

Package ‘BiocCheck’

May 8, 2026

Title Bioconductor-specific package checks

Version 1.49.4

Date 2026-04-30

Description BiocCheck guides maintainers through Bioconductor best practices. It runs Bioconductor-specific package checks by searching through package code, examples, and vignettes. Maintainers are required to address all errors, warnings, and most notes produced.

License Artistic-2.0

URL <https://github.com/Bioconductor/BiocCheck>

BugReports <https://github.com/Bioconductor/BiocCheck/issues>

Depends R (>= 4.4.0)

Imports BiocBaseUtils, BiocFileCache, BiocManager, biocViews, callr, cli, codetools, commonmark, graph, httr2, knitr, methods, rvest, stringdist, tools, utils, xml2

Suggests BiocStyle, devtools, gert, jsonlite, rmarkdown, tinytest, usethis

VignetteBuilder knitr

biocViews Infrastructure

Encoding UTF-8

Roxygen list(markdown = TRUE)

RoxygenNote 7.3.3

git_url <https://git.bioconductor.org/packages/BiocCheck>

git_branch devel

git_last_commit 4196aad

git_last_commit_date 2026-04-30

Repository Bioconductor 3.24

Date/Publication 2026-05-08

Author Bioconductor Package Maintainer [aut],
Lori Shepherd [aut],
Daniel von Twisk [ctb],
Kevin Rue [ctb],
Marcel Ramos [aut, cre] (ORCID:
<<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3242-0582>>),

Leonardo Collado-Torres [ctb],
 Federico Marini [ctb]

Maintainer Marcel Ramos <marcel.ramos@sph.cuny.edu>

Contents

BiocCheck	2
BiocCheck-class	5
BiocCheckGitClone	7
BiocPackage-class	8
Context	9
Message-class	10

Index	11
--------------	-----------

BiocCheck	<i>Check a package's adherence with the Bioconductor Package Guidelines</i>
-----------	---

Description

Analyzes an R package for adherence with Bioconductor package guidelines and best practices. The check outputs are categorized into ERROR, WARNING, and NOTE. See the vignette for more details. BiocCheck is complementary to R CMD check, which should always be run first.

Usage

```
BiocCheck(
  package = getwd(),
  checkDir = dirname(package),
  debug = FALSE,
  callr = FALSE,
  ...
)
```

Arguments

package	The path to an R package directory or tarball (.tar.gz). The BiocCheck function is intended to be run from the package directory; therefore, the current working directory (given by getwd()) is the default.
checkDir	The directory where the BiocCheck output directory will be stored. By default, it will be placed in the same directory as the package directory i.e., dirname(pkg_dir).
debug	Whether to append the names of functions that correspond to each condition raised by BiocCheck in the written log (i.e., in the '<package_name>.BiocCheck' folder). This option is only relevant to developers and contributors to BiocCheck.
callr	logical(1) Whether to use the callr package to run BiocCheck in an isolated R session to prevent namespace collisions.
...	See the dot-options details section for available options.

Details

`BiocCheck()` reviews R packages for adherence with Bioconductor package guidelines and best practices. See <https://contributions.bioconductor.org> for the latest guidance for writing Bioconductor software. Some rationale behind these best practices can be seen in the vignette and pages in the references section. The vignette also provides detailed explanations of all the checks performed by `BiocCheck`.

`BiocCheck` is called within R with `BiocCheck("package")` where `package` points to the source directory or the `.tar.gz` tarball that was created using R CMD `build`.

Note that `BiocCheck` is complementary to R CMD `check`. R CMD `check` should always be run first for best results.

