

# Package ‘miniCRAN’

April 16, 2026

**Version** 0.3.2

**License** GPL-2

**Copyright** Andrie de Vries, Microsoft Corporation

**Title** Create a Mini Version of CRAN Containing Only Selected Packages

**Description** Makes it possible to create an internally consistent repository consisting of selected packages from CRAN-like repositories. The user specifies a set of desired packages, and 'miniCRAN' recursively reads the dependency tree for these packages, then downloads only this subset. The user can then install packages from this repository directly, rather than from CRAN. This is useful in production settings, e.g. server behind a firewall, or remote locations with slow (or zero) Internet access.

**URL** <https://github.com/andrie/miniCRAN>

**BugReports** <https://github.com/andrie/miniCRAN/issues>

**Imports** graphics, httr, methods, stats, tools, utils, igraph,  
assertthat (>= 0.2.0)

**Suggests** devtools, knitr, rmarkdown, testthat (>= 2.1.0), covr, withr,  
mockery, testthis, roxygen2, mockr, spelling

**LazyData** true

**LazyLoad** true

**VignetteBuilder** knitr

**RoxygenNote** 7.3.1

**Encoding** UTF-8

**Language** en-US

**Config/testthat/edition** 3

**NeedsCompilation** no

**Author** Andrie de Vries [aut, cre, cph],  
Alex Chubaty [ctb],  
Microsoft Corporation [cph]

**Maintainer** Andrie de Vries <apdevries@gmail.com>

**Repository** CRAN

**Date/Publication** 2026-04-16 10:00:03 UTC

## Contents

miniCRAN-package	2
.listFiles	4
addLocalPackage	4
addOldPackage	6
addPackage	8
addPackageListingGithub	11
basePkgs	12
checkVersions	12
cranJuly2014	14
getCranDescription	15
is.online	16
makeDepGraph	16
makeLibrary	18
makeRepo	18
pkgAvail	20
pkgDep	21
plot.pkgDepGraph	23
repoPrefix	24
twodigitRversion	26
updatePackages	26
<b>Index</b>	<b>30</b>

---

miniCRAN-package	<i>description</i>
------------------	--------------------

---

## Description

At the end of 2014, CRAN consisted of more than 6,000 packages. Many organisations need to maintain a private mirror of CRAN, but with only a subset of packages that are relevant to them.

## Details

miniCRAN makes it possible to create an internally consistent repository consisting of selected packages from CRAN-like repositories. The user specifies a set of desired packages, and miniCRAN recursively reads the dependency tree for these packages, then downloads only this subset.

There are many reasons for not creating a complete mirror CRAN using `rsync`:

- You may wish to mirror only a subset of CRAN, for security, legal compliance or any other in-house reason
- You may wish to restrict internal package use to a subset of public packages, to minimize package duplication, or other reasons of coding standards
- You may wish to make packages available from public repositories other than CRAN, e.g. BioConductor, r-forge, OmegaHat, etc.
- You may wish to add custom in-house packages to your repository

The ambition of miniCRAN is to eventually satisfy all of these considerations.

### Making a private repo

- `pkgAvail()`: Read from a local (or remote) CRAN-like repository and determine available packages.
- `pkgDep()`: Find (recursive) package dependencies.
- `makeRepo()` : Make a mini CRAN repository, by downloading packages (and their dependencies) and creating the appropriate file structure for a repository. This allows you to use functions like `utils::available.packages()` and `utils::install.packages()` on your local repository.

This subset will be internally consistent, i.e. the following functions will work as expected:

- `utils::available.packages()`
- `utils::install.packages()`

The main function is `makeRepo()` - this will download all the required packages, with their dependencies, into the appropriate repository file structure, and then create the repository index (PACKAGES) file.

### Updating packages in a repo

- `oldPackages()`: Indicates packages which have a (suitable) later version on the repositories
- \* `updatePackages()`: Offers to download and install such packages

### Creating dependencies

To get a recursive list of dependencies as well as a plot, use `pkgDep()` followed by `makeDepGraph()`.

- `pkgDep()`: Find (recursive) package dependencies.
- `makeDepGraph()`: Create graph of selected package dependencies.
- `plot.pkgDepGraph()`: Create a visualization of the dependency graph

### Package options

`minicran.mran` preferred p3m URL. Defaults to <https://packagemanager.posit.co/cran> for R versions 3.2.2 and greater. Versions earlier than 3.2.2 use HTTP instead of HTTPS.

### Author(s)

**Maintainer:** Andrie de Vries <[apdevries@gmail.com](mailto:apdevries@gmail.com)> [copyright holder]

Other contributors:

- Alex Chubaty <[alex.chubaty@gmail.com](mailto:alex.chubaty@gmail.com)> [contributor]
- Microsoft Corporation [copyright holder]

### See Also

Useful links:

- <https://github.com/andrie/miniCRAN>
- Report bugs at <https://github.com/andrie/miniCRAN/issues>

---

<code>.listFiles</code>	<i>List pre-built packages in a directory based on file extension</i>
-------------------------	---

---

**Description**

List pre-built packages in a directory based on file extension

**Usage**

```
.listFiles(pkgs, path, type)
```

**Arguments**

<code>pkgs</code>	Character vector of package names
<code>path</code>	Character string specifying the directory containing packages to be added.
<code>type</code>	Character indicating the package type (e.g., "source", "win.binary", etc.).

**Value**

Installs the packages and returns the new package index.

**Examples**

```
## Not run:
  .listFiles('path/to/my/packages', type = "source")

## End(Not run)
```

---

<code>addLocalPackage</code>	<i>Add local packages to a miniCRAN repository.</i>
------------------------------	---

---

**Description**

Examine the contents of a directory specified by `pkgPath` for pre-built packages matching the names specified by `pkgs`, and add these to the miniCRAN repository.

