

# Package ‘config’

May 8, 2026

**Type** Package

**Title** Manage Environment Specific Configuration Values

**Version** 0.3.2

**Imports** yaml (>= 2.1.19)

**Suggests** testthat, knitr, rmarkdown, covr, spelling, withr

**Description** Manage configuration values across multiple environments (e.g. development, test, production). Read values using a function that determines the current environment and returns the appropriate value.

**License** GPL-3

**URL** <https://rstudio.github.io/config/>,  
<https://github.com/rstudio/config>

**BugReports** <https://github.com/rstudio/config/issues>

**RoxygenNote** 7.2.3

**VignetteBuilder** knitr

**Encoding** UTF-8

**Language** en-US

**Config/testthat/edition** 3

**NeedsCompilation** no

**Author** JJ Allaire [aut],  
Andrie de Vries [cre],  
Posit Software, PBC [cph, fnd]

**Maintainer** Andrie de Vries <apdevries@gmail.com>

**Repository** CRAN

**Date/Publication** 2023-08-30 16:50:36 UTC

## Contents

get . . . . .	2
is_active . . . . .	3
merge . . . . .	4
with_config . . . . .	5

---

get	<i>Read configuration values. Always use as <code>config::get()</code>.</i>
-----	---

---

### Description

Read from the currently active configuration, retrieving either a single named value or all values as a list.

### Usage

```
get(  
  value = NULL,  
  config = Sys.getenv("R_CONFIG_ACTIVE", "default"),  
  file = Sys.getenv("R_CONFIG_FILE", "config.yml"),  
  use_parent = TRUE  
)
```

### Arguments

value	Name of value (NULL to read all values)
config	Name of configuration to read from. Defaults to the value of the R_CONFIG_ACTIVE environment variable ("default" if the variable does not exist).
file	Configuration file to read from (defaults to "config.yml"). If the file isn't found at the location specified then parent directories are searched for a file of the same name.
use_parent	TRUE to scan parent directories for configuration files if the specified config file isn't found.

### Details

For additional details see <https://rstudio.github.io/config/>.

### Value

The requested configuration value (or all values as a list of NULL is passed for value).

A list, or vector, corresponding to the contents of the config file.

### Warning - Do not attach the package using `library(config)`

We strongly recommend you use `config::get()` rather than attaching the package using `library(config)`.

In fact, we strongly recommend you never use `library(config)`.

The underlying reason is that the `get()` and `merge()` functions in `{config}` will mask these functions with the same names in base R.

**See Also**

[is\\_active\(\)](#), [merge\(\)](#)

**Examples**

```
yaml <- "
default:
  trials: 5
  dataset: 'data-sampled.csv'

production:
  trials: 30
  dataset: 'data.csv'
"

get <- base::get

with_config(yaml, config::get())
with_config(yaml, config::get("trials"))
```

---

is_active	<i>Test active configuration.</i>
-----------	-----------------------------------

---

**Description**

Check whether a configuration is currently active.

**Usage**

```
is_active(config)
```

**Arguments**

config            Configuration name

**Details**

The name of the currently active configuration is read from the `R_CONFIG_ACTIVE` environment variable. If the variable is not defined then the "default" configuration is used.

To test for whether a configuration is active you should use the `is_active()` function rather than inspecting the environment variable directly (this is to so that tests remain valid if other means of specifying configurations are introduced in the future).

**Value**

Logical indicating whether the specified configuration is active

**See Also**[get\(\)](#)

---

**merge***Merge two configurations. Always use as `config::merge()`.*

---

**Description**

Merge one configuration into another recursively.

**Usage**

```
merge(base_config, merge_config)
```

**Arguments**

`base_config` Configuration to merge values into  
`merge_config` Configuration to merge values from

**Value**

Configuration which includes the values from `merge_config` merged into `base_config`.

**Warning - Do not attach the package using `library(config)`**

We strongly recommend you use `config::get()` rather than attaching the package using `library(config)`.

In fact, we strongly recommend you never use `library(config)`.

The underlying reason is that the `get()` and `merge()` functions in `{config}` will mask these functions with the same names in base R.

**See Also**[get\(\)](#)

---

with_config	<i>Run code using a temporary config file.</i>
-------------	--

---

### Description

This function takes inspiration from `withr::with_envvar()` and may be useful for testing purposes.

### Usage

```
with_config(  
  config_yaml,  
  code,  
  .active_config = c(R_CONFIG_ACTIVE = "default"),  
  .extra_env_vars = NULL  
)
```

### Arguments

<code>config_yaml</code>	Either the path to a config file, or a character string representing a yaml configuration.
<code>code</code>	Code to execute in a temporary environment.
<code>.active_config</code>	Either a string representing a configuration, e.g. <code>default</code> , or a named character representing an environment variable, e.g. <code>c(R_CONFIG_ACTIVE = "default")</code> .
<code>.extra_env_vars</code>	Additional environment variables to set.

### Value

The result of running the code, after having temporarily set the necessary environment variables.

### Examples

```
yaml <- '  
default:  
  db_name: dbase  
  databases:  
    db1: !expr paste0(db_name, "/one")  
    db2: !expr paste0(db_name, "/two")  
  
staging:  
  staging_postfix: _staging  
  db_name: dbase  
  databases:  
    db1: !expr paste0(db_name, staging_postfix, "/one")  
    db2: !expr paste0(db_name, staging_postfix, "/two")  
,
```

```
# Ensure that base::get() doesn't get masked, for tests on CRAN
get <- base::get

with_config(yaml, config::get() )
with_config(yaml, config::get("databases", config = "default") )
with_config(yaml, config::get("databases", config = "staging") )

config_file <- system.file("tests/testthat/config.yml", package = "config")
if (file.exists(config_file)) {
  with_config(config_file, config::get())
}
```

# Index

`get`, 2  
`get()`, 4

`is_active`, 3  
`is_active()`, 3

`merge`, 4  
`merge()`, 3

`with_config`, 5  
`withr::with_envvar()`, 5