Package 'Rfacebook'

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Rfacebook-package

Access to Facebook API via R

Description

This package provides a series of functions that allow R users to access Facebook's API to get information about users and posts, and collect public status updates that mention specific keywords.

Author(s)

Pablo Barbera <pablo.barbera@nyu.edu>

See Also

fbOAuth, getUsers, getPost, searchFacebook, updateStatus, getFriends, getNetwork, getPage

callAPI

Make an API request

Description

callAPI is an internal function to run an API request.

Usage

```
callAPI(url, token)
```

Arguments

url URL of API request

token Either a temporary access token created at https://developers.facebook.

com/tools/explorer or the OAuth token created with fb0Auth. It needs to have extended permissions in order to successfully post to the Facebook profile.

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fb0Auth

Create OAuth token to Facebook R session

Description

fb0Auth creates a long-lived OAuth access token that enables R to make authenticated calls to the Facebook API. The token can be saved as a file in disk to be re-used in future sessions. This function relies on the httr package to create the OAuth token, and is a simplified version of one of its examples.

This function will automatically detect the API version for the token you create.

Usage

```
fbOAuth(app_id, app_secret, extended_permissions = FALSE,
  legacy_permissions = FALSE)
```

Arguments

app_id

numeric, App ID of application to be used to create OAUth token. Available at

https://developers.facebook.com/apps

app_secret

string, App Secret of application to be used to create OAUth token. Available at https://developers.facebook.com/apps, in Basic Settings panel.

extended_permissions

If TRUE, the token will give access to some of the authenticated user's private information (birthday, hometown, location, relationships) and that of his/her friends, and permissions to post status updates as well as to access checkins, likes, and the user's newsfeed If FALSE, token will give access only to public information. Note that updateStatus will only work for tokens with extended permissions. After version 2.0 of the Graph API, creating an application with these permissions requires passing App Review (https://developers.

facebook.com/docs/facebook-login/review)

legacy_permissions

For tokens created with old versions of the API, this option adds the "read_stream" permission

Details

There are two different ways of making authenticated requests. One is to obtain a temporary access token from https://developers.facebook.com/tools/explorer/, which can be used as argument in any of the functions in Rfacebook. An example is shown below.

However, this token has a 2-hour lifetime by default and after it expires, it needs to be renewed. The second alternative is to create an OAuth token. The process to create it is a bit more tedious. It is divided in three steps.

First, go to https://developers.facebook.com/apps, register as a developer and create a new app. You will also need a verified Facebook account. After that, click in "Show" under "App Secret" to find your 'App ID' and 'App Secret'.

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Second, run the fb0Auth function with your "App ID" and "App Secret" as arguments. It will return a URL, which you will need to paste into the "Website with Facebook login" field in your App Settings on Facebook. Once you've done so, press Enter.

Third, after pressing Enter, R will try to open a browser window to sign the token. If everything works well, you will get a message that says you can return to R. If not, try again in a few minutes to make sure your app had its settings updated properly.

To ensure proper functioning of the "getInsights" function-family you will need to specify the exact permissions granted to your app. As this is (to our knowledge) currently not possible through the R based authentication process, please follow these steps:

-> Create App as mentioned above. 1. Open the "Graph API Explorer": https://developers.facebook.com/tools/explorer/ 2. Select your app in the upper right corner 3. Click "Get Token" -> "Get Access Token" 4. In the popup navigate to "Extended Permissions" and select "Insights" 5. Confirm 6. Ignore the following warning message ("Submit for Login Review...") and confirm again. 6. Go back to R and run fbOAuth with extended_permissions (still) set to FALSE. -> See third step for possible messages concerning token creation.

