Datasette Documentation

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A tool for exploring and publishing data

Datasette is a tool for exploring and publishing data. It helps people take data of any shape or size and publish that as an interactive, explorable website and accompanying API.

Datasette is aimed at data journalists, museum curators, archivists, local governments and anyone else who has data that they wish to share with the world. It is part of a wider ecosystem of tools and plugins dedicated to making working with structured data as productive as possible.

Explore a demo, watch a presentation about the project or Try Datasette without installing anything using Glitch.

More examples: https://github.com/simonw/datasette/wiki/Datasets
1.1 Getting started

1.1.1 Play with a live demo

The best way to experience Datasette for the first time is with a demo:

- fivethirtyeight.datasettes.com shows Datasette running against over 400 datasets imported from the FiveThirtyEight GitHub repository.
- sf-trees.datasettes.com demonstrates the datasette-cluster-map plugin running against 190,000 trees imported from data.sfgov.org.

1.1.2 Try Datasette without installing anything using Glitch

Glitch is a free online tool for building web apps directly from your web browser. You can use Glitch to try out Datasette without needing to install any software on your own computer.

Here’s a demo project on Glitch which you can use as the basis for your own experiments:

glitch.com/~datasette-csvs

Glitch allows you to "remix" any project to create your own copy and start editing it in your browser. You can remix the datasette-csvs project by clicking this button:

Find a CSV file and drag it onto the Glitch file explorer panel - datasette-csvs will automatically convert it to a SQLite database (using sqlite-utils) and allow you to start exploring it using Datasette.

If your CSV file has a latitude and longitude column you can visualize it on a map by uncommenting the datasette-cluster-map line in the requirements.txt file using the Glitch file editor.

Need some data? Try this Public Art Data for the city of Seattle - hit "Export" and select "CSV" to download it as a CSV file.
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For more on how this works, see Running Datasette on Glitch.

1.1.3 Using Datasette on your own computer

First, follow the Installation instructions. Now you can run Datasette against a SQLite file on your computer using the following command:

```
datasette serve path/to/database.db
```

This will start a web server on port 8001 - visit http://localhost:8001/ to access the web interface.

```
serve is the default subcommand, you can omit it if you like.
```

Use Chrome on OS X? You can run datasette against your browser history like so:

```
datasette ~/Library/Application\ Support/Google/Chrome/Default/History
```

Now visiting http://localhost:8001/History/downloads will show you a web interface to browse your downloads data:

![downloads](http://localhost:8001/History/downloads.png)

576 total rows in this table

This data as json

```
{
  "database": "History",
  "columns": [
    "id",
    "current_path",
    "target_path",
    "start_time",
    "received_bytes",
    "total_bytes",
    ...
  ],
  "rows": [
    [1, 
      "/Users/simonw/Downloads/DropboxInstaller.dmg",
      "/Users/simonw/Downloads/DropboxInstaller.dmg",
      13097290269022132,
      626688,
      0,
      ...
    ]
  ]
}
```

http://localhost:8001/History/downloads.json will return that data as JSON:
http://localhost:8001/History/downloads.json?_shape=objects will return that data as JSON in a more convenient but less efficient format:

```
{
  ...
  "rows": [
    {
      "start_time": 13097290269022132,
      "interrupt_reason": 0,
      "hash": "",
      "id": 1,
      "site_url": "",
      "referrer": "https://www.dropbox.com/downloading?src=index",
      ...
    }
  ]
}
```

### 1.1.4 datasette serve options

$ datasette serve --help

Usage: datasette serve [OPTIONS] [FILES]...

Serve up specified SQLite database files with a web UI

Options:
- `-i, --immutable PATH` Database files to open in immutable mode
- `-h, --host TEXT` Host for server. Defaults to 127.0.0.1 which means only connections from the local machine will be allowed. Use 0.0.0.0 to listen to all IPs and allow access from other machines.
- `-p, --port INTEGER` Port for server, defaults to 8001. Use -p 0 to automatically assign an available port.
- `--debug` Enable debug mode - useful for development
- `--reload` Automatically reload if database or code change detected - useful for development
- `--cors` Enable CORS by serving Access-Control-Allow-Origin: *
- `--load-extension PATH` Path to a SQLite extension to load
- `--inspect-file TEXT` Path to JSON file created using "datasette inspect"
- `-m, --metadata FILENAME` Path to JSON/YAML file containing license/source metadata
- `--template-dir DIRECTORY` Path to directory containing custom templates
- `--plugins-dir DIRECTORY` Path to directory containing custom plugins
- `--static MOUNT:DIRECTORY` Serve static files from this directory at /MOUNT/...
- `--memory` Make :memory: database available
- `--config CONFIG` Set config option using configname:value
- `--version-note TEXT` Additional note to show on /-/versions
- `--help-config` Show available config options
- `--help` Show this message and exit.

### 1.1. Getting started

...
1.2 Installation

Note: If you just want to try Datasette out you don’t need to install anything: see *Try Datasette without installing anything using Glitch*.

There are two main options for installing Datasette. You can install it directly on to your machine, or you can install it using Docker.

**Contents**
- Installation
  - Install using pip
  - Install using pipx
    - Installing plugins using pipx
    - Upgrading packages using pipx
  - Using Docker
    - Loading Spatialite
    - Installing plugins

### 1.2.1 Install using pip

To run Datasette without Docker you will need Python 3.6 or higher.

You can install Datasette and its dependencies using pip:

```
pip install datasette
```

The last version to support Python 3.5 was 0.30.2. If you are running Python 3.5 (check using `python3 --version`) you can install that version of Datasette like so:

```
pip install datasette==0.30.2
```

You can now run Datasette like so:

```
datasette
```

If you want to start making contributions to the Datasette project by installing a copy that lets you directly modify the code, take a look at our guide to *Setting up a development environment*.

### 1.2.2 Install using pipx

`pipx` is a tool for installing Python software with all of its dependencies in an isolated environment, to ensure that they will not conflict with any other installed Python software.

If you use *Homebrew* on macOS you can install pipx like this:
brew install pipx
pipx ensurepath

Without Homebrew you can install it like so:

python3 -m pip install --user pipx
python3 -m pipx ensurepath

The `pipx ensurepath` command configures your shell to ensure it can find commands that have been installed by pipx - generally by making sure ~/.local/bin has been added to your PATH.

Once pipx is installed you can use it to install Datasette like this:

pipx install datasette

Then run `datasette --version` to confirm that it has been successfully installed.

**Installing plugins using pipx**

Datasette plugins need to be installed into the same environment as Datasette itself. You can do this using `pipx inject datasette name-of-plugin` - and then confirm that the plugin has been installed using the `datasette plugins` command:

```bash
$ datasette plugins
[]

$ pipx inject datasette datasette-json-html
   injected package datasette-json-html into venv datasette
done!

$ datasette plugins
[

  {

    "name": "datasette-json-html",
    "static": false,
    "templates": false,
    "version": "0.6"

  }
]
```

**Upgrading packages using pipx**

You can upgrade your pipx installation to the latest release of Datasette using `pipx upgrade datasette`:

```bash
$ pipx upgrade datasette
upgraded package datasette from 0.39 to 0.40 (location: /Users/simon/.local/pipx/...

To upgrade a plugin within the pipx environment use `pipx runpip datasette install -U
name-of-plugin` - like this:

```bash
$% datasette plugins
[

]
```

(continues on next page)
"name": "datasette-vega",
"static": true,
"templates": false,
"version": "0.6"
}
]

$ pipx runpip datasette install -U datasette-vega
Collecting datasette-vega
Downloaded datasette_vega-0.6.2-py3-none-any.whl (1.8 MB)
| 1.8 MB 2.0 MB/s ...
Installing collected packages: datasette-vega
Attempting uninstall: datasette-vega
    Found existing installation: datasette-vega 0.6
    Uninstalling datasette-vega-0.6:
    Successfully uninstalled datasette-vega-0.6
Successfully installed datasette-vega-0.6.2

$ datasette plugins
[
]

1.2.3 Using Docker

A Docker image containing the latest release of Datasette is published to Docker Hub here: https://hub.docker.com/r/datasetteproject/datasette/

If you have Docker installed (for example with Docker for Mac on OS X) you can download and run this image like so:

docker run -p 8001:8001 -v `pwd`:/mnt 
   datasetteproject/datasette 
   datasette -p 8001 -h 0.0.0.0 /mnt/fixtures.db

This will start an instance of Datasette running on your machine’s port 8001, serving the fixtures.db file in your current directory.

Now visit http://127.0.0.1:8001/ to access Datasette.

(You can download a copy of fixtures.db from https://latest.datasette.io/fixtures.db)

To upgrade to the most recent release of Datasette, run the following:

docker pull datasetteproject/datasette
Loading Spatialite

The datasetteproject/datasette image includes a recent version of the SpatiaLite extension for SQLite. To load and enable that module, use the following command:

```bash
docker run -p 8001:8001 -v `pwd`:/mnt 
  datasetteproject/datasette 
  datasette -p 8001 -h 0.0.0.0 /mnt/fixtures.db 
  --load-extension=/usr/local/lib/mod_spatialite.so
```

You can confirm that SpatiaLite is successfully loaded by visiting http://127.0.0.1:8001/-/versions

Installing plugins

If you want to install plugins into your local Datasette Docker image you can do so using the following recipe. This will install the plugins and then save a brand new local image called datasette-with-plugins:

```bash
docker run datasetteproject/datasette 
  pip install datasette-vega

docker commit $(docker ps -lq) datasette-with-plugins
```

You can now run the new custom image like so:

```bash
docker run -p 8001:8001 -v `pwd`:/mnt 
  datasette-with-plugins 
  datasette -p 8001 -h 0.0.0.0 /mnt/fixtures.db
```

You can confirm that the plugins are installed by visiting http://127.0.0.1:8001/-/plugins

1.3 The Datasette Ecosystem

Datasette sits at the center of a growing ecosystem of open source tools aimed at making it as easy as possible to gather, analyze and publish interesting data.

These tools are divided into two main groups: tools for building SQLite databases (for use with Datasette) and plugins that extend Datasette’s functionality.

1.3.1 Tools for creating SQLite databases

**csvs-to-sqlite**

`csvs-to-sqlite` lets you take one or more CSV files and load them into a SQLite database. It can also extract repeated columns out into a separate table and configure SQLite full-text search against the contents of specific columns.

**sqlite-utils**

`sqlite-utils` is a Python library and CLI tool that provides shortcuts for loading data into SQLite. It can be used programatically (e.g. in a Jupyter notebook) to load data, and will automatically create SQLite tables with the necessary schema.
The CLI tool can consume JSON streams directly and use them to create tables. It can also be used to query SQLite databases and output the results as CSV or JSON.

See sqlite-utils: a Python library and CLI tool for building SQLite databases for more.

db-to-sqlite

db-to-sqlite is a CLI tool that builds on top of SQLAlchemy and allows you to connect to any database supported by that library (including MySQL, oracle and PostgreSQL), run a SQL query and save the results to a new table in a SQLite database.

You can mirror an entire database (including copying foreign key relationships) with the --all option:

```
$ db-to-sqlite --all "postgresql://simonw@localhost/myblog" blog.db
```

dbf-to-sqlite

dbf-to-sqlite works with dBase files such as those produced by Visual FoxPro. It is a command-line tool that can convert one or more .dbf file to tables in a SQLite database.

markdown-to-sqlite

markdown-to-sqlite reads Markdown files with embedded YAML metadata (e.g. for Jekyll Front Matter) and creates a SQLite table with a schema matching the metadata. This is useful if you want to keep structured data in text form in a GitHub repository and use that to build a SQLite database.

geojson-to-sqlite

geojson-to-sqlite converts GeoJSON files to SQLite, optionally using SpatiaLite to create geospatial indexes for fast geometric queries.

shapefile-to-sqlite

shapefile-to-sqlite converts ESRI shapefiles to SQLite, optionally using SpatiaLite.

socrata2sql

socrata2sql is a tool by Andrew Chavez at the Dallas Morning News. It works with Socrata, a widely used platform for local and national government open data portals. It uses the Socrata API to pull down government datasets and store them in a local SQLite database (it can also export data to PostgreSQL, MySQL and other SQLAlchemy-supported databases).

For example, to create a SQLite database of the City of Dallas Payment Register you would run the following command:

