Package 'asciicast'

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Title Create 'Ascii' Screen Casts from R Scripts

Version 2.1.0

Description Record 'asciicast' screen casts from R scripts. Convert them to animated SVG images, to be used in 'README' files, or blog posts. Includes 'asciinema-player' as an 'HTML' widget, and an 'asciicast' 'knitr' engine, to embed 'ascii' screen casts in 'Rmarkdown' documents.

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Author Gábor Csárdi [aut, cre],

Romain Francois [aut], Mario Nebl [aut] (https://github.com/marionebl/svg-term author), Marcin Kulik [aut] (https://github.com/asciinema/asciinema-player author)

Maintainer Gábor Csárdi <csardi.gabor@gmail.com>

Repository CRAN

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asciicast-package asciicast parameters

Description

You can set asciicast parameters in the header of the recorded R script. The header is in DCF format (see read.dcf()), but all lines are prefixed with #' comments.

Details

The DCF header may specify arbitrary parameters. We list here the parameters that are interpreted by the asciicast functions.

Recording parameters:

- allow_errors: Whether to cast errors properly. If this is set to TRUE, then asciicast overwrites the "error" option. Only change this if you know what you are doing.
- cols: Width of the terminal, in number of characters.
- empty_wait: How long to wait for empty lines in the script file, in seconds.
- end_wait: Delay at the very end, in seconds.
- env: Environment variables to include in the case JSON file. Defaults to list(TERM = "xterm-256color", SHELL = "/bin/zsh").
- idle_time_limit: Time limit for the cast not printing anything, in seconds. By default there is no limit.

asciicast-package

- record_env: Environment variables to set for the R subprocess.
- rows: Height of the terminal, in number of characters.
- start_wait: Delay at the beginning, in seconds.
- timeout: Idle timeout, in seconds If the R subprocess running the recording does not answer within this limit, it is killed and the recording stops. Update this for slow running code, that produces no output as it runs.
- timestamp: Time stamp of the recording, defaults to Sys.time(), this is included in the cast JSON file.
- title: Title of the cast, this is included in the cast JSON file.
- typing_speed: Average typing speed, per keypress, in seconds.

Asciinema player parameters:

- author: Author, displayed in the titlebar in fullscreen mode.
- author_img_url: URL of the author's image, displayed in the titlebar in fullscreen mode.
- author_url: URL of the author's homepage/profile. Author name (author above) is linked to this URL.
- autoplay: Whether to start playing the cast automatically.
- cols: Width of the terminal, in number of characters.
- font_size: Size of terminal font. Possible values: small, medium, big, any css font-size value (e.g. 15px).
- idle_time_limit: Time limit for the cast not printing anything, in seconds. By default there
 is no limit.
- loop: Whether to loop the playback.
- poster_frame: Which frame to use (in seconds) as the preview picture.
- poster_text: Text to use as the preview picture. Defaults to the title.
- rows: Height of the terminal, in number of characters.
- speed: Whether to play slower or faster. 1 is normal speed.
- start_at: Where to start the playback from, in seconds.
- theme: Theme to use, currently it has to be a string, one of "asciinema", "tango", "solarized-dark", "solarized-light", "monokai". The first one is the default.
- title: Title of the cast.

Parameters for SVG files:

- at: Timestamp of single frame to render, in seconds.
- cols: Width of the terminal, in number of characters.
- cursor: Enable cursor rendering.
- end_at: Upper range of timeline to render in seconds.
- padding: Distance between text and image bounds.
- padding_x: Distance between text and image bounds on x axis.
- padding_y: Distance between text and image bounds on y axis.

- rows: Height of the terminal, in number of characters.
- start_at: Where to start the playback from, in seconds.
- window: Render with window decorations.
- theme: Theme to use, currently it has to be a string referring to a build-in theme, or a named list of theme properties, see default_theme(). The built-in themes are "asciinema", "tango", "solarized-dark", "solarized-light", "seti", "monokai", "github-light", "pkgdown".

See Also

Other asciicast functions: asciicast_start_process(), read_cast(), record(), write_json()

asciicast_knitr_options Default R options to set in the background R process for knits

Description

You can pass these options to init_knitr_engine(), after possibly overriding some of them.

Usage

```
asciicast_knitr_options()
```

Value

List of options.

See Also

Other asciicast in Rmd: init_knitr_engine()

Examples

asciicast_knitr_options()

asciicast_options Default options to set in the asciicast subprocess.

