# Package 'cpp4r'

October 16, 2025

```
Description
      Provides a header only, 'C++' interface to 'R' with enhancements over 'cpp11'. Enforces copy-on-
      semantics consistent with 'R' behavior. Offers native support for ALTREP objects, 'UTF-
      8' string handling, modern
      'C++11' features and idioms, and reduced memory requirements. Allows for vendoring, mak-
      ing it useful for restricted
      environments. Compared to 'cpp11', it adds support for converting 'C++' maps to 'R' lists, 'Roxy-
      gen' documentation
      directly in 'C++' code, proper handling of matrix attributes, support for nullable external point-
      ers, bidirectional
      copy of complex number types, flexibility in type conversions, use of nullable pointers, and vari-
      ous performance
      optimizations.
License Apache License (>= 2)
URL https://cpp4r.org, https://github.com/pachadotdev/cpp4r
BugReports https://github.com/pachadotdev/cpp4r/issues
Depends R (>= 4.0.0)
Imports brio, cli, decor, desc, glue, tibble, tools, utils, vctrs,
      withr
Suggests mockery, roxygen2, testthat (>= 3.2.0)
Config/Needs/cpp4r/register brio, cli, decor, desc, glue, tibble,
      vctrs
Config/testthat/edition 3
Encoding UTF-8
RoxygenNote 7.3.2
```

Title Header-Only 'C++' and 'R' Interface

Version 0.3.0

NeedsCompilation no

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<a href="https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1017-7574">https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1017-7574</a>), Posit Software, PBC [aut] (Original cpp11 package) 2 *pkg\_template* 

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Repository CRAN

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#### **Description**

Start a new project with the cpp4r package template

#### Usage

```
pkg_template(path = NULL, pkgname = NULL)
```

# Arguments

path Path to the new project
pkgname Name of the new package

#### Value

The file path to the copied template (invisibly).

```
# create a new directory
dir <- tempdir()
dir.create(dir)
# copy the package template into the directory
pkg_template(dir, "mynewpkg")</pre>
```

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| register | Generates wrappers for registered C++ functions |
|----------|---|
|          |   |

#### **Description**

Functions decorated with [[cpp4r::register]] in files ending in .cc, .cpp, .h or .hpp will be wrapped in generated code and registered to be called from R.

#### Usage

```
register(path = NULL, quiet = !is_interactive(), extension = c(".cpp", ".cc"))
```

#### **Arguments**

path The path to the package root directory. The default is NULL,

quiet If TRUE suppresses output from this function

extension The file extension to use for the generated src/cpp4r file. .cpp by default, but

.cc is also supported.

#### **Details**

Note registered functions will not be *exported* from your package unless you also add a @export roxygen2 directive for them.

In order to use register() the cli, decor, desc, glue, tibble and vctrs packages must also be installed.

#### Value

The paths to the generated R and C++ source files (in that order).

```
# create a minimal package
dir <- tempfile()
dir.create(dir)

writeLines("Package: testPkg", file.path(dir, "DESCRIPTION"))
writeLines("useDynLib(testPkg, .registration = TRUE)", file.path(dir, "NAMESPACE"))

# create a C++ file with a decorated function
dir.create(file.path(dir, "src"))
writeLines("[[cpp4r::register]] int one() { return 1; }", file.path(dir, "src", "one.cpp"))

# register the functions in the package
register(dir)

# Files generated by registration
file.exists(file.path(dir, "R", "cpp4r.R"))</pre>
```

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```
file.exists(file.path(dir, "src", "cpp4r.cpp"))
# cleanup
unlink(dir, recursive = TRUE)
```

unvendor

Unvendor the cpp4r headers

# Description

This function removes the vendored cpp4r headers from your package by automatically finding the vendored headers.

#### Usage

```
unvendor(path = NULL)
```

#### **Arguments**

path

The directory with the vendored headers. It is recommended to use "./src/vendor". The default is NULL.

#### Value

The path to the unvendored code (invisibly).

```
# create a new directory
dir <- tempfile()
dir.create(dir)

# vendor the cpp4r headers into the directory
vendor(dir)

# unvendor the cpp4r headers from the directory
unvendor(dir)

# cleanup
unlink(dir, recursive = TRUE)</pre>
```

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vendor

Vendor the cpp4r headers

#### Description

Vendoring is the act of making your own copy of the 3rd party packages your project is using. It is often used in the go language community.

### Usage

```
vendor(path = "./src/vendor")
```

#### **Arguments**

path

The directory to vendor the headers into

#### **Details**

This function vendors cpp4r into your package by copying the cpp4r headers into the inst/include folder of your package and adding 'cpp4r version: XYZ' to the top of the files, where XYZ is the version of cpp4r currently installed on your machine.

**Note**: vendoring places the responsibility of updating the code on **you**. Bugfixes and new features in cpp4r will not be available for your code until you run cpp\_vendor() again.

#### Value

The path to the vendored code (invisibly).

```
# create a new directory
dir <- paste0(tempdir(), "/", gsub("\\s+|[[:punct:]]", "", Sys.time()))
dir.create(dir, recursive = TRUE)

# vendor the cpp4r headers into the directory
vendor(dir)

list.files(file.path(dir, "src", "vendor"))

# cleanup
unlink(dir, recursive = TRUE)</pre>
```

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