```
$ socrata2sql insert www.dallasopendata.com 64pp-jeba
```

1.3.2 Datasette Plugins

Datasette’s plugin system makes it easy to enhance Datasette with additional functionality.
**datasette-cluster-map**

datasette-cluster-map is the original Datasette plugin, described in Datasette plugins, and building a clustered map visualization.

The plugin works against any table with latitude and longitude columns. It can load over 100,000 points onto a map to visualize the geographical distribution of the underlying data.

**datasette-vega**

datasette-vega exposes the powerful Vega charting library, allowing you to construct line, bar and scatter charts against your data and share links to your visualizations.

**datasette-auth-github**

datasette-auth-github adds an authentication layer to Datasette. Users will have to sign in using their GitHub account before they can view data or interact with Datasette. You can also use it to restrict access to specific GitHub users, or to members of specified GitHub organizations or teams.

**datasette-upload-csvs**

datasette-upload-csvs allows users to upload CSV files directly into a Datasette instance through their web browser.

**datasette-json-html**

datasette-json-html renders HTML in Datasette’s table view driven by JSON returned from your SQL queries. This provides a way to embed images, links and lists of links directly in Datasette’s main interface, defined using custom SQL statements.

**datasette-jellyfish**

datasette-jellyfish exposes custom SQL functions for a range of common fuzzy string matching functions, including soundex, porter stemming and levenshtein distance. It builds on top of the Jellyfish Python library.

**datasette-doublemetaphone**

datasette-doublemetaphone by Matthew Somerville adds custom SQL functions for applying the Double Metaphone fuzzy "sounds like" algorithm.

**datasette-jq**

datasette-jq adds a custom SQL function for filtering and transforming values from JSON columns using the jq expression language.

**datasette-rure**

datasette-rure adds SQL support for matching values against regular expressions, built on top of a Python binding for the safe Rust regular expression library.
datasette-render-images

datasette-render-images works with SQLite tables that contain binary image data in BLOB columns. It converts any images it finds into data-uri image elements, allowing you to view them directly in the Datasette interface.

datasette-render-binary

datasette-render-binary renders binary data in a slightly more readable fashion: it shows ASCII characters as they are, and shows all other data as monospace octets. Useful as a tool for exploring new unfamiliar databases as it makes it easier to spot if a binary column may contain a decipherable binary format.

datasette-render-markdown

datasette-render-markdown adds tools for rendering Datasette rows that are formatted using Markdown.

datasette-render-html

datasette-render-html lets you configure columns that contain HTML from trusted sources such that the HTML is rendered correctly within the Datasette interface.

datasette-leaflet-geojson

datasette-leaflet-geojson looks out for columns containing GeoJSON formatted geographical information and displays them on a Leaflet-powered map.

datasette-pretty-json

datasette-pretty-json seeks out JSON values in Datasette’s table browsing interface and pretty-prints them, making them easier to read.

datasette-haversine

datasette-haversine provides a SQL haversine() function which can calculate the haversine distance between two geographical points. You can then sort by this distance to find records closest to a specified location.

```sql
select haversine(lat1, lon1, lat2, lon2, 'mi');
```

datasette-sqlite-fts4

datasette-sqlite-fts4 provides search relevance ranking algorithms that can be used with SQLite’s FTS4 search module. You can read more about it in Exploring search relevance algorithms with SQLite.

datasette-bplist

datasette-bplist provides tools for working with Apple’s binary plist format embedded in SQLite database tables. If you use OS X you already have dozens of SQLite databases hidden away in your ~/Library folder that include data in this format - this plugin allows you to view the decoded data and run SQL queries against embedded values using a bplist_to_json(value) custom SQL function.
datasette-cors

datasette-cors allows you to configure CORS headers for your Datasette instance. You can use this to enable JavaScript running on a whitelisted set of domains to make `fetch()` calls to the JSON API provided by your Datasette instance.

datasette-template-sql

datasette-template-sql adds a custom template function that can be used to execute and loop through the results of SQL queries in your templates. See this blog post for background on the plugin.

datasette-mask-columns

datasette-mask-columns allows you to use `metadata.json` to configure specific table columns that should be masked - that should return null no matter what value is contained within the column. This is useful for things like hiding password columns from public display.

datasette-auth-existing-cookies

datasette-auth-existing-cookies allows you to configure Datasette to authenticate users based on existing cookies they may have for the current domain - useful for running Datasette on a subdomain of your main site, for example. See this blog post for background on the plugin.

datasette-sentry

datasette-sentry lets you configure Datasette to send any error reports to Sentry.

datasette-publish-fly

datasette-publish-fly lets you publish Datasette instances using the Fly hosting platform. See also Publishing to Fly.

1.4 Pages and API endpoints

The Datasette web application offers a number of different pages that can be accessed to explore the data in question, each of which is accompanied by an equivalent JSON API.

1.4.1 Top-level index

The root page of any Datasette installation is an index page that lists all of the currently attached databases. Some examples:

- fivethirtyeight.datasettes.com
- global-power-plants.datasettes.com
- register-of-members-interests.datasettes.com

Add `/json` to the end of the URL for the JSON version of the underlying data:

- fivethirtyeight.datasettes.com/json
- global-power-plants.datasettes.com/json
1.4.2 Database

Each database has a page listing the tables, views and canned queries available for that database. If the `allow_sql` config option is enabled (it’s turned on by default) there will also be an interface for executing arbitrary SQL select queries against the data.

Examples:
- fivethirtyeight.datasettes.com/fivethirtyeight-ac35616
- global-power-plants.datasettes.com/global-power-plants-9e55be2

The JSON version of this page provides programmatic access to the underlying data:
- fivethirtyeight.datasettes.com/fivethirtyeight-ac35616.json
- global-power-plants.datasettes.com/global-power-plants-9e55be2.json

Note that these URLs end in a 7 character hash. This hash is derived from the contents of the database, and ensures that each URL is immutable: the data returned from a URL containing the hash will always be the same, since if the contents of the database file changes by even a single byte a new hash will be generated.

If you access one of these URLs with an incorrect hash (say because a new version of the underlying database has been published) Datasette will 302 redirect you to the correct URL. This happens for all URLs below the database page as well.

Thanks to this hashing scheme, Datasette URLs can all be returned with far-future cache expiry headers. This means browsers will cache the data (including data from the JSON APIs) for a long time, and CDNs such as Cloudflare or Fastly can be used to dramatically improve the performance of a Datasette hosted API.

1.4.3 Table

The table page is the heart of Datasette: it allows users to interactively explore the contents of a database table, including sorting, filtering, Full-text search and applying Facets.

The HTML interface is worth spending some time exploring. As with other pages, you can return the JSON data by appending `.json` to the URL path, before any `?` querystring arguments.

The querystring arguments are described in more detail here: Table arguments

You can also use the table page to interactively construct a SQL query - by applying different filters and a sort order for example - and then click the "View and edit SQL" link to see the SQL query that was used for the page and edit and re-submit it.

Some examples:
- ../items lists all of the line-items registered by UK MPs as potential conflicts of interest. It demonstrates Datasette’s support for Full-text search.
- ../antiquities-act%2Factions_under_antiquities_act is an interface for exploring the "actions under the antiquities act" data table published by FiveThirtyEight.
- ../global-power-plants?country_long=United+Kingdom&primary_fuel=Gas is a filtered table page showing every Gas power plant in the United Kingdom. It includes some default facets (configured using its metadata.json) and uses the datasette-cluster-map plugin to show a map of the results.
1.4.4 Row

Every row in every Datasette table has its own URL. This means individual records can be linked to directly.

Table cells with extremely long text contents are truncated on the table view according to the `truncate_cells_html` setting. If a cell has been truncated the full length version of that cell will be available on the row page.

Rows which are the targets of foreign key references from other tables will show a link to a filtered search for all records that reference that row. Here’s an example from the Registers of Members Interests database:

../people/uk.org.publicwhip%2Fperson%2F10001

Note that this URL includes the encoded primary key of the record.

Here’s that same page as JSON:

../people/uk.org.publicwhip%2Fperson%2F10001.json

1.5 Publishing data

Datasette includes tools for publishing and deploying your data to the internet. The `datasette publish` command will deploy a new Datasette instance containing your databases directly to a Heroku or Google Cloud hosting account. You can also use `datasette package` to create a Docker image that bundles your databases together with the datasette application that is used to serve them.

1.5.1 datasette publish

Once you have created a SQLite database (e.g. using `csvs-to-sqlite`) you can deploy it to a hosting account using a single command.

You will need a hosting account with Heroku or Google Cloud. Once you have created your account you will need to install and configure the `heroku` or `gcloud` command-line tools.

Publishing to Heroku

To publish your data using Heroku, first create an account there and install and configure the Heroku CLI tool.

You can publish a database to Heroku using the following command:

```
datasette publish heroku mydatabase.db
```

This will output some details about the new deployment, including a URL like this one:

```
https://limitless-reef-88278.herokuapp.com/ deployed to Heroku
```

You can specify a custom app name by passing `-n my-app-name` to the publish command. This will also allow you to overwrite an existing app.

```
$ datasette publish heroku --help
Usage: datasette publish heroku [OPTIONS] [FILES]...

Options:
    -m, --metadata FILENAME Path to JSON/YAML file containing metadata to
    --publish
```

(continues on next page)
Publishing to Google Cloud Run

Google Cloud Run launched as a GA in November 2019. It allows you to publish data in a scale-to-zero environment, so your application will start running when the first request is received and will shut down again when traffic ceases. This means you only pay for time spent serving traffic.

You will first need to install and configure the Google Cloud CLI tools by following these instructions.

You can then publish a database to Google Cloud Run using the following command:

datasette publish cloudrun mydatabase.db --service=my-database

A Cloud Run service is a single hosted application. The service name you specify will be used as part of the Cloud Run URL. If you deploy to a service name that you have used in the past your new deployment will replace the previous one.

If you omit the --service option you will be asked to pick a service name interactively during the deploy.

You may need to interact with prompts from the tool. Once it has finished it will output a URL like this one:

Service [my-service] revision [my-service-00001] has been deployed
and is serving traffic at https://my-service-j7hipcq4aq-uc.a.run.app

$ datasette publish cloudrun --help

Usage: datasette publish cloudrun [OPTIONS] [FILES]...

Options:
  -m, --metadata FILENAME Path to JSON/YAML file containing metadata to
  --publish Extra options to pass to datasette serve
  --branch TEXT Install datasette from a GitHub branch e.g. master
  --template-dir DIRECTORY Path to directory containing custom templates
  --plugins-dir DIRECTORY Path to directory containing custom plugins
  --static MOUNT:DIRECTORY Serve static files from this directory at /MOUNT/...
  --install TEXT Additional packages (e.g. plugins) to install
  --plugin-secret <TEXT TEXT TEXT>... Secrets to pass to plugins, e.g. --plugin-secret datasette-auth-github client_id xxx
  --version-note TEXT Additional note to show on /-/versions
  --title TEXT Title for metadata
  --license TEXT License label for metadata
  --license_url TEXT License URL for metadata
  --source TEXT Source label for metadata
  --source_url TEXT Source URL for metadata
  --about TEXT About label for metadata
  --about_url TEXT About URL for metadata
  -n, --name TEXT Application name to use when deploying
  --help Show this message and exit.
Publishing to Fly

Fly is a competitively priced Docker-compatible hosting platform that makes it easy to run applications in globally distributed data centers close to your end users. You can deploy Datasette instances to Fly using the `datasette-publish-fly` plugin, installed separately.