Description

Default options to set in the asciicast subprocess.

Usage

```
asciicast_options()
```

Value

Named list.

Examples

asciicast_options()

asciicast_start_process

Start an asciicast background process

Description

This is for expert use, if you want to run multiple recordings in the same process.

Usage

```
asciicast_start_process(
  startup = NULL,
  timeout = 10,
  record_env = NULL,
  interactive = TRUE,
  locales = get_locales(),
  options = NULL
)
```

Arguments

startup	Quoted language object to run in the subprocess before starting the recording.
timeout	Idle timeout, in seconds If the R subprocess running the recording does not answer within this limit, it is killed and the recording stops.
record_env	Environment variables to set for the R subprocess.

interactive	Whether to run R in interactive mode. Note that in interactive mode R might ask for terminal input.
locales	Locales to set in the asciicast subprocess. Defaults to the current locales in the main R process. Specify a named character vector here to override some of the defaults. See also get_locales().
options	Options to set in the subprocess, a named list. They are deparsed to code, and then the code setting them is executed in the subprocess. See asciicast_options() for the defaults. Supply a named list here to override the defaults or set addi- tionsl ones. Passing large and/or complicated options here might not work, or might be slow.

Value

The R process, a processx::process object.

See Also

Other asciicast functions: asciicast-package, read_cast(), record(), write_json()

Examples

```
# Use the same R process to record multiple casts
process <- asciicast_start_process()
script1 <- "a <- runif(10)\n"
script2 <- "a\n"
cast1 <- record(textConnection(script1), process = process)
cast2 <- record(textConnection(script2), process = process)
cast1
cast2</pre>
```

asciinema_player asciinema player HTML widget

Description

You can use this widget in Rmd files or Shiny applications, the same way as other HTML widgets.

Usage

```
asciinema_player(
   cast,
   start_at = 0,
   rows = NULL,
   cols = NULL,
   autoplay = NULL,
   loop = NULL,
```

asciinema_player

```
speed = NULL,
title = NULL,
author = NULL,
author_url = NULL,
author_img_url = NULL,
poster_text = NULL,
poster_frame = NULL,
font_size = NULL,
theme = NULL,
idle_time_limit = NULL,
html_height = NULL,
element_id = NULL
```

Arguments

)

cast	asciicast object.
start_at	Where to start the playback from, in seconds.
rows	Number of rows, defaults to the number of rows in the recording, or 24 if not specified in the cast.
cols	Number of columns, defaults to the number columns in the recording, or 80 if not specified in the cast.
autoplay	Whether to start playing the cast automatically.
loop	Whether to loop the playback.
speed	Whether to play slower or faster. 1 is normal speed.
title	If specified, it overrides the title in the recording.
author	Author, displayed in the titlebar in fullscreen mode.
author_url	URL of the author's homepage/profile. Author name (author above) is linked to this URL.
author_img_url	URL of the author's image, displayed in the titlebar in fullscreen mode.
poster_text	if not NULL, used as the text of the poster (preview).
poster_frame	Which frame to use for the preview. A number means seconds. Defaults to the last frame. This is only used if poster_text is NULL.
font_size	Size of terminal font. Possible values: small, medium, big, any css font-size value (e.g. 15px).
theme	Theme.
idle_time_limit	
	Time limit for the cast not printing anything, in seconds. By default there is no limit.
html_height	HTML height of the widget.
html_width	HTML width of the widget.
element_id	HTML id of the widget's element. If NULL, then the id is generated randomly.

Examples

```
cast <- read_cast(system.file("examples", "hello.cast", package = "asciicast"))
asciinema_player(cast)</pre>
```

clear_screen

Merge multiple ASCII casts into one

Description

The new cast will inherit its options (screen size, etc.) from the first cast in the argument list. The options of the rest of the casts are ignored.

Usage

clear_screen()

pause(secs)

merge_casts(...)

Arguments

secs	Number of seconds to wait.
	Ascii casts to merge or merge commands. Merge commands provide a way to insert pause, clear the screen, etc., between casts.
	insert pause, crear the serveri, etc., between easts.

Details

pause() inserts a pause of the specified seconds between the casts.

clear_screen() clears the screen between two casts.

Value

An asciicast object.

Examples

```
# merge two casts, with a pause, and clear screen between them
cast1 <- read_cast(system.file("examples", "hello.cast", package = "asciicast"))
cast2 <- read_cast(system.file("examples", "dplyr.cast", package = "asciicast"))
cast <- merge_casts(cast1, pause(3), clear_screen(), cast2)
play(cast)
```

default_theme The def

Description

Currently only used for write_svg()

Usage

default_theme()

Value

A named list.

