

## R 2.11.1 for Windows

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This distribution contains a binary distribution of R-2.11.1 to run on Windows 2000 and later (including 64-bit versions of Windows) on ix86 and x86\_64 chips. It is designed to be as close as possible to the implementation on Unix, but see the list of differences below. The port was by Guido Masarotto, Brian Ripley and Duncan Murdoch.

See the file `CHANGES' for the new features of this version.

## Installation

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The distribution is distributed as a 30Mb installer R-2.11.1-win32.exe.

Just run this for a Windows-XP style installer. It contains all the R components, and you can select what want installed.

For more details, including command-line options for the installer and how to uninstall, see the rw-FAQ. If you are reading this as part of an installed version of R, that's both file rw-FAQ in this directory and file doc/html/rw-FAQ.html.

## Usage

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There are two versions of the R executable in R-2.11.1\bin:

### GUI:

Rgui.exe runs as a standard Windows GUI executable and provides an R console in its own window. It takes the standard R command-line arguments; these are most easily set by making a shortcut to ...\\R-2.11.1\\bin\\Rgui.exe and adding the arguments in the Target field. Set the `Start in' field of the shortcut to the directory you want to use as the working directory (where workspaces and files are saved to and loaded from). The installer creates a shortcut on the desktop for you (by default).

You have a choice of interface: SDI (separate windows) or MDI (multiple child windows in one large window). MDI is the default: select SDI by adding --sdi in the Target field: this can also be selected from the installer.

Command-line editing is available: see Help | Console for details.

The menus provide shortcuts to some R commands such as help, help.start, apropos, ls, load, save.image, search.

The 'load' menu items (Source R code, Display file, Load Workspace) keep track of the directory that was last used, and start their dialog boxes from that directory the next time they are used. That directory can be made the working directory by the File | Change dir menu item. All the `save' menu items start dialog boxes at the current working directory: this includes `Save Workspace' and the various ways to save graphics, as well as saving the workspace at the end of the session.

Note that the text help files use the latin1 encoding. To see all the characters you must use an appropriate font (European-language True Type fonts should be OK). To check if your preferred font has latin1 capability, try "help(text)" and look at the examples. [Note: only a few help files make use of latin1 characters not contained in the standard ASCII set so if you like a font without latin1 capability, use it.]

#### TERMINAL/BATCH:

Rterm.exe will run from a command line such as an MS-DOS or Commands Window running the standard shell, cmd.exe, as well as the ports of bash and tcsh that we use. Its primary purpose is to allow batch operation, but it does provide all the facilities needed for interactive use, including command-line editing (see the file README.Rterm).

Batch use: At its simplest, Rterm.exe can be used in a batch mode by commands like

```
Rterm.exe --no-restore --no-save < infile > outfile 2>&1
```

although users will probably want to set up simple .bat or .cmd files to run batch jobs. You can also use it via R CMD BATCH: see ?BATCH or R CMD BATCH --help.

Use with ESS: You can use Rterm.exe to provide inferior R-mode in ESS under NTEmacs, for example with ess-5.3.x. The pager is automatically set to "console" so text help will be displayed in emacs buffers.

#### GRAPHICS:

The screen device is called windows(). This is launched automatically, and can also be launched explicitly by windows() or win.graph() (or x11()) from both Rgui.exe and Rterm.exe. A printer device can be opened using win.print(), and graphs drawn as metafiles by win.metafile().

The graphics device pops up a separate window which has two menus. The device's File menu allows saving or printing or to run dev.off().

The History menu allows the recording of plots. When plots have been recorded they can be reviewed by PgUp and PgDn, saved and replaced. Recording can be turned on automatically (the Recording item on the list) or individual plots can be added (Add or the INS key).

The whole plot history can be saved to or retrieved from an R variable in the global environment.

The format of recorded plots may change between R versions.  
Recorded plots should NOT be used as a permanent storage format for R plots.

There is only one graphics history shared by all the windows devices.

#### Customization

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Environment variables can be set as NAME=value at the end of the command line, including in a shortcut. They can also be set (as NAME=value lines) in the file .Renviro in the working directory, or if that does not exist HOME\.Renviro.

Many aspects of the console (size, appearance, font, font size, colours) can be customized by editing the file etc\Rconsole, and a copy with a user's settings can be put in her HOME directory or in the working directory. (The exact sequence is to search the directory pointed to by the first found of the environment variables R\_USER then HOME, then the Windows "personal" directory (typically `C:\Documents and Settings\username\My Documents' in Windows XP) then {HOMEDRIVE}{HOMEPATH} then the working directory, finally R\_HOME\etc. This also applies to .Renviro and other uses of `HOME' in our documentation.) The file contains a description of the settings that can be altered. See also ?Rconsole.

An alternative way to edit the Rconsole file is to use the GUI preferences item on the Edit menu in Rgui.exe. This can change some of the settings (for example colours, font and window sizes) on the current running console.

The mapping between Windows fonts and the font number used in R's graphics can be set by editing the file etc\Rdevga, and a copy with a user's settings can be put in the HOME or working directory (see the description of Rconsole). This mapping applies to both the screen device and the printer device.

Many R defaults can be set in the file R\_HOME\etc\Rprofile or a user's file .Rprofile. In particular:

- The pager is set by options(pager=). The default is "internal" which brings up a separate console-like window. The internal pager can use a single window or a different window for each topic shown (configurable in Rconsole). Other possibilities we have used are "notepad" and "pfe32 /v", and "console" to list the files in the console (Rgui.exe) or terminal window (Rterm.exe).

#### Adding packages

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Binaries for many packages are available under CRAN/bin/windows/contrib. These are zip files which should be unpacked in R-2.11.1\library. The simplest option is use the items on the Packages menu to install from a zip file or to download from CRAN.

The list of packages and functions given by HTML help and used by the search engine can be updated from a running R process by the command

```
link.html.help()
```

provided the owner of the process has write permission on R-2.11.1\doc\html.

Private libraries of packages can be used and can be specified by the environment variable R\_LIBS. (Separate directories by ";" in this version.) They will not be linked to HTML help. In more detail, to use packages installed in directory R:\libraries\gm, set

```
R_LIBS=R:\libraries\gm
```

in the environment or your .Renviron file or on the command line, or add the line

```
.libPaths("R:/libraries/gm")
```

to your .Rprofile or at the end of R\_HOME\etc\Rprofile.

To install a package from source code you need the source-package distribution installed from R-2.11.1-win32.exe (but not the R sources). The 'R Installation and Administration' manual contains detailed instructions.

#### Differences from Unix versions of R

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- R can be interrupted by Esc in Rgui and by Ctrl-C or Ctrl-Break in Rterm: Ctrl-C is used for copying in the GUI version. C-c C-c works under NTEmacs.
- Command-line editing is always available, but is simpler than under readline-based input on Unix. For Rgui.exe, see the menu item 'Help | Console', for Rterm.exe the file README.Rterm.
- Paths to files can be specified with "/" or "\\".
- system() is enhanced here and does not automatically use a shell. See its help page and that of shell().
- graphics device bmp() is available in this version.

#### Using package tcltk

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The package tcltk supports building graphical interfaces with Tcl/Tk. "Support Files for Package tcltk" needs to be selected from the installer for this to work; alternatively you can use an existing installation of Tcl/Tk 8.5.x by following the instructions in the rw-FAQ.

#### Building From Source

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See the 'R Installation and Administration' Manual (doc\manual\R-admin.html) and the rw-FAQ.

#### Feedback

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Please send comments and bug reports to

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