Package 'vcr'

July 23, 2025

Version 2.0.0 Description Record test suite 'HTTP' requests and replays them during future runs. A port of the Ruby gem of the same name (<https://github.com/vcr/vcr/>). Works by recording real 'HTTP' requests/responses on disk in 'cassettes', and then replaying matching responses on subsequent requests. **License** MIT + file LICENSE URL https://github.com/ropensci/vcr/, https://books.ropensci.org/http-testing/, https://docs.ropensci.org/vcr/ BugReports https://github.com/ropensci/vcr/issues **Depends** R (>= 4.1)**Imports** cli, curl (>= 6.3.0), isonlite, lifecycle, R6, rlang (>= 1.1.0), rprojroot, waldo, yaml **Suggests** crul (>= 1.6.0), desc, httr, httr2 (>= 1.1.2), knitr, qs2, rmarkdown, roxygen2 (\geq 7.2.1), testthat (\geq 3.0.0), webfakes, withr VignetteBuilder knitr Config/testthat/edition 3 Config/testthat/parallel true Config/testthat/start-first ause_cassette_re_record **Encoding UTF-8** Language en-US RoxygenNote 7.3.2 X-schema.org-applicationCategory Web X-schema.org-isPartOf https://ropensci.org X-schema.org-keywords http, https, API, web-services, curl, mock,

mocking, http-mocking, testing, testing-tools, tdd

Title Record 'HTTP' Calls to Disk

2 cassettes

 is_recording
 5

 lightswitch
 6

 setup_knitr
 7

 use_cassette
 8

 vcr_configure
 10

 vcr_configure_log
 13

 vcr_last_request
 14

 vcr_test_path
 14

Index 16

cassettes

List cassettes, get current cassette, etc.

Description

List cassettes, get current cassette, etc.

```
cassettes()
current_cassette()
current_cassette_recording()
current_cassette_replaying()
cassette_path()
```

Details

- cassettes(): returns all active cassettes in the current session.
- current_cassette(): returns NULL when no cassettes are in use; returns the current cassette (a Cassette object) when one is in use
- current_cassette_recording() and current_cassette_replaying(): tell you if the current cassette is recording and/or replaying. They both return FALSE if there is no cassette in use.
- cassette_path(): returns the current directory path where cassettes will be stored

Examples

```
vcr_configure(dir = tempdir())
# list all cassettes
cassettes()
# list the currently active cassette
insert_cassette("stuffthings")
current_cassette()
cassettes()

eject_cassette()
cassettes()

# list the path to cassettes
cassette_path()
vcr_configure(dir = file.path(tempdir(), "foo"))
cassette_path()
vcr_configure_reset()
```

insert_example_cassette

Use cassettes in examples

Description

insert_example_cassette() is a wrapper around insert_cassette() that stores cassettes in
inst/_vcr/. Call it in the first line of your examples (typically wrapped in \dontshow{}), and call
eject_cassette() on the last line.

Run the example manually once to record the vignette, then it will be replayed during R CMD check, ensuring that your example no longer uses the internet.

Usage

```
insert_example_cassette(
  name,
  package,
  record = NULL,
  match_requests_on = NULL,
  serialize_with = NULL,
  preserve_exact_body_bytes = NULL,
  re_record_interval = NULL
)
```

Arguments

name The name of the cassette. This is used to name a file on disk, so it must be valid

file name.

package Package name.

record Record mode.

Record mode. This will be "once" if package is under development, (i.e. loaded by devtools) and "none" otherwise. This makes it easy to record during development and ensure that cassettes HTTP requests are never made on CRAN.

To re-record all cassettes, you can delete inst/_vcr then run pkgdown::build_reference(lazy = FALSE).

match_requests_on

Character vector of request matchers used to determine which recorded HTTP interaction to replay. The default matches on the "method", "uri", and either "body" (if present) or "body_json" (if the content-type is application/json).

The full set of possible values are:

- method: the HTTP method.
- uri: the complete request URI, excluding the port.
- uri_with_port: the complete request URI, including the port.
- host: the **host** component of the URI.
- path: the **path** component of the URI.
- query: the query component of the URI.
- body: the request body.
- body_json: the request body, parsed as JSON.
- header: all request headers.

