

# Package ‘jobqueue’

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**Type** Package

**Title** Run Interruptible Code Asynchronously

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**Description** Takes an R expression and returns a Job object with a \$stop() method which can be called to terminate the background job. Also provides timeouts and other mechanisms for automatically terminating a background job. The result of the expression is available synchronously via \$result or asynchronously with callbacks or through the 'promises' package framework.

**URL** <https://cmmr.github.io/jobqueue/>, <https://github.com/cmmr/jobqueue>

**BugReports** <https://github.com/cmmr/jobqueue/issues>

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Job	<i>How to Evaluate an R Expression</i>
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### Description

The Job object encapsulates an expression and its evaluation parameters. It also provides a way to check for and retrieve the result.

### Active bindings

`expr` R expression that will be run by this Job.

`vars` Get or set - List of variables that will be placed into the expression's environment before evaluation.

`reformat` Get or set - function (`job`) for defining `<Job>$result`.

`signal` Get or set - Conditions to signal.

`cpus` Get or set - Number of CPUs to reserve for evaluating `expr`.

`timeout` Get or set - Time limits to apply to this Job.

`proxy` Get or set - Job to proxy in place of running `expr`.

`state` Get or set - The Job's state: 'created', 'submitted', 'queued', 'dispatched', 'starting', 'running', or 'done'. *Assigning to `<Job>$state` will trigger callback hooks.*

`output` Get or set - Job's raw output. *Assigning to `<Job>$output` will change the Job's state to 'done'.*

`result` Result of `expr`. Will block until Job is finished.

`hooks` Currently registered callback hooks as a named list of functions. Set new hooks with `<Job>$on()`.

`is_done` TRUE or FALSE depending on if the Job's result is ready.

`uid` A short string, e.g. 'J16', that uniquely identifies this Job.

### Methods

#### Public methods:

- `Job$new()`
- `Job$print()`
- `Job$on()`
- `Job$wait()`
- `Job$stop()`

**Method** `new()`: Creates a Job object defining how to run an expression on a background worker process.

*Typically you won't need to call `Job$new()`. Instead, create a [Queue](#) and use `<Queue>$run()` to generate Job objects.*

*Usage:*

```
Job$new(
  expr,
  vars = NULL,
  timeout = NULL,
  hooks = NULL,
  reformat = NULL,
  signal = FALSE,
  cpus = 1L,
  ...
)
```

*Arguments:*

`expr` A call or R expression wrapped in curly braces to evaluate on a worker. Will have access to any variables defined by `vars`, as well as the Worker's globals, packages, and init configuration. See `vignette('eval')`.

`vars` A named list of variables to make available to `expr` during evaluation. Alternatively, an object that can be coerced to a named list with `as.list()`, e.g. named vector, data.frame, or environment. Or a function (`job`) that returns such an object.

`timeout` A named numeric vector indicating the maximum number of seconds allowed for each state the job passes through, or 'total' to apply a single timeout from 'submitted' to 'done'. Or a function (`job`) that returns the same. Example: `timeout = c(total = 2.5, running = 1)`. See `vignette('stops')`.

`hooks` A named list of functions to run when the Job state changes, of the form `hooks = list(created = function (worker) {...})`. Or a function (`job`) that returns the same. Names of worker hooks are typically 'created', 'submitted', 'queued', 'dispatched', 'starting', 'running', 'done', or '\*' (duplicates okay). See `vignette('hooks')`.

`reformat` Set `reformat = function (job)` to define what `<Job>$result` should return. The default, `reformat = NULL` passes `<Job>$output` to `<Job>$result` unchanged. See `vignette('results')`.

`signal` Should calling `<Job>$result` signal on condition objects? When FALSE, `<Job>$result` will return the object without taking additional action. Setting to TRUE or a character vector of condition classes, e.g. `c('interrupt', 'error', 'warning')`, will cause the equivalent of `stop(<condition>)` to be called when those conditions are produced. Alternatively, a function (`job`) that returns TRUE or FALSE. See `vignette('results')`.

`cpus` How many CPU cores to reserve for this Job. Or a function (`job`) that returns the same. Used to limit the number of Jobs running simultaneously to respect `<Queue>$max_cpus`. Does not prevent a Job from using more CPUs than reserved.

... Arbitrary named values to add to the returned Job object.

*Returns:* A Job object.

**Method** `print()`: Print method for a Job.

*Usage:*

`Job#print(...)`

*Arguments:*

... Arguments are not used currently.

*Returns:* This Job, invisibly.

