Package ‘desc’

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Title Manipulate DESCRIPTION Files

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Maintainer Gábor Csárdi <csardi.gabor@gmail.com>

Description Tools to read, write, create, and manipulate DESCRIPTION files. It is intended for packages that create or manipulate other packages.

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BugReports https://github.com/r-lib/desc/issues

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Author Gábor Csárdi [aut, cre],
Kirill Müller [aut],
Jim Hester [aut],
Maëlle Salmon [ctb] (<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2815-0399>),
RStudio [cph, fnd]

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check_field

Syntactical check of a DESCRIPTION field

Usage

check_field(x, warn = FALSE, ...)

Arguments

x

The field.

warn

Whether to generate a warning if the syntax check fails.

... Additional arguments, they might be used in the future.

Value

TRUE if the field is syntactically correct, otherwise a character vector, containing one or multiple error messages.

cran_ascii_fields

The DESCRIPTION fields that are supposed to be in plain ASCII encoding

Description

The DESCRIPTION fields that are supposed to be in plain ASCII encoding

Usage

cran_ascii_fields
Format

An object of class character of length 16.

See Also

Other field types: cran_valid_fields, dep_types

cran_valid_fields  A list of DESCRIPTION fields that are valid according to the CRAN checks

Description

A list of DESCRIPTION fields that are valid according to the CRAN checks

Usage

cran_valid_fields

Format

An object of class character of length 125.

See Also

Other field types: cran_ascii_fields, dep_types

dep_types  DESCRIPTION fields that denote package dependencies

Description

Currently it has the following ones: Imports, Depends, Suggests, Enhances and LinkingTo. See the Writing R Extensions manual for when to use which.

Usage

dep_types

Format

An object of class character of length 5.

See Also

Other field types: cran_ascii_fields, cran_valid_fields
desc

Read a DESCRIPTION file

desc

Description

This is a convenience wrapper for description$new(). Very often you want to read an existing DESCRIPTION file, and to do this you can just supply the path to the file or its directory to desc().

Usage

desc(cmd = NULL, file = NULL, text = NULL, package = NULL)

Arguments

- **cmd**: A command to create a description from scratch. Currently only "!new" is implemented. If it does not start with an exclamation mark, it will be interpreted as the file argument.
- **file**: Name of the DESCRIPTION file to load. If all of cmd, file and text are NULL (the default), then the DESCRIPTION file in the current working directory is used. The file can also be an R package (source, or binary), in which case the DESCRIPTION file is extracted from it, but note that in this case $write() cannot write the file back in the package archive.
- **text**: A character scalar containing the full DESCRIPTION. Character vectors are collapsed into a character scalar, with newline as the separator.
- **package**: If not NULL, then the name of an installed package and the DESCRIPTION file of this package will be loaded.

Examples

desc(package = "desc")
DESCRIPTION <- system.file("DESCRIPTION", package = "desc")
desc(DESCRIPTION)

description

Read, write, update, validate DESCRIPTION files

Description

Read, write, update, validate DESCRIPTION files

Format

An R6 class.
Constructors

There are two ways of creating a description object. The first is reading an already existing DESCRIPTION file; simply give the name of the file as an argument. The default is DESCRIPTION:

```r
x <- description$new()
x2 <- description$new("path/to/DESCRIPTION")
```

The second way is creating a description object from scratch, supply "!new" as an argument to do this.

```r
x3 <- description$new("!new")
```

The complete API reference:

```
description$new(cmd = NULL, file = NULL, text = NULL, package = NULL)
```

- `cmd`: a command to create a description from scratch. Currently only "!new" is implemented. If it does not start with an exclamation mark, it will be interpreted as a file argument.
- `file`: name of the DESCRIPTION file to load. If it is a directory, then we assume that it is inside an R package and conduct a search for the package root directory, i.e. the first directory up the tree that contains a DESCRIPTION file. If cmd, file, text and package are all NULL (the default), then the search is started from the working directory. The file can also be an R package (source, or binary), in which case the DESCRIPTION file is extracted from it, but note that in this case $write() cannot write the file back in the package archive.
- `text`: a character scalar containing the full DESCRIPTION. Character vectors are collapsed into a character scalar, with newline as the separator.
- `package`: if not NULL, then the name of an installed package and the DESCRIPTION file of this package will be loaded.

Setting and Querying fields

Set a field with $set and query it with $get:

```r
x <- description$new("!new")
x$get("Package")
x$set("Package", "foobar")
x$set(Title = "Example Package for 'description'")
x$get("Package")
```

Note that $set has two forms. You can either give the field name and new value as two arguments; or you can use a single named argument, the argument name is the field name, the argument value is the field value.

The $fields method simply lists the fields in the object:

```r
x$fields()
```

The $has_fields method checks if one or multiple fields are present in a description object:
x$has_fields("Package")
x$has_fields(c("Title", "foobar"))

The $del method removes the specified fields:
x$set(foo = "bar")
x$del("foo")

$get_field is similar to $get, but it queries a single field, it returns an unnamed vector if found, and returns the specified default value if not. By default it throws an error if the field is not found.

The complete API reference:

description$get(keys)
description$get_field(key, default, trim_ws = TRUE, squish_ws = trim_ws)
description$set(...)
description$fields()
description$has_fields(keys)
description$del(keys)

- key: a character string (length one), the key to query.
- default: If specified and key is missing, this value is returned. If not specified, an error is thrown.
- trim_ws: whether to trim leading and trailing whitespace from the returned value.
- squish_ws: whether to reduce repeated whitespace in the returned value.
- keys: a character vector of keys to query, check or delete.
- ...: this must be either two unnamed arguments, the key and the value to set; or an arbitrary number of named arguments, names are used as keys, values as values to set.

