# Package ‘keyring’

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**Title**  Access the System Credential Store from R  

**Version**  1.1.0  

**Description**  Platform independent 'API' to access the operating system's credential store. Currently supports: 'Keychain' on 'macOS', Credential Store on 'Windows', the Secret Service 'API' on 'Linux', and a simple, platform independent store implemented with environment variables. Additional storage back-ends can be added easily.  

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**URL**  [https://github.com/r-lib/keyring#readme](https://github.com/r-lib/keyring#readme)  

**BugReports**  [https://github.com/r-lib/keyring/issues](https://github.com/r-lib/keyring/issues)  

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**Description**

To implement a new keyring backend, you need to inherit from this class and then redefine the `get`, `set`, `set_with_value` and `delete` methods. Implementing the `list` method is optional. Additional methods can be defined as well.

**Details**

These are the semantics of the various methods:

```r
get(service, username = NULL, keyring = NULL)
get_raw(service, username = NULL, keyring = NULL)
set(service, username = NULL, keyring = NULL)
set_with_value(service, username = NULL, password = NULL, 
               keyring = NULL)
set_with_raw_value(service, username = NULL, password = NULL, 
                   keyring = NULL)
delete(service, username = NULL, keyring = NULL)
list(service = NULL, keyring = NULL)
```

What these functions do:

- `get()` queries the secret in a keyring item.
- `get_raw()` is similar to `get()`, but returns the result as a raw vector.
- `set()` sets the secret in a keyring item. The secret itself is read in interactively from the keyboard.
- `set_with_value()` sets the secret in a keyring item to the specified value.
- `set_with_raw_value()` sets the secret in keyring item to the byte sequence of a raw vector.
backends

• delete() remotes a keyring item.
• list() lists keyring items.

The arguments:

• service String, the name of a service. This is used to find the secret later.
• username String, the username associated with a secret. It can be NULL, if no username belongs to the secret.
• keyring String, the name of the keyring to work with. This only makes sense if the platform supports multiple keyrings. NULL selects the default (and maybe only) keyring.
• password The value of the secret, typically a password, or other credential.

See Also

Other keyring backend base classes: backend_keyrings

backends Select the default backend and default keyring

Description

The default backend is selected

1. based on the keyring_backend option. See base::options(). This can be set to a character string, and then the backend_string class is used to create the default backend.
2. If this is not set, then the R_KEYRING_BACKEND environment variable is checked.
3. If this is not set, either, then the backend is selected automatically, based on the OS:
   (a) On Windows, the Windows Credential Store ("wincrd") is used.
   (b) On macOS, Keychain services are selected ("macos").
   (c) Linux uses the Secret Service API ("secret_service"), and it also checks that the service is available. It is typically only available on systems with a GUI.
   (d) On other operating systems, secrets are stored in environment variables ("env").

Usage

default_backend(keyring = NULL)

Arguments

  keyring Character string, the name of the keyring to use, or NULL for the default keyring.
Details

Most backends support multiple keyrings. For these the keyring is selected from:

1. the supplied keyring argument (if not NULL), or
2. the keyring_keyring option.
   - You can change this by using options(keyring_keyring = "NEWVALUE")
3. If this is not set, the R_KEYRING_KEYRING environment variable.
   - Change this value with Sys.setenv(R_KEYRING_KEYRING = "NEWVALUE"), either in your script or in your .Renviron file. See base::Startup for information about using .Renviron
4. Finally, if neither of these are set, the OS default keyring is used.
   - Usually the keyring is automatically unlocked when the user logs in.

Value

The backend object itself.

See Also

backend_env, backend_file, backend_macos, backend_secret_service, backend_wincred

| backend_env | Store secrets in environment variables |

Description

This is a simple keyring backend, that stores/uses secrets in environment variables of the R session.

Usage

backend_env

Format

An object of class R6ClassGenerator of length 24.

Details

It does not support multiple keyrings. It also does not support listing all keys, since there is no way to distinguish keys from regular environment variables.

