# Package 'REDCapR'

November 2, 2014

Title Interaction between R and REDCap

**Description** Encapsulates functions to streamline calls from R to the REDCap API. REDCap (Research Electronic Data CAPture) is a web application for building and managing online surveys and databases developed at Vanderbilt University. The Application Programming Interface (API) offers an avenue to access and modify data programmatically, improving the capacity for literate and reproducible programming.

```
Version 0.5-17
Date 2014-10-07
Author Will Beasley [aut, cre],
     David Bard [ctb],
     Thomas Wilson [ctb],
     John J Aponte [ctb],
     Rollie Parrish [ctb],
     Benjamin Nutter [ctb],
      Andrew Peters [ctb]
Maintainer Will Beasley <wibeasley@hotmail.com>
URL https://github.com/OuhscBbmc/REDCapR, http://ouhsc.edu/bbmc/,
      http://project-redcap.org
Depends R(>= 3.0.0),
     stats
Imports httr,
     plyr,
     stringr
Suggests devtools,
     knitr,
     methods,
     RODBC,
     testit,
     testthat (>= 0.9)
License GPL-3
LazyData TRUE
VignetteBuilder knitr
Roxygen list(wrap = TRUE)
```

2 create\_batch\_glossary

# **R** topics documented:

	create_batch_glossary	2
	metadata_utilities	3
	REDCapR	
	redcap_column_sanitize	5
	redcap_download_file_oneshot	6
	redcap_metadata_read	8
	redcap_project	9
	redcap_read	10
	redcap_read_oneshot	12
	redcap_upload_file_oneshot	14
	redcap_write	16
	redcap_write_oneshot	18
	retrieve_token	20
	validate_for_write	22
Index		24

# **Description**

The function returns a data. frame that other functions use to separate long-running read and write REDCap calls into multiple, smaller REDCap calls. The goal is to (1) reduce the chance of timeouts, and (2) introduce little breaks between batches so that the server isn't continually tied up.

# Usage

```
create_batch_glossary(row_count, batch_size)
```

# **Arguments**

row\_count The number records in the large dataset, before it's split.

batch\_size The maximum number of subject records a single batch should contain.

# **Details**

This function can also assist splitting and saving a large data. frame to disk as smaller files (such as a .csv). The padded columns allow the OS to sort the batches/files in sequential order.

## Value

Currently, a data. frame is returned with the following columns,

- 1. id: an integer that uniquely identifies the batch, starting at 1.
- 2. start\_index: the index of the first row in the batch. integer.
- 3. stop\_index: the index of the last row in the batch. integer.
- 4. id\_pretty: a character representation of id, but padded with zeros.
- 5. start\_index: a character representation of start\_index, but padded with zeros.

metadata\_utilities 3

- 6. stop\_index: a character representation of stop\_index, but padded with zeros.
- 7. label: a character concatenation of id\_pretty, start\_index, and stop\_index\_pretty.

## Author(s)

Will Beasley

#### See Also

See redcap\_read for a function that uses create\_batch\_gloassary.

# **Examples**

```
library(REDCapR) #Load the package into the current R session.
create_batch_glossary(100, 50)
create_batch_glossary(100, 25)
create_batch_glossary(100, 3)
d <- data.frame(
   recordid = 1:100,
   iv = sample(x=4, size=100, replace=TRUE),
   dv = rnorm(n=100)
)
create_batch_glossary(nrow(d), batch_size=40)</pre>
```

metadata\_utilities

Manipulate and interpret the metadata of a REDCap project.

# **Description**

A collection of functions that assists handling REDCap project metadata.

# Usage

```
regex_named_captures(pattern, text, perl = TRUE)
checkbox_choices(select_choices)
```

# **Arguments**

pattern The regular expression pattern. Required. text The text to apply the regex against. Required.

perl Indicates if perl-compatible regexps should be used. Optional.

select\_choices The text containing the choices that should be parsed to determine the id and

label values. Required.

# **Details**

The regex\_named\_captures() function is general, and not specific to REDCap; it accepts any arbitrary regular expression. It returns a data. frame with as many columns as named matches.

The checkbox\_choices() function is specialized, and accommodates the "select choices" for a *single* REDCap checkbox group (where multiple boxes can be selected). It returns a data.frame with two columns, one for the numeric id and one fo the text label.

4 REDCapR

#### Value

Currently, a data.frame is returned a row for each match, and a column for each *named* group witin a match. For the retrieve\_checkbox\_choices() function, the columns will be.

- 1. id: The numeric value assigned to each choice (in the data dictionary).
- 2. label: The label assigned to each choice (in the data dictionary).