Normalizing

Format DESCRIPTION in a standard way. $str formats each field in a standard way and returns them (it does not change the object itself), $print is used to print it to the screen. The $normalize function normalizes each field (i.e. it changes the object). Normalization means reformatting the fields, via ($reformat_fields() and also reordering them via $reorder_fields(). The format of the various fields is opinionated and you might like it or not. Note that desc only re-formats fields that it updates, and only on demand, so if your formatting preferences differ, you can still manually edit DESCRIPTION and desc will respect your edits.

description$str(by_field = FALSE, normalize = TRUE, mode = c("file", "screen"))
description$normalize()
description$reformat_fields()
description$reorder_fields()
description$print()

- by_field: whether to return the normalized format by field, or collapsed into a character scalar.
- normalize: whether to reorder and reformat the fields.
- mode: file mode formats the fields as they are written to a file with the write method. screen mode adds extra markup to some fields, e.g. formats the Authors@R field in a readable way.
Writing it to file

The $write method writes the description to a file. By default it writes it to the file it was created from, if it was created from a file. Otherwise giving a file name is compulsory:

```r
x$write(file = "DESCRIPTION")
```

The API:

```r
description$write(file = NULL)
```

- file: path to write the description to. If it was created from a file in the first place, then it is written to the same file. Otherwise this argument must be specified.

Version numbers

```r
description$get_version()
description$set_version(version)
description$bump_version(which = c("patch", "minor", "major", "dev"))
```

- version: a string or a `base::package_version` object.
- which: which component of the version number to increase. See details just below.

These functions are simple helpers to make it easier to query, set and increase the version number of a package.

$get_version() returns the version number as a `base::package_version` object. It throws an error if the package does not have a `Version` field.

$set_version() takes a string or a `base::package_version` object and sets the `Version` field to it.

$bump_version() increases the version number. The `which` parameter specifies which component to increase. It can be a string referring to a component: major, minor, patch or dev, or an integer scalar, for the latter components are counted from one, and the beginning. I.e. component one is equivalent to major.

If a component is bumped, then the ones after it are zeroed out. Trailing zero components are omitted from the new version number, but if the old version number had at least two or three components, then the one will also have two or three.

The bumping of the dev version (the fourth component) is special: if the original version number had less than four components, and the dev version is bumped, then it is set to 9000 instead of 1.

This is a convention often used by R developers, it was originally invented by Winston Chang.

Both $set_version() and $bump_version() use dots to separate the version number components.

Dependencies

These functions handle the fields that define how the R package uses another R packages. See `dep_types` for the list of fields in this group.

The $get_deps method returns all declared dependencies, in a data frame with columns: type, package and version. type is the name of the dependency field, package is the name of the R package, and version is the required version. If no specific versions are required, then this is a "*".
The $set_deps method is the opposite of $get_deps and it sets all dependencies. The input is a data frame, with the same structure as the return value of $get_deps.

The $has_dep method checks if a package is included in the dependencies. It returns a logical scalar. If type is not any, then it has to match as well.

The $del_deps method removes all declared dependencies.

The $set_dep method adds or updates a single dependency. By default it adds the package to the Imports field.

The API:

```r
description$set_dep(package, type = dep_types, version = "*")
description$set_deps(deps)
description$get_deps()
description$has_dep(package, type = c("any", dep_types))
description$del_dep(package, type = c("all", dep_types))
description$del_deps()
```

- `package`: name of the package to add to or remove from the dependencies.
- `type`: dependency type, see `dep_types`. For $del_dep it may also be "all", and then the package will be deleted from all dependency types.
- `version`: required version. Defaults to "*", which means no explicit version requirements.
- `deps`: a data frame with columns `type`, `package` and `version`. $get_deps returns the same format.

### Collate fields

Collate fields contain lists of file names with R source code, and the package has a separate API for them. In brief, you can use $add_to_collate to add one or more files to the main or other collate field. You can use $del_from_collate to remove it from there.

The API:

```r
description$set_collate(files, which = c("main", "windows", "unix"))
description$get_collate(which = c("main", "windows", "unix"))
description$del_collate(which = c("all", "main", "windows", "unix"))
description$add_to_collate(files, which = c("default", "all", "main", "windows", "unix"))
description$del_from_collate(files, which = c("all", "main", "windows", "unix"))
```

- `files`: the files to add or remove, in a character vector.
- `which`: which collate field to manipulate. "default" for $add_to_collate means all existing collate fields, or the main one if none exist.

### Authors

There is a specialized API for the Authors@R field, to add and remove authors, update their roles, change the maintainer, etc.

The API:
description$get_authors()
description$set_authors(authors)
description$get_author(role)
description$get_maintainer()
description$coerce_authors_at_r()

- authors: a person object, a list of authors.
- role: The role to query. See person for details.

get_authors returns a person object, the parsed authors. See person for details.  
get_author returns a person object, all authors with the specified role.  
maintainer returns the maintainer of the package. It works with Authors@R fields and with  
traditional Maintainer fields as well.  
coerce_authors_at_r converts an Author field to one with a person object. This coercion may be  
necessary for other functions such as get_authors.

description$add_author(given = NULL, family = NULL, email = NULL,  
role = NULL, comment = NULL, orcid = NULL)
description$add_me(role = "ctb", comment = NULL, orcid = NULL)
description$add_author_gh(username, role = "ctb", comment = NULL, orcid = NULL)

Add a new author. The arguments correspond to the arguments of the person function.  
add_me is a convenience function, it adds the current user as an author, and it needs the whoami  
package to be installed. It’ll add your ORCID ID if you provide it as argument or save it as  
ORCID_ID environment variable in .Renviron. The full name is parsed by add_me and  
add_author_gh using as.person and collapsing the given name and the family name in order to e.g.  
have the first and middle names together as given name. This approach might be limited to some full name structures.

description$del_author(given = NULL, family = NULL, email = NULL,  
role = NULL, comment = NULL, orcid = NULL)

Remove an author, or multiple authors. The author(s) to be removed can be specified via any  
field(s). All authors matching all specifications will be removed. E.g. if only given = "Joe" is  
supplied, then all authors whose given name matches Joe will be removed. The specifications can be (PCRE) regular expressions.

description$add_role(role, given = NULL, family = NULL, email = NULL,  
comment = NULL, orcid = NULL)
description$add_orcid(orcid, given = NULL, family = NULL, email = NULL,  
comment = NULL, role = NULL)
description$del_role(role, given = NULL, family = NULL, email = NULL,  
comment = NULL, orcid = NULL)
description$change_maintainer(given = NULL, family = NULL,  
email = NULL, comment = NULL, orcid = NULL)

role is the role to add or delete. The other arguments are used to select a subset of the authors, on  
which the operation is performed, similarly to del_author.
URLs

We provide helper functions for manipulating URLs in the URL field:

\begin{verbatim}
description$get_urls()
description$set_urls(urls)
description$add_urls(urls)
description$del_urls(pattern)
description$clear_urls()
\end{verbatim}

- urls: character vector of URLs to set or add.
- pattern: Perl compatible regular expression to specify the URLs to be removed.

