

# Package ‘babelwhale’

October 3, 2019

**Version** 1.0.1

**Title** Talking to 'Docker' and 'Singularity' Containers

**Description** Provides a unified interface to interact with 'docker' and 'singularity' containers.  
You can execute a command inside a container, mount a volume or copy a file.

**URL** <https://github.com/dynverse/babelwhale>

**BugReports** <https://github.com/dynverse/babelwhale/issues>

**License** GPL-3

**Depends** R (>= 3.0.0)

**Imports** crayon, dplyr, dynutils, processx, purrr, utils

**SystemRequirements** Docker and/or Singularity (>=3.0)

**Encoding** UTF-8

**LazyData** true

**ByteCompile** true

**RoxygenNote** 6.1.1

**Suggests** testthat

**NeedsCompilation** no

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**Repository** CRAN

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babelwhale	<i>Talking to both Docker and Singularity containers from R</i>
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### Description

Talking to both Docker and Singularity containers from R

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copy_file	<i>Copy a file from a container to the host system</i>
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### Description

Copy a file from a container to the host system

### Usage

```
copy_file(container_id, path_container, path_local)
```

### Arguments

container_id	The name of the container, usually the repository name on dockerhub.
path_container	The path of the file inside the container
path_local	The path of the file on the host system

### Examples

```
if (test_docker_installation()) {
  set_default_config(create_docker_config(), permanent = FALSE)
  copy_file("alpine", "/bin/date", tempfile())
}
```

---

create_config	<i>Backend configuration for containerisation</i>
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### Description

It is advised to define the "BABELWHALE\_BACKEND" environment variable as "docker" or "singularity".

When using singularity, also define the "SINGULARITY\_CACHEDIR" environment variable, which is the folder where the singularity images will be cached. Each TI method will require about 1GB of space.

Alternatively, you can create a config and save it using `set_default_config()`.

### Usage

```
create_config(  
  backend =  
    get_env_or_null("BABELWHALE_BACKEND") %||%  
    detect_backend()  
)  
  
create_docker_config()  
  
create_singularity_config(  
  cache_dir =  
    get_env_or_null("SINGULARITY_CACHEDIR") %||%  
    ".singularity/"  
)  
  
get_default_config()  
  
set_default_config(config, permanent = TRUE)
```

### Arguments

backend	Which backend to use. Can be either "docker" or "singularity".
cache_dir	A folder in which to store the singularity images. A container typically requires 100MB to 2GB.
config	A config to save as default.
permanent	Whether or not to save the config file permanently

### Examples

```
config <- create_docker_config()  
set_default_config(config, permanent = FALSE)  
  
config <- create_singularity_config(  
  # ideally, this would be set to a non-temporary directory
```

```
    cache_dir = tempdir()
  )
  set_default_config(config, permanent = FALSE)
```

---

list\_docker\_images      *List docker containers*

---

### Description

List docker containers

### Usage

```
list_docker_images(container_id = NULL)
```

### Arguments

container\_id      An optional container id

### Examples

```
if (test_docker_installation()) {
  set_default_config(create_docker_config(), permanent = FALSE)
  list_docker_images()
}
```

---

pull\_container          *Pull a container from dockerhub*

---

### Description

Pull a container from dockerhub

### Usage

```
pull_container(container_id)
```

### Arguments

container\_id      The name of the container, usually the repository name on dockerhub.

### Examples

```
if (test_docker_installation()) {
  pull_container("alpine")
}
```

---

read_file	<i>Read a file from a container</i>
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---

**Description**

Read a file from a container

**Usage**

```
read_file(container_id, path_container)
```

**Arguments**

container\_id    The name of the container, usually the repository name on dockerhub.  
path\_container    The path of the file inside the container

**Examples**

```
if (test_docker_installation()) {  
  set_default_config(create_docker_config(), permanent = FALSE)  
  read_file("alpine", "/etc/hosts")  
}
```

---

run	<i>Run a containerised command, and wait until finished</i>
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**Description**

Run a containerised command, and wait until finished

**Usage**

```
run(container_id, command, args = NULL, volumes = NULL,  
workspace = NULL, environment_variables = NULL, debug = FALSE,  
verbose = FALSE)
```

**Arguments**

container\_id    The name of the container, usually the repository name on dockerhub.  
command        Character scalar, the command to run.  
args            Character vector, arguments to the command.  
volumes        Which volumes to be mounted. Format: a character vector, with each element containing the source path and container path concatenated with a ":". For example: c("/source\_folder:/container\_folder").

workspace	Which working directory to run the command in.
environment_variables	A character vector of environment variables. Format: c("ENVVAR=VALUE").
debug	If TRUE, a command will be printed that the user can execute to enter the container.
verbose	Whether or not to print output

### Examples

```
if (test_docker_installation()) {
  set_default_config(create_docker_config(), permanent = FALSE)

  # running a command
  run("alpine", "echo", c("hello"))

  # mounting a folder
  folder <- tempdir()
  write("i'm a mounted file", paste0(folder, "/file.txt"))
  run("alpine", "cat", c("/mounted_folder/file.txt"), volumes = paste0(folder, ":/mounted_folder"))
}
```

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singularity\_image\_path

*Determine the cached path of singularity images*

---

### Description

Determine the cached path of singularity images

### Usage

```
singularity_image_path(container_id)
```

### Arguments

container\_id The name of the container, usually the repository name on dockerhub.

---

`test_docker_installation`*Tests whether docker is correctly installed and available*

---

**Description**

Tests whether docker is correctly installed and available

**Usage**

```
test_docker_installation(detailed = FALSE)
```

**Arguments**

`detailed` Whether top do a detailed check

**Examples**

```
test_docker_installation()

if (test_docker_installation()) {
  test_docker_installation(detailed = TRUE)
}
```

---

`test_singularity_installation`*Tests whether singularity is correctly installed and available*

---

**Description**

Tests whether singularity is correctly installed and available

**Usage**

```
test_singularity_installation(detailed = FALSE)
```

**Arguments**

`detailed` Whether top do a detailed check

**Examples**

```
test_singularity_installation()

if (test_singularity_installation()) {
  test_singularity_installation(detailed = TRUE)
}
```

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