Package 'beakr'

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beakr-package

A minimalist web framework.

Description

The **beakr** package provides a minimalist web framework for for developing application programming interfaces in R. The package includes basic functionality for handling common HTTP requests.

beakr allows R code to listen for and respond to HTTP requests, so you can serve web traffic directly from an R process. **beakr** relies heavily on the httpuv package, and therefore the lower level libuv and http-parser C libraries. **beakr** is a ground-up rewrite and continuation of the **jug** package developed by Bart Smeets. The **beakr** package is supported and maintained by Mazama Science.

Author(s)

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See Also

newBeakr

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Beakr

Beakr Application class

Description

A Beakr object defines the server instance utilizing the **httpuv** package. This class defines an interface for the rest of the **beakr** package and is therefore meant to be instantiated.

Methods

```
router() An instantiated Router object.
server() The instantiated Server object.
appDefinition() A method to define the functions or middleware of users application.
initialize() Creates a new Router object for the router method.
start(host, port, daemon) Returns a running server. If daemon = TRUE, the server will run in the background.
```

print(...) Returns a console output of the instance and its number of middleware attached.

Package details

The **beakr** package provides a minimal web framework for for developing lightweight APIs in R. The package includes basic functionality for handling common HTTP requests. **beakr** is a ground-up rewrite and continuation of the **jug** package developed by Bart Smeets. The **beakr** package is supported and maintained by Mazama Science.

Methods

Public methods:

- Beakr\$appDefinition()
- Beakr\$new()
- Beakr\$start()
- Beakr\$print()
- Beakr\$clone()

Method appDefinition():

Usage:

Beakr\$appDefinition()

Method new():

Usage:

Beakr\$new()

Method start():

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```
Beakr$start(host, port, daemon)

Method print():

Usage:
Beakr$print()

Method clone(): The objects of this class are cloneable with this method.

Usage:
Beakr$clone(deep = FALSE)

Arguments:
deep Whether to make a deep clone.
```

See Also

Router and Middleware

cors

Allow Cross-Origin-Requests

Description

Allow Cross-Origin Resource Sharing headers as described in MDN Web Docs. Cross-origin resource sharing is a mechanism that allows restricted resources on a web page to be requested from another domain(origin) outside the domain from which the first resource was served.

Usage

```
cors(
  beakr,
  path = NULL,
  methods = c("GET", "POST", "PUT", "DELETE", "OPTIONS", "PATCH"),
  origin = "*",
  credentials = NULL,
  headers = NULL,
  maxAge = NULL,
  expose = NULL
)
```

Arguments

beakr Beakr instance object.

path String representing a path for which to specify a CORS policy. Default NULL

applies a single policy for all URL routes.

methods A vector of the request methods to allow. i.e Access-Control-Allow-Methods

parameter, e.g GET, POST.

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origin A vector of the request origin(s) for which resource sharing is enabled. i.e

Access-Control-Allow-Origin response header parameter.

credentials A boolean to enable/disable credentialed requests. i.e Access-Control-Allow-Credentials

response header parameter.

headers A vector of the allowed headers. i.e Access-Control-Allow-Headers response

header parameter.

maxAge The max age, in seconds. i.e Access-Control-Max-Age response header pa-

rameter

expose The headers to expose, i.e Access-Control-Expose-Headers response header

parameter.

Value

A Beakr instance with CORS enabled

Note

You can verify that CORS is enabled by using the Chrome browser and opening up the Developer Tools. The "Network" tab allows you to inspect response headers and see where the Cross-Origin policy is specified.

If you run the example in the console, be sure to stopServer(bekar) when you are done.

See Also

Request, Response, Error

Examples

```
library(beakr)

# Create an new beakr instance
beakr <- newBeakr()

# beakr pipeline
beakr %>%

# Enable CORS
cors() %>%

# Respond to GET requests at the "/hi" route
httpGET(path = "/hi", function(req, res, err) {
   print("Hello, World!")
}) %>%

