

Package ‘rhino’

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app

Rhino application

Description

The entrypoint for a Rhino application. Your app.R should contain nothing but a call to `rhino::app()`.

Usage

`app()`

Details

This function is a wrapper around `shiny::shinyApp()`. It reads `rhino.yml` and performs some configuration steps (logger, static files, box modules). You can run a Rhino application in typical fashion using `shiny::runApp()`.

Rhino will load the `app/main.R` file as a box module (`box::use(app/main)`). It should export two functions which take a single `id` argument - the `ui` and `server` of your top-level Shiny module.

Value

An object representing the app (can be passed to `shiny::runApp()`).

Legacy entrypoint

It is possible to specify a different way to load your application using the `legacy_entrypoint` option in `rhino.yml`:

1. `app_dir`: Rhino will run the app using `shiny::shinyAppDir("app")`.
2. `source`: Rhino will `source("app/main.R")`. This file should define the top-level `ui` and `server` objects to be passed to `shinyApp()`.
3. `box_top_level`: Rhino will load `app/main.R` as a box module (as it does by default), but the exported `ui` and `server` objects will be considered as top-level.

The `legacy_entrypoint` setting is useful when migrating an existing Shiny application to Rhino. It is recommended to transform your application step by step:

1. With `app_dir` you should be able to run your application right away (just put the files in the app directory).
2. With `source` setting your application structure must be brought closer to Rhino, but you can still use `library()` and `source()` functions.
3. With `box_top_level` you can be confident that the whole app is properly modularized, as box modules can only load other box modules (`library()` and `source()` won't work).
4. The last step is to remove the `legacy_entrypoint` setting completely. Compared to `box_top_level` you'll need to make your top-level `ui` and `server` into a **Shiny module** (functions taking a single `id` argument).

Examples

```
## Not run:  
# Your `app.R` should contain nothing but this single call:  
rhino::app()  
  
## End(Not run)
```

`auto_test_r`*Watch and automatically run R tests*

Description

Watches R files in the app directory and tests/testthat directory for changes. When code files in app change, all tests are rerun. When test files change, only the changed test file is rerun.

Usage

```
auto_test_r(reporter = NULL, filter = NULL, hash = TRUE)
```

Arguments

<code>reporter</code>	{testthat} reporter to use. If NULL, will use <code>testthat::default_reporter()</code> for tests when running all tests and <code>testthat::default_compact_reporter()</code> for single file tests. See {testthat} reporters for more details.
<code>filter</code>	filter passed to <code>testthat::test_dir()</code> . If not NULL, only tests with file names matching this regular expression will be executed. Matching is performed on the file name after it's stripped of "test-" and ".R". Does not affect the case when a test file is changed. In this case, this test file is rerun.
<code>hash</code>	Logical. Whether to use file hashing to detect changes. Default is TRUE. If FALSE, file modification times are used instead.

Value

None. This function is called for side effects.

Examples

```
if (interactive()) {
  # Watch files and automatically run tests when changes are detected
  auto_test_r()
}
```

`build_js`*Build JavaScript*

Description

Builds the `app/js/index.js` file into `app/static/js/app.min.js`. The code is transformed and bundled using [Babel](#) and [webpack](#), so the latest JavaScript features can be used (including ECMAScript 2015 aka ES6 and newer standards). Requires Node.js to be available on the system.

Usage

```
build_js(watch = FALSE)
```

Arguments

`watch` Keep the process running and rebuilding JS whenever source files change.

Details

Functions/objects defined in the global scope do not automatically become window properties, so the following JS code:

```
function sayHello() { alert('Hello!'); }
```

won't work as expected if used in R like this:

```
tags$button("Hello!", onclick = 'sayHello()');
```

Instead you should explicitly export functions:

```
export function sayHello() { alert('Hello!'); }
```

and access them via the global App object:

```
tags$button("Hello!", onclick = "App.sayHello()")
```

Value

None. This function is called for side effects.

Examples

```
if (interactive()) {  
  # Build the `app/js/index.js` file into `app/static/js/app.min.js`.  
  build_js()  
}
```

`build_sass`*Build Sass*

Description

Builds the `app/styles/main.scss` file into `app/static/css/app.min.css`.

Usage

```
build_sass(watch = FALSE)
```

Arguments

<code>watch</code>	Keep the process running and rebuilding Sass whenever source files change. Only supported for sass: node configuration in <code>rhino.yml</code> .
--------------------	--

Details

The build method can be configured using the `sass` option in `rhino.yml`:

1. node: Use **Dart Sass** (requires Node.js to be available on the system).
2. r: Use the `{sass}` R package.