**Method** `on()`: Attach a callback function to execute when the Job enters state.

*Usage:*

`Job$on(state, func)`

*Arguments:*

`state` The name of a Job state. Typically one of:

- '\*' - Every time the state changes.
- '.next' - Only one time, the next time the state changes.
- 'created' - After `Job$new()` initialization.
- 'submitted' - After `<Job>$queue` is assigned.
- 'queued' - After `stop_id` and `copy_id` are resolved.
- 'dispatched' - After `<Job>$worker` is assigned.
- 'starting' - Before evaluation begins.
- 'running' - After evaluation begins.
- 'done' - After `<Job>$output` is assigned.

Custom states can also be specified.

`func` A function that accepts a Job object as input. You can call `<Job>$stop()` or edit `<Job>$values` and the changes will be persisted (since Jobs are reference class objects). You can also edit/stop other queued jobs by modifying the Jobs in `<Job>$queue$jobs`. Return value is ignored.

*Returns:* A function that when called removes this callback from the Job.

**Method** `wait()`: Blocks until the Job enters the given state.

*Usage:*

`Job$wait(state = "done", timeout = NULL)`

*Arguments:*

`state` The name of a Job state. Typically one of:

- '\*' - Every time the state changes.
- '.next' - Only one time, the next time the state changes.
- 'created' - After `Job$new()` initialization.
- 'submitted' - After `<Job>$queue` is assigned.
- 'queued' - After `stop_id` and `copy_id` are resolved.
- 'dispatched' - After `<Job>$worker` is assigned.
- 'starting' - Before evaluation begins.
- 'running' - After evaluation begins.
- 'done' - After `<Job>$output` is assigned.

Custom states can also be specified.

`timeout` Stop the Job if it takes longer than this number of seconds, or NULL.

*Returns:* This Job, invisibly.

**Method** stop(): Stop this Job. If the Job is running, its Worker will be restarted.

*Usage:*

```
Job$stop(reason = "job stopped by user", cls = NULL)
```

*Arguments:*

reason A message to include in the 'interrupt' condition object that will be returned as the Job's result.

cls Character vector of additional classes to prepend to c('interrupt', 'condition').

*Returns:* This Job, invisibly.

Queue

*Assigns Jobs to a Set of Workers*

## Description

Jobs go in. Results come out.

## Active bindings

hooks A named list of currently registered callback hooks.

jobs Get or set - List of [Jobs](#) currently managed by this Queue.

state The Queue's state: 'starting', 'idle', 'busy', 'stopped', or 'error.'

uid Get or set - Unique identifier, e.g. 'Q1'.

tmp The Queue's temporary directory.

workers Get or set - List of [Workers](#) used for processing Jobs.

## Methods

### Public methods:

- [Queue\\$new\(\)](#)
- [Queue\\$print\(\)](#)
- [Queue\\$run\(\)](#)
- [Queue\\$submit\(\)](#)
- [Queue\\$wait\(\)](#)
- [Queue\\$on\(\)](#)
- [Queue\\$stop\(\)](#)

**Method** new(): Creates a pool of background processes for handling \$run() and \$submit() calls. These workers are initialized according to the globals, packages, and init arguments.

*Usage:*

```

Queue$new(
  globals = NULL,
  packages = NULL,
  init = NULL,
  max_cpus = availableCores(),
  workers = ceiling(max_cpus * 1.2),
  timeout = NULL,
  hooks = NULL,
  reformat = NULL,
  signal = FALSE,
  cpus = 1L,
  stop_id = NULL,
  copy_id = NULL,
  wait = TRUE
)

```

*Arguments:*

**globals** A named list of variables that all `<Job>$exprs` will have access to. Alternatively, an object that can be coerced to a named list with `as.list()`, e.g. named vector, data.frame, or environment.

**packages** Character vector of package names to load on workers.

**init** A call or R expression wrapped in curly braces to evaluate on each worker just once, immediately after start-up. Will have access to variables defined by `globals` and assets from packages. Returned value is ignored.

**max\_cpus** Total number of CPU cores that can be reserved by all running Jobs (`sum(<Job>$cpus)`). Does not enforce limits on actual CPU utilization.

**workers** How many background [Worker](#) processes to start. Set to more than `max_cpus` to enable standby Workers to quickly swap out with Workers that need to restart.

**timeout, hooks, reformat, signal, cpus, stop\_id, copy\_id** Defaults for this Queue's `$run()` method. Here only, `stop_id` and `copy_id` must be either a function (`job`) or `NULL`. `hooks` can set queue, worker, and/or job hooks - see the "Attaching" section in vignette('hooks').

**wait** If `TRUE`, blocks until the Queue is 'idle'. If `FALSE`, the Queue object is returned in the 'starting' state. If a number, blocks at most that number of seconds before returning either an 'idle' or 'stopped' Queue.

*Returns:* A Queue object.

**Method** `print()`: Print method for a Queue.

*Usage:*

```
Queue$print(...)
```

*Arguments:*

... Arguments are not used currently.