# Respond to GET requests at the "/bye" route
httpGET(path = "/bye", function(req, res, err) {
   print("Farewell, my friends.")
}) %>%
```

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decorate

Decorate a function for use in a web service

Description

The decorate() function can be used to prepare a function for easy use in a beakr pipeline.

Decorating a function associates the specified function and its parameters with req, res, and err objects and assigns a content-type to the response object. This prepares a standard R function to be used in Beakr instances and accept requests.

Usage

```
decorate(FUN, content_type = "text/html", strict = FALSE)
```

Arguments

FUN Function to decorate.

 ${\tt content_type} \quad \quad {\tt HTTP "content-type" of the function output. } \textit{ (e.g. "text/plain", "text/html" or } \\$

other mime type)

strict Boolean, requiring strict parameter matching.

Value

A decorated middleware function.

Examples

```
library(beakr)

# Create an new Beakr instance
beakr <- newBeakr()</pre>
```

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Error

Error class

Description

An Error object represents the state and handling of instance or middleware errors.

Fields

```
errors Returns a list of errors, if any.

occurred Returns TRUE if any error has occurred, FALSE otherwise.
```

Methods

```
set(err) Sets an error.
```

Methods

Public methods:

- Error\$set()
- Error\$clone()

8 handleErrors

```
Method set():
```

Usage:

Error\$set(err)

Method clone(): The objects of this class are cloneable with this method.

Usage:

Error\$clone(deep = FALSE)

Arguments:

deep Whether to make a deep clone.

See Also

handleErrors and Middleware

handleErrors

Error-handling middleware

Description

This default error handler should be added at the end of the beakr pipeline, right before listen(). Errors generated by any previous step will be returned within a JSON wrapper.

Usage

```
handleErrors(beakr = NULL, FUN = jsonError)
```

Arguments

beakr Beakr instance

FUN a function to handle the error response

Value

A Beakr instance with added middleware.

Note

If you run the example in the console, be sure to stopServer(bekar) when you are done.

httpDELETE 9

Examples

```
library(beakr)
# Create an new beakr instance
beakr <- newBeakr()</pre>
# beakr pipeline
beakr %>%
 # Respond to GET requests at the "/hi" route
 httpGET(path = "/hi", function(req, res, err) {
   print("Hello, World!")
 }) %>%
 # Respond to GET requests at the "/bye" route
 httpGET(path = "/bye", function(req, res, err) {
   print("Farewell, my friends.")
 }) %>%
 handleErrors() %>%
 # Start the server on port 25118
 listen(host = "127.0.0.1", port = 25118, daemon = TRUE)
# -----
# POINT YOUR BROWSER AT:
# * http://127.0.0.1:25118/NOT_A_ROUTE
# THEN, STOP THE SERVER WITH stopServer(beakr)
# Stop the beakr instance server
stopServer(beakr)
```

httpDELETE

DELETE-binding middleware

Description

Routes HTTP DELETE requests to the specified path with the specified callback functions or middleware.

```
httpDELETE(beakr, path = NULL, FUN = NULL)
```

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Arguments

beakr Beakr instance or NULL.

path String representing a path for which the middleware function is invoked.

FUN Middleware function to be invoked.

Value

A Beakr instance with added middleware.

Examples

```
## Not run:
library(beakr)
# Create an new Beakr instance
beakr <- newBeakr()</pre>
# Create a simple beakr pipeline
beakr %>%
 httpDELETE("/", function(req, res, err) {
   return("Successful DELETE request!\n")
 }) %>%
 listen(host = '127.0.0.1', port = 25118, daemon = TRUE)
# ------
# IN A TERMINAL:
 curl -X DELETE http://127.0.0.1:25118/
# > Successful DELETE request!
# Stop the beakr instance server
stopServer(beakr)
## End(Not run)
```

httpGET

GET-binding middleware

Description

Routes HTTP GET requests to the specified path with the specified callback functions or middle-ware.

