Documentation

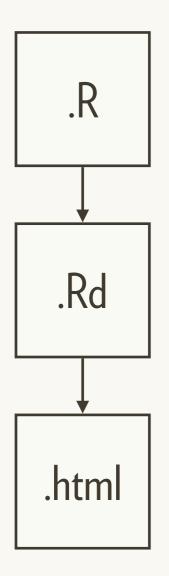
May 2018

Hadley Wickham

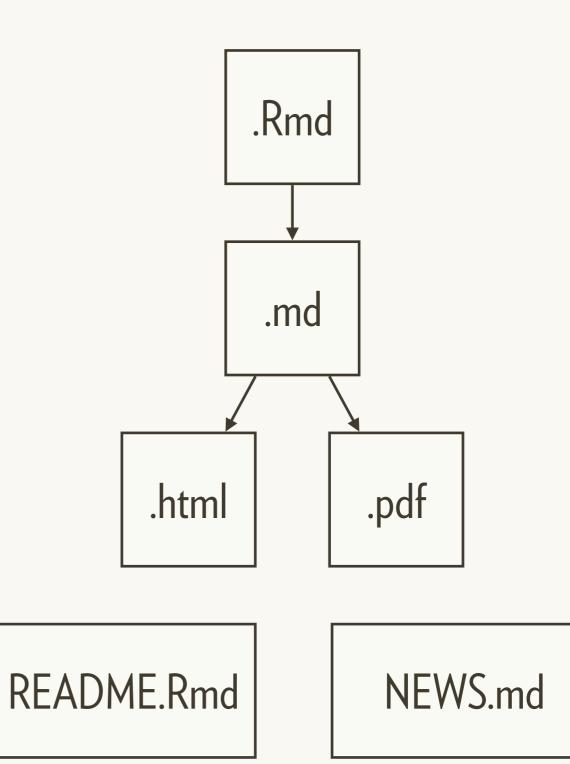
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Chief Scientist, RStudio