It does support service names and usernames: they will be separated with a : character in the name of the environment variable. (Note that such an environment variable typically cannot be set or queried from a shell, but it can be set and queried from R or other programming languages.)

See backend for the documentation of the class’s methods.
See Also

Other keyring backends: backend_file, backend_macos, backend_secret_service, backend_wincred

Examples

```r
## Not run:
env <- backend_env$new()
env$set("r-keyring-test", username = "donaldduck")
env$get("r-keyring-test", username = "donaldduck")
Sys.getenv("r-keyring-test:donaldduck")

# This is an error
env$list()

# Clean up
env$delete("r-keyring-test", username = "donaldduck")

## End(Not run)
```

---

**backend_file**

**Store secrets in encrypted files**

**Description**

This is a simple keyring backend, that stores/uses secrets in encrypted files.

**Usage**

```r
backend_file
```

**Format**

An object of class `R6ClassGenerator` of length 24.

**Details**

It supports multiple keyrings.

See `backend` for the documentation of the individual methods.

**See Also**

Other keyring backends: backend_env, backend_macos, backend_secret_service, backend_wincred

**Examples**

```r
## Not run:
kb <- backend_file$new()

## End(Not run)
```
backend_keyrings

Abstract class of a backend that supports multiple keyrings

Description

To implement a new keyring that supports multiple keyrings, you need to inherit from this class and redefine the get, set, set_with_value, delete, list methods, and also the keyring management methods: keyring_create, keyring_list, keyring_delete, keyring_lock, keyring_unlock, keyring_is_locked, keyring_default and keyring_set_default.

Details

See backend for the first set of methods. This is the semantics of the keyring management methods:

keyring_create(keyring)
keyring_list()
keyring_delete(keyring = NULL)
keyring_lock(keyring = NULL)
keyring_unlock(keyring = NULL, password = NULL)
keyring_is_locked(keyring = NULL)
keyring_default()
keyring_set_default(keyring = NULL)

• keyring_create() creates a new keyring.
• keyring_list() lists all keyrings.
• keyring_delete() deletes a keyring. It is a good idea to protect the default keyring, and/or a non-empty keyring with a password or a confirmation dialog.
• keyring_lock() locks a keyring.
• keyring_unlock() unlocks a keyring.
• keyring_is_locked() checks whether a keyring is locked.
• keyring_default() returns the default keyring.
• keyring_set_default() sets the default keyring.

Arguments:

• keyring is the name of the keyring to use or create. For some methods in can be NULL to select the default keyring.
• password is the password of the keyring.

See Also

Other keyring backend base classes: backend
**backend_macos**  

Create a macOS Keychain backend

---

**Description**

This backend is the default on macOS. It uses the macOS native Keychain Service API.

**Usage**

```r
backend_macos
```

**Format**

An object of class `R6ClassGenerator` of length 24.

**Details**

It supports multiple keyrings.

See `backend` for the documentation of the individual methods.

**See Also**

Other keyring backends: `backend_env`, `backend_file`, `backend_secret_service`, `backend_wincred`

**Examples**

```r
cr not run:
## This only works on macOS
kb <- backend_macos$new()
k$bcreate_keyring("foobar")
k$bset_default_keyring("foobar")
k$bset_with_value("service", password = "secret")
k$bget("service")
k$bdelete("service")
k$bdelete_keyring("foobar")

## End(Not run)
```
backend_secret_service

Create a Secret Service keyring backend

**Description**

This backend is the default on Linux. It uses the libsecret library, and needs a secret service daemon running (e.g. Gnome Keyring, or KWallet). It uses DBUS to communicate with the secret service daemon.

**Usage**

backend_secret_service

**Format**

An object of class `R6ClassGenerator` of length 24.

**Details**

This backend supports multiple keyrings.

See `backend` for the documentation of the individual methods. The `is_available()` method checks is a Secret Service daemon is running on the system, by trying to connect to it. It returns a logical scalar, or throws an error, depending on its argument:

```r
is_available = function(report_error = FALSE)
```

**Argument:**

- `report_error` Whether to throw an error if the Secret Service is not available.