#### Author(s)

Will Beasley

#### References

See the official documentation for permissible characters in a checkbox label. *I'm bluffing here, because I don't know where this is located. If you know, please tell me.* 

# **Examples**

```
library(REDCapR) #Load the package into the current R session.
#The weird ranges are to avoid the pipe character; PCRE doesn't support character negation.
pattern\_boxes <- "(?<=\\\) (?<id>\\), (?<label>[\x20-\x7B\x7D-\x7E]{1,})(?= \\) |\\Z)"
choices_1 <- paste0(</pre>
  "1, American Indian/Alaska Native | ",
  "2, Asian | ",
  "3, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander | ",
  "4, Black or African American | ",
  "5, White | ",
  "6, Unknown / Not Reported")
#This calls the general function, and requires the correct regex pattern.
regex_named_captures(pattern=pattern_boxes, text=choices_1)
#This function is designed specifically for the checkbox values.
checkbox_choices(select_choices=choices_1)
## Not run:
uri <- "https://bbmc.ouhsc.edu/redcap/api/"</pre>
token <- "9A81268476645C4E5F03428B8AC3AA7B"
ds_metadata <- redcap_metadata_read(redcap_uri=uri, token=token)$data</pre>
choices_2 <- ds_metadata[ds_metadata$field_name=="race", "select_choices_or_calculations"]</pre>
regex_named_captures(pattern=pattern_boxes, text=choices_2)
## End(Not run)
```

REDCapR

## **Description**

Thanks to Funders, including HRSA/ACF D89MC23154

OUHSC CCAN Independent Evaluation of the State of Oklahoma Competitive Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Project., which evaluates MIECHV expansion and enhancement of Evidence-based Home Visitation programs in four Oklahoma counties.

```
redcap_column_sanitize
```

Sanitize to adhere to REDCap character encoding requirements.

## **Description**

Replace non-ASCII characters with legal characters that won't cause problems when writing to a REDCap project.

# Usage

```
redcap_column_sanitize(d, column_names = colnames(d),
  encoding_initial = "latin1", substitution_character = "?")
```

## **Arguments**

d The data.frame containing the dataset used to update the REDCap project. Required.

column\_names An array of character values indicating the names of the variables to sanitize. Optional.

encoding\_initial

An array of character values indicating the names of the variables to sanitize. Optional.

substitution\_character

The character value that replaces characters that were unable to be appropriatedly matched.

#### **Details**

Letters like an accented 'A' are replaced with a plain 'A'.

This is a thin wrapper around base::iconv(). The ASCII//TRANSLIT option does the actual transliteration work. As of R 3.1.0, the OSes use similar, but different, versions to convert the characters. Be aware of this in case you notice slight OS-dependent differences.

# Value

A data.frame with same columns, but whose character values have been sanitized.

#### Author(s)

Will Beasley

# **Examples**

- # Examples are not shown because they require non-ASCII encoding,
- # which makes the package documentation less portable.

```
redcap_download_file_oneshot
```

Download a file from a REDCap project record.

# **Description**

This function uses REDCap's API to download a file

# Usage

```
redcap_download_file_oneshot(file_name = NULL, directory = NULL,
  overwrite = FALSE, redcap_uri, token, record, field, event = "",
  verbose = TRUE, cert_location = NULL, sslversion = 3)
```

# **Arguments**

file_name	The name of the file where the downloaded file is saved. If empty the original name of the file will be used and saved in the default directory. Optional.
directory	The directory where the file is saved. By default current directory. Optional
overwrite	Boolean value indicating if existing files should be overwritten. Optional
redcap_uri	The URI (uniform resource identifier) of the REDCap project. Required.
token	The user-specific string that serves as the password for a project. Required.
record	The record ID where the file is to be imported. Required
field	The name of the field where the file is saved in REDCap. Required
event	The name of the event where the file is saved in REDCap. Optional
verbose	$\boldsymbol{A}$ boolean value indicating if messages should be printed to the R console during the operation. Optional.
cert_location	If present, this string should point to the location of the cert files required for SSL verification. If the value is missing or NULL, the server's identity will be verified using a recent CA bundle from the cURL website. See the details below. Optional.
sslversion	The SSL version for curl. The default is 3. Set to NULL if your server has disabled SSL $v3$ .

# **Details**

The 'REDCapR' package includes a recent version of the Bundle of CA Root Certificates from the official cURL site. This version is used by default, unless the 'cert\_location' parameter is given another location.

Currently, the function doesn't modify any variable types to conform to REDCap's supported variables. See validate\_for\_write for a helper function that checks for some common important conflicts.

### Value

Currently, a list is returned with the following elements,

- 1. success: A boolean value indicating if the operation was apparently successful.
- 2. status\_code: The <a href="https://h
- 3. outcome\_message: A human readable string indicating the operation's outcome.
- 4. records\_affected\_count: The number of records inserted or updated.
- 5. affected\_ids: The subject IDs of the inserted or updated records.
- 6. elapsed\_seconds: The duration of the function.
- 7. raw\_text: If an operation is NOT successful, the text returned by REDCap. If an operation is successful, the 'raw\_text' is returned as an empty string to save RAM.
- 8. file\_name: The name of the file persisted to disk. This is useful if the name stored in REDCap is used (which is the default).

# Author(s)

```
Will Beasley
John J. Aponte
```

#### References

The official documentation can be found on the 'API Examples' page on the REDCap wiki (https://iwg.devguard.com/trac/redcap/wiki/ApiExamples). A user account is required.

The official cURL site discusses the process of using SSL to verify the server being connected to.