Author(s)

Pablo Barbera <pablo.barbera@nyu.edu>

See Also

getUsers, getPost, searchFacebook

Examples

```
## Not run:
## an example of an authenticated request after creating the OAuth token
## where app_id and app_secret are fictitious, and token is saved for
## future sessions
fb_oauth <- fbOAuth(app_id="123456789", app_secret="1A2B3C4D")
save(fb_oauth, file="fb_oauth")
load("fb_oauth")
me <- getUsers("me", token=fb_oauth)
me$username

## an example of a request using a temporary access token
token <- "XXXXXXAAAAAAA1111"
me <- getUsers("me", token=token)

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

getCheckins

Extract list of checkins of a Facebook friend

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Description

getCheckins retrieves information about a friend's checkins

Usage

```
getCheckins(user, n = 10, token, tags = FALSE)
```

Arguments

user A user ID or screen name.

n Maximum number of checkins to return for each user.

token Either a temporary access token created at https://developers.facebook.

com/tools/explorer or the OAuth token created with fb0Auth.

tags If TRUE, output of function will be a list of two elements: a data frame with user's

checkins and a list of data frames, where each element contains information

about users tagged in each checkin.

Details

This function requires the use of an OAuth token with the following permissions: user_status, user_checkins, friends_status, friends_checkins

Check-in search was deprecated with version 2.0 of the Facebook Graph API.

Author(s)

Pablo Barbera <pablo.barbera@nyu.edu>

See Also

```
getFriends
```

```
## Not run:
  token <- 'XXXXX'
  my_checkins <- getCheckins(user="me", token=token)
## End(Not run)</pre>
```

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getFQL

Executes a FQL query to the Facebook Graph API

Description

getFQL connects to Facebook's Graph API and executes a FQL query. See https://developers.facebook.com/docs/technical-guides/fql/ for an overview of the Facebook Query Language.

Usage

```
getFQL(query, token)
```

Arguments

query Text of query

token Either a temporary access token created at https://developers.facebook.

com/tools/explorer or the OAuth token created with fb0Auth.

Author(s)

Pablo Barbera <pablo.barbera@nyu.edu>

Examples

```
## Not run:
## See examples for fbOAuth to know how token was created.
## Getting list of friends of authenticated user
load("fb_oauth")
d <- getFQL("SELECT uid2 FROM friend WHERE uid1=me()", token=fb_oauth)
## End(Not run)</pre>
```

getFriends

Extract list of friends with their information

Description

getFriends retrieves information about the user's friends.

Usage

```
getFriends(token, simplify = FALSE)
```

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Arguments

token Either a temporary access token created at https://developers.facebook.

com/tools/explorer or the OAuth token created with fb0Auth.

simplify If TRUE, function will return only name and id for each friend. If FALSE, it

will return additional information from their profiles: gender, birthday, location,

hometown, relationship status and profile picture.

Details

This function requires the use of a OAuth token with extended permissions. After the introduction of version 2.0 of the Graph API, only friends who are using the application that you used to generate the token to query the API will be returned.

Author(s)

Pablo Barbera <pablo.barbera@nyu.edu>

See Also

```
getUsers, fbOAuth
```

Examples

```
## Not run:
## Copy and paste token created at FB Graph API Explorer
  token <- "XXXXXX"

my_friends <- getFriends(token=token, simplify=TRUE)
## Since users are ordered by ID, this will return 10 oldest user accounts
head(my_friends, n=10)
## End(Not run)</pre>
```

getGroup

Extract list of posts from a public Facebook group

Description

getGroup retrieves information from a public Facebook group.

Usage

```
getGroup(group_id, token, n = 100, since = NULL, until = NULL)
```

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Arguments

group_id	Facebook ID for the group. Note that this is different from the name on the URL. You can use searchGroup to find the ID.
token	Either a temporary access token created at https://developers.facebook.com/tools/explorer or the OAuth token created with fbOAuth.
n	Number of posts of page to return. Note that number can be sometimes higher or lower, depending on status of API.
since	A UNIX timestamp or strtotime data value that points to the start of the time range to be searched. For more information on the accepted values, see: http://php.net/manual/en/function.strtotime.php
until	A UNIX timestamp or strtotime data value that points to the end of the time range to be searched. For more information on the accepted values, see: http://php.net/manual/en/function.strtotime.php

Author(s)

Pablo Barbera <pablo.barbera@nyu.edu>

See Also