If more than one is specified, all components must match in order for the request to match. If not supplied, defaults to c("method", "uri").

Note that the request header and body will only be included in the cassette if match_requests_on includes "header" or "body" respectively. This keeps the recorded request as lightweight as possible.

serialize_with (string) Which serializer to use: "yaml" (the default), "json", or "qs2". preserve_exact_body_bytes

(logical) Force a binary (base64) representation of the request and response bodies? By default, vcr will look at the Content-Type header to determine if this is necessary, but if it doesn't work you can set preserve_exact_body_bytes = TRUE to force it.

is_recording 5

```
re_record_interval
```

(integer) How frequently (in seconds) the cassette should be re-recorded. Default: NULL (not re-recorded).

Examples

```
# In this example I'm showing the insert and eject commands, but you'd
# usually wrap these in \dontshow{} so the user doesn't see them and
# think that they're something they need to copy.

insert_example_cassette("httpbin-get", package = "vcr")

req <- httr2::request("https://hb.cran.dev/get")
resp <- httr2::req_perform(req)

str(httr2::resp_body_json(resp))
eject_cassette()</pre>
```

is_recording

Determine if vcr is recording/replaying

Description

local_cassette() and use_cassette() set the VCR_IS_RECORDING and VCR_IS_REPLAYING environment variables to make it easy to determine vcr state without taking a dependency on vcr.
These functions show you how to use them; we expect you to copy and paste these functions into
your own package

Usage

```
is_recording()
is_replaying()
```

Value

TRUE or FALSE.

6 lightswitch

lightswitch

Turn vcr on and off

Description

- turn_on() and turn_off() turn on and off for the whole session.
- turned_off(code) temporarily turns off while code is running, guaranteeing that you make a real HTTP request.
- turned_on() reports on if vcr is turned on or not.
- skip_if_vcr_off() skips a test if vcr is turned off. This is occasionally useful if you're using a cassette to simulate a faked request, or if the real request would return different values (e.g. you're testing date parsing and the request returns the current date).

You can also control the default behaviour in a new session by setting the following environment variables before R starts:

- Use VCR_TURN_OFF=true to suppress all vcr usage, ignoring all cassettes. This is useful for CI/CD workflows where you want to ensure the test suite is run against the live API.
- Set VCR_TURNED_OFF=true to turn off vcr, but still use cassettes.

Usage

```
turn_on()
turn_off(ignore_cassettes = FALSE)
turned_off(code, ignore_cassettes = FALSE)
turned_on()
skip_if_vcr_off()
```

Arguments

ignore_cassettes

(logical) Controls what happens when a cassette is inserted while vcr is turned off. If TRUE is passed, the cassette insertion will be ignored; otherwise an error will be raised. Default: FALSE

code

Any block of code to run, presumably an HTTP request.

Examples

```
# By default, vcr is turned on
turned_on()
# you can turn off for the rest of the session
turn_off()
```

setup_knitr 7

```
turned_on()
# turn on again
turn_on()

# or just turn it on turn off temporarily
turned_off({
    # some HTTP requests here
    turned_on()
})
```

setup_knitr

Use vcr in vignettes

Description

setup_knitr() registers a knitr hook to make it easy to use vcr inside a vignette. First call setup_knitr() in your setup chunk (or other chunk early in the document):

```
```{r setup}
#| include: false
vcr::setup_knitr()
```

Then, in a chunk where you want to use a cassette, set the cassette chunk option to the name of the cassette:

```
"" {r}
#| cassette: name
req <- httr2::request("http://r-project.org")
resp <- httr2::req_perform(req)</pre>
```

Or if you have labelled the chunk, you can use cassette: true to use the chunk label as the cassette name:

```
"``{r}
#| label: cassette-name
#| cassette: true
req <- httr2::request("http://r-project.org")
resp <- httr2::req_perform(req)</pre>
```

You can build your vignettes however you usually do (from the command line, with pkgdown, with RStudio/Positron, etc).