Function-level with roxygen2



Package-level with rmarkdown

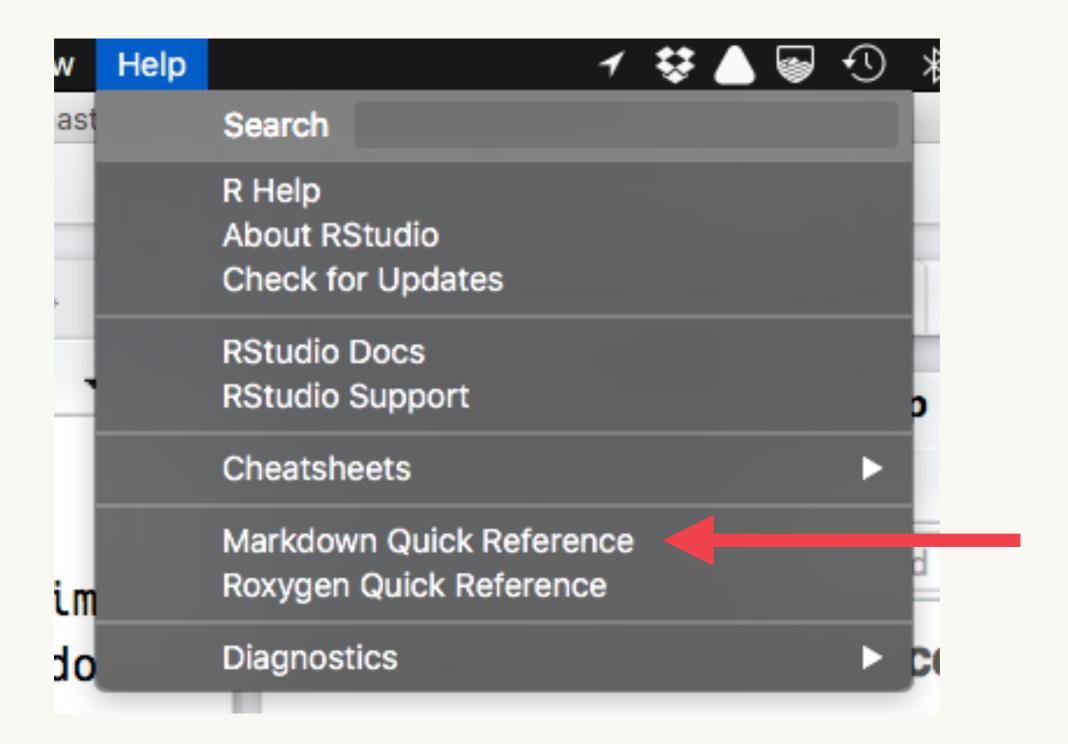


Markdown

I assume you are already familiar with it

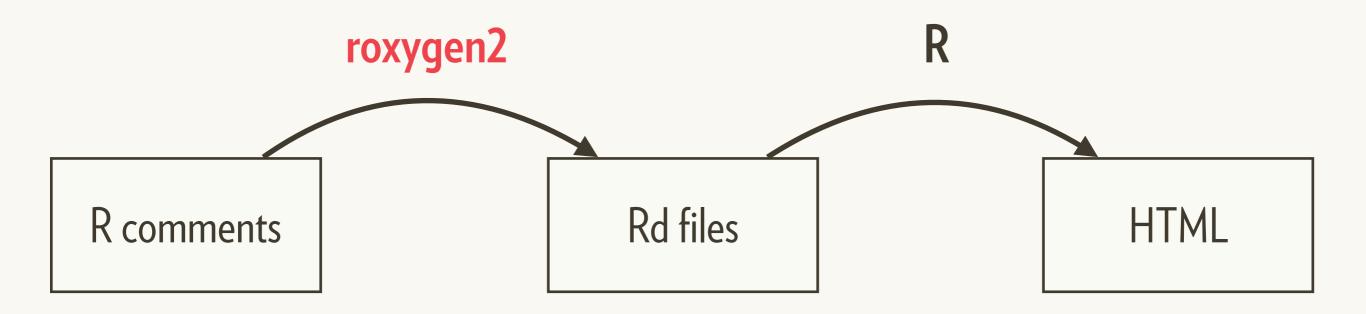
Basic markdown formatting

```
# This is a top level heading
This is some text. Make text _italic_ with single underscores (or
stars). Make it **bold** with double stars (or underscores). Here is a
[link to a markdown guide](http://bit.ly/19fAexE).
* This is a list
* This is another item
```R
Some R code
f \leftarrow function() x + 1
This is a secondary heading
You can also do `inline code`, numbered lists and quotes and more.
```



# Function documentation with roxygen2

### Roxygen2



http://r-pkgs.had.co.nz/man.html

### You write specially formatted comments in .R

```
#' Add a column to a data frame
"
 Allows you to specify the position. Will replace existing variable
 with the same name if present.
'
 @param x A data frame
 Oparam name Name of variable to create. If a variable of that name
 already exists it will be replaced
 @param value Values to insert.
#' @param where Position to insert. Use 1 to insert on LHS, or -1 to insert on
"
 RHS.
#' @examples
\#' df <- data.frame(x = 1:5)
#' add_col(df, "y", runif(5))
#' add_col(df, "y", runif(5), where = 1)
"
#' add_col(df, "x", 5:1)
```

### You write specially formatted comments in .R

```
rame
 Roxygen comment
'
 Allows you to specify the position. Will replace existing variable
 with the same name if present.
'
 Roxygen tag
 ple to create. If a variable of that name
 already exists it will be replaced
 @param value Values to insert.
 @param where Position to insert. Use 1 to insert on LHS, or -1 to insert on
 RHS.
'
 @examples
 df < - data.frame(x = 1:5)
 add_col(df, "y", runif(5))
 add_col(df, "y", runif(5), where = 1)
'
 add_col(df, "x", 5:1)
```

### Roxygen translates to .Rd

```
% Generated by roxygen2: do not edit by hand
% Please edit documentation in R/add_col.R
\name{add_col}
\alias{add_col}
\title{Add a column to a data frame}
\usage{
add_{col}(x, name, value, where = -1)
\arguments{
\item{x}{A data frame}
\item{name}{Name of variable to create. If a variable of that name
already exists it will be replaced}
\item{value}{Values to insert.}
\item{where}{Position to insert. Use 1 to insert on LHS, or -1 to insert on
RHS. }
\description{
Allows you to specify the position. Will replace existing variable
with the same name if present.
}
```

In almost all cases you can ignore these files

# R translates to .html for viewing

#### Add a column to a data frame

#### Description

Allows you to specify the position. Will replace existing variable with the same name if present.

#### **Usage**

