

# Package ‘qs2’

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**Type** Package

**Title** Efficient Serialization of R Objects

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**Description** Streamlines and accelerates the process of saving and loading R objects, improving speed and compression compared to other methods. The package provides two compression formats: the 'qs2' format, which uses R serialization via the C API while optimizing compression and disk I/O, and the 'qdata' format, featuring custom serialization for slightly faster performance and better compression. Additionally, the 'qs2' format can be directly converted to the standard 'RDS' format, ensuring long-term compatibility with future versions of R.

**License** GPL-3

**Biarch** true

**Depends** R (>= 3.5.0)

**Imports** Rcpp, stringfish (>= 0.15.1)

**LinkingTo** Rcpp, stringfish, RcppParallel

**Suggests** knitr, rmarkdown, dplyr, data.table, stringi

**SystemRequirements** GNU make

**Encoding** UTF-8

**RoxxygenNote** 7.3.2

**VignetteBuilder** knitr

**Copyright** This package includes code from the 'zstd' library owned by Facebook, Inc. and created by Yann Collet; and code derived from the 'Blosc' library created and owned by Francesc Alted.

**URL** <https://github.com/traversc/qs2>

**BugReports** <https://github.com/traversc/qs2/issues>

**NeedsCompilation** yes

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`blosc_shuffle_raw`      *Shuffle a raw vector*

### Description

Shuffles a raw vector using BLOSC shuffle routines.

### Usage

`blosc_shuffle_raw(data, bytesofsize)`

### Arguments

<code>data</code>	A raw vector to be shuffled.
<code>bytesofsize</code>	Either 4 or 8.

**Value**

The shuffled vector

**Examples**

```
x <- serialize(1L:1000L, NULL)
xshuf <- blosc_shuffle_raw(x, 4)
xunshuf <- blosc_unshuffle_raw(xshuf, 4)
```

---

**blosc\_unshuffle\_raw**     *Unshuffle a raw vector*

---

**Description**

Un-shuffles a raw vector using BLOSC un-shuffle routines.

**Usage**

```
blosc_unshuffle_raw(data, bytesofsize)
```

**Arguments**

<code>data</code>	A raw vector to be unshuffled.
<code>bytesofsize</code>	Either 4 or 8.

**Value**

The unshuffled vector.

**Examples**

```
x <- serialize(1L:1000L, NULL)
xshuf <- blosc_shuffle_raw(x, 4)
xunshuf <- blosc_unshuffle_raw(xshuf, 4)
```

**qd\_read***qd\_read*

## Description

Reads an object that was saved to disk in the qdata format.

## Usage

```
qd_read(file, use_alt_rep = FALSE, validate_checksum=FALSE, nthreads = 1L)
```

## Arguments

- `file` The file name/path.
- `use_alt_rep` Use ALTREP when reading in string data (default FALSE).
- `validate_checksum` Whether to validate the stored checksum in the file (default FALSE). This can be used to test for file corruption but has a performance penalty.
- `nthreads` The number of threads to use when reading data (default: 1).

## Value

The object stored in `file`.

## Examples

```
x <- data.frame(int = sample(1e3, replace=TRUE),
                 num = rnorm(1e3),
                 char = sample(state.name, 1e3, replace=TRUE),
                 stringsAsFactors = FALSE)
myfile <- tempfile()
qd_save(x, myfile)
x2 <- qd_read(myfile)
identical(x, x2) # returns true

# qdata support multithreading
qd_save(x, myfile, nthreads=1)
x2 <- qd_read(myfile, nthreads=1)
identical(x, x2) # returns true
```

---

`qd_save``qd_save`

---

## Description

Saves an object to disk using the qdata format.

## Usage

```
qd_save(object, file, compress_level = 3L,
        shuffle = TRUE, warn_unsupported_types=TRUE,
        nthreads = 1L)
```

## Arguments

<code>object</code>	The object to save.
<code>file</code>	The file name/path.
<code>compress_level</code>	The compression level used (default 3). The maximum and minimum possible values depends on the version of ZSTD library used. As of ZSTD 1.5.6 the maximum compression level is 22, and the minimum is -131072. Usually, values in the low positive range offer very good performance in terms of speed and compression.
<code>shuffle</code>	Whether to allow byte shuffling when compressing data (default: TRUE).
<code>warn_unsupported_types</code>	Whether to warn when saving an object with an unsupported type (default TRUE).
<code>nthreads</code>	The number of threads to use when compressing data (default: 1).

## Value

No value is returned. The file is written to disk.

## Examples

```
x <- data.frame(int = sample(1e3, replace=TRUE),
                 num = rnorm(1e3),
                 char = sample(state.name, 1e3, replace=TRUE),
                 stringsAsFactors = FALSE)
myfile <- tempfile()
qd_save(x, myfile)
x2 <- qd_read(myfile)
identical(x, x2) # returns true

# qdata support multithreading
qd_save(x, myfile, nthreads=1)
x2 <- qd_read(myfile, nthreads=1)
identical(x, x2) # returns true
```

***qs\_read****qs\_read***Description**

Reads an object that was saved to disk in the qs2 format.

**Usage**

```
qs_read(file, validate_checksum=FALSE, nthreads = 1L)
```

**Arguments**

<code>file</code>	The file name/path.
<code>validate_checksum</code>	Whether to validate the stored checksum in the file (default FALSE). This can be used to test for file corruption but has a performance penalty.
<code>nthreads</code>	The number of threads to use when reading data (default: 1).

**Value**

The object stored in `file`.