# **Examples**

```
## Not run:
uri <- "https://bbmc.ouhsc.edu/redcap/api/"</pre>
token <- "D70F9ACD1EDD6F151C6EA78683944E98" #pid=213
record <- 1
field <- "mugshot"</pre>
# event <- "" # only for longitudinal events</pre>
result_1 <- redcap_download_file_oneshot(record=record, field=field,</pre>
                                   redcap_uri=uri, token=token)
base::unlink("mugshot_1.jpg")
(full_name <- base::tempfile(pattern="mugshot", fileext=".jpg"))</pre>
result_2 <- redcap_download_file_oneshot(file_name=full_name, record=record, field=field,</pre>
                                   redcap_uri=uri, token=token)
base::unlink(full_name)
(relative_name <- "ssss.jpg")</pre>
result_3 <- redcap_download_file_oneshot(file_name=relative_name, record=record, field=field,
                                   redcap_uri=uri, token=token)
base::unlink(relative_name)
## End(Not run)
```

## **Description**

Export the metadata (as a data dictionary) of a REDCap project as a data. frame. Each row in the data dictionary corresponds to one field in the project's dataset.

# Usage

```
redcap_metadata_read(redcap_uri, token, forms = NULL, forms_collapsed = "",
  fields = NULL, fields_collapsed = "", verbose = TRUE,
  cert_location = NULL, sslversion = 3)
```

# **Arguments**

redcap\_uri The URI (uniform resource identifier) of the REDCap project. Required.

token The user-specific string that serves as the password for a project. Required.

forms An array, where each element corresponds to the REDCap form of the desired

fields. Optional.

forms\_collapsed

A single string, where the desired forms are separated by commas. Optional.

fields An array, where each element corresponds to a desired project field. Optional.

fields\_collapsed

A single string, where the desired field names are separated by commas. Op-

tional.

verbose A boolean value indicating if messages should be printed to the R console dur-

ing the operation. The verbose output might contain sensitive information (*e.g.* PHI), so turn this off if the output might be visible somewhere public. Optional.

SSL verification. If the value is missing or NULL, the server's identity will be verified using a recent CA bundle from the cURL website. See the details below.

Optional.

sslversion The SSL version for curl. The default is 3. Set to NULL if your server has

disabled SSL v3.

# Details

Specifically, it internally uses multiple calls to redcap\_read\_oneshot to select and return data. Initially, only primary key is queried through the REDCap API. The long list is then subsetted into partitions, whose sizes are determined by the batch\_size parameter. REDCap is then queried for all variables of the subset's subjects. This is repeated for each subset, before returning a unified data.frame.

The function allows a delay between calls, which allows the server to attend to other users' requests.

redcap\_project 9

#### Value

Currently, a list is returned with the following elements,

- 1. data: An R data. frame of the desired records and columns.
- 2. success: A boolean value indicating if the operation was apparently successful.
- 3. status\_codes: A collection of <a href="https://http
- 4. outcome\_messages: A collection of human readable strings indicating the operations' semi-colons. There is one code for each batch attempted. In an unsuccessful operation, it should contain diagnostic information.
- forms\_collapsed: The desired records IDs, collapsed into a single string, separated by commas
- fields\_collapsed: The desired field names, collapsed into a single string, separated by commas.
- 7. elapsed\_seconds: The duration of the function.

## Author(s)

Will Beasley

#### References

The official documentation can be found on the REDCap wiki (https://iwg.devguard.com/trac/redcap/wiki/ApiDocumentation). A user account is required to access the wiki, which typically is granted only to REDCap administrators.

# **Examples**

```
## Not run:
library(REDCapR) #Load the package into the current R session.
uri <- "https://bbmc.ouhsc.edu/redcap/api/"
token <- "9A81268476645C4E5F03428B8AC3AA7B"
redcap_metadata_read(redcap_uri=uri, token=token)
## End(Not run)</pre>
```

redcap\_project

A Reference Class to make later calls to REDCap more convenient.

#### **Description**

This Reference Class represents a REDCap project. Once some values are set that are specific to a REDCap project (such as the URI and token), later calls are less verbose (such as reading and writing data). The functionality

#### **Fields**

redcap\_uri The URI (uniform resource identifier) of the REDCap project. Required. token token The user-specific string that serves as the password for a project. Required.

10 redcap\_read

#### Methods

## **Examples**

```
library(REDCapR) #Load the package into the current R session.
uri <- "https://bbmc.ouhsc.edu/redcap/api/"</pre>
token <- "D70F9ACD1EDD6F151C6EA78683944E98"
## Not run:
project <- redcap_project$new(redcap_uri=uri, token=token)</pre>
dsAll <- project$read()</pre>
#Demonstrate how repeated calls are more concise when the token and url aren't always passed.
dsThreeColumns <- project$read(fields=c("record_id", "sex", "height"))$data</pre>
idsOfMales <- dsThreeColumns[dsThreeColumns$sex==1, "record_id"]</pre>
idsOfShorties <- dsThreeColumns[dsThreeColumns$height < 40, "record_id"]</pre>
dsMales <- project$read(records=idsOfMales, batch_size=2)$data
dsShorties <- project$read(records=idsOfShorties)$data</pre>
#Switch the Genders
sex_original <- dsThreeColumns$sex</pre>
dsThreeColumns$sex <- (1 - dsThreeColumns$sex)</pre>
project$write(dsThreeColumns)
#Switch the Genders back
dsThreeColumns$sex <- sex_original</pre>
project$write(dsThreeColumns)
## End(Not run)
```

redcap\_read

Read records from a REDCap project in subsets, and stacks them together before returning a data.frame.