**Usage**

```
addLocalPackage(
  pkgs = NULL,
  pkgPath = NULL,
  path = NULL,
  type = "source",
  Rversion = R.version,
  writePACKAGES = TRUE,
```

```

    deps = FALSE,
    quiet = FALSE,
    build = FALSE
  )

```

### Arguments

pkgs	Character vector of packages to download
pkgPath	Character vector of directory location containing packages to be added. Note that pkgPath should be the parent directory of the package (i.e., the package directory path is constructed from <code>file.path(pkgPath, pkgs)</code> ).
path	Destination download path. This path is the root folder of your new repository.
type	Possible values are (currently) "source", "mac.binary" and "win.binary": the binary types can be listed and downloaded but not installed on other platforms. Passed to <code>download.packages()</code> .
Rversion	Version of R (only used if type is not source.) Defaults to <code>R.version</code> , but this can be specified as any of the following formats: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a character string with the two digit R version, e.g. "3.1"</li> <li>• a list with components <code>major</code> and <code>minor</code></li> <li>• the result of <code>getRversion()</code></li> <li>• the result of <code>R.version</code></li> </ul>
writePACKAGES	If TRUE, calls <code>write_PACKAGES()</code> to update the repository PACKAGES file.
deps	Not used. See note.
quiet	If TRUE, suppress status messages (if any), and the progress bar during download.
build	Logical indicating whether packages should be build prior to adding.

### Details

To build a package from source and then add it, use `build = TRUE`. Note that package development libraries and the `devtools` package must be installed on your system in order to build packages.

### Value

Installs the packages and returns the new package index.

### Note

Currently, adding local packages does not check nor download their dependencies.

### Author(s)

Alex Chubaty

**Examples**

```
## Not run:
addLocalPackage("myPackage", "path/to/my/prebuilt/package",
                "path/to/my/miniCRAN/repo")

addLocalPackage("myPackage", "path/to/my/package/sourcecode",
                "path/to/my/miniCRAN/repo", build = TRUE)

## End(Not run)
```

---

addOldPackage

*Add old package versions to a miniCRAN repository.*


---

**Description**

Will download and add older source package versions. Older binary versions are not normally available on CRAN and should be built from source on the platform for which they are required. As such, specifying `type!="source"` will likely fail as the download will not be successful.

**Usage**

```
addOldPackage(
  pkgs = NULL,
  path = NULL,
  vers = NULL,
  repos = getOption("repos"),
  type = "source",
  Rversion = R.version,
  writePACKAGES = TRUE,
  deps = FALSE,
  quiet = TRUE
)
```

**Arguments**

pkgs	Character vector of packages to download
path	Destination download path. This path is the root folder of your new repository.
vers	The package version to install.
repos	URL(s) of the 'contrib' sections of the repositories, e.g. "https://cran.us.r-project.org". Passed to <a href="#">available.packages()</a>
type	Possible values are (currently) "source", "mac.binary" and "win.binary": the binary types can be listed and downloaded but not installed on other platforms. Passed to <a href="#">download.packages()</a> .
Rversion	Version of R (only used if type is not source.) Defaults to <a href="#">R.version</a> , but this can be specified as any of the following formats:

- a character string with the two digit R version, e.g. "3.1"
- a list with components `major` and `minor`
- the result of `getRversion()`
- the result of `R.version`

`writePACKAGES` If TRUE, calls `write_PACKAGES()` to update the repository PACKAGES file.

`deps` logical indicating whether the package dependencies should be added (default TRUE).

`quiet` If TRUE, suppress status messages (if any), and the progress bar during download.

**Value**

Adds the packages, rebuilds the package index, and invisibly returns the number of packages written to the index files.

**Note**

Dependencies for old package versions cannot be determined automatically and must be specified by the user in `pkgs` and `vers`. Thus, `deps=FALSE` is the default for this function.

**See Also**

Other update repo functions: `addPackage()`, `checkVersions()`, `makeRepo()`, `updatePackages()`

**Examples**

```
### `checkVersions` and `add.packages.miniCRAN` require an existing miniCRAN repo

# Specify list of packages to download
mirror <- c(CRAN = "https://cloud.r-project.org")
mirror
pkgs <- c("foreach")
pkgTypes <- c("source", "win.binary")

if (interactive()) {
  if (!is.online()) {
    message("p3m seems to be not available. Check your internet connection.")
  } else {
    pdb <- pkgAvail(repos = mirror, type = "source")
  }
} else {
  pdb <- cranJuly2014
}

if (interactive()) {
  if (!is.online()) {
    message("p3m seems to be not available. Check your internet connection.")
  } else {
    pkgList <- pkgDep(pkgs, availPkgs = pdb, repos = mirror, type = "source", suggests = FALSE)
  }
}
```

```

    pkgList
  }
}

# Create temporary folder for miniCRAN

if (interactive()) {
  if (!is.online()) {
    message("p3m seems to be not available. Check your internet connection.")
  } else {
    dir.create(pth <- file.path(tempdir(), "miniCRAN"))

    # Make repo for source and win.binary
    makeRepo(pkgList, path = pth, repos = mirror, type = pkgTypes)

    # Add other versions of a package (and assume these were added previously)
    oldVers <- data.frame(
      package = c("foreach", "codetools", "iterators"),
      version = c("1.4.0", "0.2-7", "1.0.5"),
      stringsAsFactors = FALSE
    )
    pkgs <- oldVers$package
    addOldPackage(pkgs, path = pth, vers = oldVers$version, repos = mirror, type = "source")
    # NOTE: older binary versions would need to be build from source

    # List package versions in the miniCRAN repo (produces warning about duplicates)
    pkgVersionsSrc <- checkVersions(pkgs, path = pth, type = "source")
    pkgVersionsBin <- checkVersions(pkgs, path = pth, type = "win.binary")

    # After inspecting package versions, remove old versions
    basename(pkgVersionsSrc$source) # "foreach_1.4.0.tar.gz" "foreach_1.4.2.tar.gz"
    basename(pkgVersionsBin$win.binary) # "foreach_1.4.0.zip" "foreach_1.4.2.zip"
    file.remove(c(pkgVersionsSrc$source[1], pkgVersionsBin$win.binary[1]))

    # Rebuild package index after adding/removing files
    updateRepoIndex(pth, type = pkgTypes, Rversion = R.version)

    pkgAvail(pth, type = "source")

    # Add new packages (from CRAN) to the miniCRAN repo
    addPackage("Matrix", path = pth, repos = mirror, type = pkgTypes)

    # Delete temporary folder
    unlink(pth, recursive = TRUE)
  }
}

