support for markdown has been added. See `?Sweave` and the knitr package for more information.

In packages, Sweave documents (`.Rnw`) are provided in the `inst/doc` or `vignettes` directories.

These slides are written as a Sweave document and processed using knitr.

Even more

- CITATION and NEWS files.
- Distributing data in the `./data` or `inst/extdata` directories.
- `C`/`C++`/`Fortran` code in the `./src` directory.
- Vignettes and reproducible research
- Unit testing in the `./tests` and `inst/tests` directories.

Plan

Submission

CRAN Read the CRAN Repository Policy[1]. Upload your `--as-cran checked myPackage_x.y.z.tar.gz` to `ftp://cran.R-project.org/incoming` or using `http://CRAN.R-project.org/submit.html`. Upon acceptance, your package will be installable with `install.packages("myRpackage")`.

R-forge Log in, register a project and wait for acceptance. Then commit you code to the svn repository. Your package will be installable with `install.packages` using `repos="http://R-Forge.R-project.org"`.

[1] `http://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/policies.html`

Submission

Bioconductor Make sure to satisfy submission criteria (pass `check`, have a vignette, use S4 if OO, make use of appropriate existing infrastructure, include a NEWS file, must **not** already be on CRAN, ...) and submit by email. Your package will then be reviewed before acceptance. Upon acceptance, an svn account will be created. Package will be installable with `biocLite("myPackage")`.

Other popular un-official repositories are github, bitbucket, ...and packages can be installed with `devtools::install_github`, `devtools::install_bitbucket`.

References

- `R` package development, Robert Stojnic and Laurent Gatto
  https://github.com/lgatto/RPackageDevelopment
- Writing R Extensions, R Development Core Team, (get it with `help.start()`)
-
- Course web page and more material:
  https://github.com/lgatto/TeachingMaterial

```
> toLatex(sessionInfo())
```

- R Under development (unstable) (2013-06-16 r62969), x86_64-unknown-linux-gnu
- Locale: LC_CTYPE=en_GB.UTF-8, LC_NUMERIC=C, LC_TIME=en_GB.UTF-8, LC_COLLATE=en_GB.UTF-8, LC_MONETARY=en_GB.UTF-8, LC_MESSAGES=en_GB.UTF-8, LC_PAPER=C, LC_NAME=C, LC_ADDRESS=C, LC_TELEPHONE=C, LC_MEASUREMENT=en_GB.UTF-8, LC_IDENTIFICATION=C
- Base packages: base, datasets, graphics, grDevices, methods, stats, utils
- Other packages: digest 0.6.3, knitr 1.4.1, QuickPackage 1.0, roxygen2 2.2.2
- Loaded via a namespace (and not attached): brew 1.0-6, evaluate 0.4.7, formatR 0.9, highr 0.2.1, stringr 0.6.2, tools 3.1.0