

# Package ‘httpuv’

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**Type** Package

**Title** HTTP and WebSocket Server Library

**Version** 1.5.1

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**Description** Provides low-level socket and protocol support for handling  
HTTP and WebSocket requests directly from within R. It is primarily  
intended as a building block for other packages, rather than making it  
particularly easy to create complete web applications using httpuv alone.  
httpuv is built on top of the libuv and http-parser C libraries, both of  
which were developed by Joyent, Inc. (See LICENSE file for libuv and  
http-parser license information.)

**License** GPL (>= 2) | file LICENSE

**Depends** R (>= 2.15.1)

**Imports** Rcpp (>= 0.11.0), utils, R6, promises, later (>= 0.8.0)

**LinkingTo** Rcpp, BH, later

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**SystemRequirements** GNU make

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|                |                                  |
|----------------|----------------------------------|
| httpuv-package | <i>HTTP and WebSocket server</i> |
|----------------|----------------------------------|

---

**Description**

HTTP and WebSocket server

**Details**

Allows R code to listen for and interact with HTTP and WebSocket clients, so you can serve web traffic directly out of your R process. Implementation is based on [libuv](#) and [http-parser](#).

This is a low-level library that provides little more than network I/O and implementations of the HTTP and WebSocket protocols. For an easy way to create web applications, try [Shiny](#) instead.

**Author(s)**

Joe Cheng <joe@rstudio.com>

**See Also**

[startServer](#)

**Examples**

```
## Not run:
demo("echo", package="httpuv")

## End(Not run)
```

---

|           |                              |
|-----------|------------------------------|
| encodeURI | <i>URI encoding/decoding</i> |
|-----------|------------------------------|

---

### Description

Encodes/decodes strings using URI encoding/decoding in the same way that web browsers do. The precise behaviors of these functions can be found at [developer.mozilla.org](http://developer.mozilla.org): [encodeURI](#), [encodeURIComponent](#), [decodeURI](#), [decodeURIComponent](#)

### Usage

`encodeURI(value)`

`encodeURIComponent(value)`

`decodeURI(value)`

`decodeURIComponent(value)`

### Arguments

`value`            Character vector to be encoded or decoded.

### Details

Intended as a faster replacement for [URLencode](#) and [URLdecode](#).

`encodeURI` differs from `encodeURIComponent` in that the former will not encode reserved characters: `;/?:@&=+$`

`decodeURI` differs from `decodeURIComponent` in that it will refuse to decode encoded sequences that decode to a reserved character. (If in doubt, use `decodeURIComponent`.)

For `encodeURI` and `encodeURIComponent`, input strings will be converted to UTF-8 before URL-encoding.

### Value

Encoded or decoded character vector of the same length as the input value. `decodeURI` and `decodeURIComponent` will return strings that are UTF-8 encoded.

---

|           |                                 |
|-----------|---------------------------------|
| interrupt | <i>Interrupt httpuv runloop</i> |
|-----------|---------------------------------|

---

### Description

Interrupts the currently running httpuv runloop, meaning `runServer` or `service` will return control back to the caller and no further tasks will be processed until those methods are called again. Note that this may cause in-process uploads or downloads to be interrupted in mid-request.

### Usage

```
interrupt()
```

---

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| ipFamily | <i>Check whether an address is IPv4 or IPv6</i> |
|----------|---|

---

### Description

Given an IP address, this checks whether it is an IPv4 or IPv6 address.

### Usage

```
ipFamily(ip)
```

### Arguments

|    |   |
|----|---|
| ip | A single string representing an IP address. |
|----|---|

### Value

For IPv4 addresses, 4; for IPv6 addresses, 6. If the address is neither, -1.

### Examples

```
ipFamily("127.0.0.1") # 4
ipFamily("500.0.0.500") # -1
ipFamily("500.0.0.500") # -1

ipFamily("::") # 6
ipFamily("::1") # 6
ipFamily("fe80::1ff:fe23:4567:890a") # 6
```

---

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| listServers | <i>List all running httpuv servers</i> |
|-------------|--|

---

**Description**

This returns a list of all running httpuv server applications.

**Usage**

```
listServers()
```

---

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| rawToBase64 | <i>Convert raw vector to Base64-encoded string</i> |
|-------------|--|

---

**Description**

Converts a raw vector to its Base64 encoding as a single-element character vector.

**Usage**

```
rawToBase64(x)
```

**Arguments**

x                    A raw vector.

**Examples**

```
set.seed(100)
result <- rawToBase64(as.raw(runif(19, min=0, max=256)))
stopifnot(identical(result, "TkGNDnd7z16LK5/hR2bDqzRbXA=="))
```

runServer

*Run a server*

---

**Description**

This is a convenience function that provides a simple way to call [startServer](#), [service](#), and [stopServer](#) in the correct sequence. It does not return unless interrupted or an error occurs.

