Package: protolite (via r-universe)

October 28, 2026

Type Package

Title Highly Optimized Protocol Buffer Serializers

Description Pure C++ implementations for reading and writing several common data formats based on Google protocol-buffers. Currently supports 'rexp.proto' for serialized R objects, 'geobuf.proto' for binary geojson, and 'mvt.proto' for vector tiles. This package uses the auto-generated C++ code by protobuf-compiler, hence the entire serialization is optimized at compile time. The 'RProtoBuf' package on the other hand uses the protobuf runtime library to provide a general- purpose toolkit for reading and writing arbitrary protocol-buffer data in R.

Version 2.4.0

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URL https://github.com/jeroen/protolite
https://jeroen.r-universe.dev/protolite

BugReports https://github.com/jeroen/protolite/issues

SystemRequirements libprotobuf and protobuf-compiler

LinkingTo Rcpp

Imports Rcpp (>= 0.12.12), jsonlite

Suggests spelling, curl, testthat, sf

Roxygen list(load = ``installed", markdown = TRUE)

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Config/pak/sysreqs libprotobuf-dev protobuf-compiler libprotoc-dev

Repository https://jeroen.r-universe.dev

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`geobuf` *Geobuf*

Description

The geobuf format is an optimized binary format for storing `geojson` data with protocol buffers. These functions are compatible with the `geobuf2json` and `json2geobuf` utilities from the geobuf npm package.

Usage

```
read_geobuf(x, as_data_frame = TRUE)

geobuf2json(x, pretty = FALSE)

json2geobuf(json, decimals = 6)
```

Arguments

`x`	file path or raw vector with the serialized `geobuf.proto` message
`as_data_frame`	simplify geojson data into data frames
`pretty`	indent json, see jsonlite::toJSON
`json`	a text string with geojson data
`decimals`	how many decimals (digits behind the dot) to store for numbers

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`mapbox` *Mapbox Vector Tiles*

Description

Read Mapbox vector-tile (mvt) files and returns the list of layers.

Usage

```
read_mvt_data(data, as_latlon = TRUE, zxy = NULL)

read_mvt_sf(data, crs = 4326, zxy = NULL)
```

Arguments

data	url, path or raw vector with the mvt data
as_latlon	return the data as lat/lon instead of raw EPSG:3857 positions
zxy	vector of length 3 with respectively z (zoom), x (column) and y (row). For file/url in the standard ../{z}/{x}/{y}.mvt format, these are automatically inferred from the input path.
crs	desired output coordinate system (passed to sf::st_transform). Note that mvt input is always by definition 3857.

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serialize_pb *Serialize to Protocol Buffers*

Description

Serializes R objects to a general purpose protobuf message. It uses the same rexp.proto descriptor and mapping between R objects and protobuf messages as RHIPE and the RProtoBuf package.

Usage

```
serialize_pb(object, connection = NULL, skip_native = FALSE)

unserialize_pb(msg)
```

Arguments

object	an R object to serialize
connection	a connection, file, or NULL for a raw vector
skip_native	do not serialize 'native' (non-data) R objects. Setting to TRUE will only serialize *data* types (numeric, boolean, string, raw, list). The default behavior is to fall back on base R serialize for non-data objects.
msg	raw vector with the serialized rexp.proto message

Details

The serialize_pb and unserialize_pb reimplement the identically named functions from the RProtoBuf package in pure C++. This makes the function faster and simpler, but the output should be identical.

Examples

```
# Serialize and unserialize an object
buf <- serialize_pb(iris)
out <- unserialize_pb(buf)
stopifnot(identical(iris, out))

## Not run:  #Fully compatible with RProtoBuf
```

```
buf <- RProtoBuf::serialize_pb(iris, NULL)
out <- protolite::unserialize_pb(buf)
stopifnot(identical(iris, out))

# Other way around
buf <- protolite::serialize_pb(mtcars, NULL)
out <- RProtoBuf::unserialize_pb(buf)
stopifnot(identical(mtcars, out))

## End(Not run)
```

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