RcppClassic: Deprecated Rcpp API

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This vignette describes how to use the RcppClassic package. It has long been deprecated and superceded by the more powerful Rcpp package. All new R packages should use the Rcpp package instead.

R | packages | Rcpp | API | Deprecation

This document presents the **RcppClassic** package. This package has been factored out of **Rcpp** (Eddelbuettel *et al.*, 2018; Eddelbuettel, 2013; Eddelbuettel *et al.*, 2018; Eddelbuettel and Balamuta, 2017, 2018) and only contains code that is considered deprecated.

This package is released for the sole purpose of allowing package authors that are still using the classic **Rcpp** API to keep their package buildable. This document explains the changes needed in a package to use both the current and classic **Rcpp** APIs.

If you must use RcppClassic

A few changes are needed in packages that want to use the classic **Rcpp** API that is contained in **RcppClassic**. A sample package called **RcppClassicExample** is on CRAN and can be used as a template.

The `DESCRIPTION` file. The client package must declare that it depends on both **Rcpp** and **RcppClassic** in the Imports field and the LinkingTo field, so it must contain this:

```
Imports: RcppClassic, Rcpp
LinkingTo: RcppClassic, Rcpp
```

The `NAMESPACE` file. The client package should import both **Rcpp** and **RcppClassic**:

```
importFrom(Rcpp, evalCpp)
import(RcppClassic)
```

The `Makevars` file. The `Makevars` file must be updated so that user libraries for both **Rcpp** and **RcppClassic** are used. For **Rcpp** 0.11.0 we used

```
## This can be placed on one or two lines too
PKG_LIBS = \
  '$(R_HOME)/bin/Rscript -e \
    "Rcpp:::LdFlags()"' \
  '$(R_HOME)/bin/Rscript -e \
    "RcppClassic:::LdFlags()"'
```

but starting with **Rcpp** version 0.11.0, the result of `Rcpp:::LdFlags()` is an empty string as Rcpp no longer provides a user-library. The above then reduces to

```
## This can be placed on one lines
PKG_LIBS = '$(R_HOME)/bin/Rscript -e \
  "RcppClassic:::LdFlags()"'
```

which finds the required RcppClassic library.

The `Makevars.win` files. The `Makevars.win` must also be updated for the same reason, and in similar way. Use `${R_HOME}/bin${R_ARCH_BIN}/Rscript.exe` instead of `$(R_HOME)/bin/Rscript` to reflect both the bi-architecture nature of Windows builds and the differently names `Rscript` executable.

Include `RcppClassic.h` instead of `Rcpp.h`. Finally, all instances of this line :

```
#include <Rcpp.h>
```

need to be replaced by:

```
#include <RcppClassic.h>
```

You should not use RcppClassic

The previous section discusses the set of changes required to update a package so that it uses the classic API from **RcppClassic** since it has been removed from **Rcpp**.

We do, however, recommend that package authors stop using the classic API. Iy has been more than superseded by the current **Rcpp** API in terms of performance, design, maintainance, and ease of use.

References

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