**See Also**

Other keyring backends: `backend_env`, `backend_file`, `backend_macos`, `backend_wincred`

**Examples**

```r
## Not run:
## This only works on Linux, typically desktop Linux
kb <- backend_secret_service$new()
kbsubcaption(keyring="foobar")
kbsubcaption_set_default_keyring("foobar")
kbsubcaption_set_with_value("service", password = "secret")
kbsubcaption_get("service")
kbsubcaption_delete("service")
kbsubcaption_delete_keyring("foobar")

## End(Not run)
```
**backend_wincred**

Create a Windows Credential Store keyring backend

**Description**

This backend is the default on Windows. It uses the native Windows Credential API, and needs at least Windows XP to run.

**Usage**

```
backend_wincred
```

**Format**

An object of class `R6ClassGenerator` of length 24.

**Details**

This backend supports multiple keyrings. Note that multiple keyrings are implemented in the `keyring` R package, using some dummy keyring keys that represent keyrings and their locked/unlocked state.

See `backend` for the documentation of the individual methods.

**See Also**

Other keyring backends: `backend_env, backend_file, backend_macos, backend_secret_service`

**Examples**

```r
## Not run:
## This only works on Windows
kb <- backend_wincred$new()
k$b$create_keyring("foobar")
k$b$set_default_keyring("foobar")
k$b$set_with_value("service", password = "secret")
k$b$get("service")
k$b$delete("service")
k$b$delete_keyring("foobar")

## End(Not run)
```
Description

On most platforms keyring supports multiple keyrings. This includes Windows, macOS and Linux (Secret Service) as well. A keyring is a collection of keys that can be treated as a unit. A keyring typically has a name and a password to unlock it. Once a keyring is unlocked, it remains unlocked until the end of the user session, or until it is explicitly locked again.

Usage

```r
has_keyring_support()

keyring_create(keyring)

keyring_list()

keyring_delete(keyring = NULL)

keyring_lock(keyring = NULL)

keyring_unlock(keyring = NULL, password = NULL)

keyring_is_locked(keyring = NULL)
```

Arguments

- **keyring**: The name of the keyring to create or to operate on. For functions other than `keyring_create`, it can also be `NULL` to select the default keyring.
- **password**: The password to unlock the keyring. If not specified or `NULL`, it will be read from the console.

Details

Platforms typically have a default keyring, which is unlocked automatically when the user logs in. This keyring does not need to be unlocked explicitly.

You can configure the keyring to use via R options or environment variables (see `default_backend()`), or you can also specify it directly in the `default_backend()` call, or in the individual `keyring` calls.

`has_keyring_support` checks if a backend supports multiple keyrings.

`keyring_create` creates a new keyring. It asks for a password if no password is specified.

`keyring_list` lists all existing keyrings.

`keyring_delete` deletes a keyring. Deleting a non-empty keyring requires confirmation, and the default keyring can only be deleted if specified explicitly. On some backends (e.g. Windows Credential Store), the default keyring cannot be deleted at all.
keyring_lock locks a keyring. On some backends (e.g. Windows Credential Store), the default keyring cannot be locked.

keyring_unlock unlocks a keyring. If a password is not specified, it will be read in interactively.

keyring_is_locked queries whether a keyring is locked.

Examples

```r
default_backend()
has_keyring_support()
backend_env$new()$has_keyring_support()

## This might ask for a password, so we do not run it by default
## It only works if the default backend supports multiple keyrings
## Not run:
keyring_create("foobar")
key_set_with_value("R-test-service", "donalduck", password = "secret",
keyring = "foobar")
key_get("R-test-service", "donalduck", keyring = "foobar")
key_list(keyring = "foobar")
keyring_delete(keyring = "foobar")

## End(Not run)
```

---

**keyring**

Access the System Credential Store from R

---

**Description**

Platform independent API to many system credential store implementations. Currently supported:

- Keychain on macOS,
- Credential Store on Windows,
- the Secret Service API on Linux, and
- environment variables on other platforms.