# Description

From an external perspective, this function is similar to redcap\_read\_oneshot. The internals differ in that redcap\_read retrieves subsets of the data, and then combines them before returning (among other objects) a single data.frame. This function can be more appropriate than redcap\_read\_oneshot when returning large datasets that could tie up the server.

# Usage

```
redcap_read(batch_size = 100L, interbatch_delay = 0.5,
  continue_on_error = FALSE, redcap_uri, token, records = NULL,
  records_collapsed = "", fields = NULL, fields_collapsed = "",
  export_data_access_groups = FALSE, raw_or_label = "raw", verbose = TRUE,
  cert_location = NULL, sslversion = 3, id_position = 1L)
```

11 redcap\_read

#### **Arguments**

batch\_size The maximum number of subject records a single batch should contain. The

default is 100.

interbatch\_delay

The number of seconds the function will wait before requesting a new subset from REDCap. The default is 0.5 seconds.

continue\_on\_error

If an error occurs while reading, should records in subsequent batches be attempted. The default is FALSE, which prevents subsequent batches from running.

Required.

The URI (uniform resource identifier) of the REDCap project. Required. redcap\_uri

The user-specific string that serves as the password for a project. Required. token

records An array, where each element corresponds to the ID of a desired record. Op-

tional.

records\_collapsed

A single string, where the desired ID values are separated by commas. Optional.

fields An array, where each element corresponds a desired project field. Optional.

fields\_collapsed

cert\_location

A single string, where the desired field names are separated by commas. Op-

tional.

export\_data\_access\_groups

A boolean value that specifies whether or not to export the "redcap data access group" field when data access groups are utilized in the project. Default is FALSE. See

the details below.

raw\_or\_label A string (either 'raw' or 'label' that specifies whether to export the raw coded

values or the labels for the options of multiple choice fields. Default is 'raw'.

A boolean value indicating if messages should be printed to the R console durverbose

> ing the operation. The verbose output might contain sensitive information (e.g. PHI), so turn this off if the output might be visible somewhere public. Optional.

If present, this string should point to the location of the cert files required for SSL verification. If the value is missing or NULL, the server's identity will be

verified using a recent CA bundle from the cURL website. See the details below.

Optional.

sslversion The SSL version for curl. The default is 3. Set to NULL if your server has

disabled SSL v3.

The column position of the variable that unique identifies the subject. This deid\_position

faults to the first variable in the dataset.

## **Details**

Specifically, it internally uses multiple calls to redcap\_read\_oneshot to select and return data. Initially, only primary key is queried through the REDCap API. The long list is then subsetted into partitions, whose sizes are determined by the batch\_size parameter. REDCap is then queried for all variables of the subset's subjects. This is repeated for each subset, before returning a unified data.frame.

The function allows a delay between calls, which allows the server to attend to other users' requests.

12 redcap\_read\_oneshot

#### Value

Currently, a list is returned with the following elements,

- 1. data: An R data. frame of the desired records and columns.
- 2. success: A boolean value indicating if the operation was apparently successful.
- 3. status\_codes: A collection of <a href="https://http
- 4. outcome\_messages: A collection of human readable strings indicating the operations' semi-colons. There is one code for each batch attempted. In an unsuccessful operation, it should contain diagnostic information.
- 5. records\_collapsed: The desired records IDs, collapsed into a single string, separated by commas.
- 6. fields\_collapsed: The desired field names, collapsed into a single string, separated by commas.
- 7. elapsed\_seconds: The duration of the function.

#### Author(s)

Will Beasley

#### References

The official documentation can be found on the REDCap wiki (https://iwg.devguard.com/trac/redcap/wiki/ApiDocumentation). Also see the 'API Examples' page on the REDCap wiki (https://iwg.devguard.com/trac/redcap/wiki/ApiExamples). A user account is required to access the wiki, which typically is granted only to REDCap administrators. If you do not

The official cURL site discusses the process of using SSL to verify the server being connected to.

## **Examples**

```
## Not run:
library(REDCapR) #Load the package into the current R session.
uri <- "https://bbmc.ouhsc.edu/redcap/api/"
token <- "9A81268476645C4E5F03428B8AC3AA7B"
redcap_read(batch_size=2, redcap_uri=uri, token=token)
## End(Not run)</pre>
```

redcap\_read\_oneshot

Read/Export records from a REDCap project.

## **Description**

This function uses REDCap's API to select and return data.

