

# Package ‘distill’

January 3, 2024

**Type** Package

**Title** 'R Markdown' Format for Scientific and Technical Writing

**Version** 1.6.1

**Description** Scientific and technical article format for the web.  
'Distill' articles feature attractive, reader-friendly typography, flexible layout options for visualizations, and full support for footnotes and citations.

**License** Apache License 2.0

**URL** <https://github.com/rstudio/distill>,  
<https://pkgs.rstudio.com/distill>

**BugReports** <https://github.com/rstudio/distill/issues>

**Imports** base64enc, bookdown (>= 0.8), digest, downlit (>= 0.4.1),  
htmltools, jsonlite (>= 1.3), knitr (>= 1.15.6), lubridate (>= 1.7.10), mime, openssl, png, rmarkdown (>= 2.11), rprojroot,  
rstudioapi, stats, stringr, tools, utils, whisker, xfun (>= 0.18), xml2, yaml

**Suggests** covr, DiagrammeR, htmlwidgets, progress, r2d3, rsconnect,  
shiny, testthat (>= 3.0.0), withr

**Config/Needs/website** rstudio/quillt, pkgdown, tidyverse/tidytemplate,  
rvest

**Config/testthat/edition** 3

**Encoding** UTF-8

**Language** en-US

**Roxygen** list(markdown = TRUE)

**RoxygenNote** 7.2.3

**NeedsCompilation** no

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create_article	<i>Create a new article</i>
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## Description

Create (and optionally edit) a new distill article.

## Usage

```
create_article(  
  file,  
  template = "distill_article",  
  package = "distill",  
  create_dir = FALSE,  
  edit = TRUE  
)
```

## Arguments

file	File name for the draft
template	Template to use as the basis for the draft. This is either the full path to a template directory or the name of a template directory within the <code>rmarkdown/templates</code> directory of a package.
package	(Optional) Name of package where the template is located.
create_dir	TRUE to create a new directory for the document (defaults to FALSE).
edit	TRUE to edit the template immediately

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create_post	<i>Create a new blog post</i>
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## Description

Create a new blog post

## Usage

```
create_post(  
  title,  
  collection = "posts",  
  author = "auto",  
  slug = "auto",  
  date = Sys.Date(),  
  date_prefix = date,  
  draft = FALSE,  
  edit = interactive()  
)
```

## Arguments

title	Post title
collection	Collection to create the post within (defaults to "posts")
author	Post author. Automatically drawn from previous post if not provided.
slug	Post slug (directory name). Automatically computed from title if not provided.
date	Post date (defaults to current date)
date_prefix	Date prefix for post slug (preserves chronological order for posts within the filesystem). Pass NULL for no date prefix.
draft	Mark the post as a draft (don't include it in the article listing).
edit	Open the post in an editor after creating it.

## Note

This function must be called from with a working directory that is within a Distill website.

## Examples

```
## Not run:  
library(distill)  
create_post("My Post")  
  
## End(Not run)
```

---

`create_theme`*Create a Distill theme CSS file*

---

## Description

Create a theme CSS file and write it to the current working directory

## Usage

```
create_theme(name = "theme", edit = TRUE)
```

## Arguments

<code>name</code>	Name of theme file (will be written as name.css)
<code>edit</code>	Open an editor for the theme file

## Details

How do you apply a custom theme to a Distill site or blog? You have two options:

1. Apply it site-wide by adding a `theme` key to the top-level of your `_site.yml` configuration file:

```
name: "distill"
title: "Distill for R Markdown"
theme: theme.css
navbar:
  # (navbar definition here)
```

2. Apply to an individual article by adding a `theme` key to your article's YAML front-matter:

```
---
title: "The Sharpe Ratio"
output:
  distill::distill_article:
    toc: true
    theme: theme.css
---
```

The second option allows for you to apply your theme to individual articles, while using a different theme for the rest of your site. Note that this is only possible for stand-alone articles within a website — you cannot apply a theme to individual blog posts *only*.

## More details

For further details about theming refer to the [online documentation](#).

