

Package ‘BrowserViz’

February 1, 2026

Type Package

Title BrowserViz: interactive R/browser graphics using websockets and JSON

Version 2.33.0

Date 2023-09-12

Author Paul Shannon

Maintainer Arkadiusz Gladki <gladki.arkadiusz@gmail.com>

Depends R (>= 3.5.0), jsonlite (>= 1.5), httpuv(>= 1.5.0)

Imports methods, BiocGenerics

Suggests RUnit, BiocStyle, knitr, rmarkdown

Description Interactive graphics in a web browser from R, using websockets and JSON.

License GPL-2

URL <https://gladkia.github.io/BrowserViz/>

BugReports <https://github.com/gladkia/BrowserViz/issues>

LazyLoad yes

biocViews Visualization, ThirdPartyClient

NeedsCompilation no

VignetteBuilder knitr

Encoding UTF-8

RoxygenNote 7.2.1

git_url <https://git.bioconductor.org/packages/BrowserViz>

git_branch devel

git_last_commit 0964377

git_last_commit_date 2025-10-29

Repository Bioconductor 3.23

Date/Publication 2026-02-01

Contents

addRMessageHandler	2
browserResponseReady,BrowserViz-method	3
BrowserViz constructor	3
BrowserViz-class	4
closeWebSocket,BrowserViz-method	5
dispatchMessage	5
displayHTMLInDiv,BrowserViz-method	6
fromJSON	6
getBrowserInfo,BrowserViz-method	7
getBrowserResponse,BrowserViz-method	7
getBrowserWindowSize,BrowserViz-method	8
getBrowserWindowTitle,BrowserViz-method	8
handleResponse	9
port,BrowserViz-method	9
ready,BrowserViz-method	10
roundTripTest,BrowserViz-method	10
send,BrowserViz-method	11
setBrowserWindowTitle,BrowserViz-method	11
show,BrowserViz-method	12
toJSON	12
wait,BrowserViz-method	13
webBrowserAvailableForTesting	13
Index	14

addRMessageHandler	<i>Supply the name of a function to call, identified by its key</i>
--------------------	---

Description

Supply the name of a function to call, identified by its key

Usage

addRMessageHandler(key, functionName)

Arguments

- | | |
|--------------|--------------------|
| key | A character string |
| functionName | A character string |

```
browserResponseReady,BrowserViz-method
browserResponseReady
```

Description

browserResponseReady

Usage

```
## S4 method for signature 'BrowserViz'
browserResponseReady(obj)
```

Arguments

obj An object of class BrowserViz

```
BrowserViz constructor
Constructor for BrowserViz
```

Description

This constructor function:

- creates the BrowserViz object
- initializes the httpuv web server
- prepares that web server to additionally handle websocket traffic
- loads a "browserFile" - an html/javascript/css web page to communicate with in your web browser
- opens websocket communication between your R session and your browser
- installs an optional "httpQueryProcessingFunction" to handle http (non-websocket) requests.

Usage

```
BrowserViz(
  host = "localhost",
  portRange = 10000:10100,
  title = "BrowserViz",
  browserFile,
  quiet = TRUE,
  httpQueryProcessingFunction = NULL
)
```

Arguments

host	character The constructor will open an http/websocket port here for web browsers to connect to. localhost by default
portRange	The constructor looks for a free websocket port in this range. 10000:10100 by default
title	Used for the web browser window, "igvR" by default
browserFile	The full path to the bundled html, js and libraries, and css which constitute the browser app
quiet	A logical variable controlling verbosity during execution
httpQueryProcessingFunction	a function, default NULL, provides subclasses with the opportunity to execute code on the http server created here.

Value

An object of the BrowserViZ class

BrowserViz-class	<i>BrowserViz: a base class providing simple, extensible message passing between your R session and your web browser, for interactive data visualization.</i>
------------------	---

Description

Many of the best interactive graphics capabilities available today are written in Javascript and run in a web browser. BrowserViz makes these capabilities available in R, using websockets for message passing back and forth between R and the browser. This class connects your R session to your web browser via websockets, using the R httpuv library, which in turn uses the Rook webserver.

BrowserViz is a concrete base class, in that instances can be constructed and run - which we do for testing. The primary use of this BrowserViz is to be subclassed: to facilitate the creation of new browser-based, R-connected interactive graphics capabilities embodied in R packages, written by programmers with some skill in both R and Javascript. Two examples of this can be found in these Bioconductor packages <https://bioconductor.org/packages/devel/bioc/html/igvR.html> and <https://bioconductor.org/packages/devel/bioc/html/RCyjs.html>.

