

Package ‘tugboat’

May 8, 2026

Title Build a Docker Image from a Directory or Project

Version 0.1.6

Description Simple utilities to generate a Dockerfile from a directory or project, build the corresponding Docker image, push the image to DockerHub, and publicly share the project via Binder.

Imports here, renv ($\geq 1.0.0$)

Suggests gert, usethis, yaml, rmarkdown, testthat ($\geq 3.0.0$)

License GPL (≥ 3)

Encoding UTF-8

RoxygenNote 7.3.3

URL <https://www.dmolitor.com/tugboat/>

Config/testthat/edition 3

Config/testthat/start-first create

Language en-US

NeedsCompilation no

Author Daniel Molitor [aut, cph, cre]

Maintainer Daniel Molitor <molitdj97@gmail.com>

Repository CRAN

Date/Publication 2026-01-20 08:30:02 UTC

Contents

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| binderize | 2 |
| build | 3 |
| create | 5 |

| | |
|--------------|----------|
| Index | 7 |
|--------------|----------|

`binderize`*Prepare project for Binder*

Description

The `binderize()` function converts an existing tugboat project into a **Binder**-compatible project by creating a Dockerfile that launches RStudio Server via the `rocker/binder` base image. Optionally, it can add a Binder launch badge to the project's README.

Usage

```
binderize(  
  dockerfile = here::here("Dockerfile"),  
  branch = "main",  
  hub = "mybinder.org",  
  urlpath = "rstudio",  
  add_readme_badge = TRUE,  
  overwrite = TRUE  
)
```

Arguments

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <code>dockerfile</code> | Path to the tugboat-generated Dockerfile. |
| <code>branch</code> | Character string specifying the Git branch, tag, or commit hash to build. Defaults to "main". |
| <code>hub</code> | The Binder hub to use. Currently only "mybinder.org" is supported. |
| <code>urlpath</code> | The URL path to open inside the Binder instance. Defaults to "rstudio", which opens an RStudio Server session. |
| <code>add_readme_badge</code> | Logical. Whether to add a Binder launch badge to the README. Defaults to TRUE. |
| <code>overwrite</code> | Logical. Whether to overwrite an existing Binder Dockerfile. Defaults to TRUE. |

Details

This enables one-click, cloud-based execution of your R analysis environment directly from GitHub using Binder.

Currently only GitHub repositories are supported. If `add_readme_badge = TRUE`, a Binder badge will be appended to the README file, linking to the live Binder instance.

Value

Invisibly returns `NULL`. Called primarily for its side effects of creating Binder-related files and optionally committing them.

Note

Binder can only build from the remote GitHub repository. The `.binder/Dockerfile` and `README` changes must be committed and pushed before launching Binder; otherwise, the build will not reflect local modifications.

See Also

- `create()` — Generates a Dockerfile from an analysis directory.
- `build()` — Builds the corresponding Docker image locally.

Examples

```
## Not run:
binderize(
  dockerfile = here::here("Dockerfile"),
  branch = "main",
  add_readme_badge = TRUE
)

## End(Not run)
```

| | |
|-------|-----------------------------|
| build | <i>Build a Docker image</i> |
|-------|-----------------------------|

Description

A simple utility to quickly build a Docker image from a Dockerfile.

Usage

```
build(
  dockerfile = here::here("Dockerfile"),
  image_name = "tugboat",
  tag = "latest",
  platforms = c("linux/amd64", "linux/arm64"),
  build_args = NULL,
  build_context = here::here(),
  push = FALSE,
  dh_username = NULL,
  dh_password = NULL,
  verbose = FALSE
)
```

Arguments

| | |
|---------------|--|
| dockerfile | The path to the Dockerfile. The default value is a file named Dockerfile in the project directory surfaced by here::here . |
| image_name | A string specifying the Docker image name. Default is tugboat. |
| tag | A string specifying the image tag. Default is latest. |
| platforms | A vector of strings. Which platforms to build images for. Default is both linux/amd64 and linux/arm64. |
| build_args | A vector of strings specifying additional build arguments to pass to the docker buildx build command. Optional. |
| build_context | The directory that is the build context for the image(s). Default value is the directory returned by here::here . |
| push | A boolean indicating whether to push to DockerHub. |
| dh_username | A string specifying the DockerHub username. Only necessary if push == TRUE. |
| dh_password | A string specifying the DockerHub password. Only necessary if push == TRUE. |
| verbose | A boolean. Whether to print the actual Docker build command or not. Defaults to FALSE. |

Value

The name of the built Docker image as a string.

Examples

```
## Not run:
dock <- create(
  project = here::here(),
  FROM = "rstudio/r-base:devel-bookworm",
  exclude = c("/data", "/examples")
)

image_name <- build(
  dockerfile = here::here("Dockerfile"),
  image_name = "awesome_analysis",
  push = TRUE,
  dh_username = Sys.getenv("DH_USERNAME"),
  dh_password = Sys.getenv("DH_PASSWORD")
)

## End(Not run)
```

 create

Create a Dockerfile

Description

This function will crawl all files in the current project/directory and (attempt to) detect all R packages and store these in a lockfile. From this lockfile, it will create a corresponding Dockerfile. It will also copy the full contents of the current directory/project into the Docker image. The directory in the Docker container containing the current directory contents will be /current-directory-name. For example if your analysis directory is named `incredible_analysis`, the corresponding location in the generated Docker image will be `/incredible_analysis`.

Usage

```
create(
  project = here::here(),
  as = file.path(project, "Dockerfile"),
  FROM = NULL,
  ...,
  exclude = NULL,
  verbose = FALSE,
  optimize_pak = TRUE
)
```

Arguments

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| <code>project</code> | The project directory. If no project directory is provided, by default, the <code>here</code> package will be used to determine the active project. If no project is currently active, then <code>here</code> defaults to the working directory where initially called. |
| <code>as</code> | The file path to write to. The default value is <code>file.path(project, "Dockerfile")</code> . |
| <code>FROM</code> | Docker image to start FROM. Default is FROM <code>r-base:R.version</code> . |
| <code>...</code> | Additional arguments which are passed directly to renv::snapshot . Please see the documentation for that function for all relevant details. |
| <code>exclude</code> | A vector of strings specifying all paths (files or directories) that should NOT be included in the Docker image. By default, all files in the directory will be included. NOTE: the file and directory paths should be relative to the project directory. They do NOT need to be absolute paths. |
| <code>verbose</code> | A boolean indicating whether or not to print the resulting Dockerfile to the console. Default value is FALSE. |
| <code>optimize_pak</code> | A boolean indicating whether or not to try to optimize package installations with <code>pak</code> . Defaults to TRUE. This should rarely be changed from its default value. However, sometimes this optimization may cause build failures. When encountering a build error, a good first step can be to set <code>optimize_pak = FALSE</code> and see if the error persists. |

Value

The Dockerfile contained as a string vector. Each vector element corresponds to a line in the Dockerfile.

See Also

[here::here](#); this will be used by default to determine the current project directory.

[renv::snapshot](#) which this function relies on to find all R dependencies and create a corresponding lockfile.

Examples

```
## Not run:
# Create a Dockerfile based on the rocker/rstudio image.
# Write the Dockerfile locally to here::here("Dockerfile").
# Copy all files except the /data and /examples directories.
dock <- create(
  project = here::here(),
  FROM = "rocker/rstudio",
  exclude = c("/data", "/examples")
)

## End(Not run)
```

Index

binderize, [2](#)

build, [3](#)

build(), [3](#)

create, [5](#)

create(), [3](#)

here::here, [4](#), [6](#)

renv::snapshot, [5](#), [6](#)