```shell
pip install datasette-publish-fly
datasette publish fly mydatabase.db
```

Consult the `datasette-publish-fly` README for more details.

Custom metadata and plugins

datasette publish accepts a number of additional options which can be used to further customize your Datasette instance.

You can define your own Metadata and deploy that with your instance like so:

```shell
datasette publish cloudrun --service=my-service mydatabase.db -m metadata.json
```

If you just want to set the title, license or source information you can do that directly using extra options to `datasette publish`:

```shell
datasette publish cloudrun mydatabase.db --service=my-service \
 --title="Title of my database" \
 --source="Where the data originated" \
 --source_url="http://www.example.com/"
```

You can also specify plugins you would like to install. For example, if you want to include the `datasette-vega` visualization plugin you can use the following:

```shell
datasette publish cloudrun mydatabase.db --service=my-service --install=datasette-vega
```

If a plugin has any Secret configuration values you can use the `--plugin-secret` option to set those secrets at publish time. For example, using Heroku with `datasette-auth-github` you might run the following command:

```shell
datasette publish cloundrun mydatabase.db --service=my-service --install=datasette-vega --plugin-secret datasette-auth-github client_id xxx
```
1.5.2 datasette package

If you have docker installed (e.g. using Docker for Mac) you can use the `datasette package` command to create a new Docker image in your local repository containing the datasette app bundled together with your selected SQLite databases:

```
datasette package mydatabase.db
```

Here’s example output for the package command:

```
$ datasette package parlgov.db --extra-options="--config sql_time_limit_ms:2500"
Sending build context to Docker daemon 4.459MB
Step 1/7 : FROM python:3
    --79e1dc9af1c1
Step 2/7 : COPY . /app
    --Using cache
    --cd4ec67de656
Step 3/7 : WORKDIR /app
    --Using cache
    --139699e91621
Step 4/7 : RUN pip install datasette
    --Using cache
    --340efa82bdf7
Step 5/7 : RUN datasette inspect parlgov.db --inspect-file inspect-data.json
    --Using cache
    --5fddbe990314
Step 6/7 : EXPOSE 8001
    --Using cache
    --8e8384b0fed
Step 7/7 : CMD datasette serve parlgov.db --port 8001 --inspect-file inspect-data.
    --json --config sql_time_limit_ms:2500
    --Using cache
    --1bd380ea8af3
Successfully built 1bd380ea8af3
```

You can now run the resulting container like so:

```
docker run -p 8081:8001 1bd380ea8af3
```

This exposes port 8001 inside the container as port 8081 on your host machine, so you can access the application at `http://localhost:8081/`

You can customize the port that is exposed by the countainer using the `--port` option:

```
datasette package mydatabase.db --port 8080
```

A full list of options can be seen by running `datasette package --help`:

```
$ datasette package --help
```

(continues on next page)
### 1.6 JSON API

Datasette provides a JSON API for your SQLite databases. Anything you can do through the Datasette user interface can also be accessed as JSON via the API.

To access the API for a page, either click on the `.json` link on that page or edit the URL and add a `.json` extension to it.

If you started Datasette with the `--cors` option, each JSON endpoint will be served with the following additional HTTP header:

```
Access-Control-Allow-Origin: *
```

This means JavaScript running on any domain will be able to make cross-origin requests to fetch the data.

If you start Datasette without the `--cors` option only JavaScript running on the same domain as Datasette will be able to access the API.

#### 1.6.1 Different shapes

The default JSON representation of data from a SQLite table or custom query looks like this:

```json
{
    "database": "sf-trees",
    "table": "qSpecies",

    "columns": [
        { "name": "id", "type": "integer", "primary_key": true },
        { "name": "name", "type": "text" },
        { "name": "ec", "type": "integer" },
        ...
    ]
}
```
The `columns` key lists the columns that are being returned, and the `rows` key then returns a list of lists, each one representing a row. The order of the values in each row corresponds to the columns.

The `_shape` parameter can be used to access alternative formats for the `rows` key which may be more convenient for your application. There are three options:

- `?_shape=arrays` - "rows" is the default option, shown above
- `?_shape=objects` - "rows" is a list of JSON key/value objects
- `?_shape=array` - an JSON array of objects
- `?_shape=array&_nl=on` - a newline-separated list of JSON objects
- `?_shape=arrayfirst` - a flat JSON array containing just the first value from each row
- `?_shape=object` - a JSON object keyed using the primary keys of the rows

`_shape=objects` looks like this:

```json
{
  "database": "sf-trees",
  ...
  "rows": [
  {
    "id": 1,
    "value": "Myoporum laetum :: Myoporum"
  },
  {
    "id": 2,
    "value": "Metrosideros excelsa :: New Zealand Xmas Tree"
  },
  {
    "id": 3,
    "value": "Pinus radiata :: Monterey Pine"
  }
}
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(_shape=array looks like this:

```json
[
  {
    "id": 1,
    "value": "Myoporum laetum :: Myoporum"
  },
  {
    "id": 2,
    "value": "Metrosideros excelsa :: New Zealand Xmas Tree"
  },
  {
    "id": 3,
    "value": "Pinus radiata :: Monterey Pine"
  }
]
```

(_shape=array&_nl=on looks like this:

```json
{"id": 1, "value": "Myoporum laetum :: Myoporum"}
{"id": 2, "value": "Metrosideros excelsa :: New Zealand Xmas Tree"}
{"id": 3, "value": "Pinus radiata :: Monterey Pine"}
```

(_shape=objectfirst looks like this:

```
[1, 2, 3]
```

(_shape=object looks like this:

```json
{
  "1": {
    "id": 1,
    "value": "Myoporum laetum :: Myoporum"
  },
  "2": {
    "id": 2,
    "value": "Metrosideros excelsa :: New Zealand Xmas Tree"
  },
  "3": {
    "id": 3,
    "value": "Pinus radiata :: Monterey Pine"
  }
}
```

The object shape is only available for queries against tables - custom SQL queries and views do not have an obvious primary key so cannot be returned using this format.

The object keys are always strings. If your table has a compound primary key, the object keys will be a comma-separated string.
1.6.2 Special JSON arguments

Every Datasette endpoint that can return JSON also accepts the following querystring arguments:

- **?_shape=SHAPE** The shape of the JSON to return, documented above.
- **?_nl=on** When used with ?_shape=array produces newline-delimited JSON objects.
- **?_json=COLUMN1&_json=COLUMN2** If any of your SQLite columns contain JSON values, you can use one or more _json= parameters to request that those columns be returned as regular JSON. Without this argument those columns will be returned as JSON objects that have been double-encoded into a JSON string value.

  Compare this query without the argument to this query using the argument

- **?_json_infinity=on** If your data contains infinity or -infinity values, Datasette will replace them with None when returning them as JSON. If you pass _json_infinity=1 Datasette will instead return them as Infinity or -Infinity which is invalid JSON but can be processed by some custom JSON parsers.

- **?_timelimit=MS** Sets a custom time limit for the query in ms. You can use this for optimistic queries where you would like Datasette to give up if the query takes too long, for example if you want to implement autocomplete search but only if it can be executed in less than 10ms.

- **?_ttl=SECONDS** For how many seconds should this response be cached by HTTP proxies? Use ?_ttl=0 to disable HTTP caching entirely for this request.

1.6.3 Table arguments

The Datasette table view takes a number of special querystring arguments.

**Column filter arguments**

You can filter the data returned by the table based on column values using a querystring argument.

- **?column__exact=value or ?_column=value** Returns rows where the specified column exactly matches the value.
- **?column__not=value** Returns rows where the column does not match the value.
- **?column__contains=value** Rows where the string column contains the specified value (column like "%value%" in SQL).
- **?column__endswith=value** Rows where the string column ends with the specified value (column like "value" in SQL).
- **?column__startswith=value** Rows where the string column starts with the specified value (column like "value%" in SQL).
- **?column__gt=value** Rows which are greater than the specified value.
- **?column__gte=value** Rows which are greater than or equal to the specified value.
- **?column__lt=value** Rows which are less than the specified value.
- **?column__lte=value** Rows which are less than or equal to the specified value.
- **?column__like=value** Match rows with a LIKE clause, case insensitive and with % as the wildcard character.
- **?column__notlike=value** Match rows that do not match the provided LIKE clause.
- **?column__glob=value** Similar to LIKE but uses Unix wildcard syntax and is case sensitive.
?column__in=value1,value2,value3  Rows where column matches any of the provided values.

You can use a comma separated string, or you can use a JSON array.

The JSON array option is useful if one of your matching values itself contains a comma:

?column__in=\"value\",\"value,with,commas\"\n
?column__notin=value1,value2,value3  Rows where column does not match any of the provided values.

The inverse of __in=. Also supports JSON arrays.

?column__arraycontains=value  Works against columns that contain JSON arrays - matches if any of the values in that array match.

This is only available if the json1 SQLite extension is enabled.

?column__date=value  Column is a datestamp occurring on the specified YYYY-MM-DD date, e.g. 2018-01-02.

?column__isnull=1  Matches rows where the column is null.

?column__notnull=1  Matches rows where the column is not null.

?column__isblank=1  Matches rows where the column is blank, meaning null or the empty string.

?column__notblank=1  Matches rows where the column is not blank.

Special table arguments

?_labels=on/off  Expand foreign key references for every possible column. See below.

?_label=COLUMN1&_label=COLUMN2  Expand foreign key references for one or more specified columns.

?_size=1000 or ?_size=max  Sets a custom page size. This cannot exceed the max_returned_rows limit passed to datasette serve. Use max to get max_returned_rows.

?_sort=COLUMN  Sorts the results by the specified column.

?_sort_desc=COLUMN  Sorts the results by the specified column in descending order.

?_search=keywords  For SQLite tables that have been configured for full-text search executes a search with the provided keywords.

?_search_COLUMN=keywords  Like _search= but allows you to specify the column to be searched, as opposed to searching all columns that have been indexed by FTS.

?_searchmode=raw  With this option, queries passed to ?_search= or ?_search_COLUMN= will not have special characters escaped. This means you can make use of the full set of advanced SQLite FTS syntax, though this could potentially result in errors if the wrong syntax is used.

?_where=SQL-fragment  If the allow_sql config option is enabled, this parameter can be used to pass one or more additional SQL fragments to be used in the WHERE clause of the SQL used to query the table.

This is particularly useful if you are building a JavaScript application that needs to do something creative but still wants the other conveniences provided by the table view (such as faceting) and hence would like not to have to construct a completely custom SQL query.

Some examples:

- facetable?_where=neighborhood like "%c%"&_where=city_id=3
- facetable?_where=city_id in (select id from facet_cities where name != "Detroit")
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`?_through={json}` This can be used to filter rows via a join against another table.

The JSON parameter must include three keys: `table`, `column` and `value`.

`table` must be a table that the current table is related to via a foreign key relationship.

`column` must be a column in that other table.

`value` is the value that you want to match against.

For example, to filter `roadside_attractions` to just show the attractions that have a characteristic of "museum", you would construct this JSON:

```
{
  "table": "roadside_attraction_characteristics",
  "column": "characteristic_id",
  "value": "1"
}
```

As a URL, that looks like this:

`?_through={"table": "roadside_attraction_characteristics", "column": "characteristic_id", "value": "1"}`

Here’s an example.

`?_next=TOKEN` Pagination by continuation token - pass the token that was returned in the "next" property by the previous page.

`?_trace=1` Turns on tracing for this page: SQL queries executed during the request will be gathered and included in the response, either in a new "_traces" key for JSON responses or at the bottom of the page if the response is in HTML.

The structure of the data returned here should be considered highly unstable and very likely to change.

### 1.6.4 Expanding foreign key references

Datasette can detect foreign key relationships and resolve those references into labels. The HTML interface does this by default for every detected foreign key column - you can turn that off using `?_labels=off`.

You can request foreign keys be expanded in JSON using the `_labels=on` or `_label=COLUMN` special querystring parameters. Here’s what an expanded row looks like:

```
[
  {
    "rowid": 1,
    "TreeID": 141565,
    "qLegalStatus": {
      "value": 1,
      "label": "Permitted Site"
    },
    "qSpecies": {
      "value": 1,
      "label": "Myoporum laetum :: Myoporum"
    },
    "qAddress": "501X Baker St",
    "SiteOrder": 1
  }
]
```
The column in the foreign key table that is used for the label can be specified in `metadata.json` - see [Specifying the label column for a table](#).

