

# Package ‘rix’

March 1, 2025

**Title** Reproducible Data Science Environments with 'Nix'

**Version** 0.15.5

**Description** Simplifies the creation of reproducible data science environments using the 'Nix' package manager, as described in Dolstra (2006) <ISBN 90-393-4130-3>. The included ``rix()`` function generates a complete description of the environment as a ``default.nix`` file, which can then be built using 'Nix'. This results in project specific software environments with pinned versions of R, packages, linked system dependencies, and other tools. Additional helpers make it easy to run R code in 'Nix' software environments for testing and production.

**License** GPL (>= 3)

**URL** <https://docs.ropensci.org/rix/>

**BugReports** <https://github.com/ropensci/rix/issues>

**Depends** R (>= 2.10)

**Imports** codetools, curl, jsonlite, sys, utils

**Suggests** knitr, rmarkdown, testthat

**VignetteBuilder** knitr

**Config/testthat/edition** 3

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**Author** Bruno Rodrigues [aut, cre] (<<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3211-3689>>),  
Philipp Baumann [aut] (<<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3194-8975>>),  
David Watkins [rev] (David reviewed the package (v. 0.9.1) for  
rOpenSci, see  
<<https://github.com/ropensci/software-review/issues/625>>),  
Jacob Wujciak-Jens [rev] (<<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7281-3989>>),  
Jacob reviewed the package (v. 0.9.1) for rOpenSci, see  
<<https://github.com/ropensci/software-review/issues/625>>),  
Richard J. Acton [ctb] (<<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2574-9611>>),  
Jordi Rosell [ctb] (<<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4349-1458>>),

Elio Campitelli [ctb] (<<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7742-9230>>),  
 László Kupcsik [ctb] (<<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3535-5496>>),  
 Michael Heming [ctb] (<<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9568-2790>>)

**Maintainer** Bruno Rodrigues <bruno@brodrigues.co>

**Repository** CRAN

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|                 |                              |
|-----------------|------------------------------|
| available_dates | <i>List available dates.</i> |
|-----------------|------------------------------|

---

### Description

List available dates.

### Usage

```
available_dates()
```

### Value

A character vector containing the available dates

### Examples

```
available_dates()
```

---

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| available_df | <i>Return data frame with R, Bioc versions and supported platforms</i> |
|--------------|--|

---

**Description**

Return data frame with R, Bioc versions and supported platforms

**Usage**

```
available_df()
```

**Value**

A data frame

**Examples**

```
available_dates()
```

---

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| available_r | <i>List available R versions from the rstats-on-nix fork of Nixpkgs</i> |
|-------------|---|

---

**Description**

List available R versions from the rstats-on-nix fork of Nixpkgs

**Usage**

```
available_r()
```

**Value**

A character vector containing the available R versions.

**Examples**

```
available_r()
```

---

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| ga_cachix | <i>ga_cachix Build an environment on GitHub Actions and cache it on Cachix</i> |
|-----------|--|

---

### Description

ga\_cachix Build an environment on GitHub Actions and cache it on Cachix

### Usage

```
ga_cachix(cache_name, path_default)
```

### Arguments

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| cache_name   | String, name of your cache.  |
| path_default | String, relative path (from the root directory of your project) to the default.nix to build. |

### Details

This function puts a .yaml file inside the .github/workflows/ folders on the root of your project. This workflow file will use the projects default.nix file to generate the development environment on GitHub Actions and will then cache the created binaries in Cachix. Create a free account on Cachix to use this action. Refer to vignette("z-binary\_cache") for detailed instructions. Make sure to give read and write permissions to the GitHub Actions bot.

### Value

Nothing, copies file to a directory.

### Examples

```
## Not run:
ga_cachix("my-cachix", path_default = "default.nix")

## End(Not run)
```

---

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| make_launcher | <i>Create a startup script to launch an editor inside of a Nix shell</i> |
|---------------|--|

---

### Description

Create a startup script to launch an editor inside of a Nix shell

### Usage

```
make_launcher(editor, project_path)
```

**Arguments**

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| editor       | Character, the command to launch the editor. See the "Details" section below for more information.  |
| project_path | Character, where to write the launcher, for example "/home/path/to/project". The file will thus be written to the file "/home/path/to/project/start-editor.sh". If the folder does not exist, it will be created. |

**Details**

This function will write a launcher to start an IDE inside of a Nix shell. With a launcher, you only need to execute it instead of first having to drop into the shell using `nix-shell` and then type the command to run the IDE. For security reasons, this script is not executable upon creation, so you need to make it executable first by running `chmod +x start-editor.sh` (replace editor with whichever editor you use). You don't need this launcher if you use `direnv`; see `vignette("e-configuring-ide")` for more details.