```

**Description**

Add packages to a miniCRAN repository.

**Usage**

```
addPackage(
  pkgs = NULL,
  path = NULL,
  repos = getOption("repos"),
  type = "source",
  Rversion = R.version,
  writePACKAGES = TRUE,
  deps = TRUE,
  quiet = FALSE
)
```

**Arguments**

pkgs	Character vector of packages to download
path	Destination download path. This path is the root folder of your new repository.
repos	URL(s) of the 'contrib' sections of the repositories, e.g. "https://cran.us.r-project.org". Passed to <a href="#">available.packages()</a>
type	Possible values are (currently) "source", "mac.binary" and "win.binary": the binary types can be listed and downloaded but not installed on other platforms. Passed to <a href="#">download.packages()</a> .
Rversion	Version of R (only used if type is not source.) Defaults to <a href="#">R.version</a> , but this can be specified as any of the following formats: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a character string with the two digit R version, e.g. "3.1"</li> <li>• a list with components major and minor</li> <li>• the result of <a href="#">getRversion()</a></li> <li>• the result of <a href="#">R.version</a></li> </ul>
writePACKAGES	If TRUE, calls <a href="#">write_PACKAGES()</a> to update the repository PACKAGES file.
deps	logical indicating whether the package dependencies should be added (default TRUE).
quiet	If TRUE, suppress status messages (if any), and the progress bar during download.

**Value**

Installs the packages, rebuilds the package index, and invisibly returns the number of packages written to the index files.

**See Also**

Other update repo functions: [addOldPackage\(\)](#), [checkVersions\(\)](#), [makeRepo\(\)](#), [updatePackages\(\)](#)

**Examples**

```

### `checkVersions` and `add.packages.miniCRAN` require an existing miniCRAN repo

# Specify list of packages to download
mirror <- c(CRAN = "https://cloud.r-project.org")
mirror
pkgs <- c("foreach")
pkgTypes <- c("source", "win.binary")

if (interactive()) {
  if (!is.online()) {
    message("p3m seems to be not available. Check your internet connection.")
  } else {
    pdb <- pkgAvail(repos = mirror, type = "source")
  }
} else {
  pdb <- cranJuly2014
}

if (interactive()) {
  if (!is.online()) {
    message("p3m seems to be not available. Check your internet connection.")
  } else {
    pkgList <- pkgDep(pkgs, availPkgs = pdb, repos = mirror, type = "source", suggests = FALSE)
    pkgList
  }
}

# Create temporary folder for miniCRAN

if (interactive()) {
  if (!is.online()) {
    message("p3m seems to be not available. Check your internet connection.")
  } else {
    dir.create(pth <- file.path(tempdir(), "miniCRAN"))

    # Make repo for source and win.binary
    makeRepo(pkgList, path = pth, repos = mirror, type = pkgTypes)

    # Add other versions of a package (and assume these were added previously)
    oldVers <- data.frame(
      package = c("foreach", "codetools", "iterators"),
      version = c("1.4.0", "0.2-7", "1.0.5"),
      stringsAsFactors = FALSE
    )
    pkgs <- oldVers$package
    addOldPackage(pkgs, path = pth, vers = oldVers$version, repos = mirror, type = "source")
    # NOTE: older binary versions would need to be build from source

    # List package versions in the miniCRAN repo (produces warning about duplicates)
    pkgVersionsSrc <- checkVersions(pkgs, path = pth, type = "source")
  }
}

```

```

pkgVersionsBin <- checkVersions(pkgs, path = pth, type = "win.binary")

# After inspecting package versions, remove old versions
basename(pkgVersionsSrc$source) # "foreach_1.4.0.tar.gz" "foreach_1.4.2.tar.gz"
basename(pkgVersionsBin$win.binary) # "foreach_1.4.0.zip" "foreach_1.4.2.zip"
file.remove(c(pkgVersionsSrc$source[1], pkgVersionsBin$win.binary[1]))

# Rebuild package index after adding/removing files
updateRepoIndex(pth, type = pkgTypes, Rversion = R.version)

pkgAvail(pth, type = "source")

# Add new packages (from CRAN) to the miniCRAN repo
addPackage("Matrix", path = pth, repos = mirror, type = pkgTypes)

# Delete temporary folder
unlink(pth, recursive = TRUE)
}
}

```

---

addPackageListingGithub

*Add DESCRIPTION information from package on github.*

---

## Description

Downloads the DESCRIPTION file from a package on github, parses the fields and adds (or replaces) a row in the available package database.

