FAQs about the **data.table** package in R

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Beginners FAQs

This first section is intended to be read in order from start to finish.

General questions about the package

Q : Is data.table compatible with S-plus ? A : No. i) A few critical parts of the package are written in C and uses internal functions and structures. ii) the package uses lexical scoping which is one of the differences between R and S-plus explained by R FAQ 3.3.1.

Q : I think its great. How do I suggest it to other people ? A : Thank you. Please put your comments on crantastic.

Q : I think its not great. How do I warn others about my experience ? A : Please put your comments on crantastic. Try to make it constructive so we have a chance to improve.

Q : I have a question. I know the posting guide tells me to contact the maintainer, but thats just one person. Isn't there a group of people I can ask ? A : Yes. Please post to datatable-help@lists.r-forge.r-project.org. Its just like r-help, but just for this package. Many packages on R-forge have similar lists by the way. Some have two: -help and -devel. As always, please follow the posting guide and remember that the list is public domain and the archives are stored forever. DO NOT post to r-help about this package unless you don't hear back.

Q : I don't want to contact datatable-help, can I mail just one person privately? Sure. But then post to datatable-help if you don't hear back from them, not r-help. Only if you don't hear back from anyone on datatable-help is it ok to post to r-help.

Q : Why is this FAQ a pdf? Its difficult to move around this document. Can we have the FAQ on a website? A : The FAQ is written using Sweave .Rnw for several reasons :

- We include R code in the answers. This is run and checked when the document is created.

- This document is reproducible. Grab the .Rnw and you can run it yourself.

- You can extract the code chunks using R function Stangle.

- This file is built every night in development so its another way to check the package.

- This file is bound into each version of the package. The package is not accepted on CRAN unless this file passes checks. Each version of the package will have its own FAQ file which will be relevant for that version. There is usually only one version of a website.

- You can open it offline, from your R prompt using vignette().

- It prints out easily.

- Its quicker and easier for us to maintain the FAQ in .Rnw form.