```
getUsers, getPost, fbOAuth
```

Examples

```
## Not run:
## Find Facebook ID for R-Users Facebook group
load("fb_oauth")
ids <- searchGroup(name="rusers", token=fb_oauth)
ids[1,] # id = 18533493739
## Downloading posts from R-Users Facebook group
group <- getGroup(group_id=18533493739, token=fb_oauth)
## Downloading posts from R-Users Facebook group in January 2013
group <- getGroup(group_id=18533493739, token=fb_oauth,
since='2013/01/01', until='2013/01/31')
## End(Not run)</pre>
```

getInsights

Extract Insights metric from a Facebook page (admin role required)

Description

getInsights retrieves information from an owned Facebook page. Note that you must specify wich metric from insights you need and the period. To request multiple metrics at one time, pass a vector of metric names with a vector of periods of the same length. If only one period is supplied, it will apply to each metric. Please refer to Facebook's documentation for valid combinations of objects, metrics and periods.

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Usage

```
getInsights(object_id, token, metric, period = "day", parms = NA,
  version = 2.3, n = 5)
```

Arguments

object_id An object (page, post, domain) ID.

token Either a temporary access token created at https://developers.facebook.

com/tools/explorer or the OAuth token created with fb0Auth.

metric The metric(s) which you want to get values for.

period Time intervals to return

parms Optional argument that can be used to append additional parameters. For exam-

ple, &since=DATE&until=DATE.

version specifies what API version to use in the request. Version 2.5 is default.

n Number of time intervals of metric values to return. Note that all metrics re-

turned will be multiple of 3, except for lifetime period. Default n is 5

Details

The current list of supported metrics and periods is: page_fan_adds, page_fan_removes, page_views_login, page_views_login, page_views_logout, page_views, page_story_adds, page_impressions, page_posts_impressions, page_consumptions, post_consumptions_by_type, page_consumptions, and page_fans_country.

For more information, see: https://developers.facebook.com/docs/graph-api/reference/v2.5/insights

Author(s)

Danilo Silva <silvadaniloc@gmail.com> Eduardo Carvalho <eduardooc.86@gmail.com> Andrew Geisler https://github.com/andrewgeisler

```
## Not run:
## See examples for fbOAuth to know how token was created.
## Getting page impressions for Facebook's Facebook Page
## (only owner or admin of page)
load("fb_oauth")
insights <- getInsights(object_id="20531316728", token=fb_oauth, metric='page_impressions')</pre>
## Getting post impressions for a random Facebook's page post
## (only owner or admin of page)
insights <- getInsights(object_id='221568044327801_754789777921289',</pre>
     token=fb_oauth, metric='post_impressions', period='days_28')
## Getting page fans for date range
## (only owner or admin of page)
insights <- getInsights(object_id='221568044327801',</pre>
    token=fb_oauth, metric=c'page_fans', period='lifetime',
    parms='&since=2015-01-01&until=2015-01-31', version=2.5)
#' ## Getting page fans AND page impressions for date range
```

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```
## (only owner or admin of page)
insights <- getInsights(object_id='221568044327801',
    token=fb_oauth, metric=c('page_fans','page_impressions'), period=c('lifetime','day'),
    parms='&since=2015-01-01&until=2015-01-31')
## Count of fans by country
    insights <- getInsights(object_id='221568044327801_754789777921289',
        token=fb_oauth, metric='page_fans_country', period='lifetime')
## End(Not run)</pre>
```

getLikes

Extract list of likes of a Facebook friend

Description

getLikes retrieves information about a friend's likes. To retrieve the number of likes for a page, use getUsers with the page IDs.

Usage

```
getLikes(user, n = 500, token)
```

Arguments

user A user ID or screen name.

n Maximum number of likes to return for each user.

token Either a temporary access token created at https://developers.facebook.

com/tools/explorer or the OAuth token created with fb0Auth.

Details

This function requires the use of an OAuth token with the following permissions: user_likes, friends likes

Author(s)

Pablo Barbera <pablo.barbera@nyu.edu>

See Also

```
getFriends, fbOAuth
```

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Examples

```
## Not run:
  token <- 'XXXXX'
  my_likes <- getLikes(user="me", token=token)
## End(Not run)</pre>
```

getNetwork

Extract network of friends of authenticated user

Description

getNetwork retrieves the list of mutual friendships and returns the adjacency matrix or edge list for the network representing the neighborhood of the authenticated user.