$\text{get_urls}()$ returns all urls in a character vector. If no URL fields are present, a zero length vector is returned.
$\text{set_urls}()$ sets the URL field to the URLs specified in the character vector argument.
$\text{add_urls}()$ appends the specified URLs to the URL field. It creates the field if it does not exist. Duplicate URLs are removed.
$\text{del_urls}()$ deletes the URLs that match the specified pattern.
$\text{clear_urls}()$ deletes all URLs.

Remotes

devtools, remotes and some other packages support the non-standard Remotes field in DESCRIPTION. This field can be used to specify locations of dependent packages: GitHub or BitBucket repositories, generic git repositories, etc. Please see the Package remotes vignette in the devtools package.

desc has helper functions for manipulating the Remotes field:

\begin{verbatim}
description$get_remotes()
description$set_remotes(remotes)
description$add_remotes(remotes)
description$del_remotes(pattern)
description$clear_remotes()
\end{verbatim}

- remotes: character vector of remote dependency locations to set or add.
- pattern: Perl compatible regular expression to specify the remote dependency locations to remove.

$\text{get_remotes}()$ returns all remotes in a character vector. If no URL fields are present, a zero length vector is returned.
$\text{set_remotes}()$ sets the URL field to the Remotes specified in the character vector argument.
$\text{add_remotes}()$ appends the specified remotes to the Remotes field. It creates the field if it does not exist. Duplicate remotes are removed.
$\text{del_remotes}()$ deletes the remotes that match the specified pattern.
$\text{clear_remotes}()$ deletes all remotes.
Built

The Built field is used in binary packages to store information about when and how a binary package was built. $get_built() returns the built information as a list with fields R, Platform, Date, OS type. It throws an error if the package does not have a Built field.

Encodings

When creating a description object, desc observes the Encoding field, if present, and uses the specified encoding to parse the file. Internally, it converts all fields to UTF-8.

When writing a description object to a file, desc uses the Encoding field (if present), and converts all fields to the specified encoding.

We suggest that whenever you need to use non-ASCII characters in your package, you use the UTF-8 encoding, for maximum portability.

Examples

```r
## Create a template
desc <- description$new("!new")
desc

## Read a file
desc2 <- description$new(file = system.file("DESCRIPTION",
                                  package = "desc"))
desc2

## Remove a field
desc2$del("LazyData")

## Add another one
desc2$set(VignetteBuilder = "knitr")
desc2$get("VignetteBuilder")
desc2
```

desc_add_author  

Add an author to Authors@R in DESCRIPTION

Description

Add an author to Authors@R in DESCRIPTION

Usage

desc_add_author(
  given = NULL,
  family = NULL,
  email = NULL,
  role = NULL,
)
desc_add_author gh

comment = NULL,
orcid = NULL,
file = ".",
normalize = FALSE
)

Arguments

given 	Given name.
family 	Family name.
email 	Email address.
role 	Role.
comment 	Comment.
orcid 	ORCID.
file 	DESCRIPTION file to use. By default the DESCRIPTION file of the current package (i.e. the package the working directory is part of) is used.
normalize 	Whether to normalize the write when writing back the result. See desc_normalize().

See Also

Other Authors@R: desc_add_author gh(), desc_add_me(), desc_add_orcid(), desc_add_role(),
desc_change_maintainer(), desc_coerce_authors_at_r(), desc_del_author(), desc_del_role(),
desc_get_authors(), desc_get_author(), desc_get_maintainer(), desc_set_authors()

Description

Uses the Authors@R field.

Usage

desc_add_author gh(
    username,
    role = "ctb",
    comment = NULL,
    orcid = NULL,
    file = ".",
    normalize = FALSE
)
Arguments

username GitHub username of the GitHub user
role Role to set for the user, defaults to contributor.
comment Comment, empty by default.
orcid ORCID, empty by default.
file DESCRIPTION file to use. By default the DESCRIPTION file of the current package (i.e. the package the working directory is part of) is used.
normalize Whether to normalize the write when writing back the result. See desc_normalize().

Details
desc_add_me is a convenience function, it adds the GitHub user as an author, and it needs the gh package to be installed. The full name is parsed using as_person and collapsing the given name and the family name in order to e.g. have the first and middle names together as given name. This approach might be limited to some full name structures.

See Also
Other Authors@R: desc_add_author(), desc_add_me(), desc_add_orcid(), desc_add_role(), desc_change_maintainer(), desc_coerce_authors_at_r(), desc_del_author(), desc_del_role(), desc_get_authors(), desc_get_author(), desc_get_maintainer(), desc_set_authors()

---

desc_add_me

Add the current user as an author to DESCRIPTION

Description
Uses the Authors@R field.

Usage

desc_add_me(
  role = "ctb",
  comment = NULL,
  orcid = NULL,
  file = ".",
  normalize = FALSE
)

Arguments

role Role to set for the user, defaults to contributor.
comment Comment, empty by default.
orcid ORCID, empty by default.
file DESCRIPTION file to use. By default the DESCRIPTION file of the current package (i.e. the package the working directory is part of) is used.
normalize Whether to normalize the write when writing back the result. See desc_normalize().
**desc_add_orcid**

**Details**

desc_add_me is a convenience function, it adds the current user as an author, and it needs the whoami package to be installed. It’ll add your ORCID ID if you provide it as argument or save it as ORCID_ID environment variable in .Renviron. The full name is parsed using as.person and collapsing the given name and the family name in order to e.g. have the first and middle names together as given name. This approach might be limited to some full name structures.

