



RStudio's Community is moving!

For help with R code: <https://support.rstudio.com/hc/en-us/articles/200552336>
 For Open Source product questions: community.rstudio.com
 For support with RStudio professional products: [Priority Email Support](#)
 To report a bug in the RStudio IDE: <https://github.com/rstudio/rstudio/issues>
 Posting here will be disabled after March 1, 2018.

Community

Topics

Posts

New post

Post

7 followers

Follow

Archive

1



system() call from RStudio does not find path; same command from commandline R works fine

I have a weird problem with the `system()` command when issued from within RStudio. The command works just fine if it is issued by R run with `xemacs&`, as well as command-line R. However, the exact same command does not work if I use RStudio.

Example:

```
system('fslview')
sh: fslview: command not found
```

Similar problem when I use the absolute path:

```
system('/usr/local/fsl/bin/fslview')
/usr/local/fsl/bin/fslview: line 6:
/bin/fslview.app/Contents/MacOS/fslview: No such file or directory
```

Note the difference between the path in the system call, and the one returned in the error message.

Just to reiterate, this is not an issue of me using the wrong path, because the same command works from any other R prompt that is not mediated through RStudio, as well as from within the shell. Further, it is not a general issue with `system()`: the command:

```
system('ls')
```

works just fine even from within RStudio.

I have observed the same problem in mac OSX 10.7, 10.8, as well as in Ubuntu and other linux distributions.

Any help is greatly appreciated.

- Tobias

Ian Pylvainen • December 30, 2013 06:51 • Share

Date Votes

12 comments

0



I have this problem also on OSX 10.8 with Rstudio Version 0.98.475

```
sessionInfo()
R version 3.0.2 (2013-09-25)
```

Platform: x86_64-apple-darwin10.8.0 (64-bit)

locale:

[1] en_US.UTF-8/en_US.UTF-8/en_US.UTF-8/C/en_US.UTF-8/en_US.UTF-8

attached base packages:

[1] stats graphics utils datasets grDevices methods

[7] base

other attached packages:

[1] bio3d_2.0

loaded via a namespace (and not attached):

[1] tools_3.0.2

Ian Pylvainen • 4 years ago • 0 votes • Share

0



Hi Barry,

In the meantime I was able to solve the problem. It turned out to be a path-issue after all... Here is the fix:

- When in R, type `Sys.getenv('R_HOME')` to find the path to `R_ENVIRON` file
- `cd` to the directory and type "nano Renviron"
- add the following line

FSL Setup

`FSLDIR=/usr/local/fsl ## or wherever your fsl is installed`

`PATH=${FSLDIR}/bin/:$PATH`

`export FSLDIR PATH`

`. ${FSLDIR}/etc/fslconf/fsl.sh`

Hope this helps.

Best,

Tobias

Ian Pylvainen • 4 years ago • 0 votes • Share

0



Hi Tobias,

Thanks for the update and we're glad you were able to figure it out. Let us know if anything else comes up.

Barry, let us know if Tobias's fix solves your problem or if you're still having issues.

Thanks,

Ian

Ian Pylvainen • 4 years ago • 0 votes • Share

0



Thanks for the reply Tobias.

I am on a mac and have no idea what fsl is never mind where it lives. "which fsl" gives me nothing and I don't have an Renviron file in my `/Library/Frameworks/R.framework/Resources` as returned from `Sys.getenv("R_HOME")`.

I am guessing you are trying to set `$PATH`, which I have in my `~/.profile`. Is there a way to get Rstudio to just read this?

my `system("echo $PATH")` in Rstudio is different from that in regular R in the terminal.

Thanks!

Barry

Ian Pylvainen • 4 years ago • 0 votes • Share

0



Hi Barry,

Tobias was having the problem with the path occurring with the program 'fsl' – is there another program you're trying to use through the `system()` command that's not working? If so, can you check that program's path by running `which <program-name>` from the terminal?

Thanks,

Ian

Ian Pylvainen • 4 years ago • 0 votes • Share

0



Hi Ian,

I think its a `$PATH` not being set correctly issue as the `system()` calls I am running are looking for exes that are not included in Rstudio's `$PATH` but are in the regular R from the terminal E.g:

terminal

```
which muscle
/Users/barry/bin/muscle
echo $PATH
/opt/local/bin:/opt/local/sbin:/usr/local/mysql/bin:/Users/barry/bin:/Users/barry/software/browndye_31jul12/bin:/opt/amber11/bin;
```

In R from the terminal

```
system("muscle") # works great and system("echo $PATH") matches the
result above
```

However in Rstudio:

```
system("echo $PATH")
/usr/bin:/bin:/usr/sbin:/sbin:/usr/local/bin:/opt/X11/bin:/usr/local/git/bin:/usr/texbin:/opt/local/bin
system("muscle")
sh: muscle: command not found
```

My \$PATH is setup in my ~/.profile file. Can Rstudio not read this?

Thanks again,
B.

Ian Pylvainen • 4 years ago • 0 votes • Share

2



Hi Barry,
By default OSX GUI applications don't inherit the environment variables set in the .profile file. The easiest way to solve this is simply to invoke RStudio from the Terminal using the following command:

```
open -a RStudio
```

which will open it using the .profile settings you've configured on your machine.
Thanks for bringing this to our attention and it's something we'll be looking into in the future.

Ian

Ian Pylvainen • 4 years ago • 2 votes • Share

0



Thanks Ian, that works for now.
Ian Pylvainen • 4 years ago • 0 votes • Share

1



Has this issue been fixed yet? I'm running into this same problem. I'm using RStudio v0.98.1102 and I'm on Mac OS 10.10.2
Joshua Bradley • 3 years ago • 1 vote • Share

0



I'm am also still running into this same problem. I'm using RStudio Version 0.99.441 and I'm on Mac OS 10.10.3. Only the suggested workaround (start Rstudio from terminal) works for me.
cengel • 3 years ago • 0 votes • Share

2



Hello,
I have the same problem where R command-line reads on one PATH but RStudio reads a different one.
I see this post if 2 years old but the version of RStudio I am running is still having the same issues.
Is there an option in RStudio to specify where to read the \$PATH within the .Renvirom or .Rprofile?
System specs:
MAC El Capitan 10.11.6
R version 3.4.0 (2017-04-21)
RStudio Version 1.0.143;

Anna • 8 months ago • 2 votes • Share

0



Four year later, the problem is still here. Well done!
JackieMe • 2 months ago • 0 votes • Share