To skip installation of the package during the check, set the `install` option to `FALSE` or `NULL`:

```
BiocCheck(package, install=FALSE)
## OR
BiocCheck(package, install=NULL)
```

To re-use an existing installation log file, set the `install` option to the name of the installation log file. For example, the following will put the `install_out.txt` log file in the `<package_name>.BiocCheck` directory: `BiocCheck(package, install="check:install_out.txt")`

Value

`BiocCheck()` is chiefly called for the side effect of the check reporting. The function also creates a `<package_name>.BiocCheck` folder and returns a `BiocCheck` reference class with three main list elements:

- **error:** Items to address before the package can be accepted
- **warning:** Strongly suggested items that may require attention
- **note:** Items to consider, though not required, before acceptance

dot-options

To use the dot-options, `BiocCheck` can be called with named arguments corresponding to the options below. Typically, these options are set to `TRUE` to disable specific checks, e.g., `BiocCheck(package, 'no-check-vignettes'=TRUE)`. Unless otherwise stated, these options can be left unset (i.e., `NULL`) to enable checks but `FALSE` can also be used to explicitly enable them. The available options are:

- `build-output-file`: file containing R CMD `build` output, for additional analysis
- `new-package`: enable checks specific to new packages
- `no-check-bbs`: disable BBS-specific checks (for non-BioC packages). Valid DESCRIPTION
- `no-check-bioc-help`: disable check for registration on Bioconductor
- `no-check-bioc-views`: disable `biocViews`-specific checks (for non-BioC packages) mailing list and support site
- `no-check-coding-practices`: disable check for some common best coding practices
- `no-check-CRAN`: disable check for if package exists in CRAN
- `no-check-dependencies`: disable check for bad dependencies
- `no-check-deprecated`: disable check for usage of deprecated packages
- `no-check-description`: disable DESCRIPTION file checks

- `no-check-file-size`: disable check for individual file size
- `no-check-formatting`: disable checks for file formatting
- `no-check-function-len`: disable check for function length
- `no-check-install-self`: disable check for require or library of itself
- `no-check-library-calls`: disable check usage of functions that install or update packages
- `no-check-man-doc`: disable checks for man page documentation
- `no-check-namespace`: disable NAMESPACE file checks
- `no-check-news`: disable checks for NEWS file
- `no-check-pkg-size`: disable check for package tarball size
- `no-check-R-ver`: disable check for valid R version
- `no-check-remotes`: disable check for usage of remote packages other than those hosted on CRAN or Bioconductor
- `no-check-skip-bioc-tests`: disable check for tests that skip when on bioc
- `no-check-unit-tests`: disable checks for unit tests
- `no-check-version-num`: disable check for valid version number
- `no-check-vignettes`: disable vignette checks
- `quit-with-status`: enable exit code option when performing check
- `install`: if FALSE, the package is not installed; otherwise, if not specified, the package is installed by default. Optionally, a `check:<file>` key-value pair is provided to identify the name of the installation output file which will be copied to the `<package_name>.BiocCheck` directory.
- `libloc`: when `install` is specified, the library location where the package is installed. By default, this is `.libPaths()[1]`.

Author(s)

Dan Tenenbaum, Lori Shepherd, and Marcel Ramos

References

<https://contributions.bioconductor.org>

See Also

[BiocCheck](#), [Message](#)

Examples

```
packageDir <- system.file("testpackages", "testpkg0", package="BiocCheck")
BiocCheck(packageDir, `quit-with-status`=FALSE)
```

BiocCheck-class *An internal class for composing BiocCheck reports*

Description

The BiocCheck class provides a framework for reporting checks based on Bioconductor guidelines. The class has several methods for working with the provided checks that handle and display messages and the display of the metadata. These methods also record the output of the BiocCheck() report in both plain text and JSON formats.

Note that currently, multiple BiocCheck runs will interfere with each other given that they are implemented via a reference class semantic. When running multiple checks in the same session, you can separate these instances by running them in separate processes (e.g., via BiocParallel).

Arguments

...	character()	A vector that makes up the BiocCheck exception message (e.g., 'Vignette must be built by R CMD build'). The character vector is handled with paste0 and made into a list and appended with help_text and messages.
help_text	character(1)	Additional text prompting a list of files (e.g., "Found in files:")
condition	character(1)	One of the three conditions handled: error, warning, or note
messages	character()	Often a vector of file names where the check was triggered.
debug	logical(1)	Whether to append the name of the originating check name into for trace-ability
checkName	character(1)	The title of the current group of checks. It can be set with handleCheck, e.g., handleCheck("Checking for version number mismatch..."). Internally, it ' is saved with setCheck and obtained with getLastCheck.
isOnBBS	logical(1)	Indicates whether the checks are being run on the Bioconductor Build System (BBS). This is helpful for avoiding the creation of folders in the BBS.
file	character(1)	A path to a JSON file for writing or reading as created by toJSON and fromJSON BiocCheck methods.