It is recommended to use Dart Sass which is the primary, actively developed implementation of Sass. On systems without Node.js you can use the `{sass}` R package as a fallback. It is not advised however, as it uses the deprecated **LibSass** implementation.

Value

None. This function is called for side effects.

Examples

```
if (interactive()) {  
  # Build the `app/styles/main.scss` file into `app/static/css/app.min.css`.  
  build_sass()  
}
```

covr_r *Run a unit test coverage check*

Description

Uses the {covr} package to produce unit test coverage reports. Uses the {testthat} package to run all unit tests in tests/testthat directory.

Usage

```
covr_r(  
  source_files = list.files("app", pattern = "\\.[rR]$", full.names = TRUE, recursive =  
    TRUE),  
  test_files = list.files("tests/testthat", pattern = "^test-.*\\.R", full.names =  
    TRUE, recursive = TRUE),  
  line_exclusions = NULL,  
  function_exclusions = NULL  
)
```

Arguments

source_files Character vector of source files with function definitions to measure coverage. Defaults to all .R files in the app tree.

test_files Character vector of test files with code to test the functions. Defaults to all test files in tests/testthat with the test-<name>.R filename pattern.

line_exclusions
passed to `covr::file_coverage`

function_exclusions
passed to `covr::file_coverage`

Value

A covr coverage dataset.

Examples

```
if (interactive()) {  
  # Run a test coverage check for the entire rhino app  
  # using all tests in the `tests/testthat` directory.  
  covr_r()  
}
```

`covr_report`*Display rhino test coverage results using a standalone report*

Description

Uses the `{covr}` package to produce unit test coverage reports. Uses the `{testthat}` package to run all unit tests in `tests/testthat` directory.

Usage

```
covr_report(rhino_coverage = covr_r(), ...)
```

Arguments

`rhino_coverage` a rhino coverage dataset, defaults to `covr_r()`.
... additional arguments to pass to `covr::report()`

Value

None. This function is called for side effects.

Examples

```
if (interactive()) {  
  # Run a test coverage report on a rhino app  
  covr_report()  
}
```

`dependencies`*Manage dependencies*

Description

Install, remove or update the R package dependencies of your Rhino project.

Usage

```
pkg_install(packages)
```

```
pkg_remove(packages)
```

Arguments

`packages` Character vector of package names.

Details

Use `pkg_install()` to install or update a package to the latest version. Use `pkg_remove()` to remove a package.

These functions will install or remove packages from the local `{renv}` library, and update the dependencies.R and `renv.lock` files accordingly, all in one step. The underlying `{renv}` functions can still be called directly for advanced use cases. See the [Explanation: Renv configuration](#) to learn about the details of the setup used by Rhino.

Value

None. This functions are called for side effects.

Examples

```
## Not run:
# Install dplyr
rhino::pkg_install("dplyr")

# Update shiny to the latest version
rhino::pkg_install("shiny")

# Install a specific version of shiny
rhino::pkg_install("shiny@1.6.0")

# Install shiny.i18n package from GitHub
rhino::pkg_install("Appsilon/shiny.i18n")

# Install Biobase package from Bioconductor
rhino::pkg_install("bioc::Biobase")

# Install shiny from local source
rhino::pkg_install("~/path/to/shiny")

# Remove dplyr
rhino::pkg_remove("dplyr")

## End(Not run)
```

devmode

Development mode

Description

Run application in development mode with automatic rebuilding and reloading.

Usage

```
devmode(
  build_sass = TRUE,
  build_js = TRUE,
  run_r_unit_tests = TRUE,
  auto_test_r_args = list(reporter = NULL, filter = NULL, hash = TRUE),
  ...
)
```

Arguments

`build_sass` Boolean. Rebuild Sass automatically in the background?

`build_js` Boolean. Rebuild JavaScript automatically in the background?

`run_r_unit_tests` Boolean. Run R unit tests automatically in the background?

`auto_test_r_args` List. Additional arguments passed to `auto_test_r()`.

`...` Additional arguments passed to `shiny::runApp()`.

Details

This function will launch the Shiny app in **development mode** (as if `options(shiny.devmode = TRUE)` was set). The app will be automatically reloaded whenever the sources change.

Additionally, Rhino will automatically rebuild JavaScript and Sass in the background and run R unit tests with the `auto_test_r()` function. Please note that this feature requires Node.js.

Value

None. This function is called for side effects.

diagnostics

Print diagnostics

Description

Prints information which can be useful for diagnosing issues with Rhino.