Slots

uri	The http location at which this modest webserver runs
port	An integer port number for the http connection
websocketConnection	An environment managed by the httpuv library on our behalf
quiet	Logical variable controlling verbosity during execution

See Also[BrowserViz](#)

An S4 class to create and manage a modest webserver for websocket message passing between R and Javascript running in your web browser

`closeWebSocket,BrowserViz-method`

Close the websocket connection - between your R session and your web browser.

Description

Close the websocket connection - between your R session and your web browser.

Usage

```
## S4 method for signature 'BrowserViz'  
closeWebSocket(obj)
```

Arguments

<code>obj</code>	An object of class <code>BrowserViz</code>
------------------	--

<code>dispatchMessage</code>	<i>Route the message coming in from the browser to the appropriate R function.</i>
------------------------------	--

Description

Route the message coming in from the browser to the appropriate R function.

Usage

```
dispatchMessage(ws, msg, quiet)
```

Arguments

<code>ws</code>	a websocket connectin
<code>msg</code>	the JSON-encoded message from the browser
<code>quiet</code>	logical TRUE or FALSE

displayHTMLInDiv, BrowserViz-method

Ask the browser to display html markup in the specified div

Description

Ask the browser to display html markup in the specified div

Usage

```
## S4 method for signature 'BrowserViz'
displayHTMLInDiv(obj, htmlText, div.id)
```

Arguments

obj	An object of class BrowserViz
htmlText	A character string with HTML markup
div.id	A character string

fromJSON

Transform JSON string into a native R object

Description

Transform JSON string into a native R object

Usage

```
fromJSON(...)
```

Arguments

...	Extra arguments passed to this function
-----	---

Value

a native R data structure

Examples

```
fromJSON(toJSON(data.frame(a=8:10, b=LETTERS[8:10], stringsAsFactors=FALSE)))
```

getBrowserInfo,BrowserViz-method

Retrieve basic attributes of the attached web browser.

Description

Retrieve basic attributes of the attached web browser.

Usage

```
## S4 method for signature 'BrowserViz'  
getBrowserInfo(obj)
```

Arguments

obj An object of class BrowserViz

getBrowserResponse,BrowserViz-method

Retrieve the response sent by the browser

Description

Retrieve the response sent by the browser

Usage

```
## S4 method for signature 'BrowserViz'  
getBrowserResponse(obj)
```

Arguments

obj An object of class BrowserViz

getBrowserWindowSize,BrowserViz-method

Supply the name of a function to call, identified by its key

Description

Supply the name of a function to call, identified by its key

Usage

```
## S4 method for signature 'BrowserViz'  
getBrowserWindowSize(obj)
```

Arguments

obj	An object of class BrowserViz
-----	-------------------------------

getBrowserWindowTitle,BrowserViz-method

Supply the name of a function to call, identified by its key

Description

Supply the name of a function to call, identified by its key

Usage

```
## S4 method for signature 'BrowserViz'  
getBrowserWindowTitle(obj)
```

Arguments

obj	An object of class BrowserViz
-----	-------------------------------

handleResponse	<i>handleResponse</i>
----------------	-----------------------

Description

handleResponse

Usage

handleResponse(ws, msg)

Arguments

- | | |
|-----|---|
| ws | websocket connection |
| msg | the JSON-encoded character string returned by the browser |

port,BrowserViz-method
<i>Get the port number</i>

Description

Get the port number

Usage

```
## S4 method for signature 'BrowserViz'  
port(obj)
```

Arguments

- | | |
|-----|-------------------------------|
| obj | An object of class BrowserViz |
|-----|-------------------------------|

Value

the port number use in the websocket connection, a numeric value.

ready,BrowserViz-method

Is the websocket connection to the browser ready for use?

Description

Is the websocket connection to the browser ready for use?

Usage

```
## S4 method for signature 'BrowserViz'  
ready(obj)
```

Arguments

obj An object of class BrowserViz

roundTripTest,BrowserViz-method

Send data to the browser, ensure that it is returned accurately.

Description

Send data to the browser, ensure that it is returned accurately.