```
setup_knitr(prefix = NULL, dir = "_vcr", ...)
```

8 use\_cassette

## Arguments

An prefix An prefix for the cassette name to make cassettes unique across vignettes. Defaults to the file name (without extension) of the currently executing vignette.

dir Directory where to create the cassette file. Default: "\_vcr"".

Other arguments passed on to insert\_cassette().

use\_cassette

Use a cassette to record HTTP requests

## **Description**

use\_cassette(...) uses a cassette for the code in ...; local\_cassette() uses a cassette for the current function scope (e.g. for one test). Learn more in vignette("vcr").

Note that defaults for most arguments are controlled by vcr\_configure(), so you may want to use that instead if you are changing the defaults for all cassettes.

```
use_cassette(
 name,
 ...,
 dir = NULL,
 record = NULL,
 match_requests_on = NULL,
 serialize_with = NULL,
 preserve_exact_body_bytes = NULL,
 re_record_interval = NULL,
 warn_on_empty = NULL
)
local_cassette(
 name,
 dir = NULL,
 record = NULL,
 match_requests_on = NULL,
 serialize_with = NULL,
 preserve_exact_body_bytes = NULL,
 re_record_interval = NULL,
 warn_on_empty = NULL,
 frame = parent.frame()
)
```

use\_cassette 9

#### **Arguments**

name The name of the cassette. This is used to name a file on disk, so it must be valid

file name.

a block of code containing one or more requests (required). Use curly braces to encapsulate multi-line code blocks. If you can't pass a code block use insert\_cassette()

instead.

dir The directory where the cassette will be stored. Defaults to test\_path("\_vcr").

record Record mode that dictates how HTTP requests/responses are recorded. Possible values are:

- **once**, the default: Replays recorded interactions, records new ones if no cassette exists, and errors on new requests if cassette exists.
- none: Replays recorded interactions, and errors on any new requests. Guarantees that no HTTP requests occur.
- new\_episodes: Replays recorded interactions and always records new ones, even if similar interactions exist.
- all: Never replays recorded interactions, always recording new. Useful for re-recording outdated responses or logging all HTTP requests.

#### match\_requests\_on

Character vector of request matchers used to determine which recorded HTTP interaction to replay. The default matches on the "method", "uri", and either "body" (if present) or "body\_json" (if the content-type is application/json).

The full set of possible values are:

- method: the HTTP method.
- uri: the complete request URI, excluding the port.
- uri\_with\_port: the complete request URI, including the port.
- host: the **host** component of the URI.
- path: the path component of the URI.
- query: the query component of the URI.
- body: the request body.
- body\_json: the request body, parsed as JSON.
- header: all request headers.

If more than one is specified, all components must match in order for the request to match. If not supplied, defaults to c("method", "uri").

Note that the request header and body will only be included in the cassette if match\_requests\_on includes "header" or "body" respectively. This keeps the recorded request as lightweight as possible.

serialize\_with (string) Which serializer to use: "yaml" (the default), "json", or "qs2". preserve\_exact\_body\_bytes

(logical) Force a binary (base64) representation of the request and response bodies? By default, vcr will look at the Content-Type header to determine if this is necessary, but if it doesn't work you can set preserve\_exact\_body\_bytes = TRUE to force it.

10 vcr\_configure

re\_record\_interval

(integer) How frequently (in seconds) the cassette should be re-recorded. De-

fault: NULL (not re-recorded).

 $warn\_on\_empty \quad (logical) \ Warn \ if \ the \ cassette \ is \ ejected \ but \ no \ interactions \ have \ been \ recorded.$ 

Default: NULL (inherits from global configuration).

frame Attach exit handlers to this environment. Typically, this should be either the

 $current\ environment\ or\ a\ parent\ frame\ (accessed\ through\ parent\ .\ frame\ ()).\ See$ 

vignette("withr", package = "withr") for more details.

#### See Also

insert\_cassette() and eject\_cassette() for the underlying functions.

vcr\_configure

Global Configuration Options

#### **Description**

Configurable options that define vcr's default behavior.

