

Package ‘safer’

July 23, 2025

Type Package

Title Encrypt and Decrypt Strings, R Objects and Files

Version 0.2.1

Description A consistent interface to encrypt and decrypt strings, R objects and files using symmetric and asymmetric key encryption.

Imports sodium (>= 0.4), base64enc (>= 0.1.3), assertthat (>= 0.1)

Depends R (>= 3.3.0)

License GPL-3

URL <https://github.com/talegari/safer>

BugReports <https://github.com/talegari/safer/issues>

Encoding UTF-8

LazyData true

RoxygenNote 6.0.1

NeedsCompilation no

Author KS Srikanth [aut, cre]

Maintainer KS Srikanth <sri.teach@gmail.com>

Repository CRAN

Date/Publication 2018-07-24 09:40:03 UTC

Contents

safer-package	2
decrypt_file	2
decrypt_object	4
decrypt_string	5
encrypt_file	6
encrypt_object	7
encrypt_string	8
keypair	9
retrieve_object	10
save_object	11

Index

13

safer-package	<i>safer</i>
---------------	--------------

Description

A consistent interface to encrypt/decrypt strings, R objects, files. Alternatives for base R functions 'serialize/unserialize', 'save/load' are provided.

The following functions are provided:

encrypt_string/decrypt_string: encrypt_string encrypts a string as a string and decrypt_string decrypts the encrypted string(encrypted using encrypt_string)

encrypt_object/decrypt object: encrypt_object encrypts a R object as a raw object or a string and decrypt_object decrypts a raw object or a string(encrypted by encrypt_object)

encrypt_file/decrypt_file: encrypt_file encrypts file into another binary or ascii file. decrypt_file) decrypts a file (encrypted by encrypt_file)

save_object/retrieve_object: save_object encrypts a R object to raw or text connection or a file. retrieve_object decrypts a raw or a text connection or a file (encrypted by save_object.)

Author(s)

Maintainer: KS Srikanth <sri.teach@gmail.com>

See Also

Useful links:

- <https://github.com/talegari/safer>
- Report bugs at <https://github.com/talegari/safer/issues>

decrypt_file	<i>Decrypt a file</i>
--------------	-----------------------

Description

encrypt_file) encrypts a file as a binary or a ascii file. decrypt_file) decrypts a text or a binary file (encrypted by encrypt_file)

Usage

```
decrypt_file(infile, key = "pass", pkey = NULL, ascii = FALSE, outfile)
```

Arguments

infile	file to be decrypted
key	For symmetric decryption, 'pkey' should be NULL (default) and 'key' can be either a string (Default is 'pass') or a raw object. For asymmetric decryption, both 'key' (private key of the decrypter) and 'pkey' (public key of the encrypter) should be raw objects.
pkey	See 'key'
ascii	TRUE if the outfile is to be decrypted as a ascii file. Default is FALSE
outfile	Non-existent file where the decrypted output is to be written

Value

An invisible TRUE

Examples

```
# symmetric case:
write.table(iris, "iris.csv")
all(
  encrypt_file("iris.csv", outfile = "iris_encrypted.bin")
  , file.exists("iris_encrypted.bin")
  , decrypt_file("iris_encrypted.bin", outfile = "iris_2.csv")
  , file.exists("iris_2.csv")
  , tools::md5sum("iris_2.csv") == tools::md5sum("iris.csv")
  , unlink("iris.csv") == 0
  , unlink("iris_2.csv") == 0
  , unlink("iris_encrypted.bin") == 0
)

write.table(iris, "iris.csv")
all(
  encrypt_file("iris.csv", outfile = "iris_encrypted.txt", ascii = TRUE)
  , file.exists("iris_encrypted.txt")
  , decrypt_file("iris_encrypted.txt", outfile = "iris_2.csv", ascii = TRUE)
  , file.exists("iris_2.csv")
  , tools::md5sum("iris_2.csv") == tools::md5sum("iris.csv")
  , unlink("iris.csv") == 0
  , unlink("iris_2.csv") == 0
  , unlink("iris_encrypted.txt") == 0
)

# asymmetric case:
alice <- keypair()
bob   <- keypair()
write.table(iris, "iris.csv")
all(
  encrypt_file("iris.csv", alice$private_key, bob$public_key, outfile = "iris_encrypted.bin")
  , file.exists("iris_encrypted.bin")
  , decrypt_file("iris_encrypted.bin", bob$private_key, alice$public_key, outfile = "iris_2.csv")
  , file.exists("iris_2.csv")
)
```

```
, tools::md5sum("iris_2.csv") == tools::md5sum("iris.csv")
, unlink("iris.csv") == 0
, unlink("iris_2.csv") == 0
, unlink("iris_encrypted.bin") == 0
)
```

decrypt_object

Decrypt a object

Description

encrypt_object encrypts a R object as a raw object or a string and decrypt_object decrypts a raw object or a string(encrypted by encrypt_object)

