

# Package ‘askpass’

May 7, 2026

**Type** Package

**Title** Password Entry Utilities for R, Git, and SSH

**Version** 1.2.1

**Description** Cross-platform utilities for prompting the user for credentials or a passphrase, for example to authenticate with a server or read a protected key. Includes native programs for MacOS and Windows, hence no 'tcltk' is required. Password entry can be invoked in two different ways: directly from R via the askpass() function, or indirectly as password-entry back-end for 'ssh-agent' or 'git-credential' via the SSH\_ASKPASS and GIT\_ASKPASS environment variables. Thereby the user can be prompted for credentials or a passphrase if needed when R calls out to git or ssh.

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**URL** <https://r-lib.r-universe.dev/askpass>

**BugReports** <https://github.com/r-lib/askpass/issues>

**Encoding** UTF-8

**Imports** sys (>= 2.1)

**RoxygenNote** 7.2.3

**Suggests** testthat

**Language** en-US

**NeedsCompilation** yes

**Author** Jeroen Ooms [aut, cre] (ORCID: <<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4035-0289>>)

**Maintainer** Jeroen Ooms <jeroenooms@gmail.com>

**Repository** CRAN

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askpass	<i>Password Prompt Utility</i>
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### Description

Prompt the user for a password to authenticate or read a protected key. By default, this function automatically uses the most appropriate method based on the user platform and front-end. Users or IDEs can override this and set a custom password entry function via the askpass option.

### Usage

```
askpass(prompt = "Please enter your password: ")
```

### Arguments

prompt            the string printed when prompting the user for input.

### Details

By default askpass() returns NULL in non-interactive sessions. (These include knitr runs and test-that tests.) If you want to force a password prompt in non-interactive sessions, set the rlib\_interactive option to TRUE:

```
options(rlib_interactive = TRUE)
```

### Examples

```
# Prompt user for passwd
pw <- askpass("Please enter your password")
```

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ssh_askpass	<i>ASKPASS CMD TOOL</i>
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### Description

This returns the path to the native askpass executable which can be used by git-credential or ssh-agent. Most users don't have worry about this.

### Usage

```
ssh_askpass()
```

### Details

On Windows and MacOS the package automatically sets the SSH\_ASKPASS and GIT\_ASKPASS variables on load (if not already set). If these are set you should be able to run e.g. `sys::exec_wait("ssh-add")` and you should be prompted for a passphrase if your key is protected.

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