**Value**

Nothing, writes a script.

**Examples**

```
available_dates()
```

---

nix\_build

*Invoke shell command nix-build from an R session*

---

**Description**

Invoke shell command `nix-build` from an R session

**Usage**

```
nix_build(
  project_path = getwd(),
  message_type = c("simple", "quiet", "verbose")
)
```

**Arguments**

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| project_path | Path to the folder where the default <code>.nix</code> file resides.                                     |
| message_type | Character vector with messaging type, Either "simple" (default), "quiet" for no messaging, or "verbose". |

## Details

The `nix-build` command line interface has more arguments. We will probably not support all of them in this R wrapper, but currently we have support for the following `nix-build` flags:

- `--max-jobs`: Maximum number of build jobs done in parallel by Nix. According to the official docs of Nix, it defaults to 1, which is one core. This option can be useful for shared memory multiprocessing or systems with high I/O latency. To set `--max-jobs` used, you can declare with `options(rix.nix_build_max_jobs = <integer>)`. Once you call `nix_build()` the flag will be propagated to the call of `nix-build`.

## Value

integer of the process ID (PID) of `nix-build` shell command launched, if `nix_build()` call is assigned to an R object. Otherwise, it will be returned invisibly.

## Examples

```
## Not run:  
nix_build()  
  
## End(Not run)
```

---

|                             |                       |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| <code>read_renv_lock</code> | <i>read_renv_lock</i> |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|

---

## Description

Reads `renv.lock` if it exists and can be parsed as json.

## Usage

```
read_renv_lock(renv_lock_path = "renv.lock")
```

## Arguments

`renv_lock_path` location of the `renv.lock` file, defaults to "renv.lock"

## Value

the result of reading `renv.lock` with `jsonlite::read_json`

---

|          |                 |
|----------|-----------------|
| renv2nix | <i>renv2nix</i> |
|----------|-----------------|

---

## Description

renv2nix

## Usage

```
renv2nix(
  renv_lock_path = "renv.lock",
  project_path,
  return_rix_call = FALSE,
  method = c("fast", "accurate"),
  override_r_ver = NULL,
  ...
)
```

## Arguments

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| renv_lock_path  | Character, path of the renv.lock file, defaults to "renv.lock"   |
| project_path    | Character, where to write default.nix, for example "/home/path/to/project". The file will thus be written to the file "/home/path/to/project/default.nix". If the folder does not exist, it will be created.   |
| return_rix_call | Logical, return the generated rix function call instead of evaluating it this is for debugging purposes, defaults to FALSE   |
| method          | Character, the method of generating a nix environment from an renv.lock file. "fast" is an inexact conversion which simply extracts the R version and a list of all the packages in an renv.lock file and adds them to the r_pkgs argument of rix(). This will use a snapshot of nixpkgs that should contain package versions that are not too different from the ones defined in the renv.lock file. For packages installed from GitHub or similar, an attempt is made to handle them and pass them to the git_pkgs argument of rix(). Currently defaults to "fast", "accurate" is not yet implemented. |
| override_r_ver  | Character, defaults to NULL, override the R version defined in the renv.lock file with another version. This is especially useful if the renv.lock file lists a version of R not (yet) available through Nix, or if the R version included in the renv.lock is too old compared to the package versions. Can also be a date, check available_dates().  |
| ...             | Arguments passed on to <a href="#">rix</a>   |
| system_pkgs     | Vector of characters. List further software you wish to install that are not R packages such as command line applications for example. You can look for available software on the NixOS website <a href="https://search.nixos.org/packages?channel=unstable&amp;from=0&amp;size=50&amp;sort=relevance&amp;type=packages&amp;query=">https://search.nixos.org/packages?channel=unstable&amp;from=0&amp;size=50&amp;sort=relevance&amp;type=packages&amp;query=</a>  |