# Usage

```
redcap_read_oneshot(redcap_uri, token, records = NULL,
  records_collapsed = "", fields = NULL, fields_collapsed = "",
  export_data_access_groups = FALSE, raw_or_label = "raw", verbose = TRUE,
  cert_location = NULL, sslversion = 3)
```

redcap\_read\_oneshot 13

## **Arguments**

redcap\_uri The URI (uniform resource identifier) of the REDCap project. Required.

token The user-specific string that serves as the password for a project. Required.

records An array, where each element corresponds to the ID of a desired record. Op-

tional

tional.

records\_collapsed

A single string, where the desired ID values are separated by commas. Optional.

fields An array, where each element corresponds a desired project field. Optional.

fields\_collapsed

A single string, where the desired field names are separated by commas. Op-

tional.

export\_data\_access\_groups

A boolean value that specifies whether or not to export the "redcap\_data\_access\_group"

field when data access groups are utilized in the project. Default is FALSE. See

the details below.

raw\_or\_label A string (either 'raw' or 'label' that specifies whether to export the raw coded

values or the labels for the options of multiple choice fields. Default is 'raw'.

verbose A boolean value indicating if messages should be printed to the R console dur-

ing the operation. The verbose output might contain sensitive information (e.g. PHI), so turn this off if the output might be visible somewhere public. Optional.

SSL verification. If the value is missing or NULL, the server's identity will be verified using a recent CA bundle from the cURL website. See the details below.

Optional.

sslversion The SSL version for curl. The default is 3. Set to NULL if your server has

disabled SSL v3.

#### **Details**

I like how PyCap creates a 'project' object with methods that read and write from REDCap. However this isn't a style that R clients typically use. I like the logic that it's associated with a particular REDCap project that shouldn't change between calls. As a compromise, I think I'll wrap the uri, token, and cert location into a single S4 object that's passed to these methods. It will make these calls take less space.

The 'REDCapR' package includes a recent version of the Bundle of CA Root Certificates from the official cURL site. This version is used by default, unless the 'cert\_location' parameter is given another location.

If you do not pass in this export\_data\_access\_groups value, it will default to FALSE. The following is from the API help page for version 5.2.3: This flag is only viable if the user whose token is being used to make the API request is \*not\* in a data access group. If the user is in a group, then this flag will revert to its default value.

#### Value

Currently, a list is returned with the following elements,

- 1. data: An R data. frame of the desired records and columns.
- 2. success: A boolean value indicating if the operation was apparently successful.
- 3. status\_code: The <a href="https://h

- 4. outcome\_message: A human readable string indicating the operation's outcome.
- records\_collapsed: The desired records IDs, collapsed into a single string, separated by commas.
- 6. fields\_collapsed: The desired field names, collapsed into a single string, separated by commas.
- 7. elapsed\_seconds: The duration of the function.
- 8. raw\_text: If an operation is NOT successful, the text returned by REDCap. If an operation is successful, the 'raw\_text' is returned as an empty string to save RAM.

## Author(s)

Will Beasley

#### References

The official documentation can be found on the 'API Examples' page on the REDCap wiki (https://iwg.devguard.com/trac/redcap/wiki/ApiExamples). A user account is required.

The official cURL site discusses the process of using SSL to verify the server being connected to.

# **Examples**

```
library(REDCapR) #Load the package into the current R session.
uri <- "https://bbmc.ouhsc.edu/redcap/api/"</pre>
token <- "9A81268476645C4E5F03428B8AC3AA7B"
#Return all records and all variables.
ds_all_rows_all_fields <- redcap_read_oneshot(redcap_uri=uri, token=token)$data
#Return only records with IDs of 1 and 3
desired_records_v1 <- c(1, 3)</pre>
ds_some_rows_v1 <- redcap_read_oneshot(</pre>
   redcap_uri=uri,
   token=token,
   records=desired_records_v1
)$data
#Return only the fields recordid, name_first, and age
desired_fields_v1 <- c("recordid", "name_first", "age")</pre>
ds_some_fields_v1 <- redcap_read_oneshot(</pre>
   redcap_uri=uri,
   token=token,
   fields=desired_fields_v1
)$data
## End(Not run)
```

redcap\_upload\_file\_oneshot

Upload a file into to a REDCap project record.

# **Description**

This function uses REDCap's API to upload a file

## Usage

```
redcap_upload_file_oneshot(file_name, record, redcap_uri, token, field,
 event = "", verbose = TRUE, cert_location = NULL, sslversion = 3)
```

## **Arguments**

file name

TITC_Hame	Required.
record	The record ID where the file is to be imported. Required
redcap_uri	The URI (uniform resource identifier) of the REDCap project. Required.
token	The user-specific string that serves as the password for a project. Required.
field	The name of the field where the file is saved in REDCap. Required
event	The name of the event where the file is saved in REDCap. Optional
verbose	$\boldsymbol{A}$ boolean value indicating if messages should be printed to the R console during the operation. Optional.
cert_location	If present, this string should point to the location of the cert files required for

SSL verification. If the value is missing or NULL, the server's identity will be verified using a recent CA bundle from the cURL website. See the details below. Optional.

The name of the relative or full file to be uploaded into the REDCap project.

The SSL version for curl. The default is 3. Set to NULL if your server has sslversion

disabled SSL v3.

## **Details**

The 'REDCapR' package includes a recent version of the Bundle of CA Root Certificates from the official cURL site. This version is used by default, unless the 'cert\_location' parameter is given another location.

Currently, the function doesn't modify any variable types to conform to REDCap's supported variables. See validate\_for\_write for a helper function that checks for some common important conflicts.