Usage

```
diagnostics()
```

Value

None. This function is called for side effects.

Examples

```
if (interactive()) {  
  # Print diagnostic information.  
  diagnostics()  
}
```

format_js

Format JavaScript

Description

Runs [prettier](#) on JavaScript files in app/js directory. Requires Node.js installed.

Usage

```
format_js(fix = TRUE)
```

Arguments

fix If TRUE, fixes formatting. If FALSE, reports formatting errors without fixing them.

Details

You can prevent prettier from formatting a given chunk of your code by adding a special comment:

```
// prettier-ignore
```

Read more about [ignoring code](#).

Value

None. This function is called for side effects.

`format_r`*Format R*

Description

Uses the `{styler}` and `{box.linters}` packages to automatically format R sources. As with `styler`, carefully examine the results after running this function.

Usage

```
format_r(paths, exclude_files = NULL, ...)
```

Arguments

<code>paths</code>	Character vector of files and directories to format.
<code>exclude_files</code>	Character vector with regular expressions of files that should be excluded from styling.
<code>...</code>	Optional arguments to pass to <code>box.linters::style_*</code> functions.

Details

The code is formatted according to the `styler::tidyverse_style` guide with one adjustment: spacing around math operators is not modified to avoid conflicts with `box::use()` statements.

If available, `box::use()` calls are reformatted by styling functions provided by `{box.linters}`. These include:

- Separating `box::use()` calls for packages and local modules
- Alphabetically sorting packages, modules, and functions.
- Adding trailing commas

`box.linters::style_*` functions require the `tree-sitter` and `tree-sitter-r` packages. These, in turn, require R $\geq 4.3.0$. `format_r()` will continue to operate without these but will not perform `box::use()` call styling.

For more information on `box::use()` call styling please refer to the `{box.linters}` styling functions [documentation](#).

Value

None. This function is called for side effects.

Examples

```
if (interactive()) {  
  # Format a single file.  
  format_r("app/main.R")  
  
  # Format all files in a directory.  
  format_r("app/view")  
}
```

format_sass	<i>Format Sass</i>
-------------	--------------------

Description

Runs [prettier](#) on Sass (.scss) files in app/styles directory. Requires Node.js installed.

Usage

```
format_sass(fix = TRUE)
```

Arguments

fix	If TRUE, fixes formatting. If FALSE, reports formatting errors without fixing them.
-----	---

Details

You can prevent prettier from formatting a given chunk of your code by adding a special comment:

```
// prettier-ignore
```

Read more about [ignoring code](#).

Value

None. This function is called for side effects.

init	<i>Create Rhino application</i>
------	---------------------------------

Description

Generates the file structure of a Rhino application. Can be used to start a fresh project or to migrate an existing Shiny application created without Rhino.

Usage

```
init(  
  dir = ".",  
  github_actions_ci = TRUE,  
  agents_instructions = TRUE,  
  e2e_tests = TRUE,  
  rhino_version = "rhino",  
  force = FALSE  
)
```

Arguments

<code>dir</code>	Name of the directory to create application in.
<code>github_actions_ci</code>	Should the GitHub Actions CI be added?
<code>agents_instructions</code>	Should an AGENTS.md file with guidance for AI coding agents be added?
<code>e2e_tests</code>	Should the Cypress end-to-end test structure be added?
<code>rhino_version</code>	When using an existing <code>renv.lock</code> file, Rhino will install itself using <code>renv::install(rhino_version)</code> . You can provide this argument to use a specific version / source, e.g. <code>"Appsilon/rhino@v0.4.0"</code> .
<code>force</code>	Boolean; force initialization? By default, Rhino will refuse to initialize a project in the home directory.

Details

The recommended steps for migrating an existing Shiny application to Rhino:

1. Put all app files in the app directory, so that it can be run with `shiny::shinyAppDir("app")` (assuming all dependencies are installed).
2. If you have a list of dependencies in form of `library()` calls, put them in the `dependencies.R` file. If this file does not exist, Rhino will generate it based on `renv::dependencies("app")`.
3. If your project uses `{renv}`, put `renv.lock` and `renv` directory in the project root. Rhino will try to only add the necessary dependencies to your lockfile.
4. Run `rhino::init()` in the project root.

Value

None. This function is called for side effects.

lint_js

Lint JavaScript

Description

Runs **ESLint** on the JavaScript sources in the `app/js` directory. Requires Node.js to be available on the system.