## 1.7 Running SQL queries

Datasette treats SQLite database files as read-only and immutable. This means it is not possible to execute INSERT or UPDATE statements using Datasette, which allows us to expose SELECT statements to the outside world without needing to worry about SQL injection attacks.

The easiest way to execute custom SQL against Datasette is through the web UI. The database index page includes a SQL editor that lets you run any SELECT query you like. You can also construct queries using the filter interface on the tables page, then click “View and edit SQL” to open that query in the custom SQL editor.

Note that this interface is only available if the `allow_sql` option has not been disabled.

Any Datasette SQL query is reflected in the URL of the page, allowing you to bookmark them, share them with others and navigate through previous queries using your browser back button.

You can also retrieve the results of any query as JSON by adding `.json` to the base URL.

### 1.7.1 Named parameters

Datasette has special support for SQLite named parameters. Consider a SQL query like this:

```sql
select * from Street_Tree_List
where "PermitNotes" like :notes
and "qSpecies" = :species
```

If you execute this query using the custom query editor, Datasette will extract the two named parameters and use them to construct form fields for you to provide values.

You can also provide values for these fields by constructing a URL:

```
/mydatabase?sql=select...&species=44
```

SQLite string escaping rules will be applied to values passed using named parameters - they will be wrapped in quotes and their content will be correctly escaped.

Datasette disallows custom SQL containing the string PRAGMA, as SQLite pragma statements can be used to change database settings at runtime. If you need to include the string "pragma" in a query you can do so safely using a named parameter.

### 1.7.2 Views

If you want to bundle some pre-written SQL queries with your Datasette-hosted database you can do so in two ways. The first is to include SQL views in your database - Datasette will then list those views on your database index page.

The easiest way to create views is with the SQLite command-line interface:

```
$ sqlite3 sf-trees.db
SQLite version 3.19.3 2017-06-27 16:48:08
Enter "help" for usage hints.
sqlite> CREATE VIEW demo_view AS select qSpecies from Street_Tree_List;
<CTRL+D>
```
1.7.3 Canned queries

As an alternative to adding views to your database, you can define canned queries inside your metadata.json file. Here’s an example:

```json
{
    "databases": {
        "sf-trees": {
            "queries": {
                "just_species": {
                    "sql": "select qSpecies from Street_Tree_List"
                }
            }
        }
    }
}
```

Then run datasette like this:

```
datasette sf-trees.db -m metadata.json
```

Each canned query will be listed on the database index page, and will also get its own URL at:

```
/database-name/canned-query-name
```

For the above example, that URL would be:

```
/sf-trees/just_species
```

You can optionally include "title" and "description" keys to show a title and description on the canned query page. As with regular table metadata you can alternatively specify "description_html" to have your description rendered as HTML (rather than having HTML special characters escaped).

Canned queries support named parameters, so if you include those in the SQL you will then be able to enter them using the form fields on the canned query page or by adding them to the URL. This means canned queries can be used to create custom JSON APIs based on a carefully designed SQL statement.

Here’s an example of a canned query with a named parameter:

```sql
select neighborhood, facet_cities.name, state
from facetable join facet_cities on facetable.city_id = facet_cities.id
where neighborhood like '%' || :text || '%' order by neighborhood;
```

In the canned query JSON it looks like this:

```json
{
    "databases": {
        "fixtures": {
            "queries": {
                "neighborhood_search": {
                    "sql": "select neighborhood, facet_cities.name, state
from facetable join facet_cities on facetable.city_id = facet_cities.id
where neighborhood like '%' || :text || '%' order by neighborhood;",
                    "title": "Search neighborhoods",
                    "description_html": "<b>Demonstrating</b> simple like search"
                }
            }
        }
    }
}
```

(continues on next page)
You can try this canned query out here: https://latest.datasette.io/fixtures/neighborhood_search?text=town

Note that we are using SQLite string concatenation here - the || operator - to add wildcard % characters to the string provided by the user.

1.7.4 Pagination

Datasette’s default table pagination is designed to be extremely efficient. SQL OFFSET/LIMIT pagination can have a significant performance penalty once you get into multiple thousands of rows, as each page still requires the database to scan through every preceding row to find the correct offset.

When paginating through tables, Datasette instead orders the rows in the table by their primary key and performs a WHERE clause against the last seen primary key for the previous page. For example:

```sql
select rowid, * from Tree_List where rowid > 200 order by rowid limit 101
```

This represents page three for this particular table, with a page size of 100.

Note that we request 101 items in the limit clause rather than 100. This allows us to detect if we are on the last page of the results: if the query returns less than 101 rows we know we have reached the end of the pagination set. Datasette will only return the first 100 rows - the 101st is used purely to detect if there should be another page.

Since the where clause acts against the index on the primary key, the query is extremely fast even for records that are a long way into the overall pagination set.

1.8 Performance and caching

Datasette runs on top of SQLite, and SQLite has excellent performance. For small databases almost any query should return in just a few milliseconds, and larger databases (100s of MBs or even GBs of data) should perform extremely well provided your queries make sensible use of database indexes.

That said, there are a number of tricks you can use to improve Datasette’s performance.

1.8.1 Immutable mode

If you can be certain that a SQLite database file will not be changed by another process you can tell Datasette to open that file in immutable mode.

Doing so will disable all locking and change detection, which can result in improved query performance.

This also enables further optimizations relating to HTTP caching, described below.

To open a file in immutable mode pass it to the datasette command using the -i option:

```
datasette -i data.db
```

When you open a file in immutable mode like this Datasette will also calculate and cache the row counts for each table in that database when it first starts up, further improving performance.
1.8.2 Using "datasette inspect"

Counting the rows in a table can be a very expensive operation on larger databases. In immutable mode Datasette performs this count only once and caches the results, but this can still cause server startup time to increase by several seconds or more.

If you know that a database is never going to change you can precalculate the table row counts once and store them in a JSON file, then use that file when you later start the server.

To create a JSON file containing the calculated row counts for a database, use the following:

```
datasette inspect data.db --inspect-file=counts.json
```

Then later you can start Datasette against the `counts.json` file and use it to skip the row counting step and speed up server startup:

```
datasette -i data.db --inspect-file=counts.json
```

You need to use the `-i` immutable mode against the database file here or the counts from the JSON file will be ignored.

You will rarely need to use this optimization in everyday use, but several of the `datasette publish` commands described in *Publishing data* use this optimization for better performance when deploying a database file to a hosting provider.

1.8.3 HTTP caching

If your database is immutable and guaranteed not to change, you can gain major performance improvements from Datasette by enabling HTTP caching.

This can work at two different levels. First, it can tell browsers to cache the results of queries and serve future requests from the browser cache.

More significantly, it allows you to run Datasette behind a caching proxy such as Varnish or use a cache provided by a hosted service such as Fastly or Cloudflare. This can provide incredible speed-ups since a query only needs to be executed by Datasette the first time it is accessed - all subsequent hits can then be served by the cache.

Using a caching proxy in this way could enable a Datasette-backed visualization to serve thousands of hits a second while running Datasette itself on extremely inexpensive hosting.

Datasette’s integration with HTTP caches can be enabled using a combination of configuration options and querystring arguments.

The `default_cache_ttl` setting sets the default HTTP cache TTL for all Datasette pages. This is 5 seconds unless you change it - you can set it to 0 if you wish to disable HTTP caching entirely.

You can also change the cache timeout on a per-request basis using the `?_ttl=10` querystring parameter. This can be useful when you are working with the Datasette JSON API - you may decide that a specific query can be cached for a longer time, or maybe you need to set `?_ttl=0` for some requests for example if you are running a SQL `order by random()` query.

1.8.4 Hashed URL mode

When you open a database file in immutable mode using the `-i` option, Datasette calculates a SHA-256 hash of the contents of that file on startup. This content hash can then optionally be used to create URLs that are guaranteed to change if the contents of the file changes in the future. This results in URLs that can then be cached indefinitely by both browsers and caching proxies - an enormous potential performance optimization.
You can enable these hashed URLs in two ways: using the `hash_urls` configuration setting (which affects all requests to Datasette) or via the `?_hash=1` querystring parameter (which only applies to the current request).

With hashed URLs enabled, any request to e.g. `/mydatabase/mytable` will 302 redirect to `/mydatabase-455fe3a/mytable`. The URL containing the hash will be served with a very long cache expire header - configured using `default_cache_ttl_hashed` which defaults to 365 days.

Since these responses are cached for a long time, you may wish to build API clients against the non-hashed version of these URLs. These 302 redirects are served extremely quickly, so this should still be a performant way to work against the Datasette API.

If you run Datasette behind an HTTP/2 server push aware proxy such as Cloudflare Datasette will serve the 302 redirects in such a way that the redirected page will be efficiently "pushed" to the browser as part of the response, without the browser needing to make a second HTTP request to fetch the redirected resource.

---

**Note:** Prior to Datasette 0.28 hashed URL mode was the default behaviour for Datasette, since all database files were assumed to be immutable and unchanging. From 0.28 onwards the default has been to treat database files as mutable unless explicitly configured otherwise.

---

### 1.9 CSV Export

Any Datasette table, view or custom SQL query can be exported as CSV.

To obtain the CSV representation of the table you are looking, click the "this data as CSV" link.

You can also use the advanced export form for more control over the resulting file, which looks like this and has the following options:

- **download file** - instead of displaying CSV in your browser, this forces your browser to download the CSV to your downloads directory.

- **expand labels** - if your table has any foreign key references this option will cause the CSV to gain additional `COLUMN_NAME_label` columns with a label for each foreign key derived from the linked table. In this example the `city_id` column is accompanied by a `city_id_label` column.

- **stream all rows** - by default CSV files only contain the first `max_returned_rows` records. This option will cause Datasette to loop through every matching record and return them as a single CSV file.

You can try that out on https://latest.datasette.io/fixtures/facetable?_size=4
1.9.1 Streaming all records

The stream all rows option is designed to be as efficient as possible - under the hood it takes advantage of Python 3 asyncio capabilities and Datasette’s efficient pagination to stream back the full CSV file.

Since databases can get pretty large, by default this option is capped at 100MB - if a table returns more than 100MB of data the last line of the CSV will be a truncation error message.

You can increase or remove this limit using the max_csv_mb config setting. You can also disable the CSV export feature entirely using allow_csv_stream.

1.9.2 A note on URLs

The default URL for the CSV representation of a table is that table with .csv appended to it:

- https://latest.datasette.io/fixtures/facetable - HTML interface
- https://latest.datasette.io/fixtures/facetable.csv - CSV export
- https://latest.datasette.io/fixtures/facetable.json - JSON API

This pattern doesn’t work for tables with names that already end in .csv or .json. For those tables, you can instead use the _format= querystring parameter:

- https://latest.datasette.io/fixtures/table%2Fwith%2Fslashes.csv?_format=csv - CSV export
- https://latest.datasette.io/fixtures/table%2Fwith%2Fslashes.csv?_format=json - JSON API

1.10 Facets

Datasette facets can be used to add a faceted browse interface to any database table. With facets, tables are displayed along with a summary showing the most common values in specified columns. These values can be selected to further filter the table.
Facets can be specified in two ways: using querystring parameters, or in metadata.json configuration for the table.