```
add_col(x, name, value, where = -1)
```

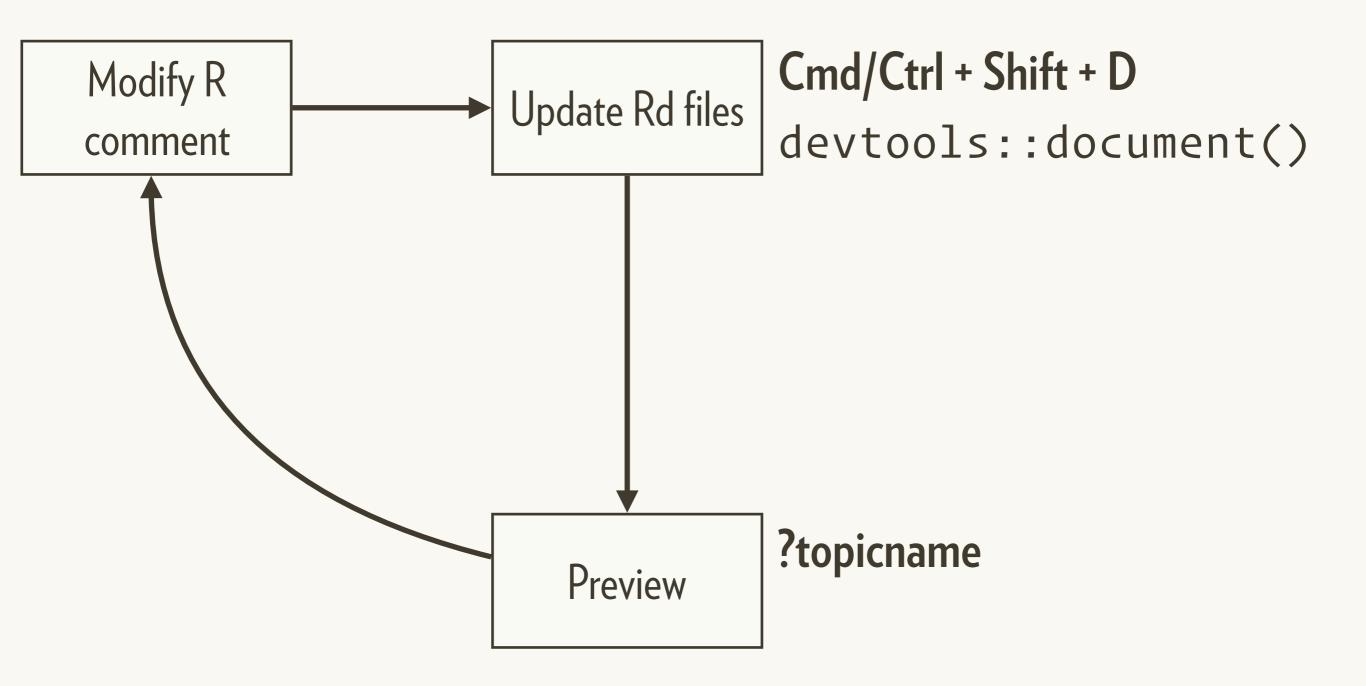
#### Arguments

```
 A data frame
 name
 Name of variable to create. If a variable of that name already exists it will be replaced
 value
 Values to insert.
 where
 Position to insert. Use 1 to insert on LHS, or -1 to insert on RHS.
```

#### **Examples**