**Method** `run()`: Creates a Job object and submits it to the queue for running. Any NA arguments will be replaced with their value from `Queue$new()`.

*Usage:*

```
Queue$run(
  expr,
  vars = list(),
  timeout = NA,
  hooks = NA,
  reformat = NA,
  signal = NA,
  cpus = NA,
  stop_id = NA,
  copy_id = NA,
  ...
)
```

*Arguments:*

- `expr` A call or R expression wrapped in curly braces to evaluate on a worker. Will have access to any variables defined by `vars`, as well as the Worker's globals, packages, and init configuration. See `vignette('eval')`.
- `vars` A named list of variables to make available to `expr` during evaluation. Alternatively, an object that can be coerced to a named list with `as.list()`, e.g. named vector, `data.frame`, or environment. Or a function `(job)` that returns such an object.
- `timeout` A named numeric vector indicating the maximum number of seconds allowed for each state the job passes through, or 'total' to apply a single timeout from 'submitted' to 'done'. Or a function `(job)` that returns the same. Example: `timeout = c(total = 2.5, running = 1)`. See `vignette('stops')`.
- `hooks` A named list of functions to run when the Job state changes, of the form `hooks = list(created = function (worker) {...})`. Or a function `(job)` that returns the same. Names of worker hooks are typically 'created', 'submitted', 'queued', 'dispatched', 'starting', 'running', 'done', or '\*' (duplicates okay). See `vignette('hooks')`.
- `reformat` Set `reformat = function (job)` to define what `<Job>$result` should return. The default, `reformat = NULL` passes `<Job>$output` to `<Job>$result` unchanged. See `vignette('results')`.
- `signal` Should calling `<Job>$result` signal on condition objects? When FALSE, `<Job>$result` will return the object without taking additional action. Setting to TRUE or a character vector of condition classes, e.g. `c('interrupt', 'error', 'warning')`, will cause the equivalent of `stop(<condition>)` to be called when those conditions are produced. Alternatively, a function `(job)` that returns TRUE or FALSE. See `vignette('results')`.
- `cpus` How many CPU cores to reserve for this Job. Or a function `(job)` that returns the same. Used to limit the number of Jobs running simultaneously to respect `<Queue>$max_cpus`. Does not prevent a Job from using more CPUs than reserved.
- `stop_id` If an existing Job in the Queue has the same `stop_id`, that Job will be stopped and return an 'interrupt' condition object as its result. `stop_id` can also be a function `(job)` that returns the `stop_id` to assign to a given Job. A `stop_id` of NULL disables this feature. See `vignette('stops')`.
- `copy_id` If an existing Job in the Queue has the same `copy_id`, the newly submitted Job will become a "proxy" for that earlier Job, returning whatever result the earlier Job returns. `copy_id` can also be a function `(job)` that returns the `copy_id` to assign to a given Job. A `copy_id` of NULL disables this feature. See `vignette('stops')`.
- ... Arbitrary named values to add to the returned Job object.

*Returns:* The new [Job](#) object.

**Method** `submit()`: Adds a [Job](#) to the Queue for running on a background process.

*Usage:*

```
Queue$submit(job)
```

*Arguments:*

job A [Job](#) object, as created by `Job$new()`.

*Returns:* This Queue, invisibly.

**Method** `wait()`: Blocks until the Queue enters the given state.

*Usage:*

```
Queue$wait(state = "idle", timeout = NULL)
```

*Arguments:*

state The name of a Queue state. Typically one of:

- '\*' - Every time the state changes.
- '.next' - Only one time, the next time the state changes.
- 'starting' - Workers are starting.
- 'idle' - All workers are ready/idle.
- 'busy' - At least one worker is busy.
- 'stopped' - Shutdown is complete.
- 'error' - Workers did not start cleanly.

timeout Stop the Queue if it takes longer than this number of seconds, or NULL.

*Returns:* This Queue, invisibly.

**Method** `on()`: Attach a callback function to execute when the Queue enters state.

*Usage:*

```
Queue$on(state, func)
```

*Arguments:*

state The name of a Queue state. Typically one of:

- '\*' - Every time the state changes.
- '.next' - Only one time, the next time the state changes.
- 'starting' - Workers are starting.
- 'idle' - All workers are ready/idle.
- 'busy' - At least one worker is busy.
- 'stopped' - Shutdown is complete.
- 'error' - Workers did not start cleanly.

func A function that accepts a Queue object as input. Return value is ignored.

*Returns:* A function that when called removes this callback from the Queue.

**Method** `stop()`: Stop all jobs and workers.

*Usage:*

```
Queue$stop(reason = "job queue shut down by user", cls = NULL)
```



*Arguments:*

`reason` Passed to `<Job>$stop()` for any Jobs currently managed by this Queue.