Usage

```
decrypt_object(object, key = "pass", pkey = NULL)
```

Arguments

object	Object to be decrypted
key	For symmetric decryption, 'pkey' should be NULL (default) and 'key' can be either a string (Default is 'pass') or a raw object. For asymmetric decryption, both 'key' (private key of the decrypter) and 'pkey' (public key of the encrypter) should be raw objects.
pkey	See 'key'

Value

A raw object if ascii is FALSE. A string if ascii is TRUE.

Examples

```
# symmetric case:
temp <- encrypt_object(1:3)
all(
  is.raw(temp)
  , decrypt_object(temp) == 1:3)

temp <- encrypt_object(iris, ascii = TRUE)
all(
  is.character(temp)
  , decrypt_object(temp) == iris
  , identical(decrypt_object(temp), iris))
rm(temp)

# asymmetric case:
alice <- keypair()
```

```

bob   <- keypair()
temp  <- encrypt_object(1:10, alice$private_key, bob$public_key)
temp2 <- decrypt_object(temp, bob$private_key, alice$public_key)
identical(1:10, temp2)

```

decrypt_string	<i>Decrypt a string or a raw vector</i>
----------------	---

Description

encrypt_string encrypts a string as a string or a raw vector and decrypt_string decrypts the encrypted string or a raw vector (encrypted using encrypt_string)

Usage

```
decrypt_string(string, key = "pass", pkey = NULL)
```

Arguments

string	A string(character vector of length 1) without embedded NULL to be encrypted. or a raw vector.
key	For symmetric decryption, 'pkey' should be NULL (default) and 'key' can be either a string (Default is 'pass') or a raw object. For asymmetric decryption, both 'key' (private key of the decrypter) and 'pkey' (public key of the encrypter) should be raw objects.
pkey	See 'key'

Value

decrypted string

Examples

```

# symmetric case:
temp <- encrypt_string("hello, how are you", key = "secret")
all(
  is.character(temp)
  , decrypt_string(temp, "secret") == "hello, how are you"
  , class(try(decrypt_string(temp, "nopass"), silent = TRUE)) == "try-error"
)

# string encoded as raw
res <- encrypt_string("tatvamasi", ascii = FALSE)
res

isTRUE(identical(decrypt_string(res), "tatvamasi"))

# asymmetric case:

```

```

alice <- keypair()
bob   <- keypair()
temp  <- encrypt_string("hello asymmetric", alice$private_key, bob$public_key)
temp2 <- decrypt_string(temp, bob$private_key, alice$public_key)
identical("hello asymmetric", temp2)

```

encrypt_file

Encrypt a file

Description

encrypt_file) encrypts a file as a binary or a ascii file. decrypt_file) decrypts a text or a binary file (encrypted by encrypt_file)

Usage

```
encrypt_file(infile, key = "pass", pkey = NULL, ascii = FALSE, outfile)
```

Arguments

infile	file to be encrypted
key	For symmetric encryption, 'pkey' should be NULL (default) and 'key' can be either a string (Default is 'pass') or a raw object. For asymmetric encryption, both 'key' (private key of the encrypter) and 'pkey' (public key of the decrypter) should be raw objects.
pkey	See 'key'
ascii	TRUE if the outfile is to be encrypted as a ascii file. Default is FALSE
outfile	Non-existent file where the encrypted output is to be written

Value

An invisible TRUE

Examples

```

# symmetric case:
write.table(iris, "iris.csv")
all(
  encrypt_file("iris.csv", outfile = "iris_encrypted.bin")
  , file.exists("iris_encrypted.bin")
  , decrypt_file("iris_encrypted.bin", outfile = "iris_2.csv")
  , file.exists("iris_2.csv")
  , tools::md5sum("iris_2.csv") == tools::md5sum("iris.csv")
  , unlink("iris.csv") == 0
  , unlink("iris_2.csv") == 0
  , unlink("iris_encrypted.bin") == 0
)