```
httpGET(beakr, path = NULL, FUN = NULL)
```

httpPOST 11

Arguments

beakr Beakr instance or NULL.

path String representing a path for which the middleware function is invoked.

FUN Middleware function to be invoked.

Value

A Beakr instance with added middleware.

Examples

```
## Not run:
library(beakr)
# Create an new Beakr instance
beakr <- newBeakr()</pre>
# Create a simple beakr pipeline
beakr %>%
 httpGET("/", function(req, res, err) {
   return("Successful GET request!\n")
 }) %>%
 listen(host = '127.0.0.1', port = 25118, daemon = TRUE)
# ------
# IN A TERMINAL:
 curl -X GET http://127.0.0.1:25118/
# > Successful GET request!
# Stop the beakr instance server
stopServer(beakr)
## End(Not run)
```

httpPOST

POST-binding middleware

Description

Routes HTTP POST requests to the specified path with the specified callback functions or middle-ware.

```
httpPOST(beakr, path = NULL, FUN = NULL)
```

12 httpPUT

Arguments

beakr Beakr instance or NULL.

path String representing a path for which the middleware function is invoked.

FUN Middleware function to be invoked.

Value

A Beakr instance with added middleware.

Examples

```
## Not run:
library(beakr)
# Create an new Beakr instance
beakr <- newBeakr()</pre>
# Create a simple beakr pipeline
beakr %>%
 httpPOST("/", function(req, res, err) {
   return("Successful POST request!\n")
 }) %>%
 listen(host = '127.0.0.1', port = 25118, daemon = TRUE)
# ------
# IN A TERMINAL:
 curl -X POST http://127.0.0.1:25118/
# > Successful POST request!
# Stop the beakr instance server
stopServer(beakr)
## End(Not run)
```

httpPUT

PUT-binding middleware

Description

Routes HTTP PUT requests to the specified path with the specified callback functions or middle-ware.

```
httpPUT(beakr, path = NULL, FUN = NULL)
```

jsonError 13

Arguments

beakr Beakr instance or NULL.

path String representing a path for which the middleware function is invoked.

FUN Middleware function to be invoked.

Value

A Beakr instance with added middleware.

Examples

```
## Not run:
library(beakr)
# Create an new Beakr instance
beakr <- newBeakr()</pre>
# Create a simple beakr pipeline
beakr %>%
 httpPUT("/", function(req, res, err) {
   return("Successful PUT request!\n")
 }) %>%
 listen(host = '127.0.0.1', port = 25118, daemon = TRUE)
# ------
# IN A TERMINAL:
 curl -X PUT http://127.0.0.1:25118/
# > Successful PUT request!
# Stop the beakr instance server
stopServer(beakr)
## End(Not run)
```

jsonError

JSON error function

Description

This function is used to add a JSON error response to the res object. It is called by the handleErrors() utility function.

```
jsonError(req, res, err)
```

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Arguments

req	Request object.
res	Response object.
err	Error Error object

Value

The incoming res object is modified.

See Also

Request, Response, Error

listen

Listen for connections on a Beakr instance

Description

Binds and listens for connections at the specified host and port.

Usage

```
listen(
  beakr = NULL,
  host = "127.0.0.1",
  port = 25118,
  daemon = FALSE,
  verbose = FALSE
)
```

Arguments

host String that is a valid IPv4 or IPv6 address to listen on. Defaults to the local host

("127.0.0.1").

Number or integer that indicates the port to listen on. Default is a port opened

on 25118.

daemon Logical specifying whether the server should be run in the background.

verbose Logical specifying whether to print out details of the Beakr instance now run-

ning. This should only be used when running a beaker app interactively, not in

production.

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Details

listen() binds the specified host and port and listens for connections on a thread. The thread handles incoming requests. when it receives an HTTP request, it will schedule a call to the user-defined middleware and handle the request.

If daemon = TRUE, listen() binds the specified port and listens for connections on a thread running in the background.

See the **httpuv** package for more details.

Value

A Beakr instance with an active server.

Note

The default port number 25118 was generated using:

```
> match(c("b","e","a","k","r"), letters) %% 10
[1] 2 5 1 1 8
```

Examples

```
library(beakr)