## Usage

```

addPackageListingGithub(
  pdb = pkgAvail(),
  repo,
  username = NULL,
  branch = "main"
)

```

## Arguments

pdb	Package database, usually the result of <code>pkgAvail()</code> or <code>available.packages()</code>
repo	Character vector. Name of repository on github, e.g. "andrie/rrd"
username	Optional character vector. Name of repository on github, e.g. "andrie/rrd"
branch	name of branch, defaults to "main"

**Examples**

```
# Create package database
pdb <- cranJuly2014

if (interactive()) {
  pdb <- pkgAvail(repos = c(CRAN = "https://cloud.r-project.org"))

  # Overwrite pdb with development version of miniCRAN at github
  newpdb <- addPackageListingGithub(pdb = pdb, "andrie/miniCRAN")
  newpdb["miniCRAN", ]

  # Add package from github that's not currently on CRAN
  newpdb <- addPackageListingGithub(pdb = pdb, repo = "tidyverse/ggplot2", branch = "main")
  newpdb["ggplot2", ]

  set.seed(1)
  plot(makeDepGraph("ggplot2", availPkgs = newpdb, suggests = TRUE))
}
```

---

basePkgs	<i>Returns names of base packages.</i>
----------	--

---

**Description**

Retrieves names of installed packages by calling `utils::installed.packages()` and returning only those packages where `Priority == "base"`.

**Usage**

```
basePkgs()
```

**See Also**

[pkgDep\(\)](#)

Other dependency functions: [makeDepGraph\(\)](#), [pkgDep\(\)](#), [plot.pkgDepGraph\(\)](#)

---

checkVersions	<i>Check for previous versions of packages in a miniCRAN repository.</i>
---------------	--

---

**Description**

Checks for previous versions, and returns the file paths for packages with multiple versions. You can subsequently decide which version to keep.

**Usage**

```
checkVersions(pkgs = NULL, path = NULL, type = "source", Rversion = R.version)
```

**Arguments**

pkgs	Character vector of packages to be installed. If not provided, checks all files for multiple package versions.
path	The local path to the directory where the miniCRAN repo resides.
type	character, indicating the type of package to download and install. See <a href="#">install.packages()</a> .
Rversion	Version of R (only used if type is not source.) Defaults to <a href="#">R.version</a> , but this can be specified as any of the following formats: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a character string with the two digit R version, e.g. "3.1"</li> <li>• a list with components major and minor</li> <li>• the result of <a href="#">getRversion()</a></li> <li>• the result of <a href="#">R.version</a></li> </ul>

**Value**

Returns invisibly the file paths to packages with multiple versions for removal.  
list with an element for each type, consisting of a character vector of download paths

**See Also**

Other update repo functions: [addOldPackage\(\)](#), [addPackage\(\)](#), [makeRepo\(\)](#), [updatePackages\(\)](#)

**Examples**

```
### `checkVersions` and `add.packages.miniCRAN` require an existing miniCRAN repo

# Specify list of packages to download
mirror <- c(CRAN = "https://cloud.r-project.org")
mirror
pkgs <- c("foreach")
pkgTypes <- c("source", "win.binary")

if (interactive()) {
  if (!is.online()) {
    message("p3m seems to be not available. Check your internet connection.")
  } else {
    pdb <- pkgAvail(repos = mirror, type = "source")
  }
} else {
  pdb <- cranJuly2014
}

if (interactive()) {
  if (!is.online()) {
    message("p3m seems to be not available. Check your internet connection.")
  } else {
    pkgList <- pkgDep(pkgs, availPkgs = pdb, repos = mirror, type = "source", suggests = FALSE)
    pkgList
  }
}
```

```

}

# Create temporary folder for miniCRAN

if (interactive()) {
  if (!is.online()) {
    message("p3m seems to be not available. Check your internet connection.")
  } else {
    dir.create(pth <- file.path(tempdir(), "miniCRAN"))

    # Make repo for source and win.binary
    makeRepo(pkgList, path = pth, repos = mirror, type = pkgTypes)

    # Add other versions of a package (and assume these were added previously)
    oldVers <- data.frame(
      package = c("foreach", "codetools", "iterators"),
      version = c("1.4.0", "0.2-7", "1.0.5"),
      stringsAsFactors = FALSE
    )
    pkgs <- oldVers$package
    addOldPackage(pkgs, path = pth, vers = oldVers$version, repos = mirror, type = "source")
    # NOTE: older binary versions would need to be build from source

    # List package versions in the miniCRAN repo (produces warning about duplicates)
    pkgVersionsSrc <- checkVersions(pkgs, path = pth, type = "source")
    pkgVersionsBin <- checkVersions(pkgs, path = pth, type = "win.binary")

    # After inspecting package versions, remove old versions
    basename(pkgVersionsSrc$source) # "foreach_1.4.0.tar.gz" "foreach_1.4.2.tar.gz"
    basename(pkgVersionsBin$win.binary) # "foreach_1.4.0.zip" "foreach_1.4.2.zip"
    file.remove(c(pkgVersionsSrc$source[1], pkgVersionsBin$win.binary[1]))

    # Rebuild package index after adding/removing files
    updateRepoIndex(pth, type = pkgTypes, Rversion = R.version)

    pkgAvail(pth, type = "source")

    # Add new packages (from CRAN) to the miniCRAN repo
    addPackage("Matrix", path = pth, repos = mirror, type = pkgTypes)

    # Delete temporary folder
    unlink(pth, recursive = TRUE)
  }
}

```

---

cranJuly2014

*Stored version of available.packages()*


---

## Description

Copy of the result of `utils::available.packages()` on July 1, 2014.

**Usage**

```
cranJuly2014
```

**Format**

```
matrix
```

---

```
getCranDescription
```

*Obtains DESCRIPTION metadata from CRAN for each package.*

---

**Description**

This is a wrapper around `tools::CRAN_package_db` and may be deprecated in future versions of the package.