**See Also**

Other Authors@R: desc_add_author_gh(), desc_add_author(), desc_add_orcid(), desc_add_role(), desc_change_maintainer(), desc_coerce_authors_at_r(), desc_del_author(), desc_del_role(), desc_get_authors(), desc_get_author(), desc_get_maintainer(), desc_set_authors()

---

**desc_add_orcid**  
*Add an ORCID to one or more authors in Authors@R, in DESCRIPTION*

**Description**

The author(s) can be specified by a combination of the given, family, email, comment and role fields. If multiple filters are specified, then all must match to identify the author(s).

**Usage**

desc_add_orcid(
  orcid,  
given = NULL,  
family = NULL,  
email = NULL,  
comment = NULL,  
role = NULL,  
file = ".",  
normalize = FALSE
)

**Arguments**

orcid           orcid to add.
given           Given name to filter on. Regular expression.
family          Family name to filter on. Regular expression.
email           Email address to filter on. Regular expression.
comment         Comment field to filter on. Regular expression.
role            Role field to filter on.
file            DESCRIPTION file to use. By default the DESCRIPTION file of the current package (i.e. the package the working directory is part of) is used.
normalize       Whether to normalize the write when writing back the result. See desc_normalize().
See Also

Other Authors@R: desc_add_author_gh(), desc_add_author(), desc_add_me(), desc_add_role(),
desc_change_maintainer(), desc_coerce_authors_at_r(), desc_del_author(), desc_del_role(),
desc_get_authors(), desc_get_author(), desc_get_maintainer(), desc_set_authors()

desc_add_remotes  Add locations in the Remotes field in DESCRIPTION

Description

Add locations in the Remotes field in DESCRIPTION

Usage

desc_add_remotes(remotes, file = ".", normalize = FALSE)

Arguments

remotes  Character vector of remote locations to add. Duplicate locations are eliminated.
Note that existing locations are not updated, so if you want to change a remote
location of a package, you need to delete the old location first and then add the
new one.
file  DESCRIPTION file to use. By default the DESCRIPTION file of the current
package (i.e. the package the working directory is part of) is used.
normalize  Whether to normalize the write when writing back the result. See desc_normalize().

desc_add_role  Add a role to one or more authors in Authors@R, in DESCRIPTION

Description

The author(s) can be specified by a combination of the given, family, email, comment and orcid
fields. If multiple filters are specified, then all must match to identify the author(s).

Usage

desc_add_role(
  role,
  given = NULL,
  family = NULL,
  email = NULL,
  comment = NULL,
  orcid = NULL,
  file = ".",
  normalize = FALSE
)
**desc_add_to_collate**

Add one or more files to the Collate field, in DESCRIPTION

**Usage**

```r
desc_add_to_collate(
  files,
  which = c("default", "all", "main", "windows", "unix"),
  file = ".",
  normalize = FALSE
)
```

**Arguments**

- **files**: Character vector, files to add.
- **which**: Which collate field to use. Collate fields can be operating system type specific.
- **file**: DESCRIPTION file to use. By default the DESCRIPTION file of the current package (i.e. the package the working directory is part of) is used.
- **normalize**: Whether to normalize the write when writing back the result. See `desc_normalize()`.

**See Also**

Other Collate field: `desc_del_collate()`, `desc_del_from_collate()`, `desc_get_collate()`, `desc_set_collate()`
desc_add_urls  
*Add URLs to the URL field in DESCRIPTION*

**Description**
Add URLs to the URL field in DESCRIPTION

**Usage**
desc_add_urls(urls, file = ".", normalize = FALSE)

**Arguments**
- **urls**: Character vector of URLs to add. Duplicate URLs are eliminated.
- **file**: DESCRIPTION file to use. By default the DESCRIPTION file of the current package (i.e. the package the working directory is part of) is used.
- **normalize**: Whether to normalize the write when writing back the result. See desc_normalize().

desc_bump_version  
*Increase the version number in DESCRIPTION*

**Description**
The `which` parameter specifies which component to increase. It can be a string referring to a component: major, minor, patch or dev, or an integer scalar, for the latter components are counted from one, and the beginning. I.e. component one is equivalent to major.

**Usage**
desc_bump_version(which, file = ".", normalize = FALSE)

**Arguments**
- **which**: Which component to increase. See details below.
- **file**: DESCRIPTION file to use. By default the DESCRIPTION file of the current package (i.e. the package the working directory is part of) is used.
- **normalize**: Whether to normalize the write when writing back the result. See desc_normalize().

**Details**
If a component is bumped, then the ones after it are zeroed out. Trailing zero components are omitted from the new version number, but if the old version number had at least two or three components, then the one will also have two or three.

The bumping of the dev version (the fourth component) is special: if the original version number had less than four components, and the dev version is bumped, then it is set to 9000 instead of 1. This is a convention often used by R developers, it was originally invented by Winston Chang. Both $set_version() and $bump_version() use dots to separate the version number components.
desc_change_maintainer

See Also
Other version numbers: desc_get_version(), desc_set_version()

---

desc_change_maintainer

*Change maintainer of the package, in DESCRIPTION*

Description

Only works with the Authors@R field.

Usage

```r
desc_change_maintainer(
  given = NULL,
  family = NULL,
  email = NULL,
  comment = NULL,
  orcid = NULL,
  file = ".",
  normalize = FALSE
)
```

Arguments

- `given` Given name.
- `family` Family name.
- `email` Email address.
- `comment` Comment.
- `orcid` ORCID.
- `file` DESCRIPTION file to use. By default the DESCRIPTION file of the current package (i.e. the package the working directory is part of) is used.
- `normalize` Whether to normalize the write when writing back the result. See `desc_normalize()`.

Details

The current maintainer is kept if they have at least another role.

See Also

Other Authors@R: desc_add_author_github(), desc_add_author(), desc_add_me(), desc_add_orcid(), desc_add_role(), desc_coerce_authors_at_r(), desc_del_author(), desc_del_role(), desc_get_authors(), desc_get_author(), desc_get_maintainer(), desc_set_authors()
desc_clear_remotes  Remove all locations from the Remotes field of DESCRIPTION

Description
This simply means that the field is deleted.