- `local_r_pkgs` List. A list of local packages to install. These packages need to be in the `.tar.gz` or `.zip` formats and must be in the same folder as the generated `default.nix` file.
- `tex_pkgs` Vector of characters. A set of TeX packages to install. Use this if you need to compile `.tex` documents, or build PDF documents using Quarto. If you don't know which package to add, start by adding `"amsmath"`. See the vignette(`"d2- installing-system-tools-and-texlive-packages-in-a-nix-environment"`) for more details.
- `ide` Character, defaults to `"none"`. If you wish to use RStudio to work interactively use `"rstudio"` or `"rserver"` for the server version. Use `"code"` for Visual Studio Code or `"codium"` for Codium, or `"positron"` for Positron. You can also use `"radian"`, an interactive REPL. This will install a project-specific version of the chosen editor which will be different than the one already present in your system (if any). For other editors or if you want to use an editor already installed on your system (which will require some configuration to make it work seamlessly with Nix shells see the vignette(`"e-configuring-ide"`) for configuration examples), use `"none"`. Please be aware that VS Code and Positron are not free software. To facilitate their installation, `rix()` automatically enables a required setting without prompting the user for confirmation. See the "Details" section below for more information.
- `overwrite` Logical, defaults to `FALSE`. If `TRUE`, overwrite the `default.nix` file in the specified path.
- `print` Logical, defaults to `FALSE`. If `TRUE`, print `default.nix` to console.
- `message_type` Character. Message type, defaults to `"simple"`, which gives minimal but sufficient feedback. Other values are currently `"quiet"`, which generates the files without message, and `"verbose"`, displays all the messages.
- `shell_hook` Character of length 1, defaults to `NULL`. Commands added to the `shellHook` variable are executed when the Nix shell starts. So by default, using `nix-shell default.nix` will start a specific program, possibly with flags (separated by space), and/or do shell actions. You can for example use `shell_hook = R`, if you want to directly enter the declared Nix R session when dropping into the Nix shell.

## Details

In order for this function to work properly, we recommend not running it inside the same folder as an existing `{renv}` project. Instead, run it from a new, empty directory which path you pass to `project_path`, and use `renv_lock_path` to point to the `renv.lock` file in the original `{renv}` folder. We recommend that you start from an empty folder to hold your new Nix project, and copy the `renv.lock` file only (not any of the other files and folders generated by `{renv}`) and then call `renv2nix()` there. For more details, see vignette(`"f-renv2nix"`).

## Value

Nothing, this function is called for its side effects only, unless `return_rix_call = TRUE` in which case an unevaluated call to `rix()` is returned



**Examples**

```
## Not run:
# if the lock file is in another folder
renv2nix(
  renv_lock_path = "path/to/original/renv_project/renv.lock",
  project_path = "path/to/rix_project"
)
# you could also copy the renv.lock file in the folder of the Nix
# project (don't copy any other files generated by `{renv}`)
renv2nix(
  renv_lock_path = "path/to/rix_project/renv.lock",
  project_path = "path/to/rix_project"
)

## End(Not run)
```

---

|                 |                        |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| renv_lock_r_ver | <i>renv_lock_r_ver</i> |
|-----------------|------------------------|

---

**Description**

renv\_lock\_r\_ver

**Usage**

```
renv_lock_r_ver(renv_lock, override_r_ver = NULL)
```

**Arguments**

**renv\_lock** renv.lock file from which to get the R version

**override\_r\_ver** Character, override the R version defined in the renv.lock file with another version. This is especially useful if the renv.lock file lists a version of R not (yet) available through Nix. Can also be a date.

**Value**

a length 1 character vector with the version of R recorded in renv.lock

**Examples**

```
## Not run:
rix(r_ver = renv_lock_r_ver())

## End(Not run)
```

---

|                  |                         |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| renv_remote_pkgs | <i>renv_remote_pkgs</i> |
|------------------|-------------------------|

---

### Description

Construct a list to be passed the `git_pkgs` argument of `rix`. The list returned contains the information necessary to have nix attempt to build the packages from their external repositories.

### Usage

```
renv_remote_pkgs(renv_lock_remote_pkgs, host = NULL)
```

### Arguments

|                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| <code>renv_lock_remote_pkgs</code> | the list of package information from an <code>renv.lock</code> file.  |
| <code>host</code>                  | the host of remote package, defaults to <code>NULL</code> meaning the <code>RemoteHost</code> of the <code>renv</code> entry will be used. currently supported hosts: <code>'api.github.com'</code> <code>'gitlab.com'</code> see <a href="#">remotes</a> for more. |

### Value

a list of lists with three elements named: `"package_name"`, `"repo_url"`, `"commit"`

### Examples

```
## Not run:
renv_remote_pkgs(read_renv_lock())$Packages)

## End(Not run)
```

---

|     |   |
|-----|---|
| rix | <i>Generate a Nix expression that builds a reproducible development environment</i> |
|-----|---|