# Create an new Beakr instance
beakr <- newBeakr()

# beakr pipeline
beakr %>%

  httpGET("/", function(req, res, err) {
    return("Successful GET request!\n")
  }) %>%

  listen(daemon = TRUE) # run in the background

# Stop the server
stopServer(beakr)
```

Listener

Listener class

Description

A Listener object provides a simple, programmatically controlled HTTP protocol listener.

Fields

```
FUN Returns function response. event Returns event type.
```

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Methods

initialize(FUN, event) Sets instance object function and event state.

Methods

Public methods:

- Listener\$new()
- Listener\$clone()

Method new():

```
Usage:
```

Listener\$new(event, FUN, ...)

Method clone(): The objects of this class are cloneable with this method.

Usage:

Listener\$clone(deep = FALSE)

Arguments:

deep Whether to make a deep clone.

See Also

Router and Error

listServers

List all servers

Description

Lists all Beakr servers currently running (and any other servers created with the **httpuv** package). This function is included to encourage experimentation so that users who create multiple Beakr instances can quickly find and stop them all.

See httpuv::listServers for details.

Usage

```
listServers()
```

Value

None

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Examples

```
library(beakr)
beakr1 <- newBeakr()
beakr2 <- newBeakr()
beakr1 %>% listen(daemon = TRUE, port = 1234, verbose = TRUE)
beakr2 %>% listen(daemon = TRUE, port = 4321, verbose = TRUE)
length(listServers())
stopAllServers()
length(listServers())
```

Middleware

Middleware class

Description

A Middleware object represents middleware functions that have access to the request (req), response (res) and error (err) objects in request-response cycle via the Router.

Methods

```
path Returns the path for the specified middleware.
```

FUN Returns the function response.

method Returns the HTTP method for the middleware, i.e. "GET", "POST", etc. protocol Returns the protocol, "http" or "websocket".

initialize (FUN, path, method, websocket) Initializes the state of new middleware.

Methods

Public methods:

- Middleware\$new()
- Middleware\$clone()

Method new():

Usage:

Middleware\$new(FUN, path, method, websocket)

Method clone(): The objects of this class are cloneable with this method.

Usage:

Middleware\$clone(deep = FALSE)

Arguments:

deep Whether to make a deep clone.

See Also

Router and Middleware

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newBeakr

Create a new Beakr instance

Description

Create a Beakr instance by calling the top-level newBeakr() function. If name is not supplied, a random name will be assigned.

This Beakr instance will then begin a pipeline of separate middleware steps for routing, serving files and handling errors. The pipeline will end with the listen() function.

Usage

```
newBeakr(name = NULL)
```

Arguments

name

Optional name assigned to the Beakr instance.

Value

A new and empty Beakr instance.

Examples

```
library(beakr)
# Create an new beakr instance
beakr <- newBeakr()</pre>
# beakr pipeline of hanldlers
beakr %>%
  httpGET(path = "/route_A", function(res, req, err) {
    print("This is route 'A'.")
  }) %>%
  httpGET(path = "/route_B", function(res, req, err) {
    print("This is route 'B'.")
  }) %>%
  handleErrors() %>%
  listen(host = '127.0.0.1', port = 25118, daemon = TRUE)
# POINT YOUR BROWSER AT:
# * http://127.0.0.1:25118/route_A
# * http://127.0.0.1:25118/route_B
```

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```
# THEN, STOP THE SERVER WITH stopServer(beakr)
# ------
# Stop the beakr instance server
stopServer(beakr)
```

Request

Request Class

Description

A Request object represents the HTTP request and has properties for the request query string, parameters, body, HTTP headers, and so on. In this documentation and by convention, the object is always referred to as req (and the HTTP response is res).

Fields

parameters A list containing properties mapped to the named router parameters.

headers A list of response headers.

path Contains the path part of the request URL.

method Contains a string corresponding to the HTTP method of the request: GET, POST, PUT, and so on.

raw Returns the raw request (req) object.

type Contains the body content-type, i.e. "text/html" or "application/json".

body Contains the data submitted in the request body.

protocol Contains the request protocol string.