**Configuring an OS-specific backend**

- The default is operating system specific, and is described in `default_backend()`. In most cases you don’t have to configure this.
- MacOS: `backend_macos`
- Linux: `backend_secret_service`
- Windows: `backend_wincred`
- Or store the secrets in environment variables on other operating systems: `backend_env`
Query secret keys in a keyring

Each keyring can contain one or many secrets (keys). A key is defined by a service name and a password. Once a key is defined, it persists in the keyring store of the operating system. This means the keys persist beyond the termination of and R session. Specifically, you can define a key once, and then read the key value in completely independent R sessions.

- Setting a secret interactively: `key_set()`
- Setting a secret from a script, i.e. non-interactively: `key_set_with_value()`
- Reading a secret: `key_get()`
- Listing secrets: `key_list()`
- Deleting a secret: `key_delete()`

Managing keyrings

A keyring is a collection of keys that can be treated as a unit. A keyring typically has a name and a password to unlock it.

- `keyring_create()`
- `keyring_delete()`
- `keyring_list()`
- `keyring_lock()`
- `keyring_unlock()`

Note that all platforms have a default keyring, and `key_get()`, etc. will use that automatically. The default keyring is also convenient, because the OS unlocks it automatically when you log in, so secrets are available immediately.

You only need to explicitly deal with keyrings and the `keyring_*` functions if you want to use a different keyring.

---

**key_get**  
*Query, set, delete list keys in a keyring*

**Description**

These functions manipulate keys in a keyring. You can think of a keyring as a secure key-value store.

**Usage**

```r
describe(key_get, key_set, key_delete, key_list, key_get_raw)  
key_get(service, username = NULL, keyring = NULL)  
key_get_raw(service, username = NULL, keyring = NULL)  
key_set(service, username = NULL, keyring = NULL)```

key_set_with_value(service, username = NULL, password = NULL, keyring = NULL)

key_set_with_raw_value(service, username = NULL, password = NULL, keyring = NULL)

key_delete(service, username = NULL, keyring = NULL)

key_list(service = NULL, keyring = NULL)

**Arguments**

- **service** Service name, a character scalar.
- **username** Username, a character scalar, or NULL if the key is not associated with a username.
- **keyring** For systems that support multiple keyrings, specify the name of the keyring to use here. If NULL, then the default keyring is used. See also `has_keyring_support()`.
- **password** The secret to store. For `key_set`, it is read from the console, interactively. `key_set_with_value` can be also used in non-interactive mode.

**Details**

`key_get` queries a key from the keyring.

`key_get_raw` queries a key and returns it as a raw vector. Most credential stores allow storing a byte sequence with embedded null bytes, and these cannot be represented as traditional null bytes terminated strings. If you don’t know whether the key contains an embedded null, it is best to query it with `key_get_raw` instead of `key_get`.

`key_set` sets a key in the keyring. The contents of the key is read interactively from the terminal.

`key_set_with_value` is the non-interactive pair of `key_set`, to set a key in the keyring.

`key_set_raw_with_value` sets a key to a byte sequence from a raw vector.

`key_delete` deletes a key.

`key_list` lists all keys of a keyring, or the keys for a certain service (if `service` is not NULL).

**Value**

`key_get` returns a character scalar, the password or other confidential information that was stored in the key.

`key_list` returns a list of keys, i.e. service names and usernames, in a data frame.

**Examples**

```r
# These examples use the default keyring, and they are interactive,
# so, we don't run them by default
## Not run:
key_set("R-keyring-test-service", "donaldduck")
key_get("R-keyring-test-service", "donaldduck")
if (has_keyring_support()) key_list(service = "R-keyring-test-service")
```
key_delete("R-keyring-test-service", "donaldduck")

## This is non-interactive, assuming that default keyring is unlocked
key_set_with_value("R-keyring-test-service", "donaldduck",
password = "secret")

key_get("R-keyring-test-service", "donaldduck")
if (has_keyring_support()) key_list(service = "R-keyring-test-service")
key_delete("R-keyring-test-service", "donaldduck")

## End(Not run)
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