---

### Description

Generate a Nix expression that builds a reproducible development environment

**Usage**

```

rix(
  r_ver = NULL,
  date = NULL,
  r_pkgs = NULL,
  system_pkgs = NULL,
  git_pkgs = NULL,
  local_r_pkgs = NULL,
  tex_pkgs = NULL,
  ide = "none",
  project_path,
  overwrite = FALSE,
  print = FALSE,
  message_type = "simple",
  shell_hook = NULL,
  ignore_remates_cache = FALSE
)

```

**Arguments**

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| <code>r_ver</code>        | Character. The required R version, for example "4.0.0". You can check which R versions are available using <code>available_r()</code> , and for more details check <code>available_df()</code> . For reproducibility purposes, you can also provide a nixpkgs revision directly. For older versions of R, <code>nix-build</code> might fail with an error stating 'this derivation is not meant to be built'. In this case, simply drop into the shell with <code>nix-shell</code> instead of building it first. It is also possible to provide either "bleeding-edge" or "frozen-edge" if you need an environment with bleeding edge packages. Read more in the "Details" section below. |
| <code>date</code>         | Character. Instead of providing <code>r_ver</code> , it is also possible to provide a date. This will build an environment containing R and R packages (and other dependencies) as of that date. You can check which dates are available with <code>available_dates()</code> . For more details about versions check <code>available_df()</code> .  |
| <code>r_pkgs</code>       | Vector of characters. List the required R packages for your analysis here.  |
| <code>system_pkgs</code>  | Vector of characters. List further software you wish to install that are not R packages such as command line applications for example. You can look for available software on the NixOS website <a href="https://search.nixos.org/packages?channel=unstable&amp;from=0&amp;size=50&amp;sort=relevance&amp;type=packages&amp;query=">https://search.nixos.org/packages?channel=unstable&amp;from=0&amp;size=50&amp;sort=relevance&amp;type=packages&amp;query=</a>   |
| <code>git_pkgs</code>     | List. A list of packages to install from Git. See details for more information.   |
| <code>local_r_pkgs</code> | List. A list of local packages to install. These packages need to be in the <code>.tar.gz</code> or <code>.zip</code> formats and must be in the same folder as the generated "default.nix" file.   |
| <code>tex_pkgs</code>     | Vector of characters. A set of TeX packages to install. Use this if you need to compile <code>.tex</code> documents, or build PDF documents using Quarto. If you don't know which package to add, start by adding "amsmath". See the vignette("d2-installing-system-tools-and-texlive-packages-in-a-nix-environment") for more details.   |

|                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <code>ide</code>                  | Character, defaults to "none". If you wish to use RStudio to work interactively use "rstudio" or "rserver" for the server version. Use "code" for Visual Studio Code or "codium" for Codium, or "positron" for Positron. You can also use "radian", an interactive REPL. This will install a project-specific version of the chosen editor which will be different than the one already present in your system (if any). For other editors or if you want to use an editor already installed on your system (which will require some configuration to make it work seamlessly with Nix shells see the vignette("e-configuring-ide") for configuration examples), use "none". Please be aware that VS Code and Positron are not free software. To facilitate their installation, <code>rix()</code> automatically enables a required setting without prompting the user for confirmation. See the "Details" section below for more information. |
| <code>project_path</code>         | Character, where to write <code>default.nix</code> , for example <code>"/home/path/to/project"</code> . The file will thus be written to the file <code>"/home/path/to/project/default.nix"</code> . If the folder does not exist, it will be created.   |
| <code>overwrite</code>            | Logical, defaults to <code>FALSE</code> . If <code>TRUE</code> , overwrite the <code>default.nix</code> file in the specified path.  |
| <code>print</code>                | Logical, defaults to <code>FALSE</code> . If <code>TRUE</code> , print <code>default.nix</code> to console.  |
| <code>message_type</code>         | Character. Message type, defaults to "simple", which gives minimal but sufficient feedback. Other values are currently "quiet", which generates the files without message, and "verbose", displays all the messages.   |
| <code>shell_hook</code>           | Character of length 1, defaults to <code>NULL</code> . Commands added to the <code>shellHook</code> variable are executed when the Nix shell starts. So by default, using <code>nix-shell default.nix</code> will start a specific program, possibly with flags (separated by space), and/or do shell actions. You can for example use <code>shell_hook = R</code> , if you want to directly enter the declared Nix R session when dropping into the Nix shell.  |
| <code>ignore_remotes_cache</code> | Logical, defaults to <code>FALSE</code> . This variable is only needed when adding packages from GitHub with remote dependencies, it can be ignored otherwise. If <code>TRUE</code> , the cache of already processed GitHub remotes will be ignored and all packages will be processed. If <code>FALSE</code> , the cache will be used to skip already processed packages, which makes use of fewer API calls. Setting this argument to <code>TRUE</code> can be useful for debugging.   |

## Details

This function will write a `default.nix` and an `.Rprofile` in the chosen path. Using the Nix package manager, it is then possible to build a reproducible development environment using the `nix-build` command in the path. This environment will contain the chosen version of R and packages, and will not interfere with any other installed version (via Nix or not) on your machine. Every dependency, including both R package dependencies but also system dependencies like compilers will get installed as well in that environment.