Usage

```
getNetwork(token, format = "edgelist", verbose = TRUE)
```

Arguments

token Either a temporary access token created at https://developers.facebook.

com/tools/explorer or the OAuth token created with fb0Auth.

format Either "edgelist" for a list of edges in the network or "adj.matrix" for an adja-

centy matrix of dimensions (n x n), with n being the number of friends, and 0 or

1 indicating whether friend i is also friends with friend j.

verbose logical, default is TRUE, which will print additional information on the console.

Details

This function requires the use of an OAuth token with extended permissions.

After the introduction of version 2.0 of the Graph API, only friends who are using the application will be returned.

Author(s)

Pablo Barbera <pablo.barbera@nyu.edu>

See Also

```
getFriends, fbOAuth
```

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Examples

```
## Not run:
## See examples for fbOAuth to know how token was created.
## Copy and paste token created at FB Graph API Explorer
token <- "XXXXXX"
mat <- getNetwork(token=token, format="adj.matrix")
library(igraph)
network <- graph.adjacency(mat, mode="undirected")
pdf("network_plot.pdf")
plot(network)
dev.off()
## End(Not run)</pre>
```

getNewsfeed

Download recent posts from the authenticated user's newsfeed

Description

getNewsfeed retrieves status updates from the authenticated user's News Feed

Usage

```
getNewsfeed(token, n = 200)
```

Arguments

token Either a temporary access token created at https://developers.facebook.

com/tools/explorer or the OAuth token created with fb0Auth.

n Maximum number of posts to return.

Author(s)

Pablo Barbera <pablo.barbera@nyu.edu>

See Also

fbOAuth, getPost

```
## Not run:
## See examples for fbOAuth to know how token was created.
## Capture 100 most recent posts on my newsfeed
load("fb_oauth")
my_newsfeed <- getNewsfeed(token=fb_oauth, n=100)
## End(Not run)</pre>
```

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getPage	Extract list of posts from a public Facebook page

Description

getPage retrieves information from a public Facebook page. Note that information about users that have turned on the "follow" option on their profile can also be retrieved with this function.

Usage

```
getPage(page, token, n = 25, since = NULL, until = NULL, feed = FALSE,
  reactions = FALSE)
```

Arguments

page	A page ID or page name.
token	Either a temporary access token created at https://developers.facebook.com/tools/explorer or the OAuth token created with fbOAuth.
n	Number of posts of page to return. Note that number can be sometimes higher or lower, depending on status of API.
since	A UNIX timestamp or strtotime data value that points to the start of the time range to be searched. For more information on the accepted values, see: http://php.net/manual/en/function.strtotime.php
until	A UNIX timestamp or strtotime data value that points to the end of the time range to be searched. For more information on the accepted values, see: http://php.net/manual/en/function.strtotime.php
feed	If TRUE, the function will also return posts on the page that were made by others (not only the admin of the page).
reactions	If TRUE, will add variables to the data frame with the total count of reactions: love, haha, wow, sad, angry.

Details

This function will only return information from public pages, not users with public profiles.

The since and until parameters are applied to the updated_time field in the post objects, and not the created_time. As a result, this function might return old posts that have been updated recently.

Author(s)

Pablo Barbera <pablo.barbera@nyu.edu>

See Also

```
getUsers, getPost, fbOAuth
```

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Examples

getPost

Extract information about a public Facebook post

Description

getPost retrieves information about a public Facebook post, including list of comments and likes.

Usage

```
getPost(post, token, n = 500, comments = TRUE, likes = TRUE,
    n.likes = n, n.comments = n)
```

Arguments

post	A post ID
token	Either a temporary access token created at https://developers.facebook.com/tools/explorer or the OAuth token created with fbOAuth.
n	numeric, maximum number of comments and likes to return.
comments	logical, default is TRUE, which will return data frame with comments to the post.
likes	logical, default is TRUE, which will return data frame with likes for the post.
n.likes	numeric, maximum number of likes to return. Default is n.
n.comments	numeric, maximum number of likes to return. Default is n.