Usage
desc_clear_remotes(file = ".", normalize = FALSE)

Arguments
file DESCRIPTION file to use. By default the DESCRIPTION file of the current package (i.e. the package the working directory is part of) is used.
normalize Whether to normalize the write when writing back the result. See desc_normalize().

desc_clear_urls  Remove all URLs from the URL field of DESCRIPTION

Description
Remove all URLs from the URL field of DESCRIPTION

Usage
desc_clear_urls(file = ".", normalize = FALSE)

Arguments
file DESCRIPTION file to use. By default the DESCRIPTION file of the current package (i.e. the package the working directory is part of) is used.
normalize Whether to normalize the write when writing back the result. See desc_normalize().


desc_coerce_authors_at_r

Coerce Author and Maintainer Fields to Authors@R

Description

Convert the Author and Maintainer fields to Authors@R, which is necessary for other functions such as desc_get_authors().

Usage

desc_coerce_authors_at_r(file = ".", normalize = FALSE)

Arguments

- **file**: DESCRIPTION file to use. By default the DESCRIPTION file of the current package (i.e. the package the working directory is part of) is used.
- **normalize**: Whether to normalize the write when writing back the result. See desc_normalize().

Details

If the Authors@R field does not exist, desc_coerce_authors_at_r tries to parse the Author and Maintainer fields with utils::as.person() and writes them to the Authors@R field. Note that Author and Maintainer are free-form fields, so parsing them may fail.

See Also

Other Authors@R: desc_add_author_gh(), desc_add_author(), desc_add_me(), desc_add_orcid(), desc_add_role(), desc_change_maintainer(), desc_del_author(), desc_del_role(), desc_get_authors(), desc_get_author(), desc_get_maintainer(), desc_set_authors()
desc_del_author

Remove one or more authors from DESCRIPTION.

Description

It uses the Authors@R field. The author(s) to be removed can be specified via any field(s). All authors matching all specifications will be removed. E.g. if only given = "Joe" is supplied, then all authors whole given name matches Joe will be removed. The specifications can be (PCRE) regular expressions.

Usage

desc_del_author(
  given = NULL,
  family = NULL,
  email = NULL,
  role = NULL,
  comment = NULL,
  orcid = NULL,
  file = ".",
  normalize = FALSE
)

Arguments

given            Given name to filter on. Regular expression.
family           Family name to filter on. Regular expression.
email            Email address to filter on. Regular expression.
role             Role to filter on. Regular expression.
comment          Comment field to filter on. Regular expression.
orcid            ORCID field to filter on.
file             DESCRIPTION file to use. By default the DESCRIPTION file of the current package (i.e. the package the working directory is part of) is used.
normalize        Whether to normalize the write when writing back the result. See desc_normalize().
desc_del_collate

Delete the Collate field from DESCRIPTION

Description
Delete the Collate field from DESCRIPTION

Usage

desc_del_collate(
    which = c("all", "main", "windows", "unix"),
    file = ".",
    normalize = FALSE
)

Arguments

which  Which collate field to use. Collate fields can be operating system type specific.
file   DESCRIPTION file to use. By default the DESCRIPTION file of the current package (i.e. the package the working directory is part of) is used.
normalize  Whether to normalize the write when writing back the result. See desc_normalize().

See Also
Other Collate field: desc_add_to_collate(), desc_del_from_collate(), desc_get_collate(), desc_set_collate()

---

desc_del_dep

Remove a package dependency from DESCRIPTION

Description
Remove a package dependency from DESCRIPTION

Usage

desc_del_dep(
    package,
    type = c("all", desc::dep_types),
    file = ".",
    normalize = FALSE
)
Arguments

package  Package dependency to remove.
type  Dependency type to remove. Sometimes a package is depended on via multiple dependency types, e.g. LinkingTo and Imports. Defaults to all types.
file  DESCRIPTION file to use. By default the DESCRIPTION file of the current package (i.e. the package the working directory is part of) is used.
normalize  Whether to normalize the write when writing back the result. See desc_normalize().

See Also

Other dependencies: desc_del_deps(), desc_get_deps(), desc_has_dep(), desc_set_deps(), desc_set_dep()
desc_del_from_collate

Remove files from the Collate field.

**Description**

Remove files from the Collate field.

**Usage**

```r
desc_del_from_collate(
    files,
    which = c("all", "main", "windows", "unix"),
    file = ".",
    normalize = FALSE
)
```

**Arguments**

- `files`: Files to remove from the Collate field.
- `which`: Which collate field to use. Collate fields can be operating system type specific.
- `file`: DESCRIPTION file to use. By default the DESCRIPTION file of the current package (i.e. the package the working directory is part of) is used.
- `normalize`: Whether to normalize the write when writing back the result. See `desc_normalize()`.

**See Also**

Other Collate field: `desc_add_to_collate()`, `desc_del_collate()`, `desc_get_collate()`, `desc_set_collate()`

------

desc_del_remotes

Delete locations from the Remotes field in DESCRIPTION

**Description**

All locations matching the specified pattern are deleted.

**Usage**

```r
desc_del_remotes(pattern, file = ".", normalize = FALSE)
```

**Arguments**

- `pattern`: Perl-compatible regular expression, all locations matching this expression will be deleted.
- `file`: DESCRIPTION file to use. By default the DESCRIPTION file of the current package (i.e. the package the working directory is part of) is used.
- `normalize`: Whether to normalize the write when writing back the result. See `desc_normalize()`.
desc_del_role  Delete a role of an author, in DESCRIPTION

Description

The author(s) can be specified by a combination of the given, family, email, comment and orcid fields. If multiple filters are specified, then all must match to identify the author(s).