### 1.10.1 Facets in querystrings

To turn on faceting for specific columns on a Datasette table view, add one or more \_facet=\text{COLUMN} parameters to the URL. For example, if you want to turn on facets for the city_id and state columns, construct a URL that looks like this:

```
/dbname/tablename?_facet=state&_facet=city_id
```

This works for both the HTML interface and the .json view. When enabled, facets will cause a facet_results block to be added to the JSON output, looking something like this:

```json
{
    "state": {
        "name": "state",
        "results": [
            {
                "value": "CA",
                "label": "CA",
                "count": 10,
                "toggle_url": "http://...?_facet=city_id&_facet=state&state=CA",
                "selected": false
            },
            ...
        ]
    }
}
```

(continues on next page)
If Datasette detects that a column is a foreign key, the "label" property will be automatically derived from the detected label column on the referenced table.
1.10.2 Facets in metadata.json

You can turn facets on by default for specific tables by adding them to a "facets" key in a Datasette Metadata file. Here's an example that turns on faceting by default for the qLegalStatus column in the Street_Tree_List table in the sf-trees database:

```json
{
    "databases": {
        "sf-trees": {
            "tables": {
                "Street_Tree_List": {
                    "facets": ["qLegalStatus"]
                }
            }
        }
    }
}
```

Facets defined in this way will always be shown in the interface and returned in the API, regardless of the _facet arguments passed to the view.

1.10.3 Suggested facets

Datasette’s table UI will suggest facets for the user to apply, based on the following criteria:

For the currently filtered data are there any columns which, if applied as a facet...

- Will return 30 or less unique options
- Will return more than one unique option
- Will return less unique options than the total number of filtered rows
- And the query used to evaluate this criteria can be completed in under 50ms

That last point is particularly important: Datasette runs a query for every column that is displayed on a page, which could get expensive - so to avoid slow load times it sets a time limit of just 50ms for each of those queries. This means suggested facets are unlikely to appear for tables with millions of records in them.

1.10.4 Speeding up facets with indexes

The performance of facets can be greatly improved by adding indexes on the columns you wish to facet by. Adding indexes can be performed using the sqlite3 command-line utility. Here's how to add an index on the state column in a table called Food_Trucks:

```
$ sqlite3 mydatabase.db
SQLite version 3.19.3 2017-06-27 16:48:08
Enter ".help" for usage hints.
sqlite> CREATE INDEX Food_Trucks_state ON Food_Trucks("state");
```

1.10.5 Facet by JSON array

If your SQLite installation provides the json1 extension (you can check using /-/versions) Datasette will automatically detect columns that contain JSON arrays of values and offer a faceting interface against those columns.
This is useful for modelling things like tags without needing to break them out into a new table.

Example here: latest.datasette.io/fixtures/facetable?_facet_array=tags

### 1.10.6 Facet by date

If Datasette finds any columns that contain dates in the first 100 values, it will offer a faceting interface against the dates of those values. This works especially well against timestamp values such as 2019-03-01 12:44:00.

Example here: latest.datasette.io/fixtures/facetable?_facet_date=created

### 1.11 Full-text search

SQLite includes a powerful mechanism for enabling full-text search against SQLite records. Datasette can detect if a table has had full-text search configured for it in the underlying database and display a search interface for filtering that table.

**Street_Tree_List**

14,663 rows where search matches "cherry"

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Link</th>
<th>rowid</th>
<th>Treelid</th>
<th>qLegalStatus</th>
<th>qSpecies</th>
<th>qAddress</th>
<th>SiteOrder</th>
<th>qSidewalk</th>
<th>PlantType</th>
<th>qCaretaker</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>237469</td>
<td>Permitted Site 1 Prunus cerasifera</td>
<td>4200 23rd St 1</td>
<td>Sidewalk: Curb side : Cutout 1</td>
<td>Tree 1</td>
<td>Private 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>240126</td>
<td>Undocumented 2 Prunus serrulata 'Kwanzan'</td>
<td>20 Lily St 2</td>
<td>Sidewalk: Curb side : Cutout 1</td>
<td>Tree 1</td>
<td>Private 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>71</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>251206</td>
<td>Undocumented 2 Prunus serrulata 'Kwanzan'</td>
<td>270 Trumbull St 1</td>
<td>Sidewalk: Curb side : Cutout 1</td>
<td>Tree 1</td>
<td>Private 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Datasette automatically detects which tables have been configured for full-text search.
1.11.1 The table page and table view API

Table views that support full-text search can be queried using the _search=TERMS querystring parameter. This will run the search against content from all of the columns that have been included in the index.

Try this example: fara.datasettes.com/fara/FARA_All_ShortForms?_search=mamaha

SQLite full-text search supports wildcards. This means you can easily implement prefix auto-complete by including an asterisk at the end of the search term - for example:

```plaintext
/dbname/tablename/?_search=rob*
```

This will return all records containing at least one word that starts with the letters rob.

You can also run searches against just the content of a specific named column by using _search_COLNAME=TERMS - for example, this would search for just rows where the name column in the FTS index mentions Sarah:

```plaintext
/dbname/tablename/?_search_name=Sarah
```

1.11.2 Advanced SQLite search queries

SQLite full-text search includes support for a variety of advanced queries, including AND, OR, NOT and NEAR.

By default Datasette disables these features to ensure they do not cause any confusion for users who are not aware of them. You can disable this escaping and use the advanced queries by adding _searchmode=raw to the table page query string.

1.11.3 Configuring full-text search for a table or view

If a table has a corresponding FTS table set up using the content= argument to CREATE VIRTUAL TABLE shown above, Datasette will detect it automatically and add a search interface to the table page for that table.

You can also manually configure which table should be used for full-text search using querystring parameters or Metadata. You can set the associated FTS table for a specific table and you can also set one for a view - if you do that, the page for that SQL view will offer a search option.

Use _fts_table=x to over-ride the FTS table for a specific page. If the primary key was something other than rowid you can use _fts_pk=col to set that as well. This is particularly useful for views, for example:

```plaintext
```

The fts_table metadata property can be used to specify an associated FTS table. If the primary key column in your table which was used to populate the FTS table is something other than rowid, you can specify the column to use with the fts_pk property.

Here is an example which enables full-text search for a display_ads view which is defined against the ads table and hence needs to run FTS against the ads_fts table, using the id as the primary key:

```json
{
    "databases": {
        "russian-ads": {
            "tables": {
                "display_ads": {
                    "fts_table": "ads_fts",
                    "fts_pk": "id"
                }
            }
        }
    }
}
```

(continues on next page)
1.11.4 Searches using custom SQL

You can include full-text search results in custom SQL queries. The general pattern with SQLite search is to run the search as a sub-select that returns rowid values, then include those rowids in another part of the query.

You can see the syntax for a basic search by running that search on a table page and then clicking "View and edit SQL" to see the underlying SQL. For example, consider this search for manafort in the US FARA database:

```
/fara/FARA_All_ShortForms?_search=manafort
```

If you click View and edit SQL you’ll see that the underlying SQL looks like this:

```
select
  rowid,
  Short_Form_Termination_Date,
  Short_Form_Date,
  Short_Form_Last_Name,
  Short_Form_First_Name,
  Registration_Number,
  Registration_Date,
  Registrant_Name,
  Address_1,
  Address_2,
  City,
  State,
  Zip
from
  FARA_All_ShortForms
where
  rowid in (select
            rowid
            from
            FARA_All_ShortForms_fts
            where
            FARA_All_ShortForms_fts match escape_fts(:search)
          )
order by
  rowid
limit
  101
```

1.11.5 Enabling full-text search for a SQLite table

Datasette takes advantage of the external content mechanism in SQLite, which allows a full-text search virtual table to be associated with the contents of another SQLite table.

To set up full-text search for a table, you need to do two things:

- Create a new FTS virtual table associated with your table
• Populate that FTS table with the data that you would like to be able to run searches against

**Configuring FTS using sqlite-utils**

sqlite-utils is a CLI utility and Python library for manipulating SQLite databases. You can use it from Python code to configure FTS search, or you can achieve the same goal using the accompanying command-line tool.

Here’s how to use sqlite-utils to enable full-text search for an items table across the name and description columns:

```
$ sqlite-utils enable-fts mydatabase.db items name description
```

**Configuring FTS using csvs-to-sqlite**

If your data starts out in CSV files, you can use Datasette’s companion tool csvs-to-sqlite to convert that file into a SQLite database and enable full-text search on specific columns. For a file called items.csv where you want full-text search to operate against the name and description columns you would run the following:

```
$ csvs-to-sqlite items.csv items.db -f name -f description
```

**Configuring FTS by hand**

We recommend using sqlite-utils, but if you want to hand-roll a SQLite full-text search table you can do so using the following SQL.

To enable full-text search for a table called items that works against the name and description columns, you would run this SQL to create a new items_fts FTS virtual table:

```sql
CREATE VIRTUAL TABLE "items_fts" USING FTS4 (
  name,
  description,
  content="items"
);
```

This creates a set of tables to power full-text search against items. The new items_fts table will be detected by Datasette as the fts_table for the items table.

Creating the table is not enough: you also need to populate it with a copy of the data that you wish to make searchable. You can do that using the following SQL:

```
INSERT INTO "items_fts" (rowid, name, description)
SELECT rowid, name, description FROM items;
```

If your table has columns that are foreign key references to other tables you can include that data in your full-text search index using a join. Imagine the items table has a foreign key column called category_id which refers to a categories table - you could create a full-text search table like this:

```sql
CREATE VIRTUAL TABLE "items_fts" USING FTS4 (
  name,
  description,
  category_name,
  content="items"
);
```

And then populate it like this:
You can use this technique to populate the full-text search index from any combination of tables and joins that makes sense for your project.

### 1.11.6 FTS versions

There are three different versions of the SQLite FTS module: FTS3, FTS4 and FTS5. You can tell which versions are supported by your instance of Datasette by checking the /-/versions page.

FTS5 is the most advanced module but may not be available in the SQLite version that is bundled with your Python installation. Most importantly, FTS5 is the only version that has the ability to order by search relevance without needing extra code.

If you can’t be sure that FTS5 will be available, you should use FTS4.

### 1.12 SpatiaLite

The SpatiaLite module for SQLite adds features for handling geographic and spatial data. For an example of what you can do with it, see the tutorial Building a location to time zone API with SpatiaLite, OpenStreetMap and Datasette.

To use it with Datasette, you need to install the mod_spatialite dynamic library. This can then be loaded into Datasette using the --load-extension command-line option.

#### 1.12.1 Installation

**Installing SpatiaLite on OS X**

The easiest way to install SpatiaLite on OS X is to use Homebrew.

```bash
brew update
brew install spatialite-tools
```

This will install the spatialite command-line tool and the mod_spatialite dynamic library.

You can now run Datasette like so:

```bash
datasette --load-extension=/usr/local/lib/mod_spatialite.dylib
```

**Installing SpatiaLite on Linux**

SpatiaLite is packaged for most Linux distributions.

```bash
apt install spatialite-bin libsqliite3-mod-spatialite
```

Depending on your distribution, you should be able to run Datasette something like this:
If you are unsure of the location of the module, try running `locate mod_spatialite` and see what comes back.

### Building SpatiaLite from source

The packaged versions of SpatiaLite usually provide SpatiaLite 4.3.0a. For an example of how to build the most recent unstable version, 4.4.0-RC0 (which includes the powerful VirtualKNN module), take a look at the Datasette Dockerfile.

#### 1.12.2 Spatial indexing latitude/longitude columns

Here's a recipe for taking a table with existing latitude and longitude columns, adding a SpatiaLite POINT geometry column to that table, populating the new column and then populating a spatial index:

```python
import sqlite3

conn = sqlite3.connect('museums.db')

# Lead the spatialite extension:
conn.enable_load_extension(True)
conn.load_extension('/usr/local/lib/mod_spatialite.dylib')

# Initialize spatial metadata for this database:
conn.execute('select InitSpatialMetadata(1)')

# Add a geometry column called point_geom to our museums table:
conn.execute("SELECT AddGeometryColumn('museums', 'point_geom', 4326, 'POINT', 2);")

# Now update that geometry column with the lat/lon points
conn.execute('UPDATE events SET
point_geom = GeomFromText('POINT('||"longitude"||' '||"latitude"||')',4326);
')

# Now add a spatial index to that column
conn.execute('select CreateSpatialIndex("museums", "point_geom");')
# If you don't commit your changes will not be persisted:
conn.commit()
conn.close()
```

#### 1.12.3 Making use of a spatial index

SpatiaLite spatial indexes are R*Trees. They allow you to run efficient bounding box queries using a sub-select, with a similar pattern to that used for Searches using custom SQL.