See Also

Other SVG functions: play(), write_svg()

Examples

```
cast <- read_cast(system.file("examples", "hello.cast", package = "asciicast"))
svg_file <- tempfile(fileext = ".svg")
mytheme <- modifyList(default_theme(), list(cursor = c(255, 0, 0)))
write_svg(cast, svg_file, theme = mytheme)</pre>
```

get_locales

Helper function to query locales as a named character vector.

Description

Helper function to query locales as a named character vector.

Usage

get_locales()

Value

Named character vector with entries:

• LC_COLLATE, LC_CTYPE, LC_MONETARY, LC_NUMERIC and LC_TIME.

init_knitr_engine Initialize the asciicast knitr engine

Description

Call this function in your Rmd file to enable creating asciinema casts from code chunks.

Usage

```
init_knitr_engine(
  echo = FALSE,
  same_process = TRUE,
  timeout = 10,
  startup = NULL,
  record_env = NULL,
  echo_input = TRUE,
  options = list()
)
```

Arguments

echo	Whether to print the code of asciicast chunks.
same_process	Whether to run all asciicast chunks <i>in the same</i> R process. To restart this R process, call init_knitr_engine() again.
timeout	Idle timeout, in seconds If the R subprocess running the recording does not answer within this limit, it is killed and the recording stops.
startup	Quoted language object to run in the subprocess before starting the recording.
record_env	Environment variables to set for the R subprocess.
echo_input	Whether to echo the input in the asciicast recording.
options	R options to set (via the R.options chunk option of knitr), in the current R process that performs the recording. See $asciicast_knitr_options()$ for the defaults.

Details

Limitations:

• purl() or setting the purl = TRUE chunk option, does not work properly, in that knitr thinks that asciicast chunks are not R code, so they will appear as comments. If you know how to fix this, please contact us.

Examples

Call this function from an Rmd chunk and then you can use the asciicast knitr engine:

install_phantomjs

```
```{r setup, include = FALSE}
asciicast::init_knitr_engine()
```
{asciicast, cache = TRUE}`
#' Rows: 10
# This is an asciicast example
loadedNamespaces()
```
```

#### See Also

Other asciicast in Rmd: asciicast\_knitr\_options()

install\_phantomjs Install PhantomJS

#### Description

Download the zip package, unzip it, and copy the executable to a system directory in which **asciicast** can look for the PhantomJS executable.

#### Usage

```
install_phantomjs(
 version = "2.1.1",
 baseURL = "https://github.com/wch/webshot/releases/download/v0.3.1/",
 quiet = FALSE
)
```

#### Arguments

version	The version number of PhantomJS.
baseURL	The base URL for the location of PhantomJS binaries for download. If the default download site is unavailable, you may specify an alternative mirror, such as "https://bitbucket.org/ariya/phantomjs/downloads/".
quiet	If TRUE suppress status messages and progress bar.

#### Details

This function was designed primarily to help Windows users since it is cumbersome to modify the PATH variable. Mac OS X users may install PhantomJS via Homebrew. If you download the package from the PhantomJS website instead, please make sure the executable can be found via the PATH variable.

On Windows, the directory specified by the environment variable APPDATA is used to store 'phantomjs.exe'. On OS X, the directory '~/Library/Application Support' is used. On other platforms (such as Linux), the directory '~/bin' is used. If these directories are not writable, the directory 'PhantomJS' under the installation directory of the **asciicast** package will be tried. If this directory still fails, you will have to install PhantomJS by yourself.

## Value

NULL (the executable is written to a system directory).

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Play asciinema cast as an SVG image in the default browser

#### Description

Uses write\_svg() to create an SVG image for a cast, in a temporary file, and then previews a minimal HTML file with the SVG image, in the default browser.

#### Usage

play(cast, ...)

#### Arguments

cast	asciicast object
	Additional arguments are passed to write_svg().

## Value

The path of the temporary SVG file, invisibly.

#### See Also

Other SVG functions: default\_theme(), write\_svg()

## Examples

