

# ENCODExplorerData

September 3, 2025

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ENCODExplorerData

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## Description

This package aims to ease access to ENCODE file metadata by converting them into an easy-to-use `data.table`.

## Details

The main feature of ENCODExplorerData are the two ENCODE file metadata data tables exported through AnnotationHub, [encode\\_df\\_lite](#) and [encode\\_df\\_full](#)). While these can be accessed directly like any other `data.table`, we recommend using the **ENCODExplorer** companion package, which contains utility functions for querying them, using the online ENCODE search function, downloading selected files, and retrieving control-treatment experimental designs from ENCODE.

This package also exposes functions for regenerating up-to-date versions of the metadata tables. See the [fetch\\_and\\_clean\\_raw\\_ENCODE\\_tables](#), [generate\\_encode\\_df\\_lite](#) and [generate\\_encode\\_df\\_full](#) functions for more details.

## See Also

[encode\\_df\\_lite](#), [encode\\_df\\_full](#), [fetch\\_and\\_clean\\_raw\\_ENCODE\\_tables](#), [generate\\_encode\\_df\\_lite](#), [generate\\_encode\\_df\\_full](#)

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|             |                                                                             |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| clean_table | <i>Clean a data.frame that was produced by fetch_table_from_ENCODE_REST</i> |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|

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### Description

data.frames produced when converting JSON to data.frame with the fromJSON function will sometime have columns that are lists and/or columns that are data.frames.

### Usage

```
clean_table(table)
```

### Arguments

|       |                                                                  |
|-------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| table | The table produced by the fetch_table_from_ENCODE_REST function. |
|-------|------------------------------------------------------------------|

### Details

This function will either remove columns that are not relevant and convert columns to a vector or data.frame.

### Value

a data.frame corresponding to the cleaned version of the input data.frame.

### Examples

```
clean_table(ENCODEExplorerData:::fetch_table_from_ENCODE_REST("award"))
```

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|                |                                           |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------|
| encode_df_full | <i>ENCODE file metadata, Full version</i> |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------|

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### Description

Metadata for the files made available by ENCODE database as a [data.table](#) object. See inst/scripts/make-data.R for the generation process. encode\_df\_full contains all processed metadata columns, including content md5sums, cloud URLs, etc. Operations on encode\_df\_full will take longer than those on [encode\\_df\\_lite](#), but may be required if some of the extra metadata columns are necessary for your needs.

### Format

A data table

**See Also**

[generate\\_encode\\_df\\_full](#), [encode\\_df\\_lite](#)

**Examples**

```
# You can use AnnotationHub to retrieve encode_df_full.
library(AnnotationHub)
hub <- AnnotationHub()
myfiles <- subset(hub, title=="ENCODE File Metadata (Full, 2019-04-12 build)")

# You can then have a look at the metadata of the retrieved object.
myfiles

# Finally, you can access the data.table itself by indexing into the
# object returned by subset.
myfiles[[1]]
```

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|                |                                            |
|----------------|--------------------------------------------|
| encode_df_lite | <i>ENCODE file metadata, Light version</i> |
|----------------|--------------------------------------------|

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**Description**

Metadata for the files made available by ENCODE database as a [data.table](#) object. See `inst/scripts/make-data.R` for the generation process. `encode_df_lite` contains a curated subset of the full metadata and is faster to load and easier to work with than [encode\\_df\\_full](#).

**Format**

A data table

**See Also**

[generate\\_encode\\_df\\_lite](#), [encode\\_df\\_full](#)

**Examples**

```
# You can use AnnotationHub to retrieve encode_df_lite.
library(AnnotationHub)
hub <- AnnotationHub()
myfiles <- subset(hub, title=="ENCODE File Metadata (Light, 2019-04-12 build)")

# You can then have a look at the metadata of the retrieved object.
myfiles

# Finally, you can access the data.table itself by indexing into the
# object returned by subset.
myfiles[[1]]
```

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```
fetch_and_clean_raw_ENCODE_tables
```

*Fetches and preprocess the raw metadata tables from ENCODE.*

---

### Description

Fetches and preprocess the raw metadata tables from ENCODE.

### Usage