In the above example, the resulting index will be called `idx_museums_point_geom`. This takes the form of a SQLite virtual table. You can inspect its contents using the following query:

```sql
select * from idx_museums_point_geom limit 10;
```

Here's a live example: timezones-api.now.sh/timezones/idx_timezones_Geometry

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>pkid</th>
<th>xmin</th>
<th>xmax</th>
<th>ymin</th>
<th>ymax</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>-8.60172557</td>
<td>-2.49303078</td>
<td>4.16212082</td>
<td>10.74019718</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>-3.26078606</td>
<td>1.27329421</td>
<td>4.53925281</td>
<td>11.17485618</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>32.997581</td>
<td>47.982387</td>
<td>3.397447</td>
<td>14.894054</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>-8.668908</td>
<td>11.997337</td>
<td>18.968145</td>
<td>37.296207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>36.433364</td>
<td>43.300174</td>
<td>12.354820</td>
<td>18.070993</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.12. SpatiaLite
You can now construct efficient bounding box queries that will make use of the index like this:

```sql
select * from museums where museums.rowid in {
    SELECT pkid FROM idx_museums_point_geom
    -- left-hand-edge of point > left-hand-edge of bbox (minx)
    where xmin > :bbox_minx
    -- right-hand-edge of point < right-hand-edge of bbox (maxx)
    and xmax < :bbox_maxx
    -- bottom-edge of point > bottom-edge of bbox (miny)
    and ymin > :bbox_miny
    -- top-edge of point < top-edge of bbox (maxy)
    and ymax < :bbox_maxy
};
```

Spatial indexes can be created against polygon columns as well as point columns, in which case they will represent the minimum bounding rectangle of that polygon. This is useful for accelerating within queries, as seen in the Timezones API example.

### 1.12.4 Importing shapefiles into SpatiaLite

The [shapefile format](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shapefile) is a common format for distributing geospatial data. You can use the [spatialite](http://www.openstreetmap.org/) command-line tool to create a new database table from a shapefile.

Try it now with the North America shapefile available from the University of North Carolina [Global River Database](http://www.grib.unca.edu/) project. Download the file and unzip it (this will create files called `narivs.dbf`, `narivs.prj`, `narivs.shp` and `narivs.shx` in the current directory), then run the following:

```bash
$ spatialite rivers-database.db
```

```
SpatiaLite version ..: 4.3.0a Supported Extensions: ...
spatialite> .loadshp narivs rivers CP1252 23032
========
Loading shapefile at 'narivs' into SQLite table 'rivers'
...
Inserted 467973 rows into 'rivers' from SHAPEFILE
```

This will load the data from the `narivs` shapefile into a new database table called `rivers`.

Exit out of [spatialite](http://www.openstreetmap.org/) (using Ctrl+D) and run Datasette against your new database like this:

```bash
datasette rivers-database.db \   
    --load-extension=/usr/local/lib/mod_spatialite.dylib
```

If you browse to [http://localhost:8001/rivers-database/rivers](http://localhost:8001/rivers-database/rivers) you will see the new table... but the `Geometry` column will contain unreadable binary data (SpatiaLite uses a custom format based on WKB).

The easiest way to turn this into semi-readable data is to use the SpatiaLite [AsGeoJSON](http://www.openstreetmap.org/) function. Try the following using the SQL query interface at [http://localhost:8001/rivers-database](http://localhost:8001/rivers-database):

```sql
select *, AsGeoJSON(Geometry) from rivers limit 10;
```

This will give you back an additional column of GeoJSON. You can copy and paste GeoJSON from this column into the debugging tool at [geojson.io](http://geojson.io) to visualize it on a map.

To see a more interesting example, try ordering the records with the longest geometry first. Since there are 467,000 rows in the table you will first need to increase the SQL time limit imposed by Datasette:
Now try the following query:

```sql
select *, AsGeoJSON(Geometry) from rivers
order by length(Geometry) desc limit 10;
```

### 1.12.5 Importing GeoJSON polygons using Shapely

Another common form of polygon data is the GeoJSON format. This can be imported into SpatiaLite directly, or by using the Shapely Python library.

Who’s On First is an excellent source of openly licensed GeoJSON polygons. Let’s import the geographical polygon for Wales. First, we can use the Who’s On First Spelunker tool to find the record for Wales:

spelunker.whosonfirst.org/id/404227475

That page includes a link to the GeoJSON record, which can be accessed here:

data.whosonfirst.org/404/227/475/404227475.geojson

Here’s Python code to create a SQLite database, enable SpatiaLite, create a places table and then add a record for Wales:

```python
import sqlite3
conn = sqlite3.connect('places.db')
# Enable SpatialLite extension
conn.enable_load_extension(True)
conn.load_extension('/usr/local/lib/mod_spatialite.dylib')
# Create the magic countries table
conn.execute('select InitSpatialMetadata(1)')
conn.execute('create table places (id integer primary key, name text);')
# Add a MULTIPOLYGON Geometry column
conn.execute('SELECT AddGeometryColumn('places', 'geom', 4326, 'MULTIPOLYGON', 2);')
# Add a spatial index against the new column
conn.execute('SELECT CreateSpatialIndex('places', 'geom');')
# Now populate the table
from shapely.geometry.multipolygon import MultiPolygon
from shapely.geometry import shape
import requests
geojson = requests.get('https://data.whosonfirst.org/404/227/475/404227475.geojson').json()
# Convert to "Well Known Text" format
wkt = shape(geojson['geometry']).wkt
# Insert and commit the record
conn.execute("INSERT INTO places (id, name, geom) VALUES(NULL, ?, GeomFromText(?,
    
    "Wales", wkt)
)
conn.commit()
```

### 1.12.6 Querying polygons using within()

The `within()` SQL function can be used to check if a point is within a geometry:
select
    name
from
    places
where
    within(GeomFromText('POINT(-3.1724366 51.4704448)'), places.geom);

The \texttt{GeomFromText()} function takes a string of well-known text. Note that the order used here is \texttt{longitude} then \texttt{latitude}.

To run that same \texttt{within()} query in a way that benefits from the spatial index, use the following:

select
    name
from
    places
where
    within(GeomFromText('POINT(-3.1724366 51.4704448)'), places.geom)
and
    rowid in (
        SELECT
            pkid
        FROM
            idx_places_geom
        where
            xmin < -3.1724366
        and
            xmax > -3.1724366
        and
            ymin < 51.4704448
        and
            ymax > 51.4704448
    );

\section{1.13 Metadata}

Data loves metadata. Any time you run Datasette you can optionally include a \texttt{JSON} file with metadata about your databases and tables. Datasette will then display that information in the web UI.

Run Datasette like this:

\texttt{datasette database1.db database2.db --metadata metadata.json}

Your \texttt{metadata.json} file can look something like this:

```json
{
    "title": "Custom title for your index page",
    "description": "Some description text can go here",
    "license": "ODbL",
    "license_url": "https://opendatacommons.org/licenses/odbl/",
    "source": "Original Data Source",
    "source_url": "http://example.com/"
}
```

You can optionally use YAM\texttt{L} instead of \texttt{JSON}, see \textit{Using YAM\texttt{L} for metadata}.

The above metadata will be displayed on the index page of your Datasette-powered site. The source and license information will also be included in the footer of every page served by Datasette.

Any special HTML characters in \texttt{description} will be escaped. If you want to include HTML in your description, you can use a \texttt{description_html} property instead.
1.13.1 Per-database and per-table metadata

Metadata at the top level of the JSON will be shown on the index page and in the footer on every page of the site. The license and source is expected to apply to all of your data.

You can also provide metadata at the per-database or per-table level, like this:

```json
{
    "databases": {
        "database1": {
            "source": "Alternative source",
            "source_url": "http://example.com/",
            "tables": {
                "example_table": {
                    "description_html": "Custom <em>table</em> description",
                    "license": "CC BY 3.0 US",
                    "license_url": "https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/us/"
                }
            }
        }
    }
}
```

Each of the top-level metadata fields can be used at the database and table level.

1.13.2 Source, license and about

The three visible metadata fields you can apply to everything, specific databases or specific tables are source, license and about. All three are optional.

source and source_url should be used to indicate where the underlying data came from.

license and license_url should be used to indicate the license under which the data can be used.

about and about_url can be used to link to further information about the project - an accompanying blog entry for example.

For each of these you can provide just the *_url field and Datasette will treat that as the default link label text and display the URL directly on the page.

1.13.3 Specifying units for a column

Datasette supports attaching units to a column, which will be used when displaying values from that column. SI prefixes will be used where appropriate.

Column units are configured in the metadata like so:

```json
{
    "databases": {
        "database1": {
            "tables": {
                "example_table": {
                    "units": {
                        "column1": "metres",
                        "column2": "Hz"
                    }
                }
            }
        }
    }
}
```

(continues on next page)
Units are interpreted using Pint, and you can see the full list of available units in Pint’s unit registry. You can also add custom units to the metadata, which will be registered with Pint:

```json
{
    "custom_units": [
        "decibel = [] = dB"
    ]
}
```

### 1.13.4 Setting a default sort order

By default Datasette tables are sorted by primary key. You can over-ride this default for a specific table using the "sort" or "sort_desc" metadata properties:

```json
{
    "databases": {
        "mydatabase": {
            "tables": {
                "example_table": {
                    "sort": "created"
                }
            }
        }
    }
}
```

Or use "sort_desc" to sort in descending order:

```json
{
    "databases": {
        "mydatabase": {
            "tables": {
                "example_table": {
                    "sort_desc": "created"
                }
            }
        }
    }
}
```

### 1.13.5 Setting which columns can be used for sorting

Datasette allows any column to be used for sorting by default. If you need to control which columns are available for sorting you can do so using the optional `sortable_columns` key:

```json
{
    "databases": {
        "database1": {
```

(continues on next page)
This will restrict sorting of `example_table` to just the `height` and `weight` columns.

You can also disable sorting entirely by setting `"sortable_columns": []`

By default, database views in Datasette do not support sorting. You can use `sortable_columns` to enable specific sort orders for a view called `name_of_view` in the database `my_database` like so:

```json
{
  "databases": {
    "my_database": {
      "tables": {
        "name_of_view": {
          "sortable_columns": [
            "clicks",
            "impressions"
          ]
        }
      }
    }
  }
}
```

### 1.13.6 Specifying the label column for a table

Datasette’s HTML interface attempts to display foreign key references as labelled hyperlinks. By default, it looks for referenced tables that only have two columns: a primary key column and one other. It assumes that the second column should be used as the link label.

If your table has more than two columns you can specify which column should be used for the link label with the `label_column` property:

```json
{
  "databases": {
    "database1": {
      "tables": {
        "example_table": {
          "label_column": "title"
        }
      }
    }
  }
}
```
1.13.7 Hiding tables

You can hide tables from the database listing view (in the same way that FTS and Spatialite tables are automatically hidden) using "hidden": true:

```
{
    "databases": {
        "database1": {
            "tables": {
                "example_table": {
                    "hidden": true
                }
            }
        }
    }
}
```

1.13.8 Using YAML for metadata

Datasette accepts YAML as an alternative to JSON for your metadata configuration file. YAML is particularly useful for including multiline HTML and SQL strings.

Here’s an example of a metadata.yml file, re-using an example from Canned queries.

```
title: Demonstrating Metadata from YAML
description_html: |
    <p>This description includes a long HTML string</p>
    <ul>
        <li>YAML is better for embedding HTML strings than JSON!</li>
    </ul>
license: ODbL
license_url: https://opendatacommons.org/licenses/odbl/
databases:
    fixtures:
        tables:
            no_primary_key:
                hidden: true
        queries:
            neighborhood_search:
                sql: |
                    select neighborhood, facet_cities.name, state
                    from facetable join facet_cities on facetable.city_id = facet_cities.id
                    where neighborhood like '%%' || :text || '%%' order by neighborhood;
title: Search neighborhoods
description_html: |
    <p>This demonstrates <em>simple</em> LIKE search
```

The metadata.yml file is passed to Datasette using the same --metadata option:

```
datasette fixtures.db --metadata metadata.yml
```
1.14 Configuration

1.14.1 Using –config

Datasette provides a number of configuration options. These can be set using the --config name:value option to datasette serve.