```
df <- data.frame(x = 1:5)
add_col(df, "y", runif(5))
add_col(df, "y", runif(5), where = 1)
add_col(df, "x", 5:1)</pre>
```

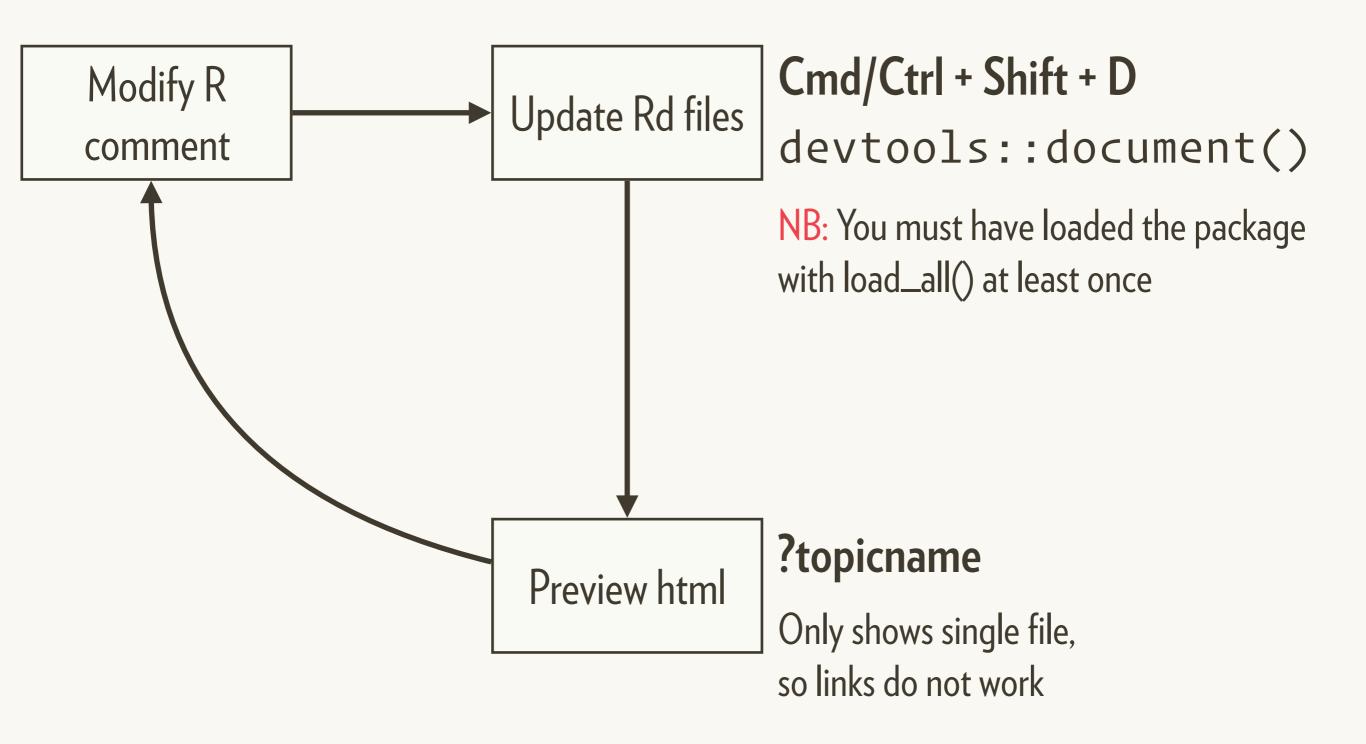
### Documentation workflow



### Two caveats

- 1. You must have loaded the package with load\_all() at least once.
  - Check for message "Using development documentation..."
- 2. This technique only builds individual files so links do not work.

### Documentation workflow



Change working directory/project to:

[hadcol]

### Your turn

Fix the typos in the documentation for add\_col. Run the documentation workflow to check your work

R: Sum of Vector Elements

First sentence is the **title** 

R Documentation

#### Sum of Vector Elements

#### Description

sum returns the sum of all the values present in its arguments.

Next paragraph is the **description** 

#### Usage

```
sum(..., na.rm = FALSE)
```

#### **Arguments**

numeric or complex or logical vectors.

na.rm logical. Should missing values (including NaN) be removed?

#### **Details**

Everything else is the **details** 

ectly or via the Summary group ld be unnamed, and dispatch is

If nation is EALSE an NA or Nan value in any of the arguments will cause a value of NA or

### The description block

#### First sentence is the **title**

```
#' Sum of vector elements
#'

#' \code{sum} returns the sum of all the values present in its arguments.
#'