#### Value

Currently, a list is returned with the following elements,

- 1. success: A boolean value indicating if the operation was apparently successful.
- 2. status\_code: The http status code of the operation.
- 3. outcome\_message: A human readable string indicating the operation's outcome.
- 4. records\_affected\_count: The number of records inserted or updated.
- 5. affected\_ids: The subject IDs of the inserted or updated records.
- 6. elapsed\_seconds: The duration of the function.
- 7. raw\_text: If an operation is NOT successful, the text returned by REDCap. If an operation is successful, the 'raw\_text' is returned as an empty string to save RAM.

16 redcap\_write

## Author(s)

```
Will Beasley
John J. Aponte
```

## References

The official documentation can be found on the 'API Examples' page on the REDCap wiki (https://iwg.devguard.com/trac/redcap/wiki/ApiExamples). A user account is required.

The official cURL site discusses the process of using SSL to verify the server being connected to.

## **Examples**

```
## Not run:
#Define some constants
uri <- "https://bbmc.ouhsc.edu/redcap/api/"</pre>
token <- "D70F9ACD1EDD6F151C6EA78683944E98" #For the simple project (pid 213)
field <- "mugshot"</pre>
event <- "" # only for longitudinal events
#Upload a single image file.
record <- 1
file_path <- base::file.path(devtools::inst(name="REDCapR"), paste0("test_data/mugshot_1.jpg"))</pre>
redcap_upload_file_oneshot(file_name=file_path, redcap_uri=redcap_uri, token=token,
                            record=record, field=field)
#Upload a collection of five images.
records <- 1:5
file_paths <- base::file.path(devtools::inst(name="REDCapR"),</pre>
                               paste0("test_data/mugshot_", records, ".jpg"))
for( i in seq_along(records) ) {
  record <- records[i]</pre>
  file_path <- file_paths[i]</pre>
  redcap_upload_file_oneshot(file_name=file_path, redcap_uri=redcap_uri, token=token,
                              record=record, field=field)
}
## End(Not run)
```

redcap\_write

Write/Import records to a REDCap project.

# **Description**

This function uses REDCap's API to select and return data.

## Usage

```
redcap_write(ds_to_write, batch_size = 100L, interbatch_delay = 0.5,
  continue_on_error = FALSE, redcap_uri, token, verbose = TRUE,
  cert_location = NULL, sslversion = 3)
```

redcap\_write 17

## **Arguments**

ds\_to\_write The data.frame to be imported into the REDCap project. Required.

batch\_size The maximum number of subject records a single batch should contain. The

default is 100.

interbatch\_delay

The number of seconds the function will wait before requesting a new subset

from REDCap. The default is 0.5 seconds.

continue\_on\_error

If an error occurs while writing, should records in subsequent batches be attempted. The default is FALSE, which prevents subsequent batches from running.

Required.

redcap\_uri The URI (uniform resource identifier) of the REDCap project. Required.

token The user-specific string that serves as the password for a project. Required.

verbose A boolean value indicating if messages should be printed to the R console dur-

ing the operation. The verbose output might contain sensitive information (*e.g.* PHI), so turn this off if the output might be visible somewhere public. Optional.

cert\_location If present, this string should point to the location of the cert files required for

SSL verification. If the value is missing or NULL, the server's identity will be verified using a recent CA bundle from the cURL website. See the details below.

Optional.

sslversion The SSL version for curl. The default is 3. Set to NULL if your server has

disabled SSL v3.

## **Details**

The 'REDCapR' package includes a recent version of the Bundle of CA Root Certificates from the official cURL site. This version is used by default, unless the 'cert\_location' parameter is given another location.

Currently, the function doesn't modify any variable types to conform to REDCap's supported variables. See validate\_for\_write for a helper function that checks for some common important conflicts.

# Value

Currently, a list is returned with the following elements,

- 1. success: A boolean value indicating if the operation was apparently successful.
- 2. status\_code: The http status code of the operation.
- 3. outcome\_message: A human readable string indicating the operation's outcome.
- 4. records\_affected\_count: The number of records inserted or updated.
- 5. affected\_ids: The subject IDs of the inserted or updated records.
- 6. elapsed\_seconds: The duration of the function.

## Author(s)

Will Beasley

18 redcap\_write\_oneshot

#### References

The official documentation can be found on the 'API Examples' page on the REDCap wiki (https://iwg.devguard.com/trac/redcap/wiki/ApiExamples). A user account is required.

The official cURL site discusses the process of using SSL to verify the server being connected to.