Details

getPost returns a list with three components: post, likes, and comments. First, post contains information about the post: author, creation date, id, counts of likes, comments, and shares, etc. Second, likes is a data frame that contains names and Facebook IDs of all the users that liked the post. Finally, comments is a data frame with information about the comments to the post (author, message, creation time, id).

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Author(s)

Pablo Barbera <pablo.barbera@nyu.edu>

See Also

```
getUsers, getPage, fbOAuth
```

Examples

```
## Not run:
## See examples for fbOAuth to know how token was created.
## Getting information about Facebook's Facebook Page
load("fb_oauth")
fb_page <- getPage(page="facebook", token=fb_oauth)
## Getting information and likes/comments about most recent post
post <- getPost(post=fb_page$id[1], n=2000, token=fb_oauth)
## End(Not run)</pre>
```

getReactions

Extract total count of reactions to one or more Facebook posts

Description

getReactions retrieves information from a single or multiple posts, returning the total count of reactions of each type (like, love, haha, wow, sad, angry).

Usage

```
getReactions(post, token, verbose = TRUE)
```

Arguments

post A post ID, or a vector of post IDs

token Either a temporary access token created at https://developers.facebook.

com/tools/explorer or the OAuth token created with fb0Auth.

verbose logical, default is TRUE, which will print additional information on the console.

Details

The solution implemented here is based on this Stack Overflow response: http://stackoverflow.com/questions/36930414/how-can-i-get-facebook-graph-api-reaction-summary-count-separately

Author(s)

Pablo Barbera <pablo.barbera@nyu.edu>

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See Also

```
getPage, getPost
```

Examples

```
## Not run:
## See examples for fbOAuth to know how token was created.
## Getting information about Facebook's Facebook Page
load("fb_oauth")
fb_page <- getPage(page="facebook", token=fb_oauth)
## Getting reactions for most recent post
post <- getReactions(post=fb_page$id[1], token=fb_oauth)
## End(Not run)</pre>
```

getShares

Extract list of users who publicly shared a public Facebook post

Description

getShares retrieves a list of posts that correspond to shares of a post on a public Facebook page. Only public posts by users who have granted authorization to the app used to authenticate.

Usage

```
getShares(post, token, n = 100)
```

Arguments

post A post ID

token Either a temporary access token created at https://developers.facebook.

com/tools/explorer or the OAuth token created with fb0Auth.

n numeric, maximum number of shares to return.

Details

getShares returns a data frame with four variables: from_name (the name of the user who shared the post), from_id (the ID of the user who shared the post), shared_time (the time at which the post was shared), and id (the ID of the new post).

For more information on why not all shared posts are returned, see here: https://developers.facebook.com/bugs/1404733043148335/

Author(s)

Pablo Barbera <pablo.barbera@nyu.edu>

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See Also

```
getPage, getPost
```

Examples

```
## Not run:
## See examples for fbOAuth to know how token was created.
## Getting information about Facebook's Facebook Page
load("fb_oauth")
fb_page <- getPage(page="facebook", token=fb_oauth)
## Getting shares of most recent post
shares <- getShares(post=fb_page$id[1], n=2000, token=fb_oauth)
## End(Not run)</pre>
```

getUsers

Extract information about one or more Facebook users

Description

getUsers retrieves public information about one or more Facebook users.

After version 2.0 of the Facebook API, only id, name, and picture are available through the API. All the remaining fields will be missing.

Usage

```
getUsers(users, token, private_info = FALSE)
```

Arguments

users A vector of user IDs.

token Either a temporary access token created at https://developers.facebook.

com/tools/explorer or the OAuth token created with fb0Auth.

(name, gender, locale, profile picture). If TRUE, will return additional information for users who are friends with the authenticated user: birthday, location, hometown, and relationship status. Note that these fields will ONLY be returned for friends and when the version of the token that is used to query the API is 1.0. For other users, they will be NA, even if they are visible on Facebook via web.