Usage

```r
desc_del_role(
  role,
  given = NULL,
  family = NULL,
  email = NULL,
  comment = NULL,
  orcid = NULL,
  file = ".",
  normalize = FALSE
)
```

Arguments

- **role**: Role to remove.
- **given**: Given name to filter on. Regular expression.
- **family**: Family name to filter on. Regular expression.
- **email**: Email address to filter on. Regular expression.
- **comment**: Comment field to filter on. Regular expression.
- **orcid**: ORCID field to filter on.
- **file**: DESCRIPTION file to use. By default the DESCRIPTION file of the current package (i.e. the package the working directory is part of) is used.
- **normalize**: Whether to normalize the write when writing back the result. See `desc_normalize()`.

See Also

Other Authors@R: `desc_add_author_gh()`, `desc_add_author()`, `desc_add_me()`, `desc_add_orcid()`, `desc_add_role()`, `desc_change_maintainer()`, `desc_coerce_authors_at_r()`, `desc_del_author()`, `desc_get_authors()`, `desc_get_author()`, `desc_get_maintainer()`, `desc_set_authors()`
desc_del_urls

Delete URLs from the URL field in DESCRIPTION

Description
All URLs matching the specified pattern are deleted.

Usage
desc_del_urls(pattern, file = ".", normalize = FALSE)

Arguments
- pattern: Perl-compatible regular expression, all URLs matching this expression will be deleted.
- file: DESCRIPTION file to use. By default the DESCRIPTION file of the current package (i.e. the package the working directory is part of) is used.
- normalize: Whether to normalize the write when writing back the result. See desc_normalize().

desc_fields
List all fields in a DESCRIPTION file

Description
List all fields in a DESCRIPTION file

Usage
desc_fields(file = ".")

Arguments
- file: DESCRIPTION file to use. By default the DESCRIPTION file of the current package (i.e. the package the working directory is part of) is used.

Value
Character vector of fields.

See Also
Other simple queries: desc_del(), desc_get_field(), desc_get(), desc_has_fields(), desc_set()
desc_get

Get a field from a DESCRIPTION file

Description

Get a field from a DESCRIPTION file

Usage

desc_get(keys, file = ".")

Arguments

keys Character vector of fields to get.
file DESCRIPTION file to use. By default the DESCRIPTION file of the current package (i.e. the package the working directory is part of) is used.

Value

Character vector, values of the specified keys. Non-existing keys return NA.

See Also

Other simple queries: desc_del(), desc_fields(), desc_get_field(), desc_has_fields(), desc_set()

desc_get_author

Query authors by role in Authors@R, in DESCRIPTION

Description

Query authors by role in Authors@R, in DESCRIPTION

Usage

desc_get_author(role = "cre", file = ".")

Arguments

role Role to query. Defaults to the package maintainer.
file DESCRIPTION file to use. By default the DESCRIPTION file of the current package (i.e. the package the working directory is part of) is used.

Value

A person object, see utils::person().
See Also

Other Authors@R: `desc_add_author_gh()`, `desc_add_author()`, `desc_add_me()`, `desc_add_orcid()`, `desc_add_role()`, `desc_change_maintainer()`, `desc_coerce_authors_at_r()`, `desc_del_author()`, `desc_del_role()`, `desc_get_authors()`, `desc_get_maintainer()`, `desc_set_authors()`

---

**desc_get_authors**

*Query all authors in Authors@R, in DESCRIPTION*

**Description**

Query all authors in Authors@R, in DESCRIPTION

**Usage**

```
desc_get_authors(file = ".")
```

**Arguments**

- **file** DESCRIPTION file to use. By default the DESCRIPTION file of the current package (i.e. the package the working directory is part of) is used.

**Value**

A person object, see `utils::person()`.

---

**desc_get_built**

*Query the built field in DESCRIPTION*

**Description**

If the file has no `Built` field then it throws an error.

**Usage**

```
desc_get_built(file = ".", normalize = FALSE)
```

**Arguments**

- **file** DESCRIPTION file to use. By default the DESCRIPTION file of the current package (i.e. the package the working directory is part of) is used.
- **normalize** Whether to normalize the write when writing back the result. See `desc_normalize()`.
**desc_get_deps**

List all package dependencies from a DESCRIPTION file

**Description**

List all package dependencies from a DESCRIPTION file

**Usage**

```
desc_get_deps(file = ".")
```

**Arguments**

- `file` DESCRIPTION file to use. By default the DESCRIPTION file of the current package (i.e. the package the working directory is part of) is used.

---

**desc_get_collate**

Query the Collate field in DESCRIPTION

**Description**

Query the Collate field in DESCRIPTION

**Usage**

```
desc_get_collate(which = c("main", "windows", "unix"), file = ".")
```

**Arguments**

- `which` Which collate field to use. Collate fields can be operating system type specific.
- `file` DESCRIPTION file to use. By default the DESCRIPTION file of the current package (i.e. the package the working directory is part of) is used.

**Value**

Character vector of file names.

**See Also**

Other Collate field: `desc_add_to_collate()`, `desc_del_collate()`, `desc_del_from_collate()`, `desc_set_collate()`

---

**Value**

A list with fields `R`, `Platform`, `Date`, `OStype`.

---

**desc_get_deps**

List all package dependencies from a DESCRIPTION file

**Description**

List all package dependencies from a DESCRIPTION file

**Usage**

```
desc_get_deps(file = ".")
```

**Arguments**

- `file` DESCRIPTION file to use. By default the DESCRIPTION file of the current package (i.e. the package the working directory is part of) is used.
**Value**

Data frame with columns: type (dependency type), package, and version. For non-versioned dependencies version is *.

**See Also**

Other dependencies: `desc_del_deps()`, `desc_del_dep()`, `desc_has_dep()`, `desc_set_deps()`, `desc_set_dep()`

---

**desc_get_field**

Get a single field from a DESCRIPTION file, fail if not found

**Description**

desc_get_list() parses a comma separated list into a character vector.