Methods

```
attach(key, value) Returns a key-value.
```

getHeader(key) Returns the key element of the headers list.

setHeader(key, value) Attaches a header to headers list.

addParameters(named_list) Adds parameters to the named key-value parameters list.

intialize(req) Creates a new Request object by parsing and extracting features of req input and populating the object fields.

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Methods

```
Public methods:
```

```
• Request$attach()
  • Request$getHeader()
  • Request$setHeader()
  • Request$addParameters()
  • Request$new()
  • Request$clone()
Method attach():
 Usage:
 Request$attach(key, value)
Method getHeader():
 Usage:
 Request$getHeader(key)
Method setHeader():
 Usage:
 Request$setHeader(key, value)
Method addParameters():
 Usage:
 Request$addParameters(named_list)
Method new():
 Usage:
 Request$new(req)
Method clone(): The objects of this class are cloneable with this method.
 Usage:
 Request$clone(deep = FALSE)
 Arguments:
```

See Also

Response

deep Whether to make a deep clone.

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Response

Response Class

Description

A Response object represents represents the HTTP response that a Beakr sends when it gets an HTTP request. It is by convention, the object is always referred to as res (and the HTTP request is req).

Fields

```
headers A list containing a key-value header list.
status An integer HTTP status code.
body Contains the response body.
```

Methods

```
setHeader(key, value) Sets a key-value header, i.e. "Content-Type" = "text/html".
setContentType(type) Sets the response content-type.
setStatus(status) Sets the HTTP status code.
setBody(body) Sets the body response.
redirect(url) Sets the HTTP status to 302, "Found" and redirects to url.
json(txt, auto_unbox = TRUE) Applies a function to text convert to JSON and sets the content-type to JSON.
text(txt) Sets the response body text.
structured(protocol) Sets the response protocol, i.e. "http"
plot(plot_object, base64 = TRUE, ...) Sets the response type to plot image output.
```

Methods

Public methods:

- Response\$setHeader()
- Response\$setContentType()
- Response\$setStatus()
- Response\$setBody()
- Response\$redirect()
- Response\$json()
- Response\$text()
- Response\$structured()
- Response\$plot()
- Response\$clone()

Method setHeader():

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```
Usage:
 Response$setHeader(key, value)
Method setContentType():
 Usage:
 Response$setContentType(type)
Method setStatus():
 Usage:
 Response$setStatus(status)
Method setBody():
 Usage:
 Response$setBody(body)
Method redirect():
 Usage:
 Response$redirect(url)
Method json():
 Usage:
 Response$json(txt, auto_unbox = TRUE)
Method text():
 Usage:
 Response$text(txt)
Method structured():
 Usage:
 Response$structured(protocol)
Method plot():
 Usage:
 Response$plot(plot_object, base64 = TRUE, ...)
Method clone(): The objects of this class are cloneable with this method.
 Usage:
 Response$clone(deep = FALSE)
 Arguments:
 deep Whether to make a deep clone.
```

See Also

Response

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Router

Router Class

Description

A Router object represents the handling of routing and middleware (such as httpGET(), httpPUT(), httpPOST(), and so on). Once a Router object is instantiated, middleware and HTTP method routes can be added. The top level Beakr object initializes with the creation of a Router object.

Fields

 $\label{eq:middleware function} \mbox{middleware function or functions}.$

listeners A list of specified listeners.

Methods

```
addMiddleware(middlware) A method to add middleware function(s) to middleware.

addListener(listener) A method to add listeners to listeners.

processEvent(event, ...) Processes the event heard by the Listener.

invoke(req, websocket_msg, websocket_binary) This method is used to create the request-
response cycle objects of the provided middleware.
```

Methods

Public methods:

- Router\$addMiddleware()
- Router\$addListener()
- Router\$processEvent()
- Router\$invoke()
- Router\$clone()

Method addMiddleware():

Usage:

Router\$addMiddleware(middleware)

```
Method addListener():
```

Usage:

Router\$addListener(listener)

Method processEvent():

Usage:

Router\$processEvent(event, ...)

Method invoke():

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```
Usage:
```

```
Router$invoke(req, websocket_msg = NULL, websocket_binary = NULL)
```

Method clone(): The objects of this class are cloneable with this method.