It is possible to use environments built with Nix interactively, either from the terminal, or using an interface such as RStudio. If you want to use RStudio, set the `ide` argument to "rstudio". Please be aware that for macOS, RStudio is only available starting from R version 4.4.3 or from the 2025-02-28. As such, you may want to use another editor on macOS if you need to use an environment with an older version of R. To use Visual Studio Code (or Codium), set the `ide` argument to "code" or

"codium" respectively, which will add the `{languageserver}` R package to the list of R packages to be installed by Nix in that environment. It is also possible to use Positron by setting the `ide` argument to "positron". Setting the `ide` argument to an editor will install it from Nix, meaning that each of your projects can have a dedicated IDE (or IDE version). "radian" and "rserver" are also options.

Instead of using Nix to install an IDE, you can also simply use the one you have already installed on your system, with the exception of RStudio which must be managed by Nix to "see" Nix environments. Positron must also be heavily configured to work with Nix shells, so we recommend installing it using Nix. To use an editor that you already have installed on your system, set `ide = "none"` and refer to the vignette("e-configuring-ide") for more details on how to set up your editor to work with Nix shells.

Packages to install from GitHub or Gitlab must be provided in a list of 3 elements: "package\_name", "repo\_url" and "commit". To install several packages, provide a list of lists of these 3 elements, one per package to install. It is also possible to install old versions of packages by specifying a version. For example, to install the latest version of `{AER}` but an old version of `{ggplot2}`, you could write: `r_pkgs = c("AER", "ggplot2@2.2.1")`. Note however that doing this could result in dependency hell, because an older version of a package might need older versions of its dependencies, but other packages might need more recent versions of the same dependencies. If instead you want to use an environment as it would have looked at the time of `{ggplot2}`'s version 2.2.1 release, then use the Nix revision closest to that date, by setting `r_ver = "3.1.0"`, which was the version of R current at the time. This ensures that Nix builds a completely coherent environment. For security purposes, users that wish to install packages from GitHub/GitLab or from the CRAN archives must provide a security hash for each package. `{rix}` automatically precomputes this hash for the source directory of R packages from GitHub/Gitlab or from the CRAN archives, to make sure the expected trusted sources that match the precomputed hashes in the `default.nix` are downloaded, but only if Nix is installed. If you need to generate an expression with such packages, but are working on a system where you can't install Nix, consider generating the expression using a continuous integration service, such as GitHub Actions.

Note that installing packages from Git or old versions using the "@" notation or local packages, does not leverage Nix's capabilities for dependency solving. As such, you might have trouble installing these packages. If that is the case, open an issue on `{rix}`'s GitHub repository.

If GitHub packages have dependencies on GitHub as well, `{rix}` will attempt to generate the correct expression, but we highly recommend you read the vignette("z-advanced-topic-handling-packages-with-remote-deps") Vignette.

By default, the Nix shell will be configured with "en\_US.UTF-8" for the relevant locale variables (LANG, LC\_ALL, LC\_TIME, LC\_MONETARY, LC\_PAPER, LC\_MEASUREMENT). This is done to ensure locale reproducibility by default in Nix environments created with `rix()`. If there are good reasons to not stick to the default, you can set your preferred locale variables via `options(rix.nix_locale_variables = list(LANG = "c", LC_ALL = "c", LC_TIME = "c", LC_MONETARY = "c", LC_PAPER = "c", LC_MEASUREMENT = "c"))` and the aforementioned locale variable names.

It is possible to use "bleeding-edge" or "frozen-edge" as the value for the `r_ver` argument. This will create an environment with the very latest R packages. "bleeding-edge" means that every time you will build the environment, the packages will get updated. This is especially useful for environments that need to be constantly updated, for example when developing a package. In contrast, "frozen-edge" will create an environment that will remain stable at build time. So if you create a `default.nix` file using "bleeding-edge", each time you build it using `nix-build` that environment will be up-to-date. With "frozen-edge" that environment will be up-to-date on the date that the `default.nix` will be generated, and then each subsequent call to `nix-build` will

result in the same environment. "bioc-devel" is the same as "bleeding-edge", but also adds the development version of Bioconductor. "r-devel" is the same as bleeding edge, but with the R development version instead of the latest stable version and "r-devel-bioc-devel" is the same as "r-devel" but with Bioconductor on the development version. We highly recommend you read the vignette titled "z - Advanced topic: Understanding the rPackages set release cycle and using bleeding edge packages".

