

{renv}

# What is `{renv}`?

`{renv}` is an R package for managing project dependencies and creating reproducible environments

# Benefits of using `{renv}`

1. **Isolation:** Creates project-specific environments separate from the global R library.
2. **Reproducibility:** Ensures consistent package versions for code reproducibility.
3. **Collaboration:** Facilitates sharing and collaborating on projects with others.

# Getting Started with {renv}

## 1. Install {renv}

```
1 install.packages("renv")
```

## 2. Initialize a project

```
1 renv::init()
```

## 3. Install packages

```
1 install.packages("other_package")  
2 # only an option when using renv!  
3 install.packages("github_user/github_package")
```

## 4. Track dependencies via a lockfile

```
1 renv::snapshot()
```

# Behind the scenes

- Your project `.Rprofile` is updated to include:

```
1 source("renv/activate.R")
```

This is run every time R starts, and does some management of the library paths to make sure when you call `install.packages("package")` or `library(package)` it does to the right place (`renv/library/R-{version}/{computer-specifics}`)

- A `renv.lock` file (really just a text file) is created to store the names and versions of the packages.

# renv.lock

```
{
  "R": {
    "Version": "4.3.0",
    "Repositories": [
      {
        "Name": "CRAN",
        "URL": "https://cran.rstudio.com"
      }
    ]
  },
  "Packages": {
    "R6": {
      "Package": "R6",
      "Version": "2.5.1",
      "Source": "Repository",
      "Repository": "CRAN",
      "Requirements": [
        "R"
      ],
      "Hash": "470851b6d5d0ac559e9d01bb352b4021"
    },
    "base64enc": {
      "Package": "base64enc",
      "Version": "0.1-3",
      "Source": "Repository",
      "Repository": "CRAN",
      "Requirements": [
```

```
    "R"  
  ],  
  "Hash": "543776ae6848fde2f48ff3816d0628bc"  
},
```

# Using {renv} later

Restore an environment

```
1 renv::restore()
```

Install new packages

```
1 install.packages("other_package")
```

Update the lockfile

```
1 renv::snapshot()
```



# Collaboration with {renv}

- Share the project's `renv.lock` file with collaborators to ensure consistent environments
- When they run `renv::restore()`, the correct versions of the packages will be installed on their computer

```
1 renv::restore()
```

# Other helpful functions

Remove packages that are no longer used:

```
1 renv::clean()
```

Check the status of the project library with respect to the lockfile:

```
1 renv::status()
```

This will tell you to `renv::snapshot()` to add packages you've installed but haven't snapshotted, or `renv::restore()` if you're missing packages you need but which aren't installed

# Conclusion

`{renv}` benefits:

- Isolation, reproducibility, and collaboration

Getting started with `{renv}`

1. Initialize a project using `renv::init()`
2. Install packages and store with `renv::snapshot()`
3. Restore later or elsewhere with `renv::restore()`

Additional resources

- Official `{renv}` documentation
- `{renv}` GitHub repository