Details

The metadata includes a number of standard fields to allow easier troubleshooting and display of potentially relevant information. Currently, the fields included are:

- BiocCheckVersion: The version of the BiocCheck package
- BiocVersion: The version of Bioconductor
- Package: The name of the package in check
- PackageVersion: The version of the package in check
- sourceDir: The directory of the package source or tarball in check
- installDir: The directory where the package is installed for testing, a temporary location by default
- BiocCheckDir: The directory where the <package>.BiocCheck folder is saved. Usually the same folder as the package in check
- platform: The platform/OS where the check is taking place
- isTarBall: Whether the package in check is a source directory or a tarball

Value

An internal BiocCheck R5 Reference Class used to document conditions such as errors, warnings, and notes

Fields

`log list()` A running list of all conditions raised (i.e., notes, warnings, errors)
`check character(1)` The title of the last check used for logging purposes.
`error,warning,note list()` Finer extraction of each condition type
`metadata list()` A list of additional information relevant to the package and its state. See details.

methods

- `add`: Include a condition to the BiocCheck report
- `addMetadata`: Add metadata to the BiocCheck object from a BiocPackage object
- `getLastCheck`: Obtain the name of the last check run
- `setCheck`: Create a new element in the internal list for a check
- `get`: Extract the list of conditions raised by BiocCheck
- `getNum`: Tally the number of condition provided by the input
- `zero`: Reset the internal log of the condition provided
- `getBiocCheckDir`: Report and create the `<package>.BiocCheck` directory as obtained from the metadata
- `composeReport`: Simplify the list structure from the log and provide a character vector of conditions raised
- `report`: Write the `00BiocCheck.log` report into the BiocCheck folder
- `toJSON`: Write a JSON file to the location indicated with the conditions raised
- `fromJSON`: Read a JSON file from the location indicated with the output of previous conditions raised in the check
- `show`: Display the information in the class. Currently empty.
- `show_meta`: Display the metadata information stored in the metadata field

See Also

[Message, BiocPackage](#)

Examples

```
bc <- BiocCheck:::BiocCheck
```

BiocCheckGitClone	<i>Checks specific to a Git clone of a package repository</i>
-------------------	---

Description

Analyzes an R package for adherence with Bioconductor package guidelines and best practices. The check outputs are categorized into ERROR, WARNING, and NOTE. This function is typically used in the Bioconductor Build System (BBS) and not intended for general use.

Usage

```
BiocCheckGitClone(package = ".", ...)
```

Arguments

package	A directory containing an R source package. Not a package tar ball.
...	Currently, only <code>quit-with-status</code> is available. See <code>BiocCheck</code>

Details

`BiocCheckGitClone()` reviews R packages for adherence with Bioconductor package guidelines and best practices. See <https://contributions.bioconductor.org> for the latest guidance for writing Bioconductor software. This function should only be run on a source directory and not on a tarball.

`BiocCheckGitClone` is called within R with, as `BiocCheckGitClone("package")` where `package` is the source directory containing the R package.

Value

`BiocCheckGitClone()` is chiefly called for the side effect of the check reporting. The function returns a `BiocCheck` reference class with three main list elements:

- `error`: Items to address before the package can be accepted
- `warning`: Strongly suggested items that may require attention
- `note`: Items to consider, though not required, before acceptance

Author(s)

Lori Shepherd

References

<https://contributions.bioconductor.org>

See Also

[BiocCheck](#)

Examples

```
packageDir <- system.file("testpackages", "testpkg0", package="BiocCheck")
BiocCheckGitClone(packageDir, `quit-with-status`=FALSE)
```

BiocPackage-class *A class for representing files in a Bioconductor package*

Description

The BiocPackage class is used to represent a Bioconductor package. It is used by BiocCheck to store information about the package being checked. The class has several methods to identify the type of package, check for common issues, and store metadata about the package.

Usage

```
.BiocPackage
```

Format

An object of class BiocPackage of length 1.

