

R version history

Release	Date	Description
0.16		This is the last alpha version developed primarily by Ihaka and Gentleman. Much of the basic functionality from the "White Book" (see S history) was implemented. The mailing lists commenced on April 1, 1997.
0.49	1997-04-23	This is the oldest source release which is currently available on CRAN.[49] CRAN is started on this date, with 3 mirrors that initially hosted 12 packages.[50] Alpha versions of R for Microsoft Windows and the classic Mac OS are made available shortly after this version.[citation needed]
0.60	1997-12-05	R becomes an official part of the GNU Project. The code is hosted and maintained on CVS.
0.65.1	1999-10-07	First versions of update.packages and install.packages functions for downloading and installing packages from CRAN.[51]
1.0	2000-02-29	Considered by its developers stable enough for production use.[52]
1.4	2001-12-19	S4 methods are introduced and the first version for Mac OS X is made available soon after.
1.8	2003-10-08	Introduced a flexible condition handling mechanism for signalling and handling condition objects.
2.0	2004-10-04	Introduced lazy loading, which enables fast loading of data with minimal expense of system memory.
2.1	2005-04-18	Support for UTF-8 encoding, and the beginnings of internationalization and localization for different languages.
2.6.2	2008-02-08	Last version to support Windows 95, 98, Me and NT 4.0[53]
2.11	2010-04-22	Support for Windows 64-bit systems.
2.12.2	2011-02-25	Last version to support Windows 2000[54]
2.13	2011-04-14	Adding a new compiler function that allows speeding up functions by converting them to byte-code.
2.14	2011-10-31	Added mandatory namespaces for packages. Added a new parallel package.
2.15	2012-03-30	New load balancing functions. Improved serialisation speed for long vectors.
3.0.0	2013-04-03	Support for numeric index values 231 and larger on 64-bit systems.
3.3.3	2017-03-06	Last version to support Microsoft Windows XP.
3.4.0	2017-04-21	Just-in-time compilation (JIT) of functions and loops to byte-code enabled by default.
3.5.0	2018-04-23	Packages byte-compiled on installation by default. Compact internal representation of integer sequences. Added a new serialisation format to support compact internal representations.
3.6.0	2019-04-26	
4.0.0	2020-04-24	R now uses a stringsAsFactors = FALSE default, and hence by default no longer converts strings to factors in calls to data.frame() and read.table().