Usage

```
lint_js(fix = FALSE)
```

Arguments

<code>fix</code>	Automatically fix problems.
------------------	-----------------------------

Details

If your JS code uses global objects defined by other JS libraries or R packages, you'll need to let the linter know or it will complain about undefined objects. For example, the `{leaflet}` package defines a global object `L`. To access it without raising linter errors, add `/* global L */` comment in your JS code.

You don't need to define `Shiny` and `$` as these global variables are defined by default.

If you find a particular ESLint error inapplicable to your code, you can disable a specific rule for the next line of code with a comment like:

```
// eslint-disable-next-line no-restricted-syntax
```

See the [ESLint documentation](#) for full details.

Value

None. This function is called for side effects.

Examples

```
if (interactive()) {
  # Lint the JavaScript sources in the `app/js` directory.
  lint_js()
}
```

lint_r

Lint R

Description

Uses the `{lintr}` package to check all R sources in the `app` and `tests/testthat` directories for style errors.

Usage

```
lint_r(paths = NULL)
```

Arguments

`paths` Character vector of directories and files to lint. When `NULL` (the default), check `app` and `tests/testthat` directories.

Details

The linter rules can be [adjusted](#) in the `.lintr` file.

You can set the maximum number of accepted style errors with the `legacy_max_lint_r_errors` option in `rhino.yml`. This can be useful when inheriting legacy code with multiple styling issues.

The `box.linters::namespaced_function_calls()` linter requires the `{treesitter}` and `{treesitter.r}` packages. These require `R >= 4.3.0`. `lint_r()` will continue to run and skip `namespaced_function_calls()` if its dependencies are not available.

Value

None. This function is called for side effects.

lint_sass	<i>Lint Sass</i>
-----------	------------------

Description

Runs **Stylelint** on the Sass sources in the `app/styles` directory. Requires Node.js to be available on the system.

Usage

```
lint_sass(fix = FALSE)
```

Arguments

`fix` Automatically fix problems.

Value

None. This function is called for side effects.

Examples

```
if (interactive()) {  
  # Lint the Sass sources in the `app/styles` directory.  
  lint_sass()  
}
```

log	<i>Logging functions</i>
-----	--------------------------

Description

Convenient way to log messages at a desired severity level.

Usage

```
log
```

Details

The log object is a list of logging functions, in order of decreasing severity:

1. fatal
2. error
3. warn
4. success
5. info
6. debug
7. trace

Rhino configures logging based on settings read from the `config.yml` file in the root of your project:

1. `rhino_log_level`: The minimum severity of messages to be logged.
2. `rhino_log_file`: The file to save logs to. If NA, standard error stream will be used.

The default `config.yml` file uses `!expr Sys.getenv()` so that log level and file can also be configured by setting the `RHINO_LOG_LEVEL` and `RHINO_LOG_FILE` environment variables.

The functions re-exported by the log object are aliases for `{logger}` functions. You can also import the package and use it directly to utilize its full capabilities.

Examples

```
## Not run:
box::use(rhino[log])

# Messages can be formatted using glue syntax.
name <- "Rhino"
log$warn("Hello {name}!")
log$info("{1:3} + {1:3} = {2 * (1:3)}")

## End(Not run)
```

react_component

React components

Description

Declare the React components defined in your app.

Usage

```
react_component(name)
```

Arguments

name The name of the component.

Details

There are three steps to add a React component to your Rhino application:

1. Define the component using JSX and register it with `Rhino.registerReactComponents()`.
2. Declare the component in R with `rhino::react_component()`.
3. Use the component in your application.

Please refer to the [Tutorial: Use React in Rhino](#) to learn about the details.

Value

A function representing the component.

Examples

```
# Declare the component.
TextBox <- react_component("TextBox")

# Use the component.
ui <- TextBox("Hello!", font_size = 20)
```

rhinos	<i>Population of rhinos</i>
--------	-----------------------------

Description

A dataset containing population of 5 species of rhinos.

Usage

```
rhinos
```

Format

A data frame with 58 rows and 3 variables:

Year year

Population rhinos population

Species rhinos species

Source

<https://ourworldindata.org/>

test_e2e	<i>Run Cypress end-to-end tests</i>
----------	-------------------------------------

Description

Uses **Cypress** to run end-to-end tests defined in the tests/cypress directory. Requires Node.js to be available on the system.

Usage

```
test_e2e(interactive = FALSE)
```

Arguments

interactive Should Cypress be run in the interactive mode?

Details

Check out: [Tutorial: Write end-to-end tests with Cypress](#) to learn how to write end-to-end tests for your Rhino app.