**Usage**

```
runServer(host, port, app, interruptIntervalMs = NULL)
```

**Arguments**

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| host                | A string that is a valid IPv4 address that is owned by this server, or "0.0.0.0" to listen on all IP addresses.  |
| port                | A number or integer that indicates the server port that should be listened on. Note that on most Unix-like systems including Linux and Mac OS X, port numbers smaller than 1025 require root privileges. |
| app                 | A collection of functions that define your application. See <a href="#">startServer</a> .  |
| interruptIntervalMs | Deprecated (last used in httpuv 1.3.5).  |

**Details**

If you have multiple hosts and/or ports to listen on, call the individual functions instead of `runServer`.

**See Also**

[startServer](#), [service](#), [stopServer](#)

**Examples**

```
## Not run:
# A very basic application
runServer("0.0.0.0", 5000,
  list(
    call = function(req) {
      list(
        status = 200L,
        headers = list(
          'Content-Type' = 'text/html'
        ),
        body = "Hello world!"
      )
    }
  )
)
```

```
## End(Not run)
```

---

|         |                         |
|---------|-------------------------|
| service | <i>Process requests</i> |
|---------|-------------------------|

---

## Description

Process HTTP requests and WebSocket messages. If there is nothing on R's call stack – if R is sitting idle at the command prompt – it is not necessary to call this function, because requests will be handled automatically. However, if R is executing code, then requests will not be handled until either the call stack is empty, or this function is called (or alternatively, `run_now` is called).

## Usage

```
service(timeoutMs = ifelse(interactive(), 100, 1000))
```

## Arguments

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| timeoutMs | Approximate number of milliseconds to run before returning. It will return this duration has elapsed. If 0 or Inf, then the function will continually process requests without returning unless an error occurs. If NA, performs a non-blocking run without waiting. |
|-----------|--|

## Details

In previous versions of `httpuv` (1.3.5 and below), even if a server created by `startServer` exists, no requests were serviced unless and until `service` was called.

This function simply calls `run_now()`, so if your application schedules any `later` callbacks, they will be invoked.

## Examples

```
## Not run:  
while (TRUE) {  
  service()  
}  
  
## End(Not run)
```

---

startDaemonizedServer *Create an HTTP/WebSocket daemonized server (deprecated)*

---

### Description

This function will be removed in a future release of httpuv. It is simply a wrapper for [startServer](#). In previous versions of httpuv (1.3.5 and below), startServer ran applications in the foreground and startDaemonizedServer ran applications in the background, but now both of them run applications in the background.

### Usage

```
startDaemonizedServer(host, port, app)
```

### Arguments

|      |  |
|------|--|
| host | A string that is a valid IPv4 address that is owned by this server, or "0.0.0.0" to listen on all IP addresses.  |
| port | A number or integer that indicates the server port that should be listened on. Note that on most Unix-like systems including Linux and Mac OS X, port numbers smaller than 1025 require root privileges. |
| app  | A collection of functions that define your application. See Details.   |

---

startServer *Create an HTTP/WebSocket server*

---

### Description

Creates an HTTP/WebSocket server on the specified host and port.

### Usage

```
startServer(host, port, app)
```

```
startPipeServer(name, mask, app)
```

### Arguments

|      |  |
|------|--|
| host | A string that is a valid IPv4 address that is owned by this server, or "0.0.0.0" to listen on all IP addresses.  |
| port | A number or integer that indicates the server port that should be listened on. Note that on most Unix-like systems including Linux and Mac OS X, port numbers smaller than 1025 require root privileges. |
| app  | A collection of functions that define your application. See Details.   |



|      |  |
|------|--|
| name | A string that indicates the path for the domain socket (on Unix-like systems) or the name of the named pipe (on Windows).  |
| mask | If non-NULL and non-negative, this numeric value is used to temporarily modify the process's umask while the domain socket is being created. To ensure that only root can access the domain socket, use <code>strtoi("777", 8)</code> ; or to allow owner and group read/write access, use <code>strtoi("117", 8)</code> . If the value is NULL then the process's umask is left unchanged. (This parameter has no effect on Windows.) |

## Details

`startServer` binds the specified port and listens for connections on a thread running in the background. This background thread handles the I/O, and when it receives a HTTP request, it will schedule a call to the user-defined R functions in `app` to handle the request. This scheduling is done with `later()`. When the R call stack is empty – in other words, when an interactive R session is sitting idle at the command prompt – R will automatically run the scheduled calls. However, if the call stack is not empty – if R is evaluating other R code – then the callbacks will not execute until either the call stack is empty, or the `run_now()` function is called. This function tells R to execute any callbacks that have been scheduled by `later()`. The `service()` function is essentially a wrapper for `run_now()`.