**Examples**

```
x <- data.frame(int = sample(1e3, replace=TRUE),
                 num = rnorm(1e3),
                 char = sample(state.name, 1e3, replace=TRUE),
                 stringsAsFactors = FALSE)
myfile <- tempfile()
qs_save(x, myfile)
x2 <- qs_read(myfile)
identical(x, x2) # returns true

# qs2 support multithreading
qs_save(x, myfile, nthreads=1)
x2 <- qs_read(myfile, nthreads=1)
identical(x, x2) # returns true
```

---

`qs_save``qs_save`

---

## Description

Saves an object to disk using the qs2 format.

## Usage

```
qs_save(object, file, compress_level = 3L,  
shuffle = TRUE, nthreads = 1L)
```

## Arguments

<code>object</code>	The object to save.
<code>file</code>	The file name/path.
<code>compress_level</code>	The compression level used (default 3). The maximum and minimum possible values depends on the version of ZSTD library used. As of ZSTD 1.5.6 the maximum compression level is 22, and the minimum is -131072. Usually, values in the low positive range offer very good performance in terms of speed and compression.
<code>shuffle</code>	Whether to allow byte shuffling when compressing data (default: TRUE).
<code>nthreads</code>	The number of threads to use when compressing data (default: 1).

## Value

No value is returned. The file is written to disk.

## Examples

```
x <- data.frame(int = sample(1e3, replace=TRUE),  
                 num = rnorm(1e3),  
                 char = sample(state.name, 1e3, replace=TRUE),  
                 stringsAsFactors = FALSE)  
myfile <- tempfile()  
qs_save(x, myfile)  
x2 <- qs_read(myfile)  
identical(x, x2) # returns true  
  
# qs2 support multithreading  
qs_save(x, myfile, nthreads=1)  
x2 <- qs_read(myfile, nthreads=1)  
identical(x, x2) # returns true
```

**qs\_to\_rds***qs2 to RDS format***Description**

Converts a file saved in the qs2 format to the RDS format.

**Usage**

```
qs_to_rds(input_file, output_file, compress_level = 6)
```

**Arguments**

<code>input_file</code>	The qs2 file to convert.
<code>output_file</code>	The RDS file to write.
<code>compress_level</code>	The gzip compression level to use when writing the RDS file (a value between 0 and 9).

**Value**

No value is returned. The converted file is written to disk.

**Examples**

```
qs_tmp <- tempfile(fileext = ".qs2")
rds_tmp <- tempfile(fileext = ".RDS")

x <- runif(1e6)
qs_save(x, qs_tmp)
qs_to_rds(input_file = qs_tmp, output_file = rds_tmp)
x2 <- readRDS(rds_tmp)
stopifnot(identical(x, x2))
```

**qx\_dump***qx\_dump***Description**

Exports the uncompressed binary serialization to a list of raw vectors for both qs2 and qdata formats. For testing and exploratory purposes mainly.

**Usage**

```
qx_dump(file)
```

**Arguments**

file            A file name/path.

**Value**

The uncompressed serialization.

**Examples**

```
x <- data.frame(int = sample(1e3, replace=TRUE),
                 num = rnorm(1e3),
                 char = sample(state.name, 1e3, replace=TRUE),
                 stringsAsFactors = FALSE)
myfile <- tempfile()
qs_save(x, myfile)
binary_data <- qx_dump(myfile)
```

---

rds\_to\_qs

*RDS to qs2 format*

---

**Description**

Converts a file saved in the RDS format to the qs2 format.

**Usage**

```
rds_to_qs(input_file, output_file, compress_level = 3)
```

**Arguments**

input\_file    The RDS file to convert.  
output\_file   The qs2 file to write.  
compress\_level   The zstd compression level to use when writing the qs2 file. See the `qs_save` help file for more details on this parameter.

**Details**

The `shuffle` parameters is currently not supported when converting from RDS to qs2. When reading the resulting qs2 file, `validate_checksum` must be set to FALSE.

**Value**

No value is returned. The converted file is written to disk.

**Examples**

```
qs_tmp <- tempfile(fileext = ".qs2")
rds_tmp <- tempfile(fileext = ".RDS")

x <- runif(1e6)
saveRDS(x, rds_tmp)
rds_to_qs(input_file = rds_tmp, output_file = qs_tmp)
x2 <- qs_read(qs_tmp, validate_checksum = FALSE)
stopifnot(identical(x, x2))
```

`zstd_compress_bound`    *Zstd compress bound*

**Description**

Exports the compress bound function from the zstd library. Returns the maximum potential compressed size of an object of length `size`.

**Usage**

```
zstd_compress_bound(size)
```

**Arguments**

<code>size</code>	An integer size
-------------------	-----------------

**Value**

maximum compressed size

**Examples**

```
zstd_compress_bound(100000)
zstd_compress_bound(1e9)
```

`zstd_compress_raw`    *Zstd compression*

**Description**

Compresses to a raw vector using the zstd algorithm. Exports the main zstd compression function.

**Usage**

```
zstd_compress_raw(data, compress_level)
```

**Arguments**

data                    Raw vector to be compressed.  
compress\_level    The compression level used.

**Value**

The compressed data as a raw vector.

**Examples**

```
x <- 1:1e6
xserialized <- serialize(x, connection=NULL)
xcompressed <- zstd_compress_raw(xserialized, compress_level = 1)
xrecovered <- unserialize(zstd_decompress_raw(xcompressed))
```

---

**zstd\_decompress\_raw**    *Zstd decompression*

---

**Description**

Decompresses a zstd compressed raw vector.

**Usage**

```
zstd_decompress_raw(data)
```

**Arguments**

data                    A raw vector to be decompressed.

**Value**

The decompressed data as a raw vector.

**Examples**

```
x <- 1:1e6
xserialized <- serialize(x, connection=NULL)
xcompressed <- zstd_compress_raw(xserialized, compress_level = 1)
xrecovered <- unserialize(zstd_decompress_raw(xcompressed))
```

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