**Usage**

```
getCranDescription(  
  pkg,  
  repos = getOption("repos"),  
  type = "source",  
  pkgs = pkgDep(pkg, repos = repos, type = type)  
)
```

**Arguments**

<code>pkg</code>	Character vector of packages.
<code>repos</code>	URL(s) of the 'contrib' sections of the repositories, e.g. "https://cran.us.r-project.org". Passed to <a href="#">available.packages()</a>
<code>type</code>	Possible values are (currently) "source", "mac.binary" and "win.binary": the binary types can be listed and downloaded but not installed on other platforms. Passed to <a href="#">download.packages()</a> .
<code>pkgs</code>	Character vector of packages to download

**Examples**

```
if (interactive()) {  
  getCranDescription(c("igraph", "ggplot2", "XML"),  
                    repos = c(CRAN = getOption("minicran.mran"))  
  )  
}
```

---

is.online	Returns TRUE if the p3m URL can be accessed.
-----------	--

---

**Description**

Returns TRUE if the p3m URL can be accessed.

**Usage**

```
is.online(url = NULL, tryHttp = TRUE)
```

**Arguments**

url	p3m url
tryHttp	If TRUE, also attempts http URL, for compatibility with older versions of R

---

makeDepGraph	Create dependency graph from available packages.
--------------	--

---

**Description**

Each package is a node, and a dependency is an edge

**Usage**

```
makeDepGraph(
  pkg,
  availPkgs,
  repos = getOption("repos"),
  type = "source",
  suggests = TRUE,
  enhances = FALSE,
  includeBasePkgs = FALSE,
  ...
)
```

**Arguments**

pkg	Character vector of packages.
availPkgs	Data frame with an element called package. The package element is a vector of available packages. Defaults to reading this list from CRAN, using <a href="#">available.packages()</a>
repos	URL(s) of the 'contrib' sections of the repositories, e.g. "https://cran.us.r-project.org". Passed to <a href="#">available.packages()</a>

type	Possible values are (currently) "source", "mac.binary" and "win.binary": the binary types can be listed and downloaded but not installed on other platforms. Passed to <a href="#">download.packages()</a> .
suggests	If TRUE, retrieves Suggests dependencies (non-recursively)
enhances	If TRUE, retrieves Enhances dependencies (non-recursively)
includeBasePkgs	If TRUE, include base R packages in results
...	Other arguments passed to <a href="#">available.packages()</a>

**See Also**

[pkgDep\(\)](#) to extract package dependencies

Other dependency functions: [basePkgs\(\)](#), [pkgDep\(\)](#), [plot.pkgDepGraph\(\)](#)

**Examples**

```

if (interactive()) {
  availPkgs <- cranJuly2014

  availPkgs <- pkgAvail(
    repos = c(CRAN = "https://cloud.r-project.org"),
    type = "source"
  )

  # Create dependency graph using stored database of available packages
  p <- makeDepGraph(
    c("ggplot2", "forecast"),
    availPkgs = availPkgs
  )

  if(require(igraph)) plot(p)

  # Create dependency graph using newly retrieved database from CRAN

  p <- makeDepGraph(
    c("ggplot2", "forecast"),
    repos = c(CRAN = getOption("minicran.mran")),
    type = "source"
  )
  if(requireNamespace("igraph", quietly = TRUE)) {
    plot(p)
  } else {
    message("install package `igraph` to view dependency graph")
  }
}

```

---

makeLibrary	<i>Deprecated function to download packages to local folder.</i>
-------------	--

---

**Description**

Deprecated function to download packages to local folder.

**Usage**

```
makeLibrary(pkgs, path, type = "source")
```

**Arguments**

pkgs	Character vector of packages to download
path	Destination download path. This path is the root folder of your new repository.
type	Possible values are (currently) "source", "mac.binary" and "win.binary": the binary types can be listed and downloaded but not installed on other platforms. Passed to <a href="#">download.packages()</a> .

---

makeRepo	<i>Downloads packages from CRAN to specified path and creates a local repository.</i>
----------	---

---

**Description**

Given a list of packages, downloads these packages to a specified destination folder using the required CRAN folder structure, and finally creates the PACKAGES index file. Since the folder structure mimics the required structure and files of a CRAN repository, it supports functions like [utils::install.packages\(\)](#).

**Usage**

```
makeRepo(
  pkgs,
  path,
  repos = getOption("repos"),
  type = "source",
  Rversion = R.version,
  download = TRUE,
  writePACKAGES = TRUE,
  filters = NULL,
  quiet = FALSE
)

updateRepoIndex(path, type = "source", Rversion = R.version)
```

**Arguments**

pkgs	Character vector of packages to download
path	Destination download path. This path is the root folder of your new repository.
repos	URL(s) of the 'contrib' sections of the repositories, e.g. "https://cran.us.r-project.org". Passed to <a href="#">available.packages()</a>
type	Possible values are (currently) "source", "mac.binary" and "win.binary": the binary types can be listed and downloaded but not installed on other platforms. Passed to <a href="#">download.packages()</a> .
Rversion	Version of R (only used if type is not source.) Defaults to <a href="#">R.version</a> , but this can be specified as any of the following formats: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a character string with the two digit R version, e.g. "3.1"</li> <li>• a list with components major and minor</li> <li>• the result of <a href="#">getRversion()</a></li> <li>• the result of <a href="#">R.version</a></li> </ul>
download	If TRUE downloads packages.
writePACKAGES	If TRUE, calls <a href="#">write_PACKAGES()</a> to update the repository PACKAGES file.
filters	passed to <a href="#">utils::available.packages</a>
quiet	If TRUE, suppress status messages (if any), and the progress bar during download.