#' This is a generic function: methods can be defined for it directly or via the
#' \code{\link{Summary}} group generic. For this to work properly, the arguments
#' \code{...} should be unnamed, and dispatch is on the first argument.
```

Everything else is the **details** 

### There are five tags you'll use for most functions

Tag	Purpose		
@param arg	Describe inputs		
@examples	Show how the function works. (Usual RStudio shortcuts work)		
@seealso	Pointers to related functions		
@return	Describe outputs (value)		
@export	Is this a user-visible function?		

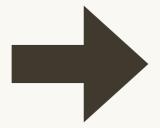
### Your turn

Document add\_cols().

(See next slide for hint)

### RStudio helps you remember

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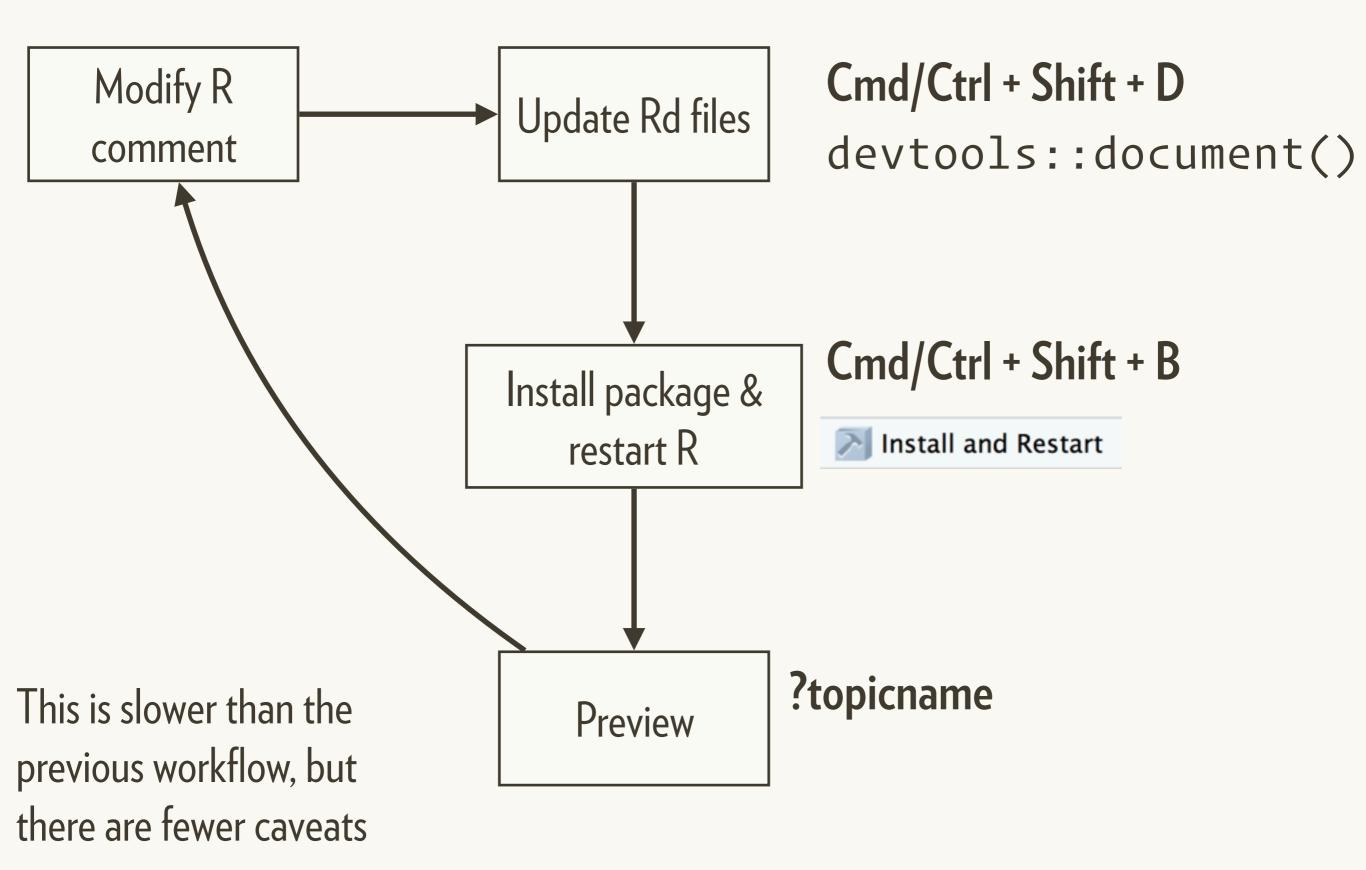