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create\_website      *Create a Distill website*

---

### Description

Create a basic skeleton for a Distill website or blog. Use the `create_website()` function for a website and the `create_blog()` function for a blog.

### Usage

```
create_website(dir, title, gh_pages = FALSE, edit = interactive())
create_blog(dir, title, gh_pages = FALSE, edit = interactive())
```

### Arguments

<code>dir</code>	Directory for website
<code>title</code>	Title of website
<code>gh_pages</code>	Configure the site for publishing using <a href="#">GitHub Pages</a>
<code>edit</code>	Open site index file or welcome post in an editor.

### Note

The `dir` and `title` parameters are required (they will be prompted for interactively if they are not specified).

### Examples

```
## Not run:
library(distill)
create_website("mysite", "My Site")

## End(Not run)
```

---

distill\_article      *R Markdown format for Distill articles*

---

### Description

Scientific and technical writing, native to the web.

**Usage**

```

distill_article(
  toc = FALSE,
  toc_depth = 3,
  toc_float = TRUE,
  fig_width = 6.5,
  fig_height = 4,
  fig_retina = 2,
  fig_caption = TRUE,
  dev = "png",
  smart = TRUE,
  code_folding = FALSE,
  self_contained = TRUE,
  highlight = "default",
  highlight_downlit = TRUE,
  mathjax = "default",
  extra_dependencies = NULL,
  theme = NULL,
  css = NULL,
  includes = NULL,
  keep_md = FALSE,
  lib_dir = NULL,
  md_extensions = NULL,
  pandoc_args = NULL,
  ...
)

```

**Arguments**

<code>toc</code>	TRUE to include a table of contents in the output
<code>toc_depth</code>	Depth of headers to include in table of contents
<code>toc_float</code>	Float the table of contents to the left when the article is displayed at widths > 1000px. If set to FALSE or the width is less than 1000px the table of contents will be placed above the article body.
<code>fig_width</code>	Default width (in inches) for figures
<code>fig_height</code>	Default height (in inches) for figures
<code>fig_retina</code>	Scaling to perform for retina displays (defaults to 2, which currently works for all widely used retina displays). Set to NULL to prevent retina scaling. Note that this will always be NULL when <code>keep_md</code> is specified (this is because <code>fig_retina</code> relies on outputting HTML directly into the markdown document).
<code>fig_caption</code>	TRUE to render figures with captions
<code>dev</code>	Graphics device to use for figure output (defaults to png)
<code>smart</code>	Produce typographically correct output, converting straight quotes to curly quotes, --- to em-dashes, -- to en-dashes, and . . . to ellipses.
<code>code_folding</code>	Include code blocks hidden, and allow users to optionally display the code by clicking a "Show code" button just above the output. Pass a character vector to customize the text of the "Show code" button. You can also specify <code>code_folding</code> as chunk option for per-chunk folding behavior.

<code>self_contained</code>	Produce a standalone HTML file with no external dependencies, using data: URIs to incorporate the contents of linked scripts, stylesheets, images, and videos. Note that even for self contained documents MathJax is still loaded externally (this is necessary because of its size).
<code>highlight</code>	Syntax highlighting style. Supported styles include "default", "rstudio", "tango", "pygments", "kate", "monochrome", "espresso", "zenburn", "breezedark", and "haddock". Pass NULL to prevent syntax highlighting.
<code>highlight_downlit</code>	Use the <b>downlit</b> package to highlight R code (including providing hyperlinks to function documentation).
<code>mathjax</code>	Include mathjax. The "default" option uses an https URL from a MathJax CDN. The "local" option uses a local version of MathJax (which is copied into the output directory). You can pass an alternate URL or pass NULL to exclude MathJax entirely.
<code>extra_dependencies</code>	Extra dependencies as a list of the <code>html_dependency</code> class objects typically generated by <code>htmltools::htmlDependency()</code> .
<code>theme</code>	CSS file with theme variable definitions
<code>css</code>	CSS and/or Sass files to include. Files with an extension of <code>.sass</code> or <code>.scss</code> are compiled to CSS via <code>sass::sass()</code> .
<code>includes</code>	Named list of additional content to include within the document (typically created using the <code>includes</code> function).
<code>keep_md</code>	Keep the markdown file generated by knitting.
<code>lib_dir</code>	Directory to copy dependent HTML libraries (e.g. jquery, bootstrap, etc.) into. By default this will be the name of the document with <code>_files</code> appended to it.
<code>md_extensions</code>	Markdown extensions to be added or removed from the default definition of R Markdown. See the <code>rmarkdown::format</code> for additional details.
<code>pandoc_args</code>	Additional command line options to pass to pandoc
<code>...</code>	Additional function arguments to pass to the base R Markdown HTML output formatter <code>html_document_base</code>