Author(s)

Pablo Barbera <pablo.barbera@nyu.edu>

See Also

```
getFriends, getPost, searchFacebook
```

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Examples

```
## Not run:
## See examples for fbOAuth to know how token was created.
## Getting information about the authenticated user
load("fb_oauth")
fb <- getUsers("me", token=fb_oauth)
fb$username
## End(Not run)</pre>
```

searchFacebook

Search public posts that mention a string

Description

searchFacebook retrieves public status updates that mention a given keyword

Usage

```
searchFacebook(string, token, n = 200, since = NULL, until = NULL)
```

Arguments

string	string or string vector containing keywords to search. Note that the returned results will contain any of the keywords. It is not possible to search for status updates that include all of the keywords.
token	An OAuth token created with fb0Auth. Only tokens created for version 1.0 of the Facebook Graph API will return results.
n	Maximum number of posts to return.
since	A UNIX timestamp or strtotime data value that points to the start of the time range to be searched. For more information on the accepted values, see: http://php.net/manual/en/function.strtotime.php
until	A UNIX timestamp or strtotime data value that points to the end of the time range to be searched. For more information on the accepted values, see: http://php.net/manual/en/function.strtotime.php

Details

Note: Public post search was deprecated with version 2.0 of the Facebook Graph API, and therefore this function will no longer work. For more information about these changes, go to: https://developers.facebook.com/docs/apps/changelog

The function will only work for OAuth tokens generated with version 1.0 of the API, which can no longer be created.

The search is performed also on the text of the comments too, which explains why some of the returned messages do not mention the string that is being searched.

Note that only messages up to around two weeks old or less can be returned.

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Author(s)

Pablo Barbera <pablo.barbera@nyu.edu>

See Also

fb0Auth

Examples

searchGroup

Find Facebook ID of a group

Description

Use searchGroup in combination with getGroup to scrape public posts on Facebook groups.

Usage

```
searchGroup(name, token)
```

Arguments

name Name of Facebook group (in URL)

token Either a temporary access token created at https://developers.facebook.

com/tools/explorer or the OAuth token created with fb0Auth.

```
## Not run:
## Find Facebook ID for R-Users Facebook group
load("fb_oauth")
ids <- searchGroup(name="rusers", token=fb_oauth)
ids[1,] # id = 18533493739
## Downloading posts from R-Users Facebook group
group <- getGroup(group_id=18533493739, token=fb_oauth)
## Downloading posts from R-Users Facebook group in January 2013
group <- getGroup(group_id=18533493739, token=fb_oauth,
since='2013/01/01', until='2013/01/31')
## End(Not run)</pre>
```

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sear	CHI	ag	es

Search pages that mention a string

Description

searchPages retrieves public pages that mention a given keyword

Usage

```
searchPages(string, token, n = 200)
```

Arguments

string or string vector containing keywords to search. Note that the returned

results will contain any of the keywords.

token Either a temporary access token created at https://developers.facebook.

com/tools/explorer or the OAuth token created with fb0Auth.

n Maximum number of pages to return.

Author(s)

Pablo Barbera <pablo.barbera@nyu.edu>, Joel Gombin <joel.gombin@gmail.com>

See Also

fbOAuth, searchFacebook

```
## Not run:
## See examples for fbOAuth to know how token was created.
## Searching 100 public pages that mention "facebook"
load("fb_oauth")
pages <- searchPages( string="facebook", token=fb_oauth, n=100 )
## End(Not run)</pre>
```

updateStatus 21

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Update Facebook status from R

Description

updateStatus sends a status update that will be displayed on the Facebook profile of the authenticated user.

Usage

```
updateStatus(text, token, link = NULL)
```

Arguments

text string, text of the status update

token Either a temporary access token created at https://developers.facebook.

com/tools/explorer or the OAuth token created with fb0Auth. It needs to have extended permissions in order to successfully post to the Facebook profile.

link string, URL of link to be added to status update

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See Also

```
getUsers, getPost
```

```
## Not run:
## See examples for fbOAuth to know how token was created.
load("fb_oauth")
updateStatus("this is just a test", token=fb_oauth)
## End(Not run)
```

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