```
cast <- read_cast(system.file("examples", "hello.cast", package = "asciicast"))
play(cast)</pre>
```

read\_cast

#### Description

Import an asciicast from an asciicast JSON file

#### Usage

read\_cast(json)

#### Arguments

json Path to JSON asciicast file, version 2: https://github.com/asciinema/asciinema/ blob/master/doc/asciicast-v2.md. If a numeric id, then it is taken as a public https://asciinema.org recording id, that is downloaded. It can also be a URL of private https://asciinema.org link.

## Value

asciicast object.

#### See Also

Other asciicast functions: asciicast-package, asciicast\_start\_process(), record(), write\_json()

#### Examples

```
c1 <- read_cast("https://asciinema.org/a/uHQwIVpiZvu0Ioio8KYx6Uwlj.cast?dl=1")
play(c1)</pre>
```

c2 <- read\_cast(258660)
play(c2)</pre>

```
c3 <- read_cast(system.file("examples", "hello.cast", package = "asciicast"))
play(c3)</pre>
```

record

## Description

Record an asciinema screencast

## Usage

```
record(
 script,
 typing_speed = NULL,
 empty_wait = NULL,
 cols = NULL,
 rows = NULL,
 title = NULL,
 timestamp = NULL,
 env = NULL,
 idle_time_limit = NULL,
 timeout = NULL,
 start_wait = NULL,
 end_wait = NULL,
 record_env = NULL,
 startup = NULL,
 echo = TRUE,
 speed = NULL,
 process = NULL,
 interactive = TRUE,
 locales = get_locales(),
 options = asciicast_options(),
 incomplete_error = NULL
)
```

#### Arguments

script	Path of an R script to record. It can also be a readable R connection or URL, as it is passed to base::readLines(). It can also be a language object, which is deparsed, or a character vector with the source code itself.
typing_speed	Average typing speed, per keypress, in seconds.
empty_wait	How long to wait for empty lines in the script file, in seconds.
cols	Width of the terminal, in number of characters.
rows	Height of the terminal, in number of characters. If it the string "auto", then it will be determined automatically, by including all output on the screen.
title	Title of the cast, this is included in the cast JSON file.
timestamp	Time stamp of the recording, defaults to Sys.time(), this is included in the cast JSON file.

record

env	Environment variables to include in the case JSON file. Defaults to list(TERM = "xterm-256color", SHELL = "/bin/zsh").	
idle_time_limit	t	
	Time limit for the cast not printing anything, in seconds. By default there is no limit.	
timeout	Idle timeout, in seconds If the R subprocess running the recording does not answer within this limit, it is killed and the recording stops. Update this for slow running code, that produces no output as it runs.	
start_wait	Delay at the beginning, in seconds.	
end_wait	Delay at the very end, in seconds.	
record_env	Environment variables to set for the R subprocess.	
startup	Quoted language object to run in the subprocess before starting the recording.	
echo	Whether to echo the input to the terminal. If FALSE, then only the output is shown.	
speed	Rescale the speed of the recorded cast with this factor. The delay of the first frame is kept constant.	
process	A process subprocess to run the cast in. By default a new subprocess is started. You can reuse a process by calling asciicast_start_process() first, and sup- plying the returned process here.	
interactive	Whether to run R in interactive mode. This argument is ignored if process is specified. If process is NULL then it is passed to asciicast_start_process().	
locales	Locales to set in the asciicast subprocess. Defaults to the current locales in the main R process. Specify a named character vector here to override some of the defaults. See also get_locales().	
options	Options to set in the subprocess, a named list. They are deparsed to code, and then the code setting them is executed in the subprocess. See asciicast_options() for the defaults. Supply a named list here to override the defaults or set additional ones. Passing large and/or complicated options here might not work, or might be slow.	
incomplete_error		
	Whether to error on incomplete expressions. You might need to set this to FALSE for R code that does keyboard input, e.g. in browser(). The default is TRUE.	

## Value

An asciicast object, write this to file with write\_json().

#### See Also

Other asciicast functions: asciicast-package, asciicast\_start\_process(), read\_cast(), write\_json()

## Examples

```
script <- system.file("examples", "hello.R", package = "asciicast")
cast <- record(script)</pre>
```

play(cast)

record\_output

#### Record output of an R script and return it as a character vector

## Description

This function uses record() internally, but instead of creating an ascii cast, it just returns the output of the code in a character vector.

#### Usage