```

```

write.table(iris, "iris.csv")
all(
  encrypt_file("iris.csv", outfile = "iris_encrypted.txt", ascii = TRUE)
  , file.exists("iris_encrypted.txt")
  , decrypt_file("iris_encrypted.txt", outfile = "iris_2.csv", ascii = TRUE)
  , file.exists("iris_2.csv")
  , tools::md5sum("iris_2.csv") == tools::md5sum("iris.csv")
  , unlink("iris.csv") == 0
  , unlink("iris_2.csv") == 0
  , unlink("iris_encrypted.txt") == 0
)

# asymmetric case:
alice <- keypair()
bob   <- keypair()
write.table(iris, "iris.csv")
all(
  encrypt_file("iris.csv", alice$private_key, bob$public_key, outfile = "iris_encrypted.bin")
  , file.exists("iris_encrypted.bin")
  , decrypt_file("iris_encrypted.bin", bob$private_key, alice$public_key, outfile = "iris_2.csv")
  , file.exists("iris_2.csv")
  , tools::md5sum("iris_2.csv") == tools::md5sum("iris.csv")
  , unlink("iris.csv") == 0
  , unlink("iris_2.csv") == 0
  , unlink("iris_encrypted.bin") == 0
)

```

encrypt_object

Encrypt a object

Description

encrypt_object encrypts a object as a raw object or a string and decrypt_object decrypts a raw object or a string(encrypted by encrypt_object)

Usage

```
encrypt_object(object, key = "pass", pkey = NULL, ascii = FALSE)
```

Arguments

object	Object to be encrypted
key	For symmetric encryption, 'pkey' should be NULL (default) and 'key' can be either a string (Default is 'pass') or a raw object. For asymmetric encryption, both 'key' (private key of the encrypter) and 'pkey' (public key of the decrypter) should be raw objects.
pkey	See 'key'
ascii	TRUE if the object is to be encrypted as a string. Default is FALSE

Value

A raw object if `ascii` is `FALSE`. A string if `ascii` is `TRUE`.

Examples

```
# symmetric case:
temp <- encrypt_object(1:3)
all(
  is.raw(temp)
  , decrypt_object(temp) == 1:3)

temp <- encrypt_object(iris, ascii = TRUE)
all(
  is.character(temp)
  , decrypt_object(temp) == iris
  , identical(decrypt_object(temp), iris))
rm(temp)

# asymmetric case:
alice <- keypair()
bob   <- keypair()
temp  <- encrypt_object(1:10, alice$private_key, bob$public_key)
temp2 <- decrypt_object(temp, bob$private_key, alice$public_key)
identical(1:10, temp2)
```

encrypt_string	<i>Encrypt a string</i>
----------------	-------------------------

Description

`encrypt_string` encrypts a string as a string or a raw vector and `decrypt_string` decrypts the encrypted string or a raw vector (encrypted using `encrypt_string`)

Usage

```
encrypt_string(string, key = "pass", pkey = NULL, ascii = TRUE)
```

Arguments

<code>string</code>	A string(character vector of length 1) without embedded NULL to be encrypted or a raw vector.
<code>key</code>	For symmetric encryption, 'pkey' should be NULL (default) and 'key' can be either a string (Default is 'pass') or a raw object. For asymmetric encryption, both 'key' (private key of the encrypter) and 'pkey' (public key of the decrypter) should be raw objects.
<code>pkey</code>	See 'key'
<code>ascii</code>	(flag) When TRUE (default), the output is a string after base64 encoding. Else, the output is a raw vector.

Value

An encrypted string or a raw vector.

Examples

```
# symmetric case:
temp <- encrypt_string("hello, how are you", key = "secret")
all(
  is.character(temp)
  , decrypt_string(temp, "secret") == "hello, how are you"
  , class(try(decrypt_string(temp, "nopass"), silent = TRUE)) == "try-error"
)

# string encoded as raw
res <- encrypt_string("tatvamasi", ascii = FALSE)
res

isTRUE(identical(decrypt_string(res), "tatvamasi"))

# asymmetric case:
alice <- keypair()
bob   <- keypair()
temp  <- encrypt_string("hello asymmetric", alice$private_key, bob$public_key)
temp2 <- decrypt_string(temp, bob$private_key, alice$public_key)
identical("hello asymmetric", temp2)
```

keypair

Generate a public key and private key pair

Description

Using sodium's 'keygen' and 'pubkey' based on curve25519

Usage

```
keypair(seed = NULL)
```

Arguments

seed A raw object. If NULL, a random seed will be chosen.