In older versions of `httpuv` (1.3.5 and below), it did not use a background thread for I/O, and when this function was called, it did not accept connections immediately. It was necessary to call `service` repeatedly in order to actually accept and handle connections.

If the port cannot be bound (most likely due to permissions or because it is already bound), an error is raised.

The application can also specify paths on the filesystem which will be served from the background thread, without invoking `$call()` or `$onHeaders()`. Files served this way will only use a C++ code, which is faster than going through R, and will not be blocked when R code is executing. This can greatly improve performance when serving static assets.

The `app` parameter is where your application logic will be provided to the server. This can be a list, environment, or reference class that contains the following methods and fields:

- `call(req)` Process the given HTTP request, and return an HTTP response. This method should be implemented in accordance with the **Rook** specification. Note that `httpuv` augments `req` with an additional item, `req$HEADERS`, which is a named character vector of request headers.
- `onHeaders(req)` Optional. Similar to `call`, but occurs when headers are received. Return NULL to continue normal processing of the request, or a Rook response to send that response, stop processing the request, and ask the client to close the connection. (This can be used to implement upload size limits, for example.)
- `onWSOpen(ws)` Called back when a WebSocket connection is established. The given object can be used to be notified when a message is received from the client, to send messages to the client, etc. See [WebSocket](#).
- `staticPaths` A named list of paths that will be served without invoking `call()` or `onHeaders`. The name of each one is the URL path, and the value is either a string referring to a local path, or an object created by the `staticPath` function.
- `staticPathOptions` A set of default options to use when serving static paths. If not set or NULL, then it will use the result from calling `staticPathOptions()` with no arguments.

The `startPipeServer` variant can be used instead of `startServer` to listen on a Unix domain socket or named pipe rather than a TCP socket (this is not common).

### Value

A handle for this server that can be passed to `stopServer` to shut the server down.

A `WebServer` or `PipeServer` object.

### See Also

`stopServer`, `runServer`, `listServers`, `stopAllServers`.

### Examples

```
## Not run:
# A very basic application
s <- startServer("0.0.0.0", 5000,
  list(
    call = function(req) {
      list(
        status = 200L,
        headers = list(
          'Content-Type' = 'text/html'
        ),
        body = "Hello world!"
      )
    }
  )
)

s$stop()
```

```
# An application that serves static assets at the URL paths /assets and /lib
s <- startServer("0.0.0.0", 5000,
  list(
    call = function(req) {
      list(
        status = 200L,
        headers = list(
          'Content-Type' = 'text/html'
        ),
        body = "Hello world!"
      )
    },
    staticPaths = list(
      "/assets" = "content/assets/",
      "/lib" = staticPath(
        "content/lib",
        indexhtml = FALSE
      ),
      # This subdirectory of /lib should always be handled by the R code path
    )
  )
)
```

```

        "/lib/dynamic" = excludeStaticPath()
    ),
    staticPathOptions = staticPathOptions(
        indexhtml = TRUE
    )
)
)
)

s$stop()

## End(Not run)

```

---

staticPath

*Create a staticPath object*


---

### Description

The `staticPath` function creates a `staticPath` object. Note that if any of the arguments (other than `path`) are `NULL`, then that means that for this particular static path, it should inherit the behavior from the `staticPathOptions` set for the application as a whole.

### Usage

```

staticPath(path, indexhtml = NULL, fallthrough = NULL,
           html_charset = NULL, headers = NULL, validation = NULL)

excludeStaticPath()

```

### Arguments

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| <code>path</code>         | The local path.   |
| <code>indexhtml</code>    | If an <code>index.html</code> file is present, should it be served up when the client requests the static path or any subdirectory?   |
| <code>fallthrough</code>  | With the default value, <code>FALSE</code> , if a request is made for a file that doesn't exist, then <code>httpuv</code> will immediately send a 404 response from the background I/O thread, without needing to call back into the main R thread. This offers the best performance. If the value is <code>TRUE</code> , then instead of sending a 404 response, <code>httpuv</code> will call the application's <code>call</code> function, and allow it to handle the request. |
| <code>html_charset</code> | When HTML files are served, the value that will be provided for <code>charset</code> in the <code>Content-Type</code> header. For example, with the default value, <code>"utf-8"</code> , the header is <code>Content-Type: text/html; charset=utf-8</code> . If <code>""</code> is used, then no <code>charset</code> will be added in the <code>Content-Type</code> header.   |
| <code>headers</code>      | Additional headers and values that will be included in the response.  |
| <code>validation</code>   | An optional validation pattern. Presently, the only type of validation supported is an exact string match of a header. For example, if <code>validation</code> is <code>'"abc" = "xyz"'</code> , then HTTP requests must have a header named <code>abc</code> (case-insensitive) with the   |

value xyz (case-sensitive). If a request does not have a matching header, then httpuv will give a 403 Forbidden response. If the character(0) (the default), then no validation check will be performed.

