Package 'changer'

July 22, 2025

Type Package

Title Change R Package Name

Version 0.0.5

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Description Changing the name of an existing R package is annoying but common task especially in the early stages of package development. This package (mostly) automates this task.

License GPL (>= 2)

Imports available, devtools, git2r

Depends R (>= 3.5.0)

Encoding UTF-8

RoxygenNote 7.1.2

URL https://github.com/helske/changer

BugReports https://github.com/helske/changer/issues

NeedsCompilation no

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changer	*Change Name of Existing R Package*

Description

Changing the name of an existing R package is annoying but common task especially in the early stages of package development. Function changer tries to automate this task. See README for more information.

Usage

```
changer(
  path,
  new_name,
  check_validity = TRUE,
  change_git = TRUE,
  run_roxygen = FALSE,
  remote_name = NULL,
  ask = TRUE,
  replace_all = FALSE
)
```

Arguments

path	Path of the package.
new_name	Desired name of the package.
check_validity	Check first if the package name is valid and available by running the function available from the package available Default is TRUE. This will prompt a warning about potentially offensive results from Urban Dictionary which is used to check the validity of the package name.
change_git	If TRUE (default), changes the remote url of the remote. Note that you still need to change the name of the GitHub repository manually as follows: Go to the URL of your Github package, click Settings, change the name under "Repository name", and click Rename.
run_roxygen	Should the package documentation be updated via roxygen? If TRUE, removes all old Rd files in man directory.
remote_name	Name of the remote. Defaults to git2r::remotes(path)[1].
ask	Ask confirmation before starting the rename process. Default is TRUE.
replace_all	If TRUE, replace all occurences of the old package name in files, also in parts of the word. Default is FALSE, so only whole words are replaced.

Details

Note that if the package is already published in CRAN, then the name change is more problematic (you need to ask CRAN for permission first).

If the package is also available in Github, then you need to do the following:

Go to the URL of your Github package, click Settings near the top-right, change the name under "Repository name", and finally click Rename.

Warnings:

If the current name of your package is just some commonly used word (such as "package"), then you are in trouble, as find and replace will change all of those words to new_name as well.

If you have a function with same name as your package, that will change as well.

It is strongly recommended to make backups before proceeding.

Inspired by Nick Tierney's blog post: https://www.njtierney.com/post/2017/10/27/change-pkg-name/

Examples

```
content <- letters
package.skeleton("package.with.boring.name", path = tempdir())
readLines(file.path(tempdir(), "package.with.boring.name", "DESCRIPTION"))

changer(file.path(tempdir(), "package.with.boring.name"),
  new_name = "superpack", check_validity = FALSE, ask = FALSE)
readLines(file.path(tempdir(), "superpack", "DESCRIPTION"))
unlink(file.path(tempdir(), "superpack"), recursive = TRUE)
```

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