```
#' Title
'
 @param x
 @param y
#' @param z
 @return
'
 @export
'
#' @examples
fun <- function(x, y, z) {</pre>
}
```

### Use markdown for formatting

```
In new package, activate by running
usethis::use_roxygen_md()
bold, _italic_, `code`
* [func()]
* [pkg::func()]
* [link text][func()]
* [link text][pkg::func()]
```

### Documentation workflow 2



### Your turn

Make real link to cbind()

Add a see also section (@seealso) to add\_col() and add\_cols() that links them together.

What happens if you add @family xyz to both?

### roxygen2 comes with other tools to reduce duplication

```
Document multiple functions in the same file
#' @rdname add_col
Inherit the parameter descriptions from
another function
#' @inheritParams add_col
Inherit everything from another topic
#' @inherit add_col
Inherit selectively
 @inherit add_col parameters return references
'
 title description details
 sections seealso
"
```

### Read online about how to document other objects

### Data

http://r-pkgs.had.co.nz/data.html#documenting-data

### Classes & methods

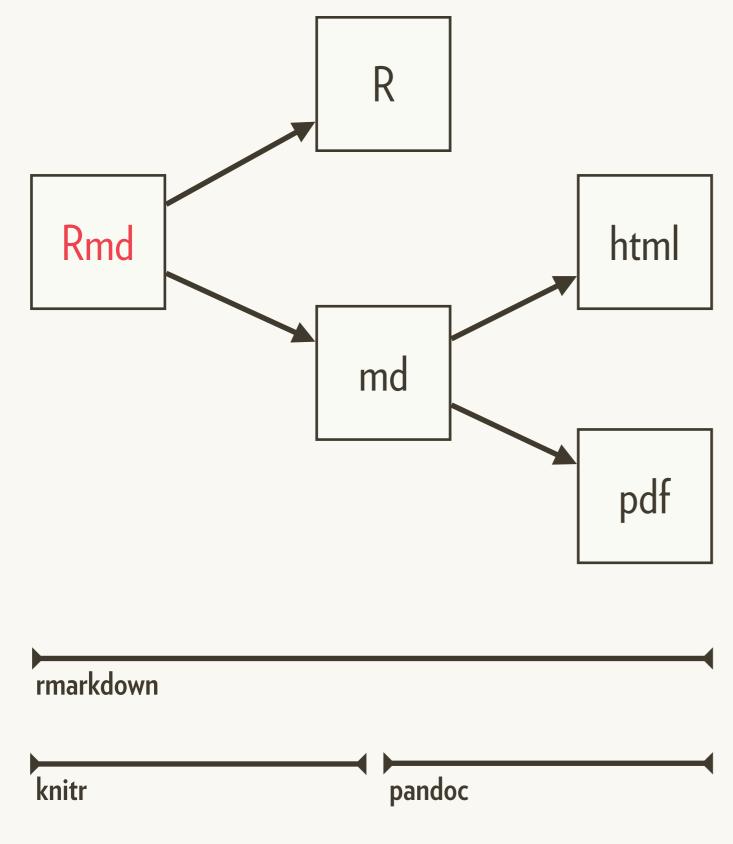
http://r-pkgs.had.co.nz/man.html#man-classes

## Packages

http://r-pkgs.had.co.nz/man.html#man-packages

# Package documentation with rmarkdown

Vignettes



Lets you combine prose and code to explain your how you package works.

The hard part is the writing, not the technology!

http://r-pkgs.had.co.nz/vignettes.html

### Easiest way to get started is with use\_vignette()

