

# Package: setwidth (via r-universe)

June 6, 2026

**Version** 1.1.0

**Title** Automatically Set the Width Option on Terminal Emulators

**OS\_type** unix

**Description** Automatically sets the value of options("`width") when the terminal emulator is resized. The functions of this package only work if R is compiled for Unix systems and it is running interactively in a terminal emulator.

**License** GPL (>= 2)

**NeedsCompilation** yes

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

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| setwidth-package | <i>Automatically set the value of options("width") when the terminal emulator is resized</i> |
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## Description

This package automatically sets `options("width")` when using R in terminal windows on OSX primarily (but on Unix-like OSes too) and resizing the terminal (e.g., iTerm2 on OSX). It may be useful if `options(setWidthOnResize=TRUE)` does not work properly for any reason.

This package should not be used with graphical interfaces such as RStudio, RKward, JGR, Rcmdr, or any other interface that handles R output on its own, or when using R via remote sessions (like via a ssh connection, for example). The functions only work if R runs interactively in a terminal emulator. The terminal emulator may be called by a text editor like Vim, Gedit, Kate, or Geany.

## Details

The package will print information on the R Console if its `'setwidth.verbose'` option was set to a numeric value bigger than zero:

```
options(setwidth.verbose = 1) # Print startup message
options(setwidth.verbose = 2) # Print error message when unable to set width
options(setwidth.verbose = 3) # Print width value
```

The package does not have any user visible R function. When it is loaded, the SIGWINCH signal starts to be handled by a C function that updates the value of `options("width")`. The handle will not be activated if `interactive() == FALSE` or the value of the environment variable `'TERM'` is either empty or `"dumb"`.

To manually test whether the package is working properly on your system you may repeatedly resize the terminal emulator and print a long vector, like `1:300`.

To disable the automatic setting of `options("width")` do:

```
detach("package:setwidth", unload = TRUE)
```

## Author(s)

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## See Also

The package **colorout** colorizes R output when running in a unix/osx terminal emulators.

## Examples

```
options(setwidth.verbose = 1)
print(getOption("width"))
```

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