**Usage**

desc_get_field(
  key,
  default = stop("Field ", key, " not found"),
  trim_ws = TRUE,
  squish_ws = trim_ws,
  file = "."
)

desc_get_or_fail(keys, file = ".")

desc_get_list(
  key,
  default = stop("Field ", key, " not found"),
  sep = ",","",
  trim_ws = TRUE,
  squish_ws = trim_ws,
  file = "."
)

**Arguments**

key The field to query.
default Value to return if key is not found. By default it throws an error.
trim_ws Whether to trim leading and trailing whitespace from the value. Defaults to TRUE.
squish_ws Whether to reduce repeated whitespace in the value. Defaults to trim_ws.
file DESCRIPTION file to use. By default the DESCRIPTION file of the current package (i.e. the package the working directory is part of) is used.
keys Character vector of fields to get.
sep Separator string for \texttt{desc\_get\_list()}.  

\textbf{Value}

Character string, the value of key, or default if key is not found and default is specified.

\textbf{See Also}

Other simple queries: \texttt{desc\_del()}, \texttt{desc\_fields()}, \texttt{desc\_get()}, \texttt{desc\_has\_fields()}, \texttt{desc\_set()}

\begin{verbatim}
desc_get_maintainer  Query the package maintainer in DESCRIPTION
\end{verbatim}

\textbf{Description}

Either from the \texttt{Maintainer} or the \texttt{Authors@R} field.

\textbf{Usage}

\begin{verbatim}
desc_get_maintainer(file = ".")
\end{verbatim}

\textbf{Arguments}

\begin{verbatim}
file DESCRIPTION file to use. By default the DESCRIPTION file of the current package (i.e. the package the working directory is part of) is used.
\end{verbatim}

\textbf{Value}

A character scalar.

\textbf{See Also}

Other Authors@R: \texttt{desc\_add\_author\_gh()}, \texttt{desc\_add\_author()}, \texttt{desc\_add\_me()}, \texttt{desc\_add\_orcid()}, \texttt{desc\_add\_role()}, \texttt{desc\_change\_maintainer()}, \texttt{desc\_coerce\_authors\_at\_r()}, \texttt{desc\_del\_author()}, \texttt{desc\_del\_role()}, \texttt{desc\_get\_authors()}, \texttt{desc\_get\_author()}, \texttt{desc\_set\_authors()}

**desc_get_remotes**

*List the locations in the Remotes field in DESCRIPTION*

**Description**

List the locations in the Remotes field in DESCRIPTION

**Usage**

```r
desc_get_remotes(file = ".")
```

**Arguments**

- `file` DESCRIPTION file to use. By default the DESCRIPTION file of the current package (i.e. the package the working directory is part of) is used.

**Value**

A character vectors or remote locations. A length zero vector is returned if there is no Remotes field in the package.

---

**desc_get_urls**

*Query the URL field in DESCRIPTION*

**Description**

Query the URL field in DESCRIPTION

**Usage**

```r
desc_get_urls(file = ".")
```

**Arguments**

- `file` DESCRIPTION file to use. By default the DESCRIPTION file of the current package (i.e. the package the working directory is part of) is used.

**Value**

A character vectors or URLs. A length zero vector is returned if there is no URL field in the package.
desc_get_version  Query the package version in DESCRIPTION

Description
If the file has no Version field, or it is an invalid version string, then it throws an error.

Usage
desc_get_version(file = ".")

Arguments
file DESCRIPTION file to use. By default the DESCRIPTION file of the current package (i.e. the package the working directory is part of) is used.

Value
A base::package_version object.

See Also
Other version numbers: desc_bump_version(), desc_set_version()

desc_has_dep  Check for a dependency

Description
Check for a dependency

Usage
desc_has_dep(package, type = c("any", desc::dep_types), file = ".")

Arguments
package The package name.
type A dependency type or "any".
file DESCRIPTION file to use. By default the DESCRIPTION file of the current package (i.e. the package the working directory is part of) is used.

Value
A logical scalar.
desc_has_fields

See Also

Other dependencies: desc_del_deps(), desc_del_dep(), desc_get_deps(), desc_set_deps(),
desc_set_dep()

---

desc_has_fields

Check if some fields are present in a DESCRIPTION file

Description

Check if some fields are present in a DESCRIPTION file

Usage

desc_has_fields(keys, file = ".")

Arguments

keys Character vector of keys to check.
file DESCRIPTION file to use. By default the DESCRIPTION file of the current
package (i.e. the package the working directory is part of) is used.

Value

Logical vector.

See Also

Other simple queries: desc_del(), desc_fields(), desc_get_field(), desc_get(), desc_set()

---

desc_normalize

Normalize a DESCRIPTION file

Description

Re-formats and re-orders fields in DESCRIPTION in a standard way. Reorders the packages alphabetically.

Usage

desc_normalize(file = ".")

Arguments

file DESCRIPTION file to use. By default the DESCRIPTION file of the current
package (i.e. the package the working directory is part of) is used.
See Also

Other repair functions: `desc_reformat_fields()`, `desc_reorder_fields()`

---

**desc_print**  
*Print the contents of a DESCRIPTION file to the screen*

---

**Description**

Print the contents of a DESCRIPTION file to the screen

**Usage**

```
desc_print(file = ".")
```

**Arguments**

- **file**: DESCRIPTION file to use. By default the DESCRIPTION file of the current package (i.e. the package the working directory is part of) is used.

---

**desc_reformat_fields**  
*Reformat fields in a DESCRIPTION file*

---

**Description**

Reformat the fields in DESCRIPTION in a standard way.

**Usage**

```
desc_reformat_fields(file = ".")
```

**Arguments**

- **file**: DESCRIPTION file to use. By default the DESCRIPTION file of the current package (i.e. the package the working directory is part of) is used.

**See Also**

Other repair functions: `desc_normalize()`, `desc_reorder_fields()`
**desc_reorder_fields**  
Reorder fields in a DESCRIPTION file

---

**Description**  
Reorder the fields in DESCRIPTION in a standard way.

**Usage**  
desc_reorder_fields(file = ".")

**Arguments**  
- **file**: DESCRIPTION file to use. By default the DESCRIPTION file of the current package (i.e. the package the working directory is part of) is used.