## Details

Distill articles feature attractive, reader-friendly typography, flexible layout options for visualizations, and full support for footnotes and citations.

---

`distill_website`     *R Markdown site generator for Distill websites*

---

## Description

R Markdown site generator for Distill websites

## Usage

```
distill_website(input, encoding = getOption("encoding"), ...)
```

**Arguments**

input	Website directory (or the name of a file within the directory).
encoding	Ignored. The encoding is always assumed to be UTF-8.
...	Currently unused.

---

import_post	<i>Import a post into a blog</i>
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---

**Description**

Import a distill post from an external source (e.g. GitHub repo, RPub's article, etc.). Importable posts must have `distill::distill_article` as the output format in the YAML.

**Usage**

```
import_post(
  url,
  slug = "auto",
  date = Sys.Date(),
  date_prefix = date,
  check_license = TRUE,
  overwrite = FALSE,
  view = interactive()
)

update_post(slug, view = interactive())
```

**Arguments**

url	URL for distill post to import
slug	Post slug (directory name). Automatically computed from title if not provided.
date	Post date (defaults to current date)
date_prefix	Date prefix for post slug (preserves chronological order for posts within the filesystem). Pass NULL for no date prefix.
check_license	Verify that the imported post has a creative commons license
overwrite	Overwrite existing post? (defaults to FALSE, use <code>update_post()</code> to update an existing post in-place).
view	View the post after importing it.

**Value**

Returns (invisibly) a logical indicating whether the operation completed (it may not complete if, for example, the user chose not to import an article that lacked a creative commons license).



---

publish\_website      *Publish a Distill Website*

---

## Description

Publish a website to RStudio Connect

## Usage

```
publish_website(  
  site_dir = ".",  
  site_name = NULL,  
  method = c("rsconnect"),  
  server = NULL,  
  account = NULL,  
  render = TRUE,  
  launch_browser = interactive()  
)
```

## Arguments

site_dir	Directory containing website. Defaults to current working directory.
site_name	Name for the site (names must be unique within an account). Defaults to the name provided in <code>_site.yml</code> (or to the name of the <code>site_dir</code> if there is no name specified).
method	Publishing method (currently only "rsconnect" is available)
account, server	Uniquely identify a remote server with either your user <code>account</code> , the <code>server</code> name, or both. If neither are supplied, and there are multiple options, you'll be prompted to pick one. Use <code>accounts()</code> to see the full list of available options.
render	TRUE to render the site locally before publishing.
launch_browser	If TRUE, the system's default web browser will be launched automatically after the site is deployed. Defaults to TRUE in interactive sessions only.

## Examples

```
## Not run:  
library(distill)  
publish_website()  
  
## End(Not run)
```

---

rename_post_dir	<i>Rename a blog post directory</i>
-----------------	-------------------------------------

---

### Description

Rename a blog post directory, by default using the title and date specified within the post's front matter.

### Usage

```
rename_post_dir(post_dir, slug = "auto", date_prefix = "auto")
```

### Arguments

post_dir	Path to post directory
slug	Post slug (directory name). Automatically computed from title if not provided.
date_prefix	Date prefix for post. Defaults to the post's date field (or the current date if there is none). Pass NULL to not use a date prefix.

### Note

This function must be called from with a working directory that is within a Distill website.

### Examples

```
## Not run:  
library(distill)  
rename_post_dir("_posts/2020-09-12-my-post")  
rename_post_dir("_posts/2020-09-12-my-post", date_prefix = "9/15/2020")  
  
## End(Not run)
```

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