Package 'arkdb'

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Title Archive and Unarchive Databases Using Flat Files

Description Flat text files provide a robust, compressible, and portable way to store tables from databases. This package provides convenient functions for exporting tables from relational database connections into compressed text files and streaming those text files back into a database without requiring the whole table to fit in working memory.

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R topics documented:

`arkdb-package` *arkdb: Archive and Unarchive Databases Using Flat Files*

Description

Flat text files provide a more robust, compressible, and portable way to store tables. This package provides convenient functions for exporting tables from relational database connections into compressed text files and streaming those text files back into a database without requiring the whole table to fit in working memory.

Details

It has two functions:

- `ark()`: archive a database into flat files, chunk by chunk.
- `unark()`: Unarchive flat files back int a database connection.

arkdb will work with any `DBI` supported connection. This makes it a convenient and robust way to migrate between different databases as well.

Author(s)

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See Also

Useful links:

- https://github.com/ropensci/arkdb
- Report bugs at https://github.com/ropensci/arkdb/issues

ark *Archive tables from a database as flat files*

Description

Archive tables from a database as flat files

Usage

```
ark(
  db_con,
  dir,
  streamable_table = streamable_base_tsv(),
  lines = 50000L,
  compress = c("bzip2", "gzip", "xz", "none"),
  tables = list_tables(db_con),
  method = c("keep-open", "window", "sql-window"),
  overwrite = "ask"
)
```

Arguments

db_con	a database connection
dir	a directory where we will write the compressed text files output
streamable_table	interface for serializing/deserializing in chunks
lines	the number of lines to use in each single chunk
compress	file compression algorithm. Should be one of "bzip2" (default), "gzip" (faster write times, a bit less compression), "xz", or "none", for no compression.
tables	a list of tables from the database that should be archived. By default, will archive all tables. Table list should specify schema if appropriate, see examples.
method	method to use to query the database, see details.
overwrite	should any existing text files of the same name be overwritten? default is "ask", which will ask for confirmation in an interactive session, and overwrite in a non-interactive script. TRUE will always overwrite, FALSE will always skip such tables.

Details

ark will archive tables from a database as (compressed) tsv files. ark does this by reading only chunks at a time into memory, allowing it to process tables that would be too large to read into memory all at once (which is probably why you are using a database in the first place!) Compressed text files will likely take up much less space, making them easier to store and transfer over networks. Compressed plain-text files are also more archival friendly, as they rely on widely available and

long-established open source compression algorithms and plain text, making them less vulnerable to loss by changes in database technology and formats.

In almost all cases, the default method should be the best choice. If the DBI::dbSendQuery() implementation for your database platform returns the full results to the client immediately rather than supporting chunking with n parameter, you may want to use "window" method, which is the most generic. The "sql-window" method provides a faster alternative for databases like PostgreSQL that support windowing natively (i.e. BETWEEN queries).

Value

the path to dir where output files are created (invisibly), for piping.

Examples

```
# setup
library(dplyr)
dir <- tempdir()
db <- dbplyr::nycflights13_sqlite(tempdir())

## And here we go:
ark(db, dir)

## Not run:

## For a Postgres DB with schema, we can append schema names first
## to each of the table names, like so:
schema_tables <- dbGetQuery(db, sqlInterpolate(db,
"SELECT table_name FROM information_schema.tables
WHERE table_schema = ?schema", schema = "schema_name"))

ark(db, dir, tables = paste0("schema_name",".", schema_tables$table_name))

## End(Not run)
```

---

local_db *Connect to a local stand-alone database*

Description

This function will provide a connection to the best available database. This function is a drop-in replacement for [DBI::dbConnect] with behaviour that makes it more subtle for R packages that need a database backend with minimal complexity, as described in details.

Usage

```
local_db(
  dbdir = arkdb_dir(),
  driver = Sys.getenv("ARKDB_DRIVER"),
  readonly = FALSE
)
```

Arguments

dbdir	Path to the database.
driver	Default driver, one of "duckdb", "MonetDBLite", "RSQLite". It will select the first one of those it finds available if a driver is not set. This fallback can be overwritten either by explicit argument or by setting the environmental variable ARKDB_DRIVER.
readonly	Should the database be opened read-only? (duckdb only). This allows multiple concurrent connections (e.g. from different R sessions)

Details

This function provides several abstractions to [DBI::dbConnect] to provide a seamless backend for use inside other R packages.

First, this provides a generic method that allows the use of a [RSQLite::SQLite]`` connection if nothing else is available, while being able to automatically select a much faster, more powerful backend from duckdb::duckdb‘ if available. An argument or environmental variable can be used to override this to manually set a database endpoint for testing purposes.

Second, this function will cache the database connection in an R environment and load that cache. That means you can call `local_db()` as fast/frequently as you like without causing errors that would occur by rapid calls to [DBI::dbConnect]

Third, this function defaults to persistent storage location set by [rappdirs::user_data_dir] and configurable by setting the environmental variable ARKDB_HOME. This allows a package to provide persistent storage out-of-the-box, and easily switch that storage to a temporary directory (e.g. for testing purposes, or custom user configuration) without having to edit database calls directly.

Value

Returns a [DBIcoonection] connection to the default duckdb database

Examples

```
## OPTIONAL: you can first set an alternative home location,
## such as a temporary directory:
Sys.setenv(ARKDB_HOME=tempdir())

## Connect to the database:
db <- local_db()
```

local_db_disconnect *Disconnect from the arkdb database.*

Description

Disconnect from the arkdb database.

Usage

```
local_db_disconnect(db = local_db(), env = arkdb_cache)
```

Arguments

db	a DBI connection. By default, will call local_db for the default connection.
env	The environment where the function looks for a connection.