### Value

Nothing, this function only has the side-effect of writing two files: `default.nix` and `.Rprofile` in the working directory. `default.nix` contains a Nix expression to build a reproducible environment using the Nix package manager, and `.Rprofile` ensures that a running R session from a Nix environment cannot access local libraries, nor install packages using `install.packages()` (nor remove nor update them).

### Examples

```
## Not run:
# Build an environment with the latest version of R available from Nixpkgs
# and the dplyr and ggplot2 packages
rix(
  r_ver = "latest-upstream",
  r_pkgs = c("dplyr", "ggplot2"),
  system_pkgs = NULL,
  git_pkgs = NULL,
  local_r_pkgs = NULL,
  ide = "code",
  project_path = path_default_nix,
  overwrite = TRUE,
  print = TRUE,
  message_type = "simple",
  shell_hook = NULL,
  ignore_remototes_cache = FALSE
)

## End(Not run)
```

---

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| rix_init | <i>Initiate and maintain an isolated, project-specific, and runtime-pure R setup via Nix.</i> |
|----------|---|

---

### Description

Creates an isolated project folder for a Nix-R configuration. `rix::rix_init()` also adds, appends, or updates with or without backup a custom `.Rprofile` file with code that initializes a startup R environment without system's user libraries within a Nix software environment. Instead, it restricts search paths to load R packages exclusively from the Nix store. Additionally, it makes Nix utilities like `nix-shell` available to run system commands from the system's RStudio R session, for both Linux and macOS.

**Usage**

```
rix_init(
  project_path,
  rprofile_action = c("create_missing", "create_backup", "overwrite", "append"),
  message_type = c("simple", "quiet", "verbose")
)
```

**Arguments**

**project\_path** Character with the folder path to the isolated nix-R project. If the folder does not exist yet, it will be created.

**rprofile\_action** Character. Action to take with .Rprofile file destined for project\_path folder. Possible values include "create\_missing", which only writes .Rprofile if it does not yet exist (otherwise does nothing) - this is the action set when using rix() - ; "create\_backup", which copies the existing .Rprofile to a new backup file, generating names with POSIXct-derived strings that include the time zone information. A new .Rprofile file will be written with default code from rix::rix\_init(); "overwrite" overwrites the .Rprofile file if it does exist; "append" appends the existing file with code that is tailored to an isolated Nix-R project setup.

**message\_type** Character. Message type, defaults to "simple", which gives minimal but sufficient feedback. Other values are currently "quiet", which writes .Rprofile without message, and "verbose", which displays the mechanisms implemented to achieve fully controlled R project environments in Nix.

**Details****Enhancement of computational reproducibility for Nix-R environments:**

The primary goal of `rix::rix_init()` is to enhance the computational reproducibility of Nix-R environments during runtime. Concretely, if you already have a system or user library of R packages (if you have R installed through the usual means for your operating system), using `rix::rix_init()` will prevent Nix-R environments to load packages from the user library which would cause issues. Notably, no restart is required as environmental variables are set in the current session, in addition to writing an .Rprofile file. This is particularly useful to make `with_nix()` evaluate custom R functions from any "Nix-to-Nix" or "System-to-Nix" R setups. It introduces two side-effects that take effect both in a current or later R session setup:

1. **Adjusting R\_LIBS\_USER path:** By default, the first path of `R_LIBS_USER` points to the user library outside the Nix store (see also `base::libPaths()`). This creates friction and potential impurity as R packages from the system's R user library are loaded. While this feature can be useful for interactively testing an R package in a Nix environment before adding it to a .nix configuration, it can have undesired effects if not managed carefully. A major drawback is that all R packages in the `R_LIBS_USER` location need to be cleaned to avoid loading packages outside the Nix configuration. Issues, especially on macOS, may arise due to segmentation faults or incompatible linked system libraries. These problems can also occur if one of the (reverse) dependencies of an R package is loaded along the process.