```
vcr_configure(
 dir,
 record,
 match_requests_on,
 serialize_with,
 json_pretty,
 ignore_hosts,
 ignore_localhost,
 preserve_exact_body_bytes,
 turned_off,
 re_record_interval,
 log,
 log_opts,
 filter_sensitive_data,
 filter_sensitive_data_regex,
 filter_request_headers,
 filter_response_headers,
 filter_query_parameters,
 write_disk_path,
 warn_on_empty_cassette
)
local_vcr_configure(..., .frame = parent.frame())
vcr_configure_reset()
```

vcr\_configure 11

```
vcr_configuration()
vcr_config_defaults()
```

#### **Arguments**

dir

Directory where cassettes are stored.

record

Record mode that dictates how HTTP requests/responses are recorded. Possible values are:

- **once**, the default: Replays recorded interactions, records new ones if no cassette exists, and errors on new requests if cassette exists.
- **none**: Replays recorded interactions, and errors on any new requests. Guarantees that no HTTP requests occur.
- new\_episodes: Replays recorded interactions and always records new ones, even if similar interactions exist.
- all: Never replays recorded interactions, always recording new. Useful for re-recording outdated responses or logging all HTTP requests.

match\_requests\_on

Character vector of request matchers used to determine which recorded HTTP interaction to replay. The default matches on the "method", "uri", and either "body" (if present) or "body\_json" (if the content-type is application/json).

The full set of possible values are:

- method: the HTTP method.
- uri: the complete request URI, excluding the port.
- uri\_with\_port: the complete request URI, including the port.
- host: the **host** component of the URI.
- path: the path component of the URI.
- query: the query component of the URI.
- body: the request body.
- body\_json: the request body, parsed as JSON.
- · header: all request headers.

If more than one is specified, all components must match in order for the request to match. If not supplied, defaults to c("method", "uri").

Note that the request header and body will only be included in the cassette if match\_requests\_on includes "header" or "body" respectively. This keeps the recorded request as lightweight as possible.

serialize\_with (string) Which serializer to use: "yaml" (the default), "json", or "qs2".

json\_pretty (logical) want JSON to be newline separated to be easier to read? Or remove newlines to save disk space? default: FALSE.

ignore\_hosts (character) Vector of hosts to ignore. e.g., "localhost", or "google.com".

These hosts are ignored and real HTTP requests are allowed to go through.

ignore\_localhost

(logical) Default: FALSE

12 vcr\_configure

```
preserve_exact_body_bytes
```

re\_record\_interval

(logical) Force a binary (base64) representation of the request and response bodies? By default, vcr will look at the Content-Type header to determine if this is necessary, but if it doesn't work you can set preserve\_exact\_body\_bytes = TRUE to force it.

 $turned\_off \qquad \quad (logical) \ VCR \ is \ turned \ on \ by \ default. \ Default: \ {\tt FALSE}.$ 

(integer) How frequently (in seconds) the cassette should be re-recorded. Default: NULL (not re-recorded).

Transform header and/or body in the request and response. Named list of substitutions to apply to the headers and body of the request and response. Format is list(replacement = "original") where replacement is a string that is matched exactly for filter\_sensitive\_data and a regular expression for filter\_sensitive\_data\_regex.

filter\_request\_headers, filter\_response\_headers

Filter request or response headers. Should be a list: unnamed components are removed, and named components are transformed. For example, list("api\_key") would remove the api\_key header and list(api\_key = "\*\*\*") would replace the api\_key header with \*\*\*.

httr2's redacted headers are automatically removed.

filter\_query\_parameters

Filter query parameters in the request. A list where unnamed components are removed, and named components are transformed. For example, list("api\_key") would remove the api\_key parameter and list(api\_key = "\*\*\*") would replace the api\_key parameter with \*\*\*.

write\_disk\_path

(character) path to write files to for any requests that write responses to disk. By default this will be {cassette-name}-files/ inside the cassette directory.

warn\_on\_empty\_cassette

(logical) Should a warning be thrown when an empty cassette is detected? Empty cassettes are cleaned up (deleted) either way. This option only determines whether a warning is thrown or not. Default: TRUE

... Configuration settings used to override defaults.

. frame Attach exit handlers to this environm

Attach exit handlers to this environment. Typically, this should be either the current environment or a parent frame (accessed through parent.frame()). See vignette("withr", package = "withr") for more details.

#### **Examples**

