

# Package: robotstxt (via r-universe)

March 14, 2025

**Type** Package

**Title** A 'robots.txt' Parser and 'Webbot'/'Spider'/'Crawler'  
Permissions Checker

**Version** 0.7.15.9000

**Description** Provides functions to download and parse 'robots.txt'  
files. Ultimately the package makes it easy to check if bots  
(spiders, crawler, scrapers, ...) are allowed to access  
specific resources on a domain.

**License** MIT + file LICENSE

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

**URL** <https://docs.ropensci.org/robotstxt/>,  
<https://github.com/ropensci/robotstxt>

**Imports** stringr (>= 1.0.0), httr (>= 1.0.0), spiderbar (>= 0.2.0),  
future.apply (>= 1.0.0), magrittr, utils

**Suggests** knitr, rmarkdown, dplyr, testthat (>= 3.0.0), covr, curl

**Depends** R (>= 3.0.0)

**VignetteBuilder** knitr

**RoxygenNote** 7.3.2

**Encoding** UTF-8

**Config/testthat/edition** 3

**Config/pak/sysreqs** libicu-dev libssl-dev

**Repository** <https://ropensci.r-universe.dev>

**RemoteUrl** <https://github.com/ropensci/robotstxt>

**RemoteRef** main

**RemoteSha** d3d0a4d525e87204010d10162b01a921b05a6149

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---

as.list.robotstxt\_text

*Convert robotstxt\_text to list*

---

### Description

Convert robotstxt\_text to list

### Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'robotstxt_text'
as.list(x, ...)
```

### Arguments

x	class robotstxt_text object to be transformed into list
...	further arguments (inherited from base::as.list())

---

fix_url	<i>Add http protocol if missing from URL</i>
---------	--

---

**Description**

Add http protocol if missing from URL

**Usage**

```
fix_url(url)
```

**Arguments**

url                    a character string containing a single URL

---

get_robotstxt	<i>Download a robots.txt file</i>
---------------	-----------------------------------

---

**Description**

Download a robots.txt file

**Usage**

```
get_robotstxt(  
  domain,  
  warn = getOption("robotstxt_warn", TRUE),  
  force = FALSE,  
  user_agent = utils::sessionInfo()$R.version$version.string,  
  ssl_verifypeer = c(1, 0),  
  encoding = "UTF-8",  
  verbose = FALSE,  
  rt_request_handler = robotstxt::rt_request_handler,  
  rt_robotstxt_http_getter = robotstxt::get_robotstxt_http_get,  
  on_server_error = on_server_error_default,  
  on_client_error = on_client_error_default,  
  on_not_found = on_not_found_default,  
  on_redirect = on_redirect_default,  
  on_domain_change = on_domain_change_default,  
  on_file_type_mismatch = on_file_type_mismatch_default,  
  on_suspect_content = on_suspect_content_default  
)
```

**Arguments**

domain	domain from which to download robots.txt file
warn	warn about being unable to download domain/robots.txt because of
force	if TRUE instead of using possible cached results the function will re-download the robotstxt file HTTP response status 404. If this happens,
user_agent	HTTP user-agent string to be used to retrieve robots.txt file from domain
ssl_verifypeer	either 1 (default) or 0, if 0 it disables SSL peer verification, which might help with robots.txt file retrieval
encoding	Encoding of the robots.txt file.
verbose	make function print out more information
rt_request_handler	handler function that handles request according to the event handlers specified
rt_robotstxt_http_getter	function that executes HTTP request
on_server_error	request state handler for any 5xx status
on_client_error	request state handler for any 4xx HTTP status that is not 404
on_not_found	request state handler for HTTP status 404
on_redirect	request state handler for any 3xx HTTP status
on_domain_change	request state handler for any 3xx HTTP status where domain did change as well
on_file_type_mismatch	request state handler for content type other than 'text/plain'
on_suspect_content	request state handler for content that seems to be something else than a robots.txt file (usually a JSON, XML or HTML)

---

get_robotstxts	<i>Download multiple robotstxt files</i>
----------------	--

---

**Description**

Download multiple robotstxt files

**Usage**