`cls` Passed to `<Job>$stop()` for any Jobs currently managed by this Queue.

*Returns:* This Queue, invisibly.

Worker

*A Background Process***Description**

Where `Job` expressions are evaluated.

**Active bindings**

`hooks` A named list of currently registered callback hooks.

`job` The currently running Job.

`ps` The `ps::ps_handle()` object for the background process.

`reason` Why the Worker was stopped.

`state` The Worker's state: 'starting', 'idle', 'busy', or 'stopped'.

`uid` A short string, e.g. 'W11', that uniquely identifies this Worker.

`tmp` The Worker's temporary directory.

**Methods****Public methods:**

- `Worker$new()`
- `Worker$print()`
- `Worker$start()`
- `Worker$stop()`
- `Worker$restart()`
- `Worker$on()`
- `Worker$wait()`
- `Worker$run()`

**Method** `new()`: Creates a background R process for running `Jobs`.

*Usage:*

```
Worker$new(
  globals = NULL,
  packages = NULL,
  init = NULL,
  hooks = NULL,
  wait = TRUE
)
```

*Arguments:*

**globals** A named list of variables that all `<Job>$exprs` will have access to. Alternatively, an object that can be coerced to a named list with `as.list()`, e.g. named vector, `data.frame`, or environment.

**packages** Character vector of package names to load on workers.

**init** A call or R expression wrapped in curly braces to evaluate on each worker just once, immediately after start-up. Will have access to variables defined by `globals` and `assets` from `packages`. Returned value is ignored.

**hooks** A named list of functions to run when the Worker state changes, of the form `hooks = list(idle = function (worker) { ... })`. Names of worker hooks are typically `starting`, `idle`, `busy`, `stopped`, or `'*'` (duplicates okay). See `vignette('hooks')`.

**wait** If `TRUE`, blocks until the Worker is `'idle'`. If `FALSE`, the Worker object is returned in the `'starting'` state. If a number, blocks at most that number of seconds before returning either an `'idle'` or `'stopped'` Worker.

*Returns:* A Worker object.

**Method** `print()`: Print method for a Worker.

*Usage:*

```
Worker$print(...)
```

*Arguments:*

`...` Arguments are not used currently.

*Returns:* The Worker, invisibly.

**Method** `start()`: Restarts a stopped Worker.

*Usage:*

```
Worker$start()
```

*Returns:* The Worker, invisibly.

**Method** `stop()`: Stops a Worker by terminating the background process and calling `<Job>$stop(reason)` on any Jobs currently assigned to this Worker.

*Usage:*

```
Worker$stop(reason = "worker stopped by user", cls = NULL)
```

*Arguments:*

**reason** Passed to `<Job>$stop()` for any Jobs currently managed by this Worker.

**cls** Passed to `<Job>$stop()` for any Jobs currently managed by this Worker.

*Returns:* The Worker, invisibly.

**Method** `restart()`: Restarts a Worker by calling `<Worker>$stop(reason)` and `<Worker>$start()` in succession.

*Usage:*

```
Worker$restart(reason = "restarting worker")
```

*Arguments:*

**reason** Passed to `<Job>$stop()` for any Jobs currently managed by this Worker.

*Returns:* The Worker, invisibly.

**Method** `on()`: Attach a callback function to execute when the Worker enters state.

*Usage:*

```
Worker$on(state, func)
```

*Arguments:*

`state` The name of a Worker state. Typically one of:

- '\*' - Every time the state changes.
- '.next' - Only one time, the next time the state changes.
- 'starting' - Waiting for the background process to load.
- 'idle' - Waiting for Jobs to be `$run()`.
- 'busy' - While a Job is running.
- 'stopped' - After `<Worker>$stop()` is called.

`func` A function that accepts a Worker object as input. You can call `<Worker>$stop()` and other `<Worker>$` methods.

*Returns:* A function that when called removes this callback from the Worker.

**Method** `wait()`: Blocks until the Worker enters the given state.

*Usage:*

```
Worker$wait(state = "idle", timeout = NULL)
```

*Arguments:*

`state` The name of a Worker state. Typically one of:

- '\*' - Every time the state changes.
- '.next' - Only one time, the next time the state changes.
- 'starting' - Waiting for the background process to load.
- 'idle' - Waiting for Jobs to be `$run()`.
- 'busy' - While a Job is running.
- 'stopped' - After `<Worker>$stop()` is called.

`timeout` Stop the Worker if it takes longer than this number of seconds, or NULL.

*Returns:* This Worker, invisibly.

**Method** `run()`: Assigns a Job to this Worker for evaluation on the background process. *Worker must be in the 'idle' state.*

*Usage:*

```
Worker$run(job)
```

*Arguments:*

`job` A **Job** object, as created by `Job$new()`.

*Returns:* This Worker, invisibly.

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