You can set multiple configuration options at once like this:

```bash
datasette mydatabase.db \
   --config default_page_size:50 \
   --config sql_time_limit_ms:3500 \
   --config max_returned_rows:2000
```

1.14.2 Configuration directory mode

Normally you configure Datasette using command-line options. For a Datasette instance with custom templates, custom plugins, a static directory and several databases this can get quite verbose:

```bash
$ datasette one.db two.db \
   --metadata.json \
   --template-dir=templates/ \
   --plugins-dir=plugins \
   --static css:css
```

As an alternative to this, you can run Datasette in configuration directory mode. Create a directory with the following structure:

```bash
# In a directory called my-app:
my-app/one.db
my-app/two.db
my-app/metadata.json
my-app/templates/index.html
my-app/plugins/my_plugin.py
my-app/static/my.css
```

Now start Datasette by providing the path to that directory:

```bash
$ datasette my-app/
```

Datasette will detect the files in that directory and automatically configure itself using them. It will serve all *.db files that it finds, will load metadata.json if it exists, and will load the templates, plugins and static folders if they are present.

The files that can be included in this directory are as follows. All are optional.

- ***.db** - SQLite database files that will be served by Datasette
- **metadata.json** - Metadata for those databases - metadata.yaml or metadata.yml can be used as well
- **inspect-data.json** - the result of running datasette inspect - any database files listed here will be treated as immutable, so they should not be changed while Datasette is running
- **config.json** - settings that would normally be passed using --config - here they should be stored as a JSON object of key/value pairs
1.14.3 Configuration options

The following options can be set using `--config name:value`, or by storing them in the `config.json` file for use with **Configuration directory mode**.

**default_page_size**

The default number of rows returned by the table page. You can over-ride this on a per-page basis using the `?_size=80` querystring parameter, provided you do not specify a value higher than the `max_returned_rows` setting. You can set this default using `--config` like so:

```
datasette mydatabase.db --config default_page_size:50
```

**sql_time_limit_ms**

By default, queries have a time limit of one second. If a query takes longer than this to run Datasette will terminate the query and return an error.

If this time limit is too short for you, you can customize it using the `sql_time_limit_ms` limit - for example, to increase it to 3.5 seconds:

```
datasette mydatabase.db --config sql_time_limit_ms:3500
```

You can optionally set a lower time limit for an individual query using the `?_timelimit=100` querystring argument:

```
/my-database/my-table?qSpecies=44&_timelimit=100
```

This would set the time limit to 100ms for that specific query. This feature is useful if you are working with databases of unknown size and complexity - a query that might make perfect sense for a smaller table could take too long to execute on a table with millions of rows. By setting custom time limits you can execute queries "optimistically" - e.g. give me an exact count of rows matching this query but only if it takes less than 100ms to calculate.

**max_returned_rows**

Datasette returns a maximum of 1,000 rows of data at a time. If you execute a query that returns more than 1,000 rows, Datasette will return the first 1,000 and include a warning that the result set has been truncated. You can use OFFSET/LIMIT or other methods in your SQL to implement pagination if you need to return more than 1,000 rows.

You can increase or decrease this limit like so:

```
datasette mydatabase.db --config max_returned_rows:2000
```
**num_sql_threads**

Maximum number of threads in the thread pool Datasette uses to execute SQLite queries. Defaults to 3.

```
datasette mydatabase.db --config num_sql_threads:10
```

**allow_facet**

Allow users to specify columns they would like to facet on using the ``?_facet=COLNAME`` URL parameter to the table view.

This is enabled by default. If disabled, facets will still be displayed if they have been specifically enabled in `metadata.json` configuration for the table.

Here’s how to disable this feature:

```
datasette mydatabase.db --config allow_facet:off
```

**default_facet_size**

The default number of unique rows returned by *Facets* is 30. You can customize it like this:

```
datasette mydatabase.db --config default_facet_size:50
```

**facet_time_limit_ms**

This is the time limit Datasette allows for calculating a facet, which defaults to 200ms:

```
datasette mydatabase.db --config facet_time_limit_ms:1000
```

**facet_suggest_time_limit_ms**

When Datasette calculates suggested facets it needs to run a SQL query for every column in your table. The default for this time limit is 50ms to account for the fact that it needs to run once for every column. If the time limit is exceeded the column will not be suggested as a facet.

You can increase this time limit like so:

```
datasette mydatabase.db --config facet_suggest_time_limit_ms:500
```

**suggest_facets**

Should Datasette calculate suggested facets? On by default, turn this off like so:

```
datasette mydatabase.db --config suggest_facets:off
```
allow_download

Should users be able to download the original SQLite database using a link on the database index page? This is turned on by default - to disable database downloads, use the following:

```bash
datasette mydatabase.db --config allow_download:off
```

allow_sql

Enable/disable the ability for users to run custom SQL directly against a database. To disable this feature, run:

```bash
datasette mydatabase.db --config allow_sql:off
```

default_cache_ttl

Default HTTP caching max-age header in seconds, used for `Cache-Control: max-age=X`. Can be over-ridden on a per-request basis using the `?_ttl= querystring` parameter. Set this to 0 to disable HTTP caching entirely. Defaults to 5 seconds.

```bash
datasette mydatabase.db --config default_cache_ttl:60
```

default_cache_ttl_hashed

Default HTTP caching max-age for responses served using the `hashed-urls mechanism`. Defaults to 365 days (31536000 seconds).

```bash
datasette mydatabase.db --config default_cache_ttl_hashed:10000
```

cache_size_kb

Sets the amount of memory SQLite uses for its per-connection cache, in KB.

```bash
datasette mydatabase.db --config cache_size_kb:5000
```

allow_csv_stream

Enables the CSV export feature where an entire table (potentially hundreds of thousands of rows) can be exported as a single CSV file. This is turned on by default - you can turn it off like this:

```bash
datasette mydatabase.db --config allow_csv_stream:off
```

max_csv_mb

The maximum size of CSV that can be exported, in megabytes. Defaults to 100MB. You can disable the limit entirely by settings this to 0:

```bash
datasette mydatabase.db --config max_csv_mb:0
```
truncates_cells_html

In the HTML table view, truncate any strings that are longer than this value. The full value will still be available in CSV, JSON and on the individual row HTML page. Set this to 0 to disable truncation.

```
datasette mydatabase.db --config truncate_cells_html:0
```

force_https_urls

Forces self-referential URLs in the JSON output to always use the https:// protocol. This is useful for cases where the application itself is hosted using HTTP but is served to the outside world via a proxy that enables HTTPS.

```
datasette mydatabase.db --config force_https_urls:1
```

hash_urls

When enabled, this setting causes Datasette to append a content hash of the database file to the URL path for every table and query within that database.

When combined with far-future expire headers this ensures that queries can be cached forever, safe in the knowledge that any modifications to the database itself will result in new, uncachecached URL paths.

```
datasette mydatabase.db --config hash_urls:1
```

template_debug

This setting enables template context debug mode, which is useful to help understand what variables are available to custom templates when you are writing them.

Enable it like this:

```
datasette mydatabase.db --config template_debug:1
```

Now you can add ?_context=1 or &_context=1 to any Datasette page to see the context that was passed to that template.

Some examples:

- https://latest.datasette.io/?_context=1
- https://latest.datasette.io/fixtures?&_context=1
- https://latest.datasette.io/fixtures/roadside_attractions?&_context=1

base_url

If you are running Datasette behind a proxy, it may be useful to change the root URL used for the Datasette instance.

For example, if you are sending traffic from https://www.example.com/tools/datasette/ through to a proxied Datasette instance you may wish Datasette to use /tools/datasette/ as its root URL.

You can do that like so:

```
datasette mydatabase.db --config base_url:/tools/datasette/
```
## 1.15 Introspection

Datasette includes some pages and JSON API endpoints for introspecting the current instance. These can be used to understand some of the internals of Datasette and to see how a particular instance has been configured.

Each of these pages can be viewed in your browser. Add `.json` to the URL to get back the contents as JSON.

### 1.15.1 /-/metadata

Shows the contents of the `metadata.json` file that was passed to `datasette serve`, if any. **Metadata example:**

```json
{
    "license": "CC Attribution 4.0 License",
    "license_url": "http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/",
    "source": "fivethirtyeight/data on GitHub",
    "source_url": "https://github.com/fivethirtyeight/data",
    "title": "Five Thirty Eight",
    "databases": (...)  
}
```

### 1.15.2 /-/versions

Shows the version of Datasette, Python and SQLite. **Versions example:**

```json
{
    "datasette": {
        "version": "0.21"
    },
    "python": {
        "full": "3.6.5 (default, May 5 2018, 03:07:21) \n[GCC 6.3.0 20170516]",
        "version": "3.6.5"
    },
    "sqlite": {
        "extensions": {
            "json1": null
        },
        "fts_versions": [
            "FTS5",
            "FTS4",
            "FTS3"
        ],
        "compile_options": [
            "COMPILER=gcc-6.3.0 20170516",
            "ENABLE_FTS3",
            "ENABLE_FTS4",
            "ENABLE_FTS5",
            "ENABLE_JSON1",
            "ENABLE_RTREE",
            "THREADSAFE=1"
        ],
        "version": "3.16.2"
    }
}
```
1.15.3 /-/plugins

Shows a list of currently installed plugins and their versions. Plugins example:

```
[
  {
    "name": "datasette_cluster_map",
    "static": true,
    "templates": false,
    "version": "0.4"
  }
]
```

1.15.4 /-/config

Shows the Configuration options for this instance of Datasette. Config example:

```
{
  "default_facet_size": 30,
  "default_page_size": 100,
  "facet_suggest_time_limit_ms": 50,
  "facet_time_limit_ms": 1000,
  "max_returned_rows": 1000,
  "sql_time_limit_ms": 1000
}
```

1.15.5 /-/databases

Shows currently attached databases. Databases example:

```
[
  {
    "hash": null,
    "is_memory": false,
    "is_mutable": true,
    "name": "fixtures",
    "path": "fixtures.db",
    "size": 225280
  }
]
```

1.15.6 /-/threads

Shows details of threads and asyncio tasks. Threads example:

```
{
  "num_threads": 2,
  "threads": [
    {
      "daemon": false,
      "ident": 4759197120,
      "name": "MainThread"
    },
    ...
  ]
}
```

(continues on next page)
1.16 Customization

Datasette provides a number of ways of customizing the way data is displayed.

1.16.1 Custom CSS and JavaScript

When you launch Datasette, you can specify a custom metadata file like this:

```
datasette mydb.db --metadata metadata.json
```

Your `metadata.json` file can include links that look like this:

```
{
   "extra_css_urls": [
      "https://simonwillison.net/static/css/all.bf8cd891642c.css"
   ],
   "extra_js_urls": [
      "https://code.jquery.com/jquery-3.2.1.slim.min.js"
   ]
}
```

The extra CSS and JavaScript files will be linked in the `<head>` of every page.

You can also specify a SRI (subresource integrity hash) for these assets:

```
{
   "extra_css_urls": [
      {
         "url": "https://simonwillison.net/static/css/all.bf8cd891642c.css",
         "sri": "sha384-9qI2ekWUyjCyDIf2YK1FRoKJq4PHt6tp/ulnuuyRBvazd0h7pNwE99zewSznI"
      }
   ],
   "extra_js_urls": [
      {
         "url": "https://code.jquery.com/jquery-3.2.1.slim.min.js",
         "sri": "sha256-ytqk3JQqHSGVGv466ziykh85YAO9aC6t/6t9XGz7WZrOa99m2uGwaGw"
      }
   ]
}
```
Modern browsers will only execute the stylesheet or JavaScript if the SRI hash matches the content served. You can generate hashes using www.srihash.org

**CSS classes on the `<body>`**

Every default template includes CSS classes in the body designed to support custom styling.