**Value**

character vector of downloaded package files

**Repo folder structure**

A repository has two main folders, one for source packages, and the other for binary packages. Inside the binary package folder, bin, you will find subfolders for Windows as well as the various OSX binaries.

```
+-- Root
...+- src/contrib
.....+- PACKAGES
..+- bin
.....+- windows/contrib/version
.....+- PACKAGES
.....+- macosx/contrib/version
.....+- PACKAGES
.....+- macosx/mavericks/contrib/version
.....+- PACKAGES
.....+- macosx/leopard/contrib/version
.....+- PACKAGES
```

**Note**

Internally makes use of `utils::download.packages()` and `write_PACKAGES()`

**See Also**

Other update repo functions: `addOldPackage()`, `addPackage()`, `checkVersions()`, `updatePackages()`

**Examples**

```
# Specify list of packages to download
mirror <- c(CRAN = "https://cloud.r-project.org")
pkgs <- c("foreach")

if (interactive()) {
  pdb <- cranJuly2014

  pdb <- pkgAvail(
    repos = c(CRAN = getOption("minicran.mran")),
    type = "source"
  )

  pkgList <- pkgDep(pkgs, availPkgs = pdb, repos = mirror,
                  type = "source", suggests = FALSE)
  pkgList

  # Create temporary folder for miniCRAN
  dir.create(pth <- file.path(tempdir(), "miniCRAN"))

  # Make repo for source and win.binary
  makeRepo(pkgList, path = pth, repos = mirror, type = "source")

  # List all files in miniCRAN
  list.files(pth, recursive = TRUE)

  # Check for available packages
  pkgAvail(repos = pth, type = "source")

  # Repeat process for windows binaries
  makeRepo(pkgList, path = pth, repos = mirror, type = "win.binary")
  pkgAvail(repos = pth, type = "win.binary")

  # Delete temporary folder
  unlink(pth, recursive = TRUE)
}
```

**Description**

This is a thin wrapper around `utils::available.packages()`. If the argument `path` is supplied, then the function attempts to read from a local repository, otherwise attempts to read from a CRAN mirror at the `repos` url.

**Usage**

```
pkgAvail(
  repos = getOption("repos"),
  type = "source",
  Rversion = R.version,
  quiet = FALSE,
  filters = NULL
)
```

**Arguments**

<code>repos</code>	URL(s) of the 'contrib' sections of the repositories, e.g. "https://cran.us.r-project.org". Passed to <code>available.packages()</code>
<code>type</code>	Possible values are (currently) "source", "mac.binary" and "win.binary": the binary types can be listed and downloaded but not installed on other platforms. Passed to <code>download.packages()</code> .
<code>Rversion</code>	Version of R (only used if <code>type</code> is not source.) Defaults to <code>R.version</code> , but this can be specified as any of the following formats: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a character string with the two digit R version, e.g. "3.1"</li> <li>• a list with components <code>major</code> and <code>minor</code></li> <li>• the result of <code>getRversion()</code></li> <li>• the result of <code>R.version</code></li> </ul>
<code>quiet</code>	If TRUE, suppresses warnings
<code>filters</code>	passed to <code>utils::available.packages</code>

**See Also**

[pkgDep\(\)](#)

---

`pkgDep`

*Retrieves package dependencies.*

---

**Description**

Performs recursive retrieve for Depends, Imports and LinkLibrary. Performs non-recursive retrieve for Suggests.

**Usage**

```
pkgDep(
  pkg,
  availPkgs,
  repos = getOption("repos"),
  type = "source",
  depends = TRUE,
  suggests = TRUE,
  enhances = FALSE,
  includeBasePkgs = FALSE,
  Rversion = R.version,
  quiet = FALSE,
  ...
)
```

**Arguments**

pkg	Character vector of packages.
availPkgs	Data frame with an element called package. The package element is a vector of available packages. Defaults to reading this list from CRAN, using <a href="#">available.packages()</a>
repos	URL(s) of the 'contrib' sections of the repositories, e.g. "https://cran.us.r-project.org". Passed to <a href="#">available.packages()</a>
type	Possible values are (currently) "source", "mac.binary" and "win.binary": the binary types can be listed and downloaded but not installed on other platforms. Passed to <a href="#">download.packages()</a> .
depends	If TRUE, retrieves Depends, Imports and LinkingTo dependencies (non-recursively)
suggests	If TRUE, retrieves Suggests dependencies (non-recursively)
enhances	If TRUE, retrieves Enhances dependencies (non-recursively)
includeBasePkgs	If TRUE, include base R packages in results
Rversion	Version of R (only used if type is not source.) Defaults to <a href="#">R.version</a> , but this can be specified as any of the following formats: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a character string with the two digit R version, e.g. "3.1"</li> <li>• a list with components major and minor</li> <li>• the result of <a href="#">getRversion()</a></li> <li>• the result of <a href="#">R.version</a></li> </ul>
quiet	If TRUE, suppresses warnings
...	Other arguments passed to <a href="#">available.packages()</a>

**Value**

character vector of package names

**See Also**

Other dependency functions: [basePkgs\(\)](#), [makeDepGraph\(\)](#), [plot.pkgDepGraph\(\)](#)

**Examples**

```

if (interactive()) {
  pkgDep(pkg = c("ggplot2", "plyr", "reshape2"),
         repos = c(CRAN = "https://cloud.r-project.org"))
}

pdb <- cranJuly2014
pdb <- pkgAvail(repos = c(CRAN = getOption("minicran.mran")))

pkgDep(pkg = c("ggplot2", "plyr", "reshape2"), pdb)
}

```

---

plot.pkgDepGraph      *Plots a package dependency graph.*

---

**Description**

Plots a package dependency graph.