Usage

```
## S4 method for signature 'BrowserViz'  
roundTripTest(obj, ...)
```

Arguments

obj An object of class BrowserViz
... other arguments

`send,BrowserViz-method`*Send the specified message to the browser*

Description

Send the specified message to the browser

Usage

```
## S4 method for signature 'BrowserViz'  
send(obj, msg)
```

Arguments

<code>obj</code>	An object of class <code>BrowserViz</code>
<code>msg</code>	A list with four fields: <code>cmd</code> : "someCommand", <code>status</code> : "request", <code>callback</code> : "someFunction", <code>payload</code> : "someData"

`setBrowserWindowTitle,BrowserViz-method`*Supply the name of a function to call, identified by its key*

Description

Supply the name of a function to call, identified by its key

Usage

```
## S4 method for signature 'BrowserViz'  
setBrowserWindowTitle(obj, newTitle)
```

Arguments

<code>obj</code>	An object of class <code>BrowserViz</code>
<code>newTitle</code>	A character string

```
show, BrowserViz-method
```

Display the core attributes of the BrowserViz object to stdout

Description

Display the core attributes of the BrowserViz object to stdout

Usage

```
## S4 method for signature 'BrowserViz'
show(object)
```

Arguments

object An object of class BrowserViz

```
toJSON
```

Transform an R data structure into JSON

Description

The semantics of toJSON changed between RJSONIO and jsonlite: in the latter, scalars are promoted to arrays of length 1. rather than change our javascript code, and since such promotion – while sensible in the context of R – strikes me as gratuitous, I follow jeroen ooms suggestion, creating this wrapper

Usage

```
toJSON(..., auto_unbox = TRUE)
```

Arguments

... Extra arguments passed to this function
auto_unbox Logical

Value

a character string with the JSON representation of the R object

Examples

```
toJSON(data.frame(a=8:10, b=LETTERS[8:10], stringsAsFactors=FALSE))
```

`wait,BrowserViz-method`*Pause for the specified number of milliseconds*

Description

Pause for the specified number of milliseconds

Usage

```
## S4 method for signature 'BrowserViz'  
wait(obj, msec)
```

Arguments

<code>obj</code>	An object of class <code>BrowserViz</code>
<code>msec</code>	Numeric

`webBrowserAvailableForTesting`*Is there a web browser available for testing?*

Description

This package's unit tests require a web browser to connect to. our heuristic, though not bullet proof, is that one of three conditions must be met Supply the name of a function to call, identified by its key

Usage

```
webBrowserAvailableForTesting()
```

Value

Logical TRUE or FALSE

Index

.BrowserViz (BrowserViz-class), [4](#)
addRMessageHandler, [2](#)
browserResponseReady
 (browserResponseReady, BrowserViz-method),
 [3](#)
browserResponseReady, BrowserViz-method,
 [3](#)
BrowserViz, [5](#)
BrowserViz (BrowserViz constructor), [3](#)
BrowserViz constructor, [3](#)
BrowserViz-class, [4](#)
closeWebSocket
 (closeWebSocket, BrowserViz-method),
 [5](#)
closeWebSocket, BrowserViz-method, [5](#)
dispatchMessage, [5](#)
displayHTMLInDiv
 (displayHTMLInDiv, BrowserViz-method),
 [6](#)
displayHTMLInDiv, BrowserViz-method, [6](#)
fromJSON, [6](#)
getBrowserInfo
 (getBrowserInfo, BrowserViz-method),
 [7](#)
getBrowserInfo, BrowserViz-method, [7](#)
getBrowserResponse
 (getBrowserResponse, BrowserViz-method),
 [7](#)
getBrowserResponse, BrowserViz-method,
 [7](#)
getBrowserWindowSize
 (getBrowserWindowSize, BrowserViz-method),
 [8](#)
getBrowserWindowSize, BrowserViz-method,
 [8](#)
getBrowserWindowTitle
 (getBrowserWindowTitle, BrowserViz-method),
 [8](#)
getBrowserWindowTitle, BrowserViz-method,
 [8](#)
handleResponse, [9](#)
port (port, BrowserViz-method), [9](#)
port, BrowserViz-method, [9](#)
ready (ready, BrowserViz-method), [10](#)
ready, BrowserViz-method, [10](#)
roundTripTest
 (roundTripTest, BrowserViz-method),
 [10](#)
roundTripTest, BrowserViz-method, [10](#)
send (send, BrowserViz-method), [11](#)
send, BrowserViz-method, [11](#)
setBrowserWindowTitle
 (setBrowserWindowTitle, BrowserViz-method),
 [11](#)
setBrowserWindowTitle, BrowserViz-method,
 [11](#)
show (show, BrowserViz-method), [12](#)
show, BrowserViz-method, [12](#)
toJSON, [12](#)
wait (wait, BrowserViz-method), [13](#)
wait, BrowserViz-method, [13](#)
webBrowserAvailableForTesting, [13](#)