

# Package ‘setwidth’

August 27, 2025

**Version** 1.1.0

**Title** Automatically Set the Width Option on Terminal Emulators

**OS\_type** unix

**Description** Automatically sets the value of options(` `width") when the terminal emulator is resized. The functions of this package only work if R is compiled for Unix systems and it is running interactively in a terminal emulator.

**License** GPL (>= 2)

**NeedsCompilation** yes

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## Description

This package automatically sets options("width") when using R in terminal windows on OSX primarily (but on Unix-like OSes too) and resizing the terminal (e.g., iTerm2 on OSX). It may be useful if options(setWidthOnResize=TRUE) does not work properly for any reason.

This package should not be used with graphical interfaces such as RStudio, RKward, JGR, Rcmdr, or any other interface that handles R output on its own, or when using R via remote sessions (like via a ssh connection, for example). The functions only work if R runs interactively in a terminal emulator. The terminal emulator may be called by a text editor like Vim, Gedit, Kate, or Geany.

## Details

The package will print information on the R Console if its ‘setwidth.verbose’ option was set to a numeric value bigger than zero:

```
options(setwidth.verbose = 1) # Print startup message
options(setwidth.verbose = 2) # Print error message when unable to set width
options(setwidth.verbose = 3) # Print width value
```

The package does not have any user visible R function. When it is loaded, the SIGWINCH signal starts to be handled by a C function that updates the value of `options("width")`. The handle will not be activated if `interactive() == FALSE` or the value of the environment variable ‘TERM’ is either empty or “dumb”.

To manually test whether the package is working properly on your system you may repeatedly resize the terminal emulator and print a long vector, like 1:300.

To disable the automatic setting of `options("width")` do:

```
detach("package:setwidth", unload = TRUE)
```

## Author(s)

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## See Also

The package **colorout** colorizes R output when running in a unix/osx terminal emulators.

## Examples

```
options(setwidth.verbose = 1)
print(getOption("width"))
```

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