**Usage**

```

## S3 method for class 'pkgDepGraph'
plot(
  x,
  pkgsToHighlight,
  main = paste(attr(x, "pkgs"), collapse = ", "),
  legendPosition = c(-1.2, -1),
  shape = "circle",
  vertex.size = 8,
  cex = 1,
  ...
)

```

**Arguments**

x	Object to plot
pkgsToHighlight	Optional character vector with names of package to highlight. If missing, defaults to packages used in original call to <a href="#">makeDepGraph()</a>
main	Title of plot
legendPosition	Numeric vector of length 2, indicating (x, y) position of edge legend. Both values should be in the range [-1; 1]. If NULL, the edge legend is not displayed.
shape	Shape of edge. See <a href="#">igraph::igraph.plotting()</a> . Could be "none", "circle", "square", ...
vertex.size	Size of vertex shape. <a href="#">igraph::igraph.plotting()</a>
cex	Vertex label size.
...	Ignored

**See Also**

Other dependency functions: [basePkgs\(\)](#), [makeDepGraph\(\)](#), [pkgDep\(\)](#)

**Examples**

```
tags <- "chron"

# Plot using defaults

if (interactive()){
  pdb <- pkgAvail(
    repos = c(CRAN = getOption("minicran.mran")),
    type = "source"
  )
} else {
  pdb <- cranJuly2014
}

if (interactive()) {
  dg <- makeDepGraph(tags, availPkgs = pdb , includeBasePkgs = FALSE,
    suggests = TRUE, enhances = TRUE)

  set.seed(43);
  plot(dg)

  # Move edge legend to top left
  set.seed(42);
  plot(dg, legendPosition = c(-1, 1))

  # Change font size and shape size
  set.seed(42);
  plot(dg, legendPosition = c(-1, 1), vertex.size = 20, cex = 0.5)

  # Move vertex legend to top right
  set.seed(42);
  plot(dg, legendPosition = c(1, 1), vertex.size = 20, cex = 0.5)
}
```

---

repoPrefix

*Get the path to the repo directory containing the package files.*

---

**Description**

Get the path to the repo directory containing the package files.

**Usage**

```
repoPrefix(type, Rversion)
```

**Arguments**

type	character, indicating the type of package to download and install. See <a href="#">install.packages()</a> .
Rversion	Version of R (only used if type is not source.) Defaults to <a href="#">R.version</a> , but this can be specified as any of the following formats: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a character string with the two digit R version, e.g. "3.1"</li> <li>• a list with components <code>major</code> and <code>minor</code></li> <li>• the result of <a href="#">getRversion()</a></li> <li>• the result of <a href="#">R.version</a></li> </ul>

**Value**

The file path to the package files directory.

**Repo folder structure**

A repository has two main folders, one for source packages, and the other for binary packages. Inside the binary package folder, `bin`, you will find subfolders for Windows as well as the various OSX binaries.

```
+-- Root
...+-- src/contrib
.....+-- PACKAGES
..+-- bin
.....+-- windows/contrib/version
.....+-- PACKAGES
.....+-- macosx/contrib/version
.....+-- PACKAGES
.....+-- macosx/mavericks/contrib/version
.....+-- PACKAGES
.....+-- macosx/leopard/contrib/version
.....+-- PACKAGES
```

**Note**

Not all versions of R are compatible with with all package types (e.g., `mac.binary.el-capitan` is only valid for `R > 3.4.0`).

---

twodigitRversion	<i>Get a two-digit version of the R version</i>
------------------	---

---

**Description**

Get a two-digit version of the R version

**Usage**

```
twodigitRversion(Rversion = R.version)
```

**Arguments**

Rversion	Version of R (only used if type is not source.) Defaults to <a href="#">R.version</a> , but this can be specified as any of the following formats: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a character string with the two digit R version, e.g. "3.1"</li> <li>• a list with components major and minor</li> <li>• the result of <a href="#">getRversion()</a></li> <li>• the result of <a href="#">R.version</a></li> </ul>
----------	--

**Value**

A character string representing the two-digit R version.

---

updatePackages	<i>Check for available package updates in a miniCRAN repo.</i>
----------------	--

---

**Description**

`oldPackages()` indicates packages which have a (suitable) later version on the repositories whereas `updatePackages()` offers to download and install such packages.

**Usage**

```
oldPackages(
  path = NULL,
  repos = getOption("repos"),
  availPkgs = pkgAvail(repos = repos, type = type, Rversion = Rversion),
  method,
  availableLocal = pkgAvail(repos = path, type = type, Rversion = Rversion, quiet =
    quiet),
  type = "source",
  Rversion = R.version,
  quiet = FALSE
)
```

```

updatePackages(
  path = NULL,
  repos = getOption("repos"),
  method = NULL,
  ask = TRUE,
  availPkgs = pkgAvail(repos = repos, type = type, Rversion = Rversion),
  oldPkgs = NULL,
  type = "source",
  Rversion = R.version,
  quiet = FALSE
)

```

### Arguments

path	Destination download path. This path is the root folder of your new repository.
repos	URL(s) of the 'contrib' sections of the repositories, e.g. "https://cran.us.r-project.org". Passed to <a href="#">available.packages()</a>
availPkgs	Data frame with an element called package. The package element is a vector of available packages. Defaults to reading this list from CRAN, using <a href="#">available.packages()</a>
method	Download method, see <a href="#">download.file()</a> .
availableLocal	all packages hosted in the miniCRAN repo, as returned by <a href="#">pkgAvail()</a> . A subset can be specified; currently this must be in the same (character matrix) format as returned by <a href="#">pkgAvail()</a> .
type	Possible values are (currently) "source", "mac.binary" and "win.binary": the binary types can be listed and downloaded but not installed on other platforms. Passed to <a href="#">download.packages()</a> .
Rversion	Version of R (only used if type is not source.) Defaults to <a href="#">R.version</a> , but this can be specified as any of the following formats: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a character string with the two digit R version, e.g. "3.1"</li> <li>• a list with components major and minor</li> <li>• the result of <a href="#">getRversion()</a></li> <li>• the result of <a href="#">R.version</a></li> </ul>
quiet	If TRUE, suppress status messages (if any), and the progress bar during download.
ask	logical indicating whether to ask user before packages are actually downloaded and installed. Alternatively, the value "graphics" starts an interactive widget to allow the user to (de-)select from the list of packages which could be updated or added. The latter value only works on systems with a GUI version of <a href="#">select.list()</a> , and is otherwise equivalent to ask = TRUE.
oldPkgs	if specified as non-NULL, updatePackages() only considers these packages for updating. This may be a character vector of package names or a matrix as returned by <a href="#">oldPackages()</a> .