## **Examples**

```
## Not run:
#Define some constants
uri <- "https://bbmc.ouhsc.edu/redcap/api/"</pre>
token <- "D70F9ACD1EDD6F151C6EA78683944E98"
# Read the dataset for the first time.
result_read1 <- redcap_read_oneshot(redcap_uri=uri, token=token)</pre>
ds1 <- result_read1$data
ds1$telephone
# The line above returns something like this (depending on its previous state).
#[1] "(432) 456-4848" "(234) 234-2343" "(433) 435-9865" "(987) 654-3210" "(333) 333-4444"
# Manipulate a field in the dataset in a VALID way
ds1$telephone <- sprintf("(405) 321-%1$i%1$i%1$i%1$i", seq_len(nrow(ds1)))
ds1 <- ds1[1:3, ]
ds1$age <- NULL; ds1$bmi <- NULL #Drop the calculated fields before writing.
result_write <- REDCapR::redcap_write(ds=ds1, redcap_uri=uri, token=token)</pre>
# Read the dataset for the second time.
result_read2 <- redcap_read_oneshot(redcap_uri=uri, token=token)</pre>
ds2 <- result_read2$data
ds2$telephone
# The line above returns something like this. Notice only the first three lines changed.
# [1] "(405) 321-1111" "(405) 321-2222" "(405) 321-3333" "(987) 654-3210" "(333) 333-4444"
# Manipulate a field in the dataset in an INVALID way. A US exchange can't be '111'.
ds1$telephone <- sprintf("(405) 111-%1$i%1$i%1$i%1$i", seq_len(nrow(ds1)))
# This next line will throw an error.
result_write <- REDCapR::redcap_write(ds=ds1, redcap_uri=uri, token=token)</pre>
result_write$raw_text
## End(Not run)
```

redcap\_write\_oneshot Write/Import records to a REDCap project.

## **Description**

This function uses REDCap's API to select and return data.

# Usage

```
redcap_write_oneshot(ds, redcap_uri, token, verbose = TRUE,
    cert_location = NULL, sslversion = 3)
```

redcap\_write\_oneshot 19

## **Arguments**

ds The data.frame to be imported into the REDCap project. Required.

redcap\_uri The URI (uniform resource identifier) of the REDCap project. Required.

token The user-specific string that serves as the password for a project. Required.

verbose A boolean value indicating if messages should be printed to the R console dur-

ing the operation. The verbose output might contain sensitive information (*e.g.* PHI), so turn this off if the output might be visible somewhere public. Optional.

SSL verification. If the value is missing or NULL, the server's identity will be verified using a recent CA bundle from the cURL website. See the details below.

Optional.

sslversion The SSL version for curl. The default is 3. Set to NULL if your server has

disabled SSL v3.

#### **Details**

The 'REDCapR' package includes a recent version of the Bundle of CA Root Certificates from the official cURL site. This version is used by default, unless the 'cert\_location' parameter is given another location.

Currently, the function doesn't modify any variable types to conform to REDCap's supported variables. See validate\_for\_write for a helper function that checks for some common important conflicts.

# Value

Currently, a list is returned with the following elements,

- 1. success: A boolean value indicating if the operation was apparently successful.
- 2. status\_code: The <a href="http status">http status</a> code of the operation.
- 3. outcome\_message: A human readable string indicating the operation's outcome.
- 4. records\_affected\_count: The number of records inserted or updated.
- 5. affected\_ids: The subject IDs of the inserted or updated records.
- 6. elapsed\_seconds: The duration of the function.
- 7. raw\_text: If an operation is NOT successful, the text returned by REDCap. If an operation is successful, the 'raw\_text' is returned as an empty string to save RAM.

## Author(s)

Will Beasley

# References

The official documentation can be found on the 'API Examples' page on the REDCap wiki (https://iwg.devguard.com/trac/redcap/wiki/ApiExamples). A user account is required.

The official cURL site discusses the process of using SSL to verify the server being connected to.

20 retrieve\_token

## **Examples**

```
## Not run:
#Define some constants
uri <- "https://bbmc.ouhsc.edu/redcap/api/"</pre>
token <- "D70F9ACD1EDD6F151C6EA78683944E98"
# Read the dataset for the first time.
result_read1 <- redcap_read_oneshot(redcap_uri=uri, token=token)</pre>
ds1 <- result_read1$data</pre>
ds1$telephone
# The line above returns something like this (depending on its previous state).
# [1] "(432) 456-4848" "(234) 234-2343" "(433) 435-9865" "(987) 654-3210" "(333) 333-4444"
# Manipulate a field in the dataset in a VALID way
ds1$telephone <- sprintf("(405) 321-%1$i%1$i%1$i%1$i", seq_len(nrow(ds1)))
ds1 <- ds1[1:3, ]
ds1$age <- NULL; ds1$bmi <- NULL #Drop the calculated fields before writing.
result_write <- REDCapR::redcap_write_oneshot(ds=ds1, redcap_uri=uri, token=token)</pre>
# Read the dataset for the second time.
result_read2 <- redcap_read_oneshot(redcap_uri=uri, token=token)</pre>
ds2 <- result_read2$data
ds2$telephone
# The line above returns something like this. Notice only the first three lines changed.
# [1] "(405) 321-1111" "(405) 321-2222" "(405) 321-3333" "(987) 654-3210" "(333) 333-4444"
# Manipulate a field in the dataset in an INVALID way. A US exchange can't be '111'.
ds1$telephone <- sprintf("(405) 111-%1$i%1$i%1$i%1$i", seq_len(nrow(ds1)))
# This next line will throw an error.
result_write <- REDCapR::redcap_write_oneshot(ds=ds1, redcap_uri=uri, token=token)</pre>
result_write$raw_text
## End(Not run)
```

retrieve\_token

Read a token from a (non-REDCap) database.

