

# Package ‘gander’

February 19, 2025

**Title** High Performance, Low Friction Large Language Model Chat

**Version** 0.1.0

**Description** Introduces a 'Copilot'-like completion experience, but it knows how to talk to the objects in your R environment. 'ellmer' chats are integrated directly into your 'RStudio' and 'Positron' sessions, automatically incorporating relevant context from surrounding lines of code and your global environment (like data frame columns and types). Open the package dialog box with a keyboard shortcut, type your request, and the assistant will stream its response directly into your documents.

**License** MIT + file LICENSE

**Config/testthat/edition** 3

**Encoding** UTF-8

**RoxygenNote** 7.3.2

**URL** <https://github.com/simonpcouch/gander>,  
<https://simonpcouch.github.io/gander/>

**BugReports** <https://github.com/simonpcouch/gander/issues>

**Depends** R (>= 4.3.0)

**Imports** cli (>= 3.6.3), glue (>= 1.8.0), ellmer (>= 0.1.0), miniUI (>= 0.1.1.1), rlang (>= 1.1.4), rstudioapi (>= 0.17.1), shiny (>= 1.9.1), streamy, treesitter, treesitter.r

**Suggests** gt, knitr, rmarkdown, testthat (>= 3.0.0), tibble, withr

**VignetteBuilder** knitr

**NeedsCompilation** no

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**Repository** CRAN

**Date/Publication** 2025-02-19 15:00:05 UTC

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gander_addin	<i>Run the gander addin</i>
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### Description

The gander addin is intended to be called using the RStudio addin rather than explicitly by the user. See `vignette("gander", package = "gander")` to learn more about using the gander addin.

### Usage

```
gander_addin()
```

### Value

The underlying ellmer Chat, invisibly. Primarily called for its side effects, modifying the current RStudio editor based on user input. Will error if no text is entered in the dialog.

### Examples

```
## Not run:
# Requires an interactive session, access to the RStudio API,
# and an active connection to an LLM API.
gander_addin()

## End(Not run)
```

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gander_options	<i>Options used by the gander package</i>
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### Description

The gander package makes use of a few notable user-facing options.

## Choosing models

gander uses the `.gander_chat` option to configure which model powers the addin. `.gander_chat` is an ellmer Chat object. For example, to use OpenAI's GPT-4o-mini, you might write

```
options(.gander_chat = ellmer::chat_claude())
```

Paste that code in your `.Rprofile` via `usethis::edit_r_profile()` to always use the same model every time you start an R session.

The gander package used to use options `.gander_fn` and `.gander_args`, but those are deprecated in favor of `.gander_chat`.

## Style/taste

By default, gander responses use the following style conventions: "Use tidyverse style and, when relevant, tidyverse packages. For example, when asked to plot something, use `ggplot2`, or when asked to transform data, using `dplyr` and/or `tidyr` unless explicitly instructed otherwise. " Set the `.gander_style` option to some other string to tailor responses to your own taste, e.g.:

```
options(.gander_style = "Use base R.")
```

Paste that code in your `.Rprofile` via `usethis::edit_r_profile()` to always use the same style (or even always begin with some base set of knowledge about frameworks you work with often) every time you start an R session.

## Data context

By default, gander will show the first 5 rows and 100 columns of every relevant data frame, allowing for models to pick up on the names, types, and distributions of the variables it may work with while also keeping the number of tokens submitted per chat to a minimum. The option `.gander_dims` allows you to adjust how many rows and columns to supply to gander addin.

- For richer context but increasing token usage, increase the number of rows and columns. For example, to supply the first 50 rows and all columns of datasets supplied to the model, you could use `options(.gander_dims = c(50, Inf))`.
- To decrease token usage, decrease the number of rows and columns, e.g. `options(.gander_dims = c(0, 10))` to just show the names and types of the first 10 columns. One could make the argument that setting the number of rows to 0 is privacy-preserving, but do note that the model may pick up on the values of specific cells based on code context alone.

Set that option in your `~/ .Rprofile` to always use that setting.

## Examples

```
# Running the following will adjust R options, so don't run by default:
## Not run:
# Describe the first 100 rows and every column in relevant data
# frames rather than the first 5 rows and 100 columns (this can
# increase token usage greatly):
options(.gander_dims = c(100, Inf))
```

```
# Only describe relevant data frame columns and their types, but don't
# provide any rows:
options(.gander_dims = c(0, Inf))

# Override default tidyverse style to tell the model to prefer another style:
options(.gander_style = "Use base R.")

# Configure gander to use its recommended model, Anthropic's Claude Sonnet
# 3.5. Set this option in your `~/.Rprofile` to always use this setting.
# Note that this requires an `ANTHROPIC_API_KEY` envvar:
options(.gander_chat = ellmer::chat_claude())

## End(Not run)
```

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gander\_peek

*Interface with the previous gander*

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## Description

`gander_peek()` returns the ellmer Chat object from the most recent call to the gander assistant so that you can see what happened under-the-hood.

Note that gander initializes a new chat every time you invoke the addin, so the token count and conversation history only describes the most recent interaction with the package.

## Usage

```
gander_peek()
```

## Value

The ellmer Chat object from the last assistant interaction, or NULL if no previous interaction exists.

## Examples

```
## Not run:
# First, run the addin to generate a response.
gander_addin()

# Then, use this function to examine what happened under-the-hood:
gander_peek()

## End(Not run)
```

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