Value

An object of class BiocPackage

Fields

isValid logical indicating whether the package's DESCRIPTION file was able to be read without any errors

isTar logical indicating whether the package is a tarball

isSourceDir logical indicating whether the package being checked is from a source directory

isInfrastructure logical indicating whether the package is an Bioconductor infrastructure package based on the biocViews field

usesRoxygen logical indicating whether the package uses roxygen2 documentation

usesRdpack logical indicating whether the package uses Rdpack package

DESCRIPTION matrix containing the DCF contents of the DESCRIPTION file

dependencies character vector of package dependencies

readError character error message if the DESCRIPTION file could not be read

packageVersion character version of the package

packageType character indicating the type of package based on the biocViews field; can be NA_character_ there are invalid biocViews terms

sourceDir character path to the source directory

vignettesDir character path to the vignettes directory

RSources character vector of R source files

VigSources character vector of vignette source files

manSources character vector of Rd source files

BiocCheckDir character path to the directory where the package BiocCheck logs are written

packageName character name of the package

tarFilename character filename of the tarball

metadata list containing metadata about the package

methods

- `initialize`: Initialize a `BiocPackage` object
- `getPackageDir`: Get the package directory
- `getRSources`: Get the R source files
- `getVigSources`: Get the vignette source files
- `getManSources`: Get the Rd source files
- `getBiocCheckDir`: Get the directory where the `BiocCheck` logs are written
- `getBiocViews`: Get the `biocViews` field from the `DESCRIPTION` file
- `getPackageType`: Get the package type based on the `biocViews` field
- `readDESCRIPTION`: Read the `DESCRIPTION` file
- `getVigBuilder`: Get the vignette builder
- `getAllDependencies`: Get all dependencies from the `DESCRIPTION` file
- `findInfrastructure`: Is the package an infrastructure package?
- `findRoxygen`: Does the package use `roxygen2`?
- `getPackageVersion`: Get the package version
- `untarTarball`: Untar the source tarball

See Also

[BiocCheck](#), [Message](#)

Examples

```
# Create a BiocPackage object
packageDirectory <- "path/to/package"
if (dir.exists(packageDirectory))
  .biocTest <- .BiocPackage$initialize(packageDirectory)

.biocTest <- BiocCheck::.BiocPackage

.biocTest$DESCRIPTION
```

Context

Report context of events to user with a data.frame of events and locations

Description

Report context of events to user with a data.frame of events and locations

Usage

```
Context(file = "", lines = character(), idx = logical(), offset = 0L)
```

Arguments

file	character(1) full path (including package name) of file being summarized.
lines	character() vector of text lines in file
idx	logical() same length as lines indicating lines in which event occurs
offset	integer(1) The number of lines to add to the 'Line' column calculation. It is mainly used to account for the number of lines that the YAML header occupies.

Value

Context: a data.frame() with columns File, Line, and Context

Message-class	<i>A lower level Message helper class for BiocCheck</i>
---------------	---

Description

A lower level Message helper class for BiocCheck

Arguments

condition	character(1) One of the three conditions handled: error, warning, or note
...	list() A nested list with the check name as the top level layer. Second level lists include any help_text and messages that are part of the check.

Value

.MessageCondition: An internal R5 Reference Class to handle messages and their conditions, e.g., for errors, warnings, or notes.

Fields

msg	list() A list of character messages usually grown with append with conditions raised by a check
condition	character(1) One of the three conditions handled: error, warning, or note

methods

- setMessage: Set the message and condition (error, warning, or note) for the check
- setCondition: Change the condition for the check
- getCondition: Get the condition from the Message class

See Also

[BiocCheck](#), [BiocPackage](#)

Index

* **internal**

- BiocPackage-class, 8
- Context, 9
- Message-class, 10
- .BiocPackage (BiocPackage-class), 8
- .MessageCondition (Message-class), 10

- BiocCheck, 2, 4, 7, 9, 10
- BiocCheck-class, 5
- BiocCheckGitClone, 7
- BiocPackage, 6, 10
- BiocPackage (BiocPackage-class), 8
- BiocPackage-class, 8

- Context, 9

- getCondition, Message-method
(Message-class), 10

- Message, 4, 6, 9
- Message-class, 10

- setCondition, Message-method
(Message-class), 10
- setMessage, Message-method
(Message-class), 10