

Exposing package functions with roxygen2

Introduction

The R package **roxygen2** <<https://roxygen2.r-lib.org/index.html>> can be used to document your functions (and other R objects) as well as controlling if a function is internal or external, and whether it gets listed in the package documentation index or not.

This cheatsheet provides a quick overview on how to combine the three key NAMESPACE tags:

`#' @noRd` → Prevents .Rd files from being generated.

`#' @keywords internal` → Removes function from pkg doc index.

`#' @export` → Exports function.

Official documentation: <<https://roxygen2.r-lib.org/articles/namespace.html>>.

NAMESPACE Tags	Man page (.Rd)	Internal/External	Package Index	Use Case
No roxygen2 comment block	no	internal	no	Yet to be documented internal function. Prefer use case 2.
<code>#' @noRd</code>	no	internal	no	Source code level documentation of internal function , for future self and other developers .
<code>#' @keywords internal</code> <code>#' @noRd</code>	no	internal	no	Equivalent to use case 2 , just more verbose.
<code>#' @keywords internal</code>	yes	internal	no	Internal function for which you want to have user level documentation too.
<code>#' @keywords internal</code> <code>#' @export</code>	yes	external	no	If you want other developers to extend your package , or if the function has been deprecated .
<code>#' @export</code>	yes	external	yes	Typical user level function .
roxygen2 comment block is present but no NAMESPACE tags are included	yes	internal	yes	Do not use. It's unlikely that you'd want an internal function listed in the package index.
<code>#' @noRd</code> <code>#' @export</code>	no	external	no	Do not use. Why would you want an external function without user level documentation?
<code>#' @noRd</code> <code>#' @keywords internal</code> <code>#' @export</code>	no	external	no	Do not use. Same reason as <i>use case 8</i> .