Usage:

Router\$clone(deep = FALSE)

Arguments:

deep Whether to make a deep clone.

See Also

Response

serveStaticFiles

File-serving middleware

Description

Binds to GET requests that aren't handled by specified paths. The result is to return files that are found on the host machine at the requested path. Binary file types like .png, .gif or .pdf are returned as raw bytes. All others are returned as characters.

Mime types are guessed using the **mime** package. The rawTypesPattern parameter is used to match mime types that should be returned as raw bytes.

Usage

```
serveStaticFiles(
  beakr = NULL,
  urlPath = NULL,
  rootPath = getwd(),
  rawTypesPattern = "image|json|octet|pdf|video",
  verbose = FALSE
)
```

Arguments

beakr Beakr instance or NULL.

urlPath String representing the URL directory underneath which static file paths will

appear.

rootPath String representing the absolute path used as the root directory when searching

for files on host machine. Defaults to the directory in which the script is running.

 ${\tt rawTypesPattern}$

String pattern identifying mime types to be returned as raw bytes.

verbose Boolean to show a verbose static file information.

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Details

All files to be served in this manner must exist underneath the host machine directory specified with rootPath. The directory structure underneath rootPath will be mapped onto URLs underneath urlPath. This helps when deploying web services at preordained URLs.

The example below presents files underneath host machine directory hostDir/ to be accessed at URLS under test/.

Value

A Beakr instance with added middleware.

Note

If you run the example in the console, be sure to stopServer(bekar) when you are done.

Examples

```
library(beakr)
# Create a .txt file in temp directory
hostDir <- tempdir()</pre>
file <- paste0(hostDir, "/my_file.txt")</pre>
cat("I am a text file.", file = file)
# Create an new beakr instance
beakr <- newBeakr()</pre>
# beakr pipeline
beakr %>%
  # Respond to GET requests at the "/hi" route
  httpGET(path = "/hi", function(req, res, err) {
    print("Hello, World!")
  }) %>%
  # Respond to GET requests at the "/bye" route
  httpGET(path = "/bye", function(req, res, err) {
    print("Farewell, my friends.")
  }) %>%
 # Host the directory of static files
 serveStaticFiles("/test", hostDir, verbose = TRUE) %>%
 # Start the server on port 25118
 listen(host = "127.0.0.1", port = 25118, daemon = TRUE)
# POINT YOUR BROWSER AT:
# * http://127.0.0.1:25118/test/my_file.txt
```

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```
# THEN, STOP THE SERVER WITH stopServer(beakr)
# -----
# Stop the beakr instance server
stopServer(beakr)
```

stopAllServers

Stop all servers

Description

Stops all Beakr servers currently running (and any other servers created with the **httpuv** package). This function is included to encourage experimentation so that users who create multiple Beakr instances can quickly find and stop them all.

See httpuv::stopAllServers for details.

Usage

```
stopAllServers()
```

Value

None

Examples

```
library(beakr)
beakr1 <- newBeakr()
beakr2 <- newBeakr()
beakr1 %>% listen(daemon = TRUE, port = 1234, verbose = TRUE)
beakr2 %>% listen(daemon = TRUE, port = 4321, verbose = TRUE)
length(listServers())
stopAllServers()
length(listServers())
```

stopServer

Stop a beakr instance server

Description

Stops the server associated with a Beakr instance, closing all open connections and unbinding the port.

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Usage

```
stopServer(beakr = NULL, verbose = FALSE)
```

Arguments

beakr Beakr instance.

verbose Logical specifying whether to print out details of the Beakr instance just stopped.

Value

None

Examples

```
library(beakr)
beakr <- newBeakr()

# beakr pipeline
beakr %>%
    handleErrors() %>%
    listen(daemon = TRUE, verbose = TRUE)
stopServer(beakr, verbose = TRUE)
```

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