

# Package ‘wand’

May 8, 2026

**Type** Package

**Title** Retrieve 'Magic' Attributes from Files and Directories

**Version** 0.5.0

**Date** 2019-07-06

**Maintainer** Bob Rudis <bob@rud.is>

**Description** 'MIME' types are shorthand descriptors for file contents and can be determined from ``magic" bytes in file headers, file contents or intuited from file extensions. Tools are provided to perform curated ``magic" tests as well as mapping 'MIME' types from a database of over 1,500 extension mappings.

**URL** <http://gitlab.com/hrbrmstr/wand>

**BugReports** <https://gitlab.com/hrbrmstr/wand/issues>

**Encoding** UTF-8

**License** MIT + file LICENSE

**Suggests** covr, tinytest

**Imports** tools

**Depends** R (>= 3.2.0)

**RoxygenNote** 6.1.1

**NeedsCompilation** no

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**Repository** CRAN

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get_content_type	<i>Discover MIME type of a file based on contents</i>
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**Description**

There are a limited number of header "magic" bytes checked directly by this function but cover quite a bit of ground. After that, `guess_content_type()` is called which uses file extension-to-MIME mappings. File an issue or PR if more magic-byte-level comparisons are required/desired. If no match is found, `???` is returned.

**Usage**

```
get_content_type(path)
```

**Arguments**

path	path to a file
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**Details**

Initial in-R header mapping logic borrowed from `MimeTypes.java` from [servoy-client](#)

**Value**

character vector

**Examples**

```
get_content_type(system.file("extdat", "test.pdf", package="wand"))
```

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guess_content_type	<i>Guess MIME type from filename (extension)</i>
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**Description**

Uses an internal database of over 1,500 file extension-to-MIME mappings to return one or more associated types for a given input path. If no match is found, `???` is returned.

**Usage**

```
guess_content_type(path)
```

**Arguments**

path	path to file
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**Details**

Incorporates standard IANA MIME extension mappings and those from [servoy-client](#) and [steven-wdv's allMimeTypes.json](#).

**Value**

character vector

**Examples**

```
guess_content_type(system.file("extdat", "test.pdf", package="wand"))
```

---

simplemagic\_mime\_db     *File extension-to-MIME mapping data frame*

---

**Description**

File extension-to-MIME mapping data frame

**Usage**

```
simplemagic_mime_db
```

**Format**

An object of class `tbl_df` (inherits from `tbl`, `data.frame`) with 1763 rows and 2 columns.

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wand     *Retrieve 'Magic' Attributes from Files and Directories*

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**Description**

The 'libmagic' library provides functions to determine 'MIME' type and other metadata from files through their "magic" attributes. This is useful when you do not wish to rely solely on the honesty of a user or the extension on a file name. It also incorporates other metadata from the mime-db database <https://github.com/jshttp/mime-db>

**Some important details**

The header checking is minimal (i.e. nowhere near as comprehensive as `libmagic`) but covers quite a bit of ground. If there are content-check types from [magic sources](#) that you would like coded into the package, please file an issue and *include the full line(s)* from that linked `magic.tab` that you would like mapped.

**Author(s)**

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