The index template (the top level page at `/`) gets this:

```html
<body class="index">
```

The database template (`/dbname`) gets this:

```html
<body class="db db-dbname">
```

The custom SQL template (`/dbname?sql=...`) gets this:

```html
<body class="query db-dbname">
```

A canned query template (`/dbname/queryname`) gets this:

```html
<body class="query db-dbname query-queryname">
```

The table template (`/dbname/tablename`) gets:

```html
<body class="table db-dbname table-tablename">
```

The row template (`/dbname/tablename/rowid`) gets:

```html
<body class="row db-dbname table-tablename">
```

The `db-x` and `table-x` classes use the database or table names themselves if they are valid CSS identifiers. If they aren’t, we strip any invalid characters out and append a 6 character md5 digest of the original name, in order to ensure that multiple tables which resolve to the same stripped character version still have different CSS classes.

Some examples:

```javascript
"simple" => "simple"
"MixedCase" => "MixedCase"
"-no-leading-hyphens" => "no-leading-hyphens-65bea6"
"_no-leading-underscores" => "no-leading-underscores-b921bc"
"no spaces" => "no-spaces-7088d7"
"-" => "336d5e"
"no $ characters" => "no--characters-59e024"
```

`<td>` and `<th>` elements also get custom CSS classes reflecting the database column they are representing, for example:

```html

1.16. Customization
Serving static files

Datasette can serve static files for you, using the `--static` option. Consider the following directory structure:

```
metadata.json
static/styles.css
static/app.js
```

You can start Datasette using `--static static:static/` to serve those files from the `/static/` mount point:

```
$ datasette -m metadata.json --static static:static/ --memory
```

The following URLs will now serve the content from those CSS and JS files:

```
http://localhost:8001/static/styles.css
http://localhost:8001/static/app.js
```

You can reference those files from `metadata.json` like so:

```
{
    "extra_css_urls": [
        "/static/styles.css"
    ],
    "extra_js_urls": [
        "/static/app.js"
    ]
}
```

Publishing static assets

The `datasette publish` command can be used to publish your static assets, using the same syntax as above:

```
$ datasette publish cloudrun mydb.db --static static:static/
```

This will upload the contents of the `static/` directory as part of the deployment, and configure Datasette to correctly serve the assets.
1.16.2 Custom templates

By default, Datasette uses default templates that ship with the package.

You can over-ride these templates by specifying a custom \(--template-dir\) like this:

datasette mydb.db --template-dir=mytemplates/

Datasette will now first look for templates in that directory, and fall back on the defaults if no matches are found.

It is also possible to over-ride templates on a per-database, per-row or per-table basis.

The lookup rules Datasette uses are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page Type</th>
<th>Template Path</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Index page (/)</td>
<td>index.html</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Database page (/mydatabase)</td>
<td>database-mydatabase.html</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>database-mydatabase.html</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Custom query page (/mydatabase?sql=...)</td>
<td>query-mydatabase.html</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>query.html</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canned query page (/mydatabase/canned-query)</td>
<td>query-mydatabase-canned-query.html</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>query-mydatabase.html</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>query.html</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table page (/mydatabase/mytable)</td>
<td>table-mydatabase-mytable.html</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>table.html</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Row page (/mydatabase/mytable/id)</td>
<td>row-mydatabase-mytable.html</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>row.html</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table of rows and columns include on table page:</td>
<td>_table-table-mydatabase-mytable.html</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>_table-table-mydatabase-mytable.html</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>_table.html</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table of rows and columns include on row page:</td>
<td>_table-row-mydatabase-mytable.html</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>_table-mydatabase-mytable.html</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>_table.html</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If a table name has spaces or other unexpected characters in it, the template filename will follow the same rules as our custom \(<body\> CSS classes - for example, a table called "Food Trucks" will attempt to load the following templates:

table-mydatabase-Food-Trucks-399138.html
| table.html |

You can find out which templates were considered for a specific page by viewing source on that page and looking for an HTML comment at the bottom. The comment will look something like this:

<!-- Templates considered: *query-mydb-tz.html, query-mydb.html, query.html -->
This example is from the canned query page for a query called "tz" in the database called "mydb". The asterisk shows which template was selected - so in this case, Datasette found a template file called query-mydb-tz.html and used that - but if that template had not been found, it would have tried for query-mydb.html or the default query.html.

It is possible to extend the default templates using Jinja template inheritance. If you want to customize EVERY row template with some additional content you can do so by creating a row.html template like this:

```html
{% extends "default:row.html" %}
{% block content %}
<h1>EXTRA HTML AT THE TOP OF THE CONTENT BLOCK</h1>
<p>This line renders the original block:</p>
{{ super() }}
{% endblock %}
```

Note the default:row.html template name, which ensures Jinja will inherit from the default template.

The _table.html template is included by both the row and the table pages, and a list of rows. The default _table.html template renders them as an HTML template and can be seen here.

You can provide a custom template that applies to all of your databases and tables, or you can provide custom templates for specific tables using the template naming scheme described above.

If you want to present your data in a format other than an HTML table, you can do so by looping through display_rows in your own _table.html template. You can use `{% row["column_name"] %}` to output the raw value of a specific column.

If you want to output the rendered HTML version of a column, including any links to foreign keys, you can use `{% row.display("column_name") %}`.

Here is an example of a custom _table.html template:

```html
{% for row in display_rows %}
  <div>
    <h2>{{ row["title"] }}</h2>
    <p>{{ row["description"] }}</p>
    <p>Category: {{ row.display("category_id") }}</p>
  </div>
{% endfor %}
```

### 1.16.3 Custom pages

You can add templated pages to your Datasette instance by creating HTML files in a pages directory within your templates directory.

For example, to add a custom page that is served at http://localhost/about you would create a file in templates/pages/about.html, then start Datasette like this:

```
$ datasette mydb.db --template-dir=templates/
```

You can nest directories within pages to create a nested structure. To create a http://localhost:8001/about/map page you would create templates/pages/about/map.html.
Custom headers and status codes

Custom pages default to being served with a content-type of `text/html; charset=utf-8` and a 200 status code. You can change these by calling a custom function from within your template.

For example, to serve a custom page with a 418 I'm a teapot HTTP status code, create a file in `pages/teapot.html` containing the following:

```html
{{ custom_status(418) }}
<html>
<head><title>Teapot</title></head>
<body>
I'm a teapot
</body>
</html>
```

To serve a custom HTTP header, add a `custom_header(name, value)` function call. For example:

```html
{{ custom_status(418) }}
{{ custom_header("x-teapot", "I am") }}
<html>
<head><title>Teapot</title></head>
<body>
I'm a teapot
</body>
</html>
```

You can verify this is working using `curl` like this:

```
$ curl -I 'http://127.0.0.1:8001/teapot'
HTTP/1.1 418
date: Sun, 26 Apr 2020 18:38:30 GMT
server: uvicorn
x-teapot: I am
content-type: text/html; charset=utf-8
```

Custom redirects

You can use the `custom_redirect(location)` function to redirect users to another page, for example in a file called `pages/datasette.html`:

```html
{{ custom_redirect("https://github.com/simonw/datasette") }}
```

Now requests to `http://localhost:8001/datasette` will result in a redirect.

These redirects are served with a 301 Found status code by default. You can send a 301 Moved Permanently code by passing 301 as the second argument to the function:

```html
{{ custom_redirect("https://github.com/simonw/datasette", 301) }}
```

1.17 Plugins

Datasette’s plugin system allows additional features to be implemented as Python code (or front-end JavaScript) which can be wrapped up in a separate Python package. The underlying mechanism uses `pluggy`. 

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See Datasette Plugins for a list of existing plugins, or take a look at the datasette-plugin topic on GitHub.

Things you can do with plugins include:

- Add visualizations to Datasette, for example datasette-cluster-map and datasette-vega.
- Make new custom SQL functions available for use within Datasette, for example datasette-haversine and datasette-jellyfish.
- Add template functions that can be called within your Jinja custom templates, for example datasette-render-markdown.
- Customize how database values are rendered in the Datasette interface, for example datasette-render-binary and datasette-pretty-json.
- Wrap the entire Datasette application in custom ASGI middleware to add new pages or implement authentication, for example datasette-auth-github.

1.17.1 Installing plugins

If a plugin has been packaged for distribution using setuptools you can use the plugin by installing it alongside Datasette in the same virtual environment or Docker container.

You can also define one-off per-project plugins by saving them as plugin_name.py functions in a plugins/ folder and then passing that folder to datasette serve.

The datasette publish and datasette package commands both take an optional --install argument. You can use this one or more times to tell Datasette to pip install specific plugins as part of the process. You can use the name of a package on PyPI or any of the other valid arguments to pip install such as a URL to a .zip file:

```
datasette publish cloudrun mydb.db \
   --install=datasette-plugin-demos \
   --install=https://url-to-my-package.zip
```

1.17.2 Writing one-off plugins

The easiest way to write a plugin is to create a my_plugin.py file and drop it into your plugins/ directory. Here is an example plugin, which adds a new custom SQL function called hello_world() which takes no arguments and returns the string Hello world!.

```
from datasette import hookimpl

@hookimpl
def prepare_connection(conn):
    conn.create_function('hello_world', 0, lambda: 'Hello world!')
```

If you save this in plugins/my_plugin.py you can then start Datasette like this:

```
datasette serve mydb.db --plugins-dir=plugins/
```

Now you can navigate to http://localhost:8001/mydb and run this SQL:

```
select hello_world();
```

To see the output of your plugin.
1.17.3 Seeing what plugins are installed

You can see a list of installed plugins by navigating to the /-/plugins page of your Datasette instance - for example: https://fivethirtyeight.datasettes.com/-/plugins

You can also use the datasette plugins command:

```
$ datasette plugins
[
  {
    "name": "datasette_json_html",
    "static": false,
    "templates": false,
    "version": "0.4.0"
  }
]
```

If you run `datasette plugins --all` it will include default plugins that ship as part of Datasette:

```
$ datasette plugins --all
[
  {
    "name": "datasette.sql_functions",
    "static": false,
    "templates": false,
    "version": null
  },
  {
    "name": "datasette.publish.cloudrun",
    "static": false,
    "templates": false,
    "version": null
  },
  {
    "name": "datasette.facets",
    "static": false,
    "templates": false,
    "version": null
  },
  {
    "name": "datasette.publish.heroku",
    "static": false,
    "templates": false,
    "version": null
  }
]
```

You can add the `--plugins-dir=` option to include any plugins found in that directory.

1.17.4 Packaging a plugin

Plugins can be packaged using Python setuptools. You can see an example of a packaged plugin at https://github.com/simonw/datasette-plugin-demos

The example consists of two files: a setup.py file that defines the plugin:
from setuptools import setup

VERSION = '0.1'

setup(
    name='datasette-plugin-demos',
    description='Examples of plugins for Datasette',
    author='Simon Willison',
    url='https://github.com/simonw/datasette-plugin-demos',
    license='Apache License, Version 2.0',
    version=VERSION,
    py_modules=['datasette_plugin_demos'],
    entry_points={
        'datasette': [
            'plugin_demos = datasette_plugin_demos',
        ],
    },
    install_requires=['datasette']
)

And a Python module file, `datasette_plugin_demos.py`, that implements the plugin:

```python
from datasette import hookimpl
import random

@hookimpl
def prepare_jinja2_environment(env):
    env.filters['uppercase'] = lambda u: u.upper()

@hookimpl
def prepare_connection(conn):
    conn.create_function('random_integer', 2, random.randint)
```

Having built a plugin in this way you can turn it into an installable package using the following command:

```
python3 setup.py sdist
```

This will create a `.tar.gz` file in the `dist/` directory.

You can then install your new plugin into a Datasette virtual environment or Docker container using `pip`:

```
pip install datasette-plugin-demos-0.1.tar.gz
```

To learn how to upload your plugin to PyPI for use by other people, read the PyPA guide to Packaging and distributing projects.

### 1.17.5 Static assets

If your plugin has a `static/` directory, Datasette will automatically configure itself to serve those