```
record_output(
 script,
 echo = FALSE,
 prompt = echo,
 stdout = TRUE,
 stderr = TRUE,
 ...
)
```

#### Arguments

script	The code to record, passed to record().
echo	Whether to include the input in the return value.
prompt	Whether to include the R prompt in the return value.
stdout	Whether to include the standard output in the return value.
stderr	Whether to include the standard error in the return value.
	Addiitonal arguments are passed to record(). (You cannot use typing_speed and echo, though, because these are used internally by record_output().

#### Value

Character vector of output (plus input if echo, plus prompt if prompt), as it would appear on a terminal.

See record() for additional options.

write\_gif

## Description

Export ascii screencast to animated GIF file

#### Usage

```
write_gif(
 cast,
 path,
 show = NULL,
 cols = NULL,
 rows = NULL,
 theme = NULL,
 scale = 2,
 speed = 1,
 max_colors = 256,
 loop = 0,
 end_wait = 10,
 optimize = TRUE
)
```

#### Arguments

cast	asciicast object.
path	Path to GIF file to create.
show	Whether to show the GIF on the screen, in the viewer pane in RStudio, or using the image viewer in the magick package. By default it only show the image in RStudio.
cols	If not NULL, <i>clip</i> terminal width to this number of columns.
rows	If not NULL, <i>clip</i> terminal height to this number of rows.
theme	Theme. Currently supported themes: asciinema, tango, solarized-dark, solarized-light, monokai. Defaults to the theme specified in the cast, or asciiname if not specified.
scale	Image scale / pixel density.
speed	Playback speed. Higher number means faster.
max_colors	Maximum number of colors in the GIF. This is currently per frame.
loop	How many times to loop the animation. Zero means infinite loop.
end_wait	Number of seconds to wait at the end, before looping.
optimize	Whether to try to create smaller GIF files. This might be slow for casts with many frames.

## Value

path, invisibly.

write\_html

## Create a HTML snapshot of an asciicast

## Description

Create a HTML snapshot of an asciicast

## Usage

```
write_html(
 cast,
 path,
 at = "end",
 omit_last_line = NULL,
 prefix = "",
 full_html = FALSE,
 theme = NULL
)
```

## Arguments

cast	asciicast object.
path	Path to the HTML file to create.
at	When to take the snapshot, defaults to the end of the cast ("end"). Can also be a number, in seconds.
omit_last_line	Whether to omit the last line of the cast. This often just the prompt, and some- times it is not worth showing.
prefix	Prefix to add to the beginning to every line. E.g. <b>#&gt;</b> is usually added to knitr output.
full_html	Whether to output a full HTML file. Mainly for testing purposes.
theme	A theme name to use, or a a named list to override the default theme (see $default_theme()$ ).

write\_json

#### Description

The file uses the asciinema file format, version 2: https://github.com/asciinema/asciinema/ blob/master/doc/asciicast-v2.md.

#### Usage

write\_json(cast, path)

#### Arguments

cast	asciicast object.
path	Path to write to.

#### See Also

Other asciicast functions: asciicast-package, asciicast\_start\_process(), read\_cast(), record()

## Examples

```
script <- system.file("examples", "hello.R", package = "asciicast")
cast <- record(script)
json <- tempfile(fileext = ".json")
write_json(cast, json)</pre>
```

write\_svg

Create animated SVG from an asciicast

## Description

Create animated SVG from an asciicast

#### Usage

```
write_svg(
 cast,
 path,
 window = NULL,
 start_at = NULL,
 end_at = NULL,
```

```
at = NULL,
cursor = NULL,
rows = NULL,
cols = NULL,
padding = NULL,
padding_x = NULL,
padding_y = NULL,
omit_last_line = NULL,
theme = NULL
```

## Arguments

cast	asciicast object.
path	Path to the SVG file to create.
window	Render with window decorations.
start_at	Lower range of timeline to render in seconds.
end_at	Upper range of timeline to render in seconds.
at	Timestamp of single frame to render, in seconds. Alternatively it can be "end", to take a snapshot at the end of the cast, after all output is done.
cursor	Enable cursor rendering.
rows	Height in lines.
cols	Width in columns.
padding	Distance between text and image bounds.
padding_x	Distance between text and image bounds on x axis.
padding_y	Distance between text and image bounds on y axis.
omit_last_line	Whether to omit the last line of the cast. This often just the prompt, and some- times it is not worth showing.
theme	A named list to override the default theme (see default_theme()).

## See Also

Other SVG functions: default\_theme(), play()

## Examples

```
cast <- read_cast(system.file("examples", "hello.cast", package = "asciicast"))
svg_file <- tempfile(fileext = ".svg")
write_svg(cast, svg_file)</pre>
```

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