### Details

The `excludeStaticPath` function tells the application to ignore a particular path for static serving. This is useful when you want to include a path for static serving (like `"/"`) but then exclude a subdirectory of it (like `"/dynamic"`) so that the subdirectory will always be passed to the R code for handling requests. `excludeStaticPath` can be used not only for directories; it can also exclude specific files.

### See Also

[staticPathOptions](#).

---

`staticPathOptions`      *Create options for static paths*

---

### Description

Create options for static paths

### Usage

```
staticPathOptions(indexhtml = TRUE, fallthrough = FALSE,
  html_charset = "utf-8", headers = list(),
  validation = character(0), exclude = FALSE)
```

### Arguments

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| <code>indexhtml</code>    | If an <code>index.html</code> file is present, should it be served up when the client requests the static path or any subdirectory?   |
| <code>fallthrough</code>  | With the default value, <code>FALSE</code> , if a request is made for a file that doesn't exist, then httpuv will immediately send a 404 response from the background I/O thread, without needing to call back into the main R thread. This offers the best performance. If the value is <code>TRUE</code> , then instead of sending a 404 response, httpuv will call the application's <code>call</code> function, and allow it to handle the request. |
| <code>html_charset</code> | When HTML files are served, the value that will be provided for charset in the Content-Type header. For example, with the default value, <code>"utf-8"</code> , the header is <code>Content-Type: text/html; charset=utf-8</code> . If <code>""</code> is used, then no charset will be added in the Content-Type header.   |
| <code>headers</code>      | Additional headers and values that will be included in the response.  |

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| validation | An optional validation pattern. Presently, the only type of validation supported is an exact string match of a header. For example, if validation is '"abc" = "xyz"', then HTTP requests must have a header named abc (case-insensitive) with the value xyz (case-sensitive). If a request does not have a matching header, then httpuv will give a 403 Forbidden response. If the character( <code>0</code> ) (the default), then no validation check will be performed. |
| exclude    | Should this path be excluded from static serving? (This is only to be used internally, for <a href="#">excludeStaticPath</a> .)   |

---

|                |                         |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| stopAllServers | <i>Stop all servers</i> |
|----------------|-------------------------|

---

### Description

This will stop all applications which were created by [startServer](#) or [startPipeServer](#).

### Usage

```
stopAllServers()
```

### See Also

[stopServer](#) to stop a specific server.

---

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| stopDaemonizedServer | <i>Stop a running daemonized server in Unix environments (deprecated)</i> |
|----------------------|---|

---

### Description

This function will be removed in a future release of httpuv. Instead, use [stopServer](#).

### Usage

```
stopDaemonizedServer(server)
```

### Arguments

server            A server object that was previously returned from [startServer](#) or [startPipeServer](#).

stopServer                      *Stop a server*

---

### Description

Given a server object that was returned from a previous invocation of [startServer](#) or [startPipeServer](#), this closes all open connections for that server and unbinds the port.

### Usage

```
stopServer(server)
```

### Arguments

server                      A server object that was previously returned from [startServer](#) or [startPipeServer](#).

### See Also

[stopAllServers](#) to stop all servers.

---

WebSocket                      *WebSocket class*

---

### Description

A `WebSocket` object represents a single `WebSocket` connection. The object can be used to send messages and close the connection, and to receive notifications when messages are received or the connection is closed.

### Details

Note that this `WebSocket` class is different from the one provided by the package named `websocket`. This class is meant to be used on the server side, whereas the one in the `websocket` package is to be used as a client. The `WebSocket` class in `httpuv` has an older API than the one in the `websocket` package.

`WebSocket` objects should never be created directly. They are obtained by passing an `onWSOpen` function to [startServer](#).

### Fields

request    The Rook request environment that opened the connection. This can be used to inspect HTTP headers, for example.

**Methods**

- onMessage(func) Registers a callback function that will be invoked whenever a message is received on this connection. The callback function will be invoked with two arguments. The first argument is TRUE if the message is binary and FALSE if it is text. The second argument is either a raw vector (if the message is binary) or a character vector.
- onClose(func) Registers a callback function that will be invoked when the connection is closed.
- send(message) Begins sending the given message over the websocket. The message must be either a raw vector, or a single-element character vector that is encoded in UTF-8.
- close() Closes the websocket connection.

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