Value

A list with:

- public_key: A raw object
- private_key: A raw object
- seed: A raw object

Examples

```
temp <- keypair()
str(temp)
```

retrieve_object	<i>Retrieve an object from a connection(or a file)</i>
-----------------	--

Description

save_object encrypts a R object to raw or text connection or a file. retrieve_object decrypts a raw or a text connection or a file (encrypted by save_object). Note that retrieve_object returns the object.

Usage

```
retrieve_object(conn, key = "pass", pkey = NULL, ascii = FALSE)
```

Arguments

conn	A connection or a file where the decrypted content is written. If ascii is TRUE, an decrypted text is written to the connection. Else, when ascii is FALSE(default), a raw object is written to the connection
key	For symmetric decryption, 'pkey' should be NULL (default) and 'key' can be either a string (Default is 'pass') or a raw object. For asymmetric decryption, both 'key' (private key of the decrypter) and 'pkey' (public key of the encrypter) should be raw objects.
pkey	See 'key'
ascii	TRUE, if the encrypted output is a string(written to the text connection). FALSE, if the encrypted output is a raw object(written to the raw connection)

Value

An invisible TRUE

Examples

```
# symmetric case:
all(
  save_object(iris, conn = "iris_safer.bin")
  , identical(retrieve_object(conn = "iris_safer.bin"), iris)
  , unlink("iris_safer.bin") == 0
)

all(
  save_object(iris, conn = "iris_safer_2.txt", ascii = TRUE)
  , identical(retrieve_object(conn = "iris_safer_2.txt", ascii = TRUE), iris)
  , unlink("iris_safer_2.txt") == 0
)
```

```

)

# asymmetric case:
alice <- keypair()
bob   <- keypair()
all(
  save_object(iris, alice$private_key, bob$public_key, conn = "iris_safer.bin")
  , identical(retrieve_object(conn = "iris_safer.bin", bob$private_key, alice$public_key), iris)
  , unlink("iris_safer.bin") == 0
)

```

save_object	<i>Save an object to a connection(or a file)</i>
-------------	--

Description

save_object encrypts a R object to raw or text connection or a file. retrieve_object decrypts a raw or a text connection or a file (encrypted by save_object). Note that retrieve_object returns the object.

Usage

```
save_object(object, key = "pass", pkey = NULL, ascii = FALSE, conn)
```

Arguments

object	A R object to be encrypted
key	For symmetric encryption, 'pkey' should be NULL (default) and 'key' can be either a string (Default is 'pass') or a raw object. For asymmetric encryption, both 'key' (private key of the encrypter) and 'pkey' (public key of the decrypter) should be raw objects.
pkey	See 'key'
ascii	TRUE, if the encrypted output is a string(written to the text connection). FALSE, if the encrypted output is a raw object(written to the raw connection)
conn	A connection or a file where the encrypted content is written. If ascii is TRUE, an encrypted text is written to the connection. Else, when ascii is FALSE(default), a raw object is written to the connection

Value

An invisible TRUE

Examples

```
# symmetric case:
all(
  save_object(iris, conn = "iris_safer.bin")
  , identical(retrieve_object(conn = "iris_safer.bin"), iris)
  , unlink("iris_safer.bin") == 0
)

all(
  save_object(iris, conn = "iris_safer_2.txt", ascii = TRUE)
  , identical(retrieve_object(conn = "iris_safer_2.txt", ascii = TRUE), iris)
  , unlink("iris_safer_2.txt") == 0
)

# asymmetric case:
alice <- keypair()
bob   <- keypair()
all(
  save_object(iris, alice$private_key, bob$public_key, conn = "iris_safer.bin")
  , identical(retrieve_object(conn = "iris_safer.bin", bob$private_key, alice$public_key), iris)
  , unlink("iris_safer.bin") == 0
)
```

Index

`decrypt_file`, [2](#)
`decrypt_object`, [4](#)
`decrypt_string`, [5](#)

`encrypt_file`, [6](#)
`encrypt_object`, [7](#)
`encrypt_string`, [8](#)

`keypair`, [9](#)

`retrieve_object`, [10](#)

`safer (safer-package)`, [2](#)
`safer-package`, [2](#)
`save_object`, [11](#)