```
vcr_configure(dir = tempdir())
vcr_configure(dir = tempdir(), record = "all")
vcr_configuration()
vcr_config_defaults()
vcr_configure(dir = tempdir(), ignore_hosts = "google.com")
vcr_configure(dir = tempdir(), ignore_localhost = TRUE)
```

vcr\_configure\_log

```
filter sensitive data
vcr_configure(dir = tempdir(),
 filter_sensitive_data = list(foo = "<bar>")
)
vcr_configure(dir = tempdir(),
 filter_sensitive_data = list(foo = "<bar>", hello = "<world>")
)
```

vcr\_configure\_log

Configure vcr logging

## Description

By default, logging is disabled, but you can easily enable for the entire session with vcr\_configure\_log() or for just one test with local\_vcr\_configure\_log().

#### Usage

```
vcr_configure_log(
 log = TRUE,
 file = stderr(),
 include_date = NULL,
 log_prefix = "Cassette"
)

local_vcr_configure_log(
 log = TRUE,
 file = stderr(),
 include_date = NULL,
 log_prefix = "Cassette",
 frame = parent.frame()
)
```

## **Arguments**

log	Should we log important ver things?
file	A path or connection to log to
include_date	(boolean) Include date and time in each log entry.
log_prefix	"Cassette". We insert the cassette name after this prefix, followed by the rest of the message.
frame	Attach exit handlers to this environment. Typically, this should be either the current environment or a parent frame (accessed through parent.frame()). See vignette("withr", package = "withr") for more details.

14 vcr\_test\_path

#### **Examples**

```
The default logs to stderr()
vcr_configure_log()

But you might want to log to a file
vcr_configure_log(file = file.path(tempdir(), "vcr.log"))
```

vcr\_last\_request

Retrieve last vcr request/response

#### **Description**

When debugging, it's often useful to see the last request and response respectively. These functions give you what would have been recorded to disk or replayed from disk. If the last request wasn't recorded, and there was no matching request, vcr\_last\_response will return NULL.

#### Usage

```
vcr_last_request()
vcr_last_response()
```

vcr\_test\_path

Locate file in tests directory

#### **Description**

This function, similar to testthat::test\_path(), is designed to work both interactively and during tests, locating files in the tests/ directory.

## Usage

```
vcr_test_path(...)
```

## **Arguments**

. . .

Character vectors giving path components. Each character string gets added to the path, e.g., vcr\_test\_path("a", "b") becomes tests/a/b relative to the root of the package.

#### Value

A character vector giving the path

#### Note

vcr\_test\_path() assumes you are using testthat for your unit tests.

vcr\_test\_path 15

## Examples

```
if (interactive()) {
vcr_test_path("fixtures")
}
```

## **Index**

```
cassette_path (cassettes), 2
 vcr_last_request, 14
cassettes, 2
 vcr_last_response (vcr_last_request), 14
current_cassette (cassettes), 2
 vcr_test_path, 14
current_cassette_recording (cassettes),
current_cassette_replaying (cassettes),
eject_cassette(), 10
insert_cassette(), 3, 8-10
insert_example_cassette, 3
is_recording, 5
is_replaying (is_recording), 5
lightswitch, 6
local_cassette (use_cassette), 8
local_cassette(), 5
local_vcr_configure (vcr_configure), 10
local_vcr_configure_log
 (vcr_configure_log), 13
parent.frame(), 10, 12, 13
setup_knitr, 7
skip_if_vcr_off(lightswitch), 6
turn_off (lightswitch), 6
turn_on (lightswitch), 6
turned_off (lightswitch), 6
turned_on(lightswitch), 6
use_cassette, 8
vcr_config_defaults(vcr_configure), 10
vcr_configuration (vcr_configure), 10
vcr_configure, 10
vcr_configure(), 8
vcr_configure_log, 13
vcr_configure_log(), 12
vcr_configure_reset (vcr_configure), 10
```