Details

This function manually closes a connection to the arkdb database.

Examples

```
## Disconnect from the database:
local_db_disconnect()
```

process_chunks *process a table in chunks*

Description

process a table in chunks

Usage

```
process_chunks(
  file,
  process_fn,
  streamable_table = NULL,
  lines = 50000L,
  encoding = Sys.getenv("encoding", "UTF-8"),
  ...
)
```

Arguments

`file`	path to a file
`process_fn`	a function of a chunk
`streamable_table`	interface for serializing/deserializing in chunks
`lines`	number of lines to read in a chunk.
`encoding`	encoding to be assumed for input files.
`...`	additional arguments to `streamable_table$read` method.

Examples

```
con <- system.file("extdata/mtcars.tsv.gz", package="arkdb")
dummy <- function(x) message(paste(dim(x), collapse = " x "))
process_chunks(con, dummy, lines = 8)
```

`streamable_base_csv` *streamable csv using base R functions*

Description

streamable csv using base R functions

Usage

```
streamable_base_csv()
```

Details

Follows the comma-separate-values standard using `utils::read.table()`

Value

a `streamable_table` object (S3)

See Also

`utils::read.table()`, `utils::write.table()`

streamable_base_tsv *streamable tsv using base R functions*

Description

streamable tsv using base R functions

Usage

```
streamable_base_tsv()
```

Details

Follows the tab-separate-values standard using `utils::read.table()`, see IANA specification at: https://www.iana.org/assignments/media-types/text/tab-separated-values

Value

a `streamable_table` object (S3)

See Also

`utils::read.table()`, `utils::write.table()`

streamable_readr_csv *streamable csv using* `readr`

Description

streamable csv using `readr`

Usage

```
streamable_readr_csv()
```

Value

a `streamable_table` object (S3)

See Also

`readr::read_csv()`, `readr::write_csv()`

streamable_readr_tsv *streamable tsv using* readr

Description

streamable tsv using readr

Usage

```
streamable_readr_tsv()
```

Value

a streamable_table object (S3)

See Also

readr::read_tsv(), readr::write_tsv()

streamable_table *streamable table*

Description

streamable table

Usage

```
streamable_table(read, write, extension)
```

Arguments

read	read function. Arguments should be "file" (must be able to take a connection() object) and "..." (for) additional arguments.
write	write function. Arguments should be "data" (a data.frame), file (must be able to take a connection() object), and "omit_header" logical, include header (initial write) or not (for appending subsequent chunks)
extension	file extension to use (e.g. "tsv", "csv")

Details

Note several constraints on this design. The write method must be able to take a generic R connection object (which will allow it to handle the compression methods used, if any), and the read method must be able to take a textConnection object. readr functions handle these cases out of the box, so the above method is easy to write. Also note that the write method must be able to omit_header. See the built-in methods for more examples.

Value

a streamable_table object (S3)

Examples

```
streamable_readr_tsv <- function() {
  streamable_table(
    function(file, ...) readr::read_tsv(file, ...),
    function(x, path, omit_header)
      readr::write_tsv(x = x, path = path, omit_header = omit_header),
    "tsv")
}
```

---

streamable_vroom *streamable tables using* vroom

Description

streamable tables using vroom

Usage

```
streamable_vroom()
```

Value

a streamable_table object (S3)

See Also

readr::read_tsv(), readr::write_tsv()

---

unark *Unarchive a list of compressed tsv files into a database*

Description

Unarchive a list of compressed tsv files into a database

Usage

```
unark(
  files,
  db_con,
  streamable_table = NULL,
  lines = 50000L,
  overwrite = "ask",
  encoding = Sys.getenv("encoding", "UTF-8"),
  tablenames = NULL,
  try_native = TRUE,
  ...
)
```

Arguments

files	vector of filenames to be read in. Must be tsv format, optionally compressed using bzip2, gzip, zip, or xz format at present.
db_con	a database src (src_dbi object from dplyr)
streamable_table	interface for serializing/deserializing in chunks
lines	number of lines to read in a chunk.
overwrite	should any existing text files of the same name be overwritten? default is "ask", which will ask for confirmation in an interactive session, and overwrite in a non-interactive script. TRUE will always overwrite, FALSE will always skip such tables.
encoding	encoding to be assumed for input files.
tablenames	vector of tablenames to be used for corresponding files. By default, tables will be named using lowercase names from file basename with special characters replaced with underscores (for SQL compatibility).
try_native	logical, default TRUE. Should we try to use a native bulk import method for the database connection? This can substantially speed up read times and will fall back on the DBI method for any table that fails to import. Currently only MonetDBLite connections support this.
...	additional arguments to streamable_table$read method.

Details

unark will read in a files in chunks and write them into a database. This is essential for processing large compressed tables which may be too large to read into memory before writing into a database. In general, increasing the lines parameter will result in a faster total transfer but require more free memory for working with these larger chunks.

If using readr-based streamable-table, you can suppress the progress bar by using options(readr.show_progress = FALSE) when reading in large files.

Value

the database connection (invisibly)

Examples

```
## Setup: create an archive.
library(dplyr)
dir <- tempdir()
db <- dbplyr::nycflights13_sqlite(tempdir())

## database -> .tsv.bz2
ark(db, dir)

## list all files in archive (full paths)
files <- list.files(dir, "bz2$", full.names = TRUE)

## Read archived files into a new database (another sqlite in this case)
new_db <- DBI::dbConnect(RSQLite::SQLite())
unark(files, new_db)

## Prove table is returned successfully.
tbl(new_db, "flights")
```

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