What's in a name?
That which we call a rose
By any other name
would smell as sweet;
The current state of naming conventions in R

Rasmus Bååth & Xavier Guardiola
@rabaath @xguardi
Guess the naming conventions for parameters of `read.table`!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>period_separated</th>
<th>lowerCamelCase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>strip white</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>allow escapes</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>col names</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>col classes</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>strip.white</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✘</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>allowEscapes</td>
<td>✘</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>col.names</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✘</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>colClasses</td>
<td>✘</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
- **period.separated**
  - as.numeric, read.table

- **lowerCamelCase**
  - colMeans, suppressPackageStartupMessage

- **UpperCamelCase**
  - Vectorize, NextMethod
- period-separated
  - as.numeric, read.table
- lowerCamelCase
  - colMeans, suppressPackageStartupMessage
- UpperCamelCase
  - Vectorize, NextMethod
- underscore-separated
  - seq_along, package_version
- alllowercase
  - searchpaths, srcfilecopy
- .OTHER_style
  - Cstack_info, Sys.setlocale, Sys.setFileTime
What we did

1. Scrape CRAN for all NAMESPACE files and Rd files.
2. Extract the function names and parameter names of each package.
4. Find out which parameter and function names conforms to which naming convention.
The chart shows the percentage of names matching naming conventions for different styles.

- **lowerCamel**: Some names match this convention, but not many.
- **period.sep**: More names match this convention compared to lowerCamel.
- **underscore_sep**: A significant number of names match this convention.
- **alllowercase**: Most names match this convention, indicating a high percentage.
- **.OTHER_style**: A moderate number of names match this convention.
- **UpperCamel**: Some names match this convention, but not many.

The chart illustrates the percentage distribution of names matching each naming convention style.
My *personal* take on this

- If you use `underscore_separated` names you are trendy and in good company.
- If you use `lowerCamelCase` you are also not completely off.
- Use `period.separated` names if you want to appear old school cool.
My **personal** take on this

- If you use `underscore_separated` names you are trendy and in good company.
- If you use `lowerCamelCase` you are also not completely off.
- Use `period.separated` names if you want to appear old school cool.
- `dontuse all lowercase` cause it’s really hard to read.
- Don’t use `UpperCaseCamelCase`, even if Google tells you to.
- Don’t mix naming conventions. Not in the same package, and especially not in the same name.
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