```
fetch_and_clean_raw_ENCODE_tables(
  cache_filename = "tables.RDA",
  types = get_encode_types(),
  overwrite = FALSE,
  precache = NULL
)
```

### Arguments

|                |                                                                                                                                     |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| cache_filename | A file name for caching the selected tables into.                                                                                   |
| types          | The names of the tables to extract using the ENCODE rest api.                                                                       |
| overwrite      | If cache_filename already exists, should it be overwritten? Default: FALSE.                                                         |
| precache       | A path to cache the raw metadata as returned by ENCODE and parsed using jsonlite. If NULL, no caching is performed. Default: FALSE. |

### Value

A list with all selected tables from ENCODE.

### Examples

```
fetch_and_clean_raw_ENCODE_tables(cache_filename = "platform.RDA", types = "platform")
file.remove("platform.RDA")
```

---

```
generate_encode_df_full
```

*Given the raw ENCODE tables, this generate a data.table with the full set of file metadata columns.*

---

### Description

Given the raw ENCODE tables, this generate a data.table with the full set of file metadata columns.

**Usage**

```
generate_encode_df_full(tables)
```

**Arguments**

tables                    A list of ENCODE metadata tables as loaded by `fetch_and_clean_raw_ENCODE_tables`.

**Value**

a `data.table` containing relevant metadata for all ENCODE files.

**Examples**

```
## Not run:
  tables = fetch_and_clean_raw_ENCODE_tables()
  export_ENCODEdb_matrix(tables = tables)

## End(Not run)
```

---

```
generate_encode_df_lite
```

*Extract file metadata from the full set of ENCODE metadata tables.*

---

**Description**

Extract file metadata from the full set of ENCODE metadata tables.

**Usage**

```
generate_encode_df_lite(tables)
```

**Arguments**

tables                    A list of ENCODE metadata tables as loaded by `fetch_and_clean_raw_ENCODE_tables`.

**Value**

a `data.table` containing relevant metadata for all ENCODE files.

**Examples**

```
## Not run:
  tables = fetch_and_clean_raw_ENCODE_tables()
  export_ENCODEdb_matrix(tables = tables)

## End(Not run)
```

---

|                  |                                                     |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| get_encode_types | <i>A list of known tables from ENCODE database.</i> |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|

---

### Description

The type (table) names are extracted from the schema list from ENCODE-DCC github repository: <https://github.com/ENCODE-DCC/encoded/tree/master/src/encoded/schemas>

### Usage

```
get_encode_types()
```

### Details

The data is extracted using the github api: <https://developer.github.com/guides/getting-started/>

### Value

a vector of character with the names of the known tables in the ENCODE database.

### Examples

```
get_encode_types()
```

---

|                 |                                                                               |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| get_schema_urls | <i>Returns the URLs for downloading the XML schemas from ENCODE's github.</i> |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

---

### Description

Returns the URLs for downloading the XML schemas from ENCODE's github.

### Usage

```
get_schema_urls()
```

### Value

a character vector of schema download URLs.

### Examples

```
ENCODEExplorerData::get_schema_urls()
```

---

`get_schemas`*Extract the schemas from ENCODE's github*

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**Description**

The JSONs are fetched from: <https://github.com/ENCODE-DCC/encoded/tree/master/src/encoded/schemas>

**Usage**

```
get_schemas()
```

**Details**

The data is extracted using the github api: <https://developer.github.com/guides/getting-started/>

The data is then downloaded using the `jsonlite` package.

**Value**

a list of schemas.

**Examples**

```
ENCODEExplorerData::get_schemas()
```

# Index

`clean_table`, [2](#)

`data.table`, [2](#), [3](#)

`encode_df_full`, [1](#), [2](#), [3](#)

`encode_df_lite`, [1-3](#), [3](#)

`ENCODEExplorerData`, [1](#)

`fetch_and_clean_raw_ENCODE_tables`, [1](#), [4](#)

`generate_encode_df_full`, [1](#), [3](#), [4](#)

`generate_encode_df_lite`, [1](#), [3](#), [5](#)

`get_encode_types`, [6](#)

`get_schema_urls`, [6](#)

`get_schemas`, [7](#)