```
get_robotstxts(
  domain,
  warn = TRUE,
  force = FALSE,
  user_agent = utils::sessionInfo()$R.version$version.string,
  ssl_verifypeer = c(1, 0),
```

```

    use_futures = FALSE,
    verbose = FALSE,
    rt_request_handler = robotstxt::rt_request_handler,
    rt_robotstxt_http_getter = robotstxt::get_robotstxt_http_get,
    on_server_error = on_server_error_default,
    on_client_error = on_client_error_default,
    on_not_found = on_not_found_default,
    on_redirect = on_redirect_default,
    on_domain_change = on_domain_change_default,
    on_file_type_mismatch = on_file_type_mismatch_default,
    on_suspect_content = on_suspect_content_default
)

```

### Arguments

domain	domain from which to download robots.txt file
warn	warn about being unable to download domain/robots.txt because of
force	if TRUE instead of using possible cached results the function will re-download the robotstxt file HTTP response status 404. If this happens,
user_agent	HTTP user-agent string to be used to retrieve robots.txt file from domain
ssl_verifypeer	either 1 (default) or 0, if 0 it disables SSL peer verification, which might help with robots.txt file retrieval
use_futures	Should future::future_lapply be used for possible parallel/async retrieval or not. Note: check out help pages and vignettes of package future on how to set up plans for future execution because the robotstxt package does not do it on its own.
verbose	make function print out more information
rt_request_handler	handler function that handles request according to the event handlers specified
rt_robotstxt_http_getter	function that executes HTTP request
on_server_error	request state handler for any 5xx status
on_client_error	request state handler for any 4xx HTTP status that is not 404
on_not_found	request state handler for HTTP status 404
on_redirect	request state handler for any 3xx HTTP status
on_domain_change	request state handler for any 3xx HTTP status where domain did change as well
on_file_type_mismatch	request state handler for content type other than 'text/plain'
on_suspect_content	request state handler for content that seems to be something else than a robots.txt file (usually a JSON, XML or HTML)

---

<code>guess_domain</code>	<i>Guess a domain from path</i>
---------------------------	---------------------------------

---

**Description**

Guess a domain from path

**Usage**

```
guess_domain(x)
```

**Arguments**

<code>x</code>	path aka URL from which to infer domain
----------------	---

---

<code>http_domain_changed</code>	<i>Check if HTTP domain changed</i>
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---

**Description**

Check if HTTP domain changed

**Usage**

```
http_domain_changed(response)
```

**Arguments**

<code>response</code>	an htrr response object, e.g. from a call to <code>htrr::GET()</code>
-----------------------	---

**Value**

logical of length 1 indicating whether or not any domain change happened during the HTTP request

---

http\_subdomain\_changed

*Check if HTTP subdomain changed*

---

**Description**

Check if HTTP subdomain changed

**Usage**

http\_subdomain\_changed(response)

**Arguments**

response            an htr response object, e.g. from a call to htr::GET()

**Value**

logical of length 1 indicating whether or not any subdomain change happened during the HTTP request

---

http\_was\_redirected

*Check if HTTP redirect occurred*

---

**Description**

Check if HTTP redirect occurred

**Usage**

http\_was\_redirected(response)

**Arguments**

response            an htr response object, e.g. from a call to htr::GET()

**Value**

logical of length 1 indicating whether or not any redirect happened during the HTTP request

---

is\_suspect\_robotstxt    *Check if file is valid / parsable robots.txt file*

---

**Description**

Function that checks if file is valid / parsable robots.txt file

**Usage**

```
is_suspect_robotstxt(text)
```

**Arguments**

text                    content of a robots.txt file provides as character vector

---

is\_valid\_robotstxt    *Validate if a file is valid / parsable robots.txt file*

---

**Description**

Validate if a file is valid / parsable robots.txt file

**Usage**

```
is_valid_robotstxt(text, check_strickt_ascii = FALSE)
```

**Arguments**

text                    content of a robots.txt file provided as character vector

check\_strickt\_ascii

whether or not to check if content does adhere to the specification of RFC to use plain text aka ASCII



---

list_merge	<i>Merge a number of named lists in sequential order</i>
------------	--

---

**Description**

Merge a number of named lists in sequential order

**Usage**