If you want to write end-to-end tests with {shinytest2}, see our [How-to: Use shinytest2](#) guide.

Value

None. This function is called for side effects.

Examples

```
if (interactive()) {  
  # Run the end-to-end tests in the `tests/cypress` directory.  
  test_e2e()  
}
```

test_r	<i>Run R unit tests</i>
--------	-------------------------

Description

Uses the {testthat} package to run all unit tests in tests/testthat directory.

Usage

```
test_r(...)
```

Arguments

... Additional arguments passed to testthat::test_dir().

Value

None. This function is called for side effects.

Examples

```
if (interactive()) {  
  # Run all unit tests in the `tests/testthat` directory.  
  test_r()  
}
```

use_agents_md

Add AGENTS.md

Description

Adds an AGENTS.md file with guidance for AI coding agents (e.g. GitHub Copilot, Claude Code) to a Rhino application.

Usage

```
use_agents_md()
```

Details

This file is added automatically by `init()` unless `agents_instructions = FALSE`. Use this function to add it to an existing Rhino project.

If AGENTS.md already exists in an interactive session, you will be prompted to either abort (the default) or back up the existing file as AGENTS.md.bak (with a numeric suffix if AGENTS.md.bak is also taken) and create a new one. In non-interactive sessions the function aborts with an error.

Value

None. This function is called for side effects.

Examples

```
if (interactive()) {  
  # Add AGENTS.md to the current Rhino project.  
  use_agents_md()  
}
```

use_e2e_tests	<i>Add end-to-end tests</i>
---------------	-----------------------------

Description

Adds the Rhino Cypress end-to-end test structure to a Rhino application: the `tests/cypress.config.js` file and the `tests/cypress/` directory.

Usage

```
use_e2e_tests()
```

Details

This structure is added automatically by `init()`. Use this function to add it to an existing Rhino project.

If `tests/cypress.config.js` or the `tests/cypress/` directory already exist in an interactive session, you will be prompted to either abort (the default) or back up the existing paths (each moved to a `.bak` path) and create new ones. In non-interactive sessions the function aborts with an error.

Value

None. This function is called for side effects.

Examples

```
if (interactive()) {  
  # Add the end-to-end test structure to the current Rhino project.  
  use_e2e_tests()  
}
```

use_github_actions_ci	<i>Add GitHub Actions CI</i>
-----------------------	------------------------------

Description

Adds the Rhino GitHub Actions CI workflow (`.github/workflows/rhino-test.yml`) to a Rhino application.

Usage

```
use_github_actions_ci()
```

Details

This workflow is added automatically by `init()` unless `github_actions_ci = FALSE`. Use this function to add it to an existing Rhino project.

If `.github/workflows/rhino-test.yml` already exists in an interactive session, you will be prompted to either abort (the default) or back up the existing file as `rhino-test.yml.bak` (with a numeric suffix if `rhino-test.yml.bak` is also taken) and create a new one. In non-interactive sessions the function aborts with an error.

Value

None. This function is called for side effects.

Examples

```
if (interactive()) {
  # Add the GitHub Actions CI workflow to the current Rhino project.
  use_github_actions_ci()
}
```

%<-%

Destructure a named list into individual variables

Description**[Experimental]**

The destructuring operator `%<-%` allows you to extract multiple named values from a list into individual variables in a single assignment. This provides a convenient way to unpack list elements by name.

While it works with any named list, it was primarily designed to improve the ergonomics of working with Shiny modules that return multiple reactive values. Instead of manually assigning each reactive value from a module's return list, you can destructure them all at once.

Usage

```
lhs %<-% rhs
```

Arguments

lhs	A call to <code>c()</code> containing variable names to assign to. All variable names should exist in the rhs list.
rhs	A named list containing the values to assign

Value

Invisibly returns the right-hand side list

Examples

```
# Basic destructuring
data <- list(x = 1, y = 2, z = 3)
c(x, y) %<-% data
x # 1
y # 2

# Works with unsorted names
result <- list(last = "Smith", first = "John")
c(first, last) %<-% result

# Shiny module example
if (interactive()) {
  module_server <- function(id) {
    shiny::moduleServer(id, function(input, output, session) {
      list(
        value = shiny::reactive(input$num),
        text = shiny::reactive(input$txt)
      )
    })
  }

  # Clean extraction of reactive values
  c(value, text) %<-% module_server("my_module")
}

# Can be used with pipe operations
# Note: The piped expression must be wrapped in brackets
## Not run:
c(value) %<-% (
  123 |>
  list(value = _)
)

## End(Not run)
```

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