**Details**

These functions are based on [update.packages\(\)](#). However, rather than looking for locally installed packages they look for the package source and binaries in the miniCRAN repository.

**Value**

`oldPackages()` returns a matrix with one row per package and columns for "Package", "LocalVer", "ReposVer" and "Repository". The matrix row names the package names.

`updatePackages` returns NULL invisibly.

**See Also**

[updatePackages\(\)](#), [pkgAvail\(\)](#).

Other update repo functions: [addOldPackage\(\)](#), [addPackage\(\)](#), [checkVersions\(\)](#), [makeRepo\(\)](#)

**Examples**

```
### `oldPackages` and `updatePackages` require an existing miniCRAN repo

# Specify list of packages to download
mirror <- c(CRAN = "https://cloud.r-project.org")
pkgs <- c("foreach")

pdb <- cranJuly2014

if (interactive()) {
  pdb <- pkgAvail(repos = mirror, type = "source")

  pkgList <- pkgDep(pkgs, availPkgs = pdb, repos = mirror, type = "source", suggests = FALSE)
  pkgList

  # Create temporary folder for miniCRAN
  dir.create(pth <- file.path(tempdir(), "miniCRAN"))

  # create the miniCRAN directory structure but only add bin files
  makeRepo(pkgList, path = pth, repos = mirror, type = "source", download = FALSE)
  makeRepo(pkgList, path = pth, repos = mirror, type = "win.binary", download = TRUE)

  # download old source package version and create repo index
  oldVers <- data.frame(package = c("foreach", "codetools", "iterators"),
                        version = c("1.4.0", "0.2-7", "1.0.5"),
                        stringsAsFactors = FALSE)
  addOldPackage(pkgList, path = pth, repos = mirror, vers = oldVers$version, type = "source")
  # NOTE: older binary versions would need to be build from source

  # Check if updated packages are available
  oldPackages(path = pth, repos = mirror, type = "source") # should need update
  oldPackages(path = pth, repos = mirror, type = "win.binary") # should be current

  # Update available packages
  updatePackages(path = pth, repos = mirror, type = "source", ask = FALSE) # should need update
```

```
updatePackages(path = pth, repos = mirror, type = "win.binary") # should be current  
# Delete temporary folder  
unlink(pth, recursive = TRUE)  
}
```

# Index

- \* **Internal**
  - .listFiles, 4
  - repoPrefix, 24
  - twodigitRversion, 26
- \* **create repo functions**
  - pkgAvail, 20
- \* **datasets**
  - cranJuly2014, 14
- \* **dependency functions**
  - basePkgs, 12
  - makeDepGraph, 16
  - pkgDep, 21
  - plot.pkgDepGraph, 23
- \* **github functions**
  - addPackageListingGithub, 11
- \* **package**
  - miniCRAN-package, 2
- \* **update repo functions**
  - addOldPackage, 6
  - addPackage, 8
  - checkVersions, 12
  - makeRepo, 18
  - updatePackages, 26
- .listFiles, 4
- addLocalPackage, 4
- addOldPackage, 6, 9, 13, 20, 28
- addPackage, 7, 8, 13, 20, 28
- addPackageListingGithub, 11
- available.packages(), 6, 9, 11, 15–17, 19, 21, 22, 27
- basePkgs, 12, 17, 22, 24
- checkVersions, 7, 9, 12, 20, 28
- cranJuly2014, 14
- download.file(), 27
- download.packages(), 5, 6, 9, 15, 17–19, 21, 22, 27
- getCranDescription, 15
- getRversion(), 5, 7, 9, 13, 19, 21, 22, 25–27
- igraph::igraph.plotting(), 23
- install.packages(), 13, 25
- is.online, 16
- makeDepGraph, 12, 16, 22, 24
- makeDepGraph(), 3, 23
- makeLibrary, 18
- makeRepo, 7, 9, 13, 18, 28
- makeRepo(), 3
- miniCRAN (miniCRAN-package), 2
- minicran (miniCRAN-package), 2
- miniCRAN-package, 2
- oldPackages (updatePackages), 26
- oldPackages(), 3
- pkgAvail, 20
- pkgAvail(), 3, 11, 27, 28
- pkgDep, 12, 17, 21, 24
- pkgDep(), 3, 12, 17, 21
- plot.pkgDepGraph, 12, 17, 22, 23
- plot.pkgDepGraph(), 3
- R.version, 5–7, 9, 13, 19, 21, 22, 25–27
- repoPrefix, 24
- select.list(), 27
- twodigitRversion, 26
- update.packages(), 28
- updatePackages, 7, 9, 13, 20, 26
- updatePackages(), 3, 28
- updateRepoIndex (makeRepo), 18
- utils::available.packages, 19, 21
- utils::available.packages(), 3, 14, 21
- utils::download.packages(), 20
- utils::install.packages(), 3, 18

`utils::installed.packages()`, [12](#)

`write_PACKAGES()`, [5](#), [7](#), [9](#), [19](#), [20](#)