2. **Make Nix commands available when running system commands from RStudio:** In a host RStudio session not launched via Nix (nix-shell), the environmental variables from ~/.zshrc or ~/.bashrc may not be inherited. Consequently, Nix command line interfaces like nix-shell might not be found. The .Rprofile code written by rix::rix\_init() ensures that Nix command line programs are accessible by adding the path of the "bin" directory of the default Nix profile, "/nix/var/nix/profiles/default/bin", to the PATH variable in an RStudio R session.

These side effects are particularly recommended when working in flexible R environments, especially for users who want to maintain both the system's native R setup and utilize Nix expressions for reproducible development environments. This init configuration is considered pivotal to enhance the adoption of Nix in the R community, particularly until RStudio in Nixpkgs is packaged for macOS. We recommend calling rix::rix\_init() prior to comparing R code ran between two software environments with rix::with\_nix().

rix::rix\_init() is called automatically by rix::rix() when generating a default.nix file, and when called by rix::rix() will only add the .Rprofile if none exists. In case you have a custom .Rprofile that you wish to keep using, but also want to benefit from what rix\_init() offers, manually call it and set the rprofile\_action to "append".

### Value

Nothing, this function only has the side-effect of writing a file called ".Rprofile" to the specified path.

### See Also

[with\\_nix\(\)](#)

### Examples

```
## Not run:
# create an isolated, runtime-pure R setup via Nix
project_path <- "./sub_shell"
if (!dir.exists(project_path)) dir.create(project_path)
rix_init(
  project_path = project_path,
  rprofile_action = "create_missing",
  message_type = c("simple")
)

## End(Not run)
```

---

setup\_cachix

*setup\_cachix Setup up the rstats-on-nix binary repository*

---

### Description

setup\_cachix Setup up the rstats-on-nix binary repository



**Usage**

```
setup_cachix(nix_conf_path = "~/.config/nix")
```

**Arguments**

`nix_conf_path` Character, path to folder containing 'nix.conf' file. Defaults to "~/.config/nix".

**Details**

This function edits ~/.config/nix/nix.conf to add the rstats-on-nix public cache as a substituter. The rstats-on-nix public cache, hosted on Cachix, contains many prebuild binaries of R and R packages for x86\_64 Linux and macOS (Intel architectures for packages released before 2021 and Apple Silicon from 2021 onwards). This function automatically performs a backup of ~/.config/nix/nix.conf, or creates one if there is no nix.conf file. If you installed Nix by following the instructions provided in the "Getting started" vignette and also followed the instructions to install Cachix and configure the cache, you don't need to run this. This function is useful in mainly two cases: if you somehow mess up ~/.config/nix/nix.conf and need to generate a new one from scratch, or if you're using Nix inside Docker, write a RUN Rscript -e 'rix::setup\_cachix()' statement to configure the cache there. Because Docker runs using root by default no need to install the cachix client to configure the cache, running setup\_cachix() is enough. See the 'z - Advanced topic: Using Nix inside Docker' vignette for more details.

**Value**

Nothing; changes a file in the user's home directory.

**Examples**

```
## Not run:
setup_cachix()

## End(Not run)
```

---

tar\_nix\_ga

*tar\_nix\_ga Run a {targets} pipeline on GitHub Actions.*


---

**Description**

tar\_nix\_ga Run a {targets} pipeline on GitHub Actions.

**Usage**

```
tar_nix_ga()
```

**Details**

This function puts a `.yaml` file inside the `.github/workflows/` folders on the root of your project. This workflow file will use the projects `default.nix` file to generate the development environment on GitHub Actions and will then run the projects `{targets}` pipeline. Make sure to give read and write permissions to the GitHub Actions bot.

**Value**

Nothing, copies file to a directory.

**Examples**

```
## Not run:
tar_nix_ga()

## End(Not run)
```

---

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| <code>with_nix</code> | <i>Evaluate function in R or shell command via nix-shell environment</i> |
|-----------------------|--|

---

**Description**

This function needs an installation of Nix. `with_nix()` has two effects to run code in isolated and reproducible environments.

1. Evaluate a function in R or a shell command via the `nix-shell` environment (Nix expression for custom software libraries; involving pinned versions of R and R packages via `Nixpkgs`)
2. If no error, return the result object of `expr` in `with_nix()` into the current R session.