#### **Description**

These functions are not essential to calling the REDCap API, but instead are functions that help manage tokens securely.

# Usage

```
retrieve_token_mssql(dsn, project_name, channel = NULL,
   schema_name = "[Redcap]", procedure_name = "[prcToken]",
   variable_name_project = "@RedcapProjectName", field_name_token = "Token")
```

# **Arguments**

dsn

A DSN on the local machine that points to the desired MSSQL database. Required.

retrieve\_token 21

project\_name The friendly/shortened name given to the REDCap project in the MSSQL table.

Notice this isn't necessarily the same name used by REDCap. Required

channel An optional connection handle as returned by RODBC::odbcConnect. See De-

tails below. Optional.

schema\_name The schema used within the database. Note that MSSQL uses the more conven-

tional definition of schema than MySQL. Defaults to '[Redcap]'. Optional.

procedure\_name The stored procedure called to retrieve the token. Defaults to '[prcToken]'.

Optional.

variable\_name\_project

The variable declared within the stored procedure that contains the desired project

name. Optional.

field\_name\_token

The field/column/variable name in the database table containing the token values. Defaults to 'Token'. Optional.

#### **Details**

If no channel is passed, one will be created at the beginning of the function, and destroyed at the end. However if a channel is created, it's the caller's responsibility to destroy this resource. If you're making successive calls to the database, it might be quicker to create a single channel object and batch the calls together. Otherwise, the performance should be equivalent.

If you create the channel object yourself, consider wrapping calls in a base::tryCatch block, and closing the channel in its finally expression; this helps ensure the expensive database resource isn't held open unnecessarily. See the internals of retrieve\_token\_mssql for an example of closing the channel in a tryCatch block.

If the database elements are create with the script provided in package's 'Security Database' vignette, the default values will work.

#### Value

The token, which is a 32 character string.

## Note

We use Microsoft SQL Server, because that fits our University's infrastructure the easiest. But this approach theoretically can work with any LDAP-enabled database server. Please contact us if your institution is using something other than SQL Server, and would like help adapting this approach to your infrastructure.

# Author(s)

Will Beasley

## **Examples**

```
## Not run:
library(REDCapR) #Load the package into the current R session.
##
## Rely on `retrieve_token()` to create & destory the channel.
##
dsn <- "TokenSecurity"</pre>
```

22 validate\_for\_write

```
project <- "DiabetesSurveyProject"
token <- retrieve_token(dsn=dsn, project_name=project)

##

## Create & close the channel yourself, to optimize repeated calls.

##

dsn <- "TokenSecurity"
project1 <- "DiabetesSurveyProject1"
project2 <- "DiabetesSurveyProject2"
project3 <- "DiabetesSurveyProject3"

channel <- RODBC::odbcConnect(dsn=dsn)
token1 <- retrieve_token(dsn=dsn, project_name=project1)
token2 <- retrieve_token(dsn=dsn, project_name=project2)
token3 <- retrieve_token(dsn=dsn, project_name=project3)
RODBC::odbcClose(channel)

## End(Not run)</pre>
```

validate\_for\_write

*Inspect a* data. frame *to anticipate problems before writing to a RED-Cap project.* 

# **Description**

This set of functions inspect a data. frame to anticipate problems before writing with REDCap's API.

# Usage

```
validate_for_write( d )
validate_no_logical( d )
validate_no_uppercase( d )
```

# Arguments

d

The data.frame containing the dataset used to update the REDCap project. Required.

# **Details**

All functions listed in the Usage section above inspect a specific aspect of the dataset. The validate\_for\_read() function executes all these individual validation checks. It allows the client to check everything with one call.

## Value

A data.frame, where each potential violation is a row. The two columns are:

1. field\_name: The name of the data.frame that might cause problems during the upload.

validate\_for\_write 23

2. field\_index: The position of the field. (For example, a value of '1' indicates the first column, while a '3' indicates the third column.)

- 3. concern: A description of the problem potentially caused by the field.
- 4. suggestion: A *potential* solution to the concern.

# Author(s)

Will Beasley

# **Examples**

```
d <- data.frame(
  recordid = 1:4,
  flag_logical = c(TRUE, TRUE, FALSE, TRUE),
  flag_Uppercase = c(4, 6, 8, 2)
)
validate_for_write(d = d)</pre>
```

# **Index**

```
checkbox_choices (metadata_utilities), 3
create_batch_glossary, 2
metadata_utilities, 3
redcap_column_sanitize, 5
redcap_download_file_oneshot, 6
redcap_metadata_read, 8
redcap_project, 9
redcap_read, 3, 10
redcap_read_oneshot, 8, 10, 11, 12
redcap_upload_file_oneshot, 14
redcap_write, 16
redcap_write_oneshot, 18
REDCapR, 4
REDCapR-package (REDCapR), 4
regex_named_captures
        (metadata_utilities), 3
retrieve_token, 20
retrieve_token_mssql (retrieve_token),
        20
validate_for_write, 6, 15, 17, 19, 22
validate_no_logical
        (validate_for_write), 22
validate_no_uppercase
        (validate_for_write), 22
```