**See Also**  
Other repair functions: desc_normalize(), desc_reformat_fields()

---

**desc_set**  
Set one or more fields in a DESCRIPTION file

---

**Description**  
Set one or more fields in a DESCRIPTION file

**Usage**  
desc_set(..., file = ".", normalize = FALSE)

desc_set_list(key, list_value, sep = ",", file = ".", normalize = FALSE)

**Arguments**  
- **...**: Values to set, see details below.
- **file**: DESCRIPTION file to use. By default the DESCRIPTION file of the current package (i.e. the package the working directory is part of) is used.
- **normalize**: Whether to normalize the write when writing back the result. See desc_normalize().
- **key**: Key to set in desc_set_list().
- **list_value**: Character vector, to collapse in desc_set_list().
- **sep**: Separator string for desc_set_list() list fields.
desc_set_authors

Details

desc_set() supports two forms, the first is two unnamed arguments: the key and its value to set.
The second form requires named arguments: names are used as keys and values as values to set.
desc_set_list() collapses a character vector into string, separating the elements by commas.

See Also

Other simple queries: desc_del(), desc_fields(), desc_get_field(), desc_get(), desc_has_fields()

desc_set_authors  Set authors in Authors@R, in DESCRIPTION

Description

Set authors in Authors@R, in DESCRIPTION

Usage

desc_set_authors(authors, file = ".", normalize = FALSE)

Arguments

  authors  Authors, to set, a person object, see utils::person().
  file     DESCRIPTION file to use. By default the DESCRIPTION file of the current package (i.e. the package the working directory is part of) is used.
  normalize Whether to normalize the write when writing back the result. See desc_normalize().

See Also

Other Authors@R: desc_add_author_gh(), desc_add_author(), desc_add_me(), desc_add_orcid(),
desc_add_role(), desc_change_maintainer(), desc_coerce_authors_at_r(), desc_del_author(),
desc_del_role(), desc_get_authors(), desc_get_author(), desc_get_maintainer()
desc_set_collate  

Set the Collate field in DESCRIPTION

Description
Set the Collate field in DESCRIPTION

Usage

```
desc_set_collate(
    files,
    which = c("main", "windows", "unix"),
    file = ".",
    normalize = FALSE
)
```

Arguments

files        Collate field to set, as a character vector.
which        Which collate field to use. Collate fields can be operating system type specific.
file         DESCRIPTION file to use. By default the DESCRIPTION file of the current package (i.e. the package the working directory is part of) is used.
normalize    Whether to normalize the write when writing back the result. See `desc_normalize()`.

See Also
Other Collate field: `desc_add_to_collate()`, `desc_del_collate()`, `desc_del_from_collate()`, `desc_get_collate()`

---

desc_set_dep  

Add a package dependency to a DESCRIPTION file

Description
Add a package dependency to a DESCRIPTION file

Usage

```
desc_set_dep(
    package,
    type = desc::dep_types,
    version = "*",
    file = ".",
    normalize = FALSE
)
```
desc_set_deps

Arguments

- **package**: Package to depend on.
- **type**: Dependency type.
- **version**: Version to depend on, for versioned dependencies.
- **file**: DESCRIPTION file to use. By default the DESCRIPTION file of the current package (i.e. the package the working directory is part of) is used.
- **normalize**: Whether to normalize the write when writing back the result. See `desc_normalize()`.

See Also

Other dependencies: `desc_del_deps()`, `desc_del_dep()`, `desc_get_deps()`, `desc_has_dep()`, `desc_set_deps()`

desc_set_deps  Set all package dependencies in DESCRIPTION

Description

Set all package dependencies in DESCRIPTION

Usage

```
desc_set_deps(deps, file = ".", normalize = FALSE)
```

Arguments

- **deps**: Package dependency data frame, in the same format returned by `desc_get_deps()`.
- **file**: DESCRIPTION file to use. By default the DESCRIPTION file of the current package (i.e. the package the working directory is part of) is used.
- **normalize**: Whether to normalize the write when writing back the result. See `desc_normalize()`.

See Also

Other dependencies: `desc_del_deps()`, `desc_del_dep()`, `desc_get_deps()`, `desc_has_dep()`, `desc_set_dep()`
**desc_set_remotes**  
*Set the Remotes field in DESCRIPTION*

**Description**

The specified locations replace the current ones. The Remotes field is created if it does not exist currently.

**Usage**

```r
desc_set_remotes(remotes, file = ".", normalize = FALSE)
```

**Arguments**

- **remotes**: A character vector of remote locations to set.
- **file**: DESCRIPTION file to use. By default the DESCRIPTION file of the current package (i.e. the package the working directory is part of) is used.
- **normalize**: Whether to normalize the write when writing back the result. See `desc_normalize()`.

---

**desc_set_urls**  
*Set the URL field in DESCRIPTION*

**Description**

The specified urls replace the current ones. The URL field is created if it does not exist currently.

**Usage**

```r
desc_set_urls(urls, file = ".", normalize = FALSE)
```

**Arguments**

- **urls**: A character vector of urls to set.
- **file**: DESCRIPTION file to use. By default the DESCRIPTION file of the current package (i.e. the package the working directory is part of) is used.
- **normalize**: Whether to normalize the write when writing back the result. See `desc_normalize()`.
desc_set_version  

Set the package version in DESCRIPTION

Description

Both $set_version() and $bump_version() use dots to separate the version number components.

Usage

desc_set_version(version, file = ".", normalize = FALSE)

Arguments

version  
A string or a base::package_version object.

file  
DESCRIPTION file to use. By default the DESCRIPTION file of the current package (i.e. the package the working directory is part of) is used.

normalize  
Whether to normalize the write when writing back the result. See desc_normalize().

See Also

Other version numbers: desc_bump_version(), desc_get_version()

desc_to_latex  

Converts a DESCRIPTION file to LaTeX

Description

Returns the contents of the DESCRIPTION in LaTeX format.

Usage

desc_to_latex(file = ".")

Arguments

file  
DESCRIPTION file to use. By default the DESCRIPTION file of the current package (i.e. the package the working directory is part of) is used.
desc_validate  Validate a DESCRIPTION file

Description

This function is not implemented yet.

Usage

desc_validate(file = ".")

Arguments

file DESCRIPTION file to use. By default the DESCRIPTION file of the current package (i.e. the package the working directory is part of) is used.
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