**Usage**

```
with_nix(
  expr,
  program = c("R", "shell"),
  project_path = ".",
  message_type = c("simple", "quiet", "verbose")
)
```

**Arguments**

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| <code>expr</code> | Single R function or call, or character vector of length one with shell command and possibly options (flags) of the command to be invoked. For <code>program = R</code> , you can both use a named or an anonymous function. The function provided in <code>expr</code> should not evaluate when you pass arguments, hence you need to wrap your function call like <code>function() your_fun(arg_a = "a", arg_b = "b")</code> , to avoid evaluation and make sure <code>expr</code> is a function (see details and examples). |
|-------------------|--|

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| program      | String stating where to evaluate the expression. Either "R", the default, or "shell". where = "R" will evaluate the expression via RScript and where = "shell" will run the system command in nix-shell.   |
| project_path | Path to the folder where the default.nix file resides. The default is ".", which is the working directory in the current R session. This approach also useful when you have different subfolders with separate software environments defined in different default.nix files. |
| message_type | String how detailed output is. Currently, there is either "simple" (default), "quiet" or "verbose", which shows the script that runs via nix-shell.  |

## Details

`with_nix()` gives you the power of evaluating a main function `expr` and its function call stack that are defined in the current R session in an encapsulated nix-R session defined by Nix expression (`default.nix`), which is located in at a distinct project path (`project_path`).

`with_nix()` is very convenient because it gives direct code feedback in read-eval-print-loop style, which gives a direct interface to the very reproducible infrastructure-as-code approach offered by Nix and Nixpkgs. You don't need extra efforts such as setting up DevOps tooling like Docker and domain specific tools like `{renv}` to control complex software environments in R and any other language. It is for example useful for the following purposes.

1. test compatibility of custom R code and software/package dependencies in development and production environments
2. directly stream outputs (returned objects), messages and errors from any command line tool offered in Nixpkgs into an R session.
3. Test if evolving R packages change their behavior for given unchanged R code, and whether they give identical results or not.

`with_nix()` can evaluate both R code from a nix-R session within another nix-R session, and also from a host R session (i.e., on macOS or Linux) within a specific nix-R session. This feature is useful for testing the reproducibility and compatibility of given code across different software environments. If testing of different sets of environments is necessary, you can easily do so by providing Nix expressions in custom `.nix` or `default.nix` files in different subfolders of the project.

`rix_init()` is run automatically to generate a custom `.Rprofile` file for the subshell in `project_dir`. The defaults in that file ensure that only R packages from the Nix store, that are defined in the subshell `.nix` file are loaded and system's libraries are excluded.

To do its job, `with_nix()` heavily relies on patterns that manipulate language expressions (aka computing on the language) offered in base R as well as the `{codetools}` package by Luke Tierney.

Some of the key steps that are done behind the scene:

1. recursively find, classify, and export global objects (globals) in the call stack of `expr` as well as propagate R package environments found.
2. Serialize (save to disk) and deserialize (read from disk) dependent data structures as `.Rds` with necessary function arguments provided, any relevant globals in the call stack, packages, and `expr` outputs returned in a temporary directory.
3. Use pure `nix-shell` environments to execute a R code script reconstructed catching expressions with quoting; it is launched by commands like this via `{sys}` by Jeroen Ooms: `nix-shell --pure --run "Rscript --vanilla"`.

**Value**

- if program = "R", R object returned by function given in expr when evaluated via the R environment in nix-shell defined by Nix expression.
- if program = "shell", list with the following elements:
  - status: exit code
  - stdout: character vector with standard output
  - stderr: character vector with standard error of expr command sent to a command line interface provided by a Nix package.

**Examples**

```
## Not run:
# create an isolated, runtime-pure R setup via Nix
project_path <- "./sub_shell"
rix_init(
  project_path = project_path,
  rprofile_action = "create_missing"
)
# generate nix environment in `default.nix`
rix(
  r_ver = "4.2.0",
  project_path = project_path
)
# evaluate function in Nix-R environment via `nix-shell` and `Rscript`,
# stream messages, and bring output back to current R session
out <- with_nix(
  expr = function(mtcars) nrow(mtcars),
  program = "R", project_path = project_path,
  message_type = "simple"
)

# There no limit in the complexity of function call stacks that `with_nix()`
# can possibly handle; however, `expr` should not evaluate and
# needs to be a function for `program = "R"`. If you want to pass the
# a function with arguments, you can do like this
get_sample <- function(seed, n) {
  set.seed(seed)
  out <- sample(seq(1, 10), n)
  return(out)
}

out <- with_nix(
  expr = function() get_sample(seed = 1234, n = 5),
  program = "R",
  project_path = ".",
  message_type = "simple"
)

## You can also attach packages with `library()` calls in the current R
## session, which will be exported to the nix-R session.
## Other option: running system commands through `nix-shell` environment.
```

*with\_nix*

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```
## End(Not run)
```

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