```
list_merge(...)
```

**Arguments**

...            named lists

**Details**

List merging is usually useful in the merging of program settings or configuration with multiple versions across time, or multiple administrative levels. For example, a program settings may have an initial version in which most keys are defined and specified. In later versions, partial modifications are recorded. In this case, list merging can be useful to merge all versions of settings in release order of these versions. The result is an fully updated settings with all later modifications applied.

**Author(s)**

Kun Ren <mail@renkun.me>

The function merges a number of lists in sequential order by `modifyList`, that is, the later list always modifies the former list and form a merged list, and the resulted list is again being merged with the next list. The process is repeated until all lists in ... or `list` are exhausted.

---

null_to_default	<i>Return default value if NULL</i>
-----------------	-------------------------------------

---

**Description**

Return default value if NULL

**Usage**

```
null_to_default(x, d)
```

**Arguments**

x            value to check and return  
d            value to return in case x is NULL

---

parse_robotstxt	<i>Parse a robots.txt file</i>
-----------------	--------------------------------

---

**Description**

Parse a robots.txt file

**Usage**

```
parse_robotstxt(txt)
```

**Arguments**

txt	content of the robots.txt file
-----	--------------------------------

**Value**

a named list with useragents, comments, permissions, sitemap

---

paths_allowed	<i>Check if a bot has permissions to access page(s)</i>
---------------	---

---

**Description**

Check if a bot has permissions to access page(s)

**Usage**

```
paths_allowed(
  paths = "/",
  domain = "auto",
  bot = "*",
  user_agent = utils::sessionInfo()$R.version$version.string,
  check_method = c("spiderbar"),
  warn = getOption("robotstxt_warn", TRUE),
  force = FALSE,
  ssl_verifypeer = c(1, 0),
  use_futures = TRUE,
  robotstxt_list = NULL,
  verbose = FALSE,
  rt_request_handler = robotstxt::rt_request_handler,
  rt_robotstxt_http_getter = robotstxt::get_robotstxt_http_get,
  on_server_error = on_server_error_default,
  on_client_error = on_client_error_default,
  on_not_found = on_not_found_default,
  on_redirect = on_redirect_default,
```

```

    on_domain_change = on_domain_change_default,
    on_file_type_mismatch = on_file_type_mismatch_default,
    on_suspect_content = on_suspect_content_default
)

```

## Arguments

paths	paths for which to check bot's permission, defaults to "/". Please note that path to a folder should end with a trailing slash ("/").
domain	Domain for which paths should be checked. Defaults to "auto". If set to "auto" function will try to guess the domain by parsing the paths argument. Note however, that these are educated guesses which might utterly fail. To be on the safe side, provide appropriate domains manually.
bot	name of the bot, defaults to "*"
user_agent	HTTP user-agent string to be used to retrieve robots.txt file from domain
check_method	at the moment only kept for backward compatibility reasons - do not use parameter anymore -> will let the function simply use the default
warn	suppress warnings
force	if TRUE instead of using possible cached results the function will re-download the robotstxt file HTTP response status 404. If this happens,
ssl_verifypeer	either 1 (default) or 0, if 0 it disables SSL peer verification, which might help with robots.txt file retrieval
use_futures	Should future::future_lapply be used for possible parallel/async retrieval or not. Note: check out help pages and vignettes of package future on how to set up plans for future execution because the robotstxt package does not do it on its own.
robotstxt_list	either NULL – the default – or a list of character vectors with one vector per path to check
verbose	make function print out more information
rt_request_handler	handler function that handles request according to the event handlers specified
rt_robotstxt_http_getter	function that executes HTTP request
on_server_error	request state handler for any 5xx status
on_client_error	request state handler for any 4xx HTTP status that is not 404
on_not_found	request state handler for HTTP status 404
on_redirect	request state handler for any 3xx HTTP status
on_domain_change	request state handler for any 3xx HTTP status where domain did change as well
on_file_type_mismatch	request state handler for content type other than 'text/plain'
on_suspect_content	request state handler for content that seems to be something else than a robots.txt file (usually a JSON, XML or HTML)

---

```
paths_allowed_worker_spiderbar
```

*Check if a spiderbar bot has permissions to access page(s)*

---

### Description

Check if a spiderbar bot has permissions to access page(s)

### Usage