```
usethis::use_vignette("name")
Adds to DESCRIPTION
Suggests: knitr
VignetteBuilder: knitr
Creates vignettes/
Drafts vignettes/name.Rmd
```

### Vignette = Rmarkdown + special metadata

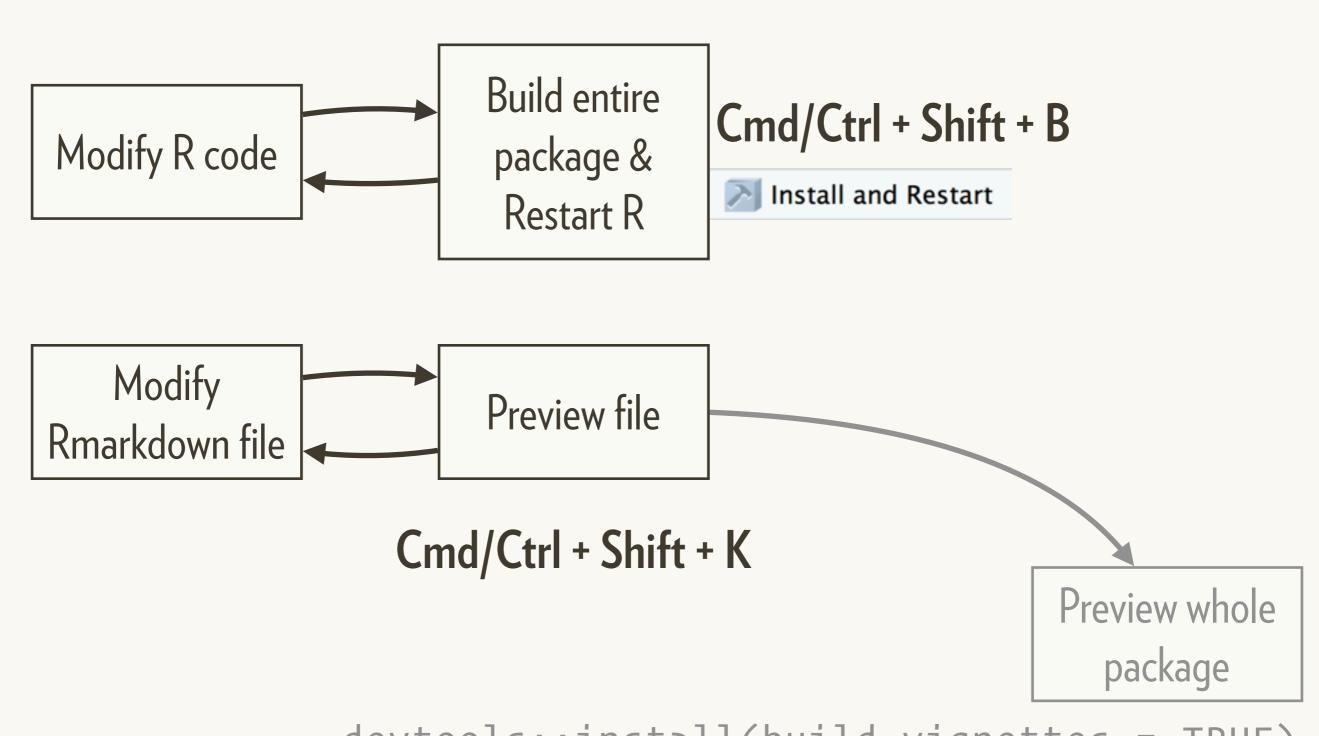
```
title: "Vignette Title"
author: "Vignette author"
date: "`r Sys.Date()`"
output: rmarkdown::html_vignette
vignette: >
 %\VignetteIndexEntry{Vignette Title}
 %\VignetteEngine{knitr::rmarkdown}
 %\VignetteEncoding{UTF-8}
Special output format for vignettes

Vignette: >
 %\VignetteEncoding{UTF-8}
```

Vignettes are long form documentation commonly included in packages. Because they are part of the distribution of the package, they need to be as compact as possible. The `html\_vignette` output type provides a custom style sheet (and tweaks some options) to ensure that the resulting html is as small as possible. The `html\_vignette` format:

. . .

### Vignette workflow



### If sharing with others, include a README

# Your choice: but often useful to include

```
results of running code
usethis::use_readme_md()
usethis::use_readme_rmd()
For public projects this should include a
brief overview, instructions on how to
install, and a few examples. For private
projects, this is a great place to jot down
notes
```

### If evolving over time, note changes to API

```
usethis::use_news_md()
```

```
For public projects, this should note
important changes from perspective of
the user. Most important to describe API
changes. Less important for private projects
```

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