```
paths_allowed_worker_spiderbar(domain, bot, paths, robotstxt_list)
```

### Arguments

domain	Domain for which paths should be checked. Defaults to "auto". If set to "auto" function will try to guess the domain by parsing the paths argument. Note however, that these are educated guesses which might utterly fail. To be on the safe side, provide appropriate domains manually.
bot	name of the bot, defaults to "*"
paths	paths for which to check bot's permission, defaults to "/". Please note that path to a folder should end with a trailing slash ("/").
robotstxt_list	either NULL – the default – or a list of character vectors with one vector per path to check

---

```
print.robotstxt
```

*Print robotstxt*

---

### Description

Print robotstxt

### Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'robotstxt'
print(x, ...)
```

### Arguments

x	robotstxt instance to be printed
...	goes down the sink

---

`print.robotstxt_text`    *Print robotstxt's text*

---

### **Description**

Print robotstxt's text

### **Usage**

```
## S3 method for class 'robotstxt_text'  
print(x, ...)
```

### **Arguments**

`x`                    character vector aka robotstxt\$text to be printed  
`...`                goes down the sink

---

`remove_domain`        *Remove domain from path*

---

### **Description**

Remove domain from path

### **Usage**

```
remove_domain(x)
```

### **Arguments**

`x`                    path aka URL from which to first infer domain and then remove it

---

 request\_handler\_handler

*Handle robotstxt handlers*


---

### Description

Helper function to handle robotstxt handlers.

### Usage

```
request_handler_handler(request, handler, res, info = TRUE, warn = TRUE)
```

### Arguments

request	the request object returned by call to htrr::GET()
handler	the handler either a character string entailing various options or a function producing a specific list, see return.
res	a list with elements '[handler names], ...', 'rtxt', and 'cache'
info	info to add to problems list
warn	if FALSE warnings and messages are suppressed

### Value

a list with elements '[handler name]', 'rtxt', and 'cache'

---

 robotstxt

*Generate a representation of a robots.txt file*


---

### Description

The function generates a list that entails data resulting from parsing a robots.txt file as well as a function called check that enables to ask the representation if bot (or particular bots) are allowed to access a resource on the domain.

### Usage

```
robotstxt(
  domain = NULL,
  text = NULL,
  user_agent = NULL,
  warn = getOption("robotstxt_warn", TRUE),
  force = FALSE,
  ssl_verifypeer = c(1, 0),
  encoding = "UTF-8",
```

```

    verbose = FALSE,
    on_server_error = on_server_error_default,
    on_client_error = on_client_error_default,
    on_not_found = on_not_found_default,
    on_redirect = on_redirect_default,
    on_domain_change = on_domain_change_default,
    on_file_type_mismatch = on_file_type_mismatch_default,
    on_suspect_content = on_suspect_content_default
)

```

### Arguments

domain	Domain for which to generate a representation. If text equals to NULL, the function will download the file from server - the default.
text	If automatic download of the robots.txt is not preferred, the text can be supplied directly.
user_agent	HTTP user-agent string to be used to retrieve robots.txt file from domain
warn	warn about being unable to download domain/robots.txt because of
force	if TRUE instead of using possible cached results the function will re-download the robotstxt file HTTP response status 404. If this happens,
ssl_verifypeer	either 1 (default) or 0, if 0 it disables SSL peer verification, which might help with robots.txt file retrieval
encoding	Encoding of the robots.txt file.
verbose	make function print out more information
on_server_error	request state handler for any 5xx status
on_client_error	request state handler for any 4xx HTTP status that is not 404
on_not_found	request state handler for HTTP status 404
on_redirect	request state handler for any 3xx HTTP status
on_domain_change	request state handler for any 3xx HTTP status where domain did change as well
on_file_type_mismatch	request state handler for content type other than 'text/plain'
on_suspect_content	request state handler for content that seems to be something else than a robots.txt file (usually a JSON, XML or HTML)

### Value

Object (list) of class robotstxt with parsed data from a robots.txt (domain, text, bots, permissions, host, sitemap, other) and one function to (check()) to check resource permissions.

**Fields**

domain character vector holding domain name for which the robots.txt file is valid; will be set to NA if not supplied on initialization

character vector of text of robots.txt file; either supplied on initialization or automatically downloaded from domain supplied on initialization

bots character vector of bot names mentioned in robots.txt

permissions data.frame of bot permissions found in robots.txt file

host data.frame of host fields found in robots.txt file

sitemap data.frame of sitemap fields found in robots.txt file

other data.frame of other - none of the above - fields found in robots.txt file

check() Method to check for bot permissions. Defaults to the domains root and no bot in particular. check() has two arguments: paths and bot. The first is for supplying the paths for which to check permissions and the latter to put in the name of the bot. Please, note that path to a folder should end with a trailing slash ("/").

**Examples**

```
## Not run:
rt <- robotstxt(domain="google.com")
rt$bots
rt$permissions
rt$check( paths = c("/", "forbidden"), bot="*")

## End(Not run)
```

---

rt\_cache

*Get the robotstxt cache*


---

**Description**

Get the robotstxt cache

**Usage**

```
rt_cache
```

**Format**

An object of class environment of length 0.



---

rt_last_http	<i>Storage for HTTP request response objects</i>
--------------	--

---

**Description**

Storage for HTTP request response objects

Execute HTTP request for get\_robotstxt()

**Usage**

```
rt_last_http

get_robotstxt_http_get(
    domain,
    user_agent = utils::sessionInfo()$R.version$version.string,
    ssl_verifypeer = 1
)
```

**Arguments**

domain	the domain to get robots.txt file for.
user_agent	the user agent to use for HTTP request header. Defaults to current version of R. If 'NULL' is passed, httr will use software versions for the header, such as 'libcurl/8.7.1 r-curl/5.2.3 httr/1.4.7'
ssl_verifypeer	either 1 (default) or 0, if 0 it disables SSL peer verification, which might help with robots.txt file retrieval

**Format**

An object of class environment of length 1.

---

rt_request_handler	<i>Handle robotstxt object retrieved from HTTP request</i>
--------------------	--

---

**Description**

A helper function for get\_robotstxt() that will extract the robots.txt file from the HTTP request result object. It will inform get\_robotstxt() if the request should be cached and which problems occurred.

**Usage**

```
rt_request_handler(
    request,
    on_server_error = on_server_error_default,
    on_client_error = on_client_error_default,
    on_not_found = on_not_found_default,
    on_redirect = on_redirect_default,
    on_domain_change = on_domain_change_default,
    on_sub_domain_change = on_sub_domain_change_default,
    on_file_type_mismatch = on_file_type_mismatch_default,
    on_suspect_content = on_suspect_content_default,
    warn = TRUE,
    encoding = "UTF-8"
)
```

on\_server\_error\_default

on\_client\_error\_default

on\_not\_found\_default

on\_redirect\_default

on\_domain\_change\_default

on\_sub\_domain\_change\_default

on\_file\_type\_mismatch\_default

on\_suspect\_content\_default

**Arguments**

request	result of an HTTP request (e.g. http::GET())
on_server_error	request state handler for any 5xx status
on_client_error	request state handler for any 4xx HTTP status that is not 404
on_not_found	request state handler for HTTP status 404
on_redirect	request state handler for any 3xx HTTP status
on_domain_change	request state handler for any 3xx HTTP status where domain did change as well
on_sub_domain_change	request state handler for any 3xx HTTP status where domain did change but only to www-sub_domain
on_file_type_mismatch	request state handler for content type other than 'text/plain'

on_suspect_content	request state handler for content that seems to be something else than a robots.txt file (usually a JSON, XML or HTML)
warn	suppress warnings
encoding	The text encoding to assume if no encoding is provided in the headers of the response

**Format**

- An object of class list of length 4.
- An object of class list of length 4.
- An object of class list of length 4.
- An object of class list of length 2.
- An object of class list of length 3.
- An object of class list of length 2.
- An object of class list of length 4.
- An object of class list of length 4.

**Value**

a list with three items following the following schema:  
`list( rtxt = "", problems = list( "redirect" = list( status_code = 301 ), "domain" = list(from_url = "...", to_url = "...") ) )`

---

%>%	<i>re-export magrittr pipe operator</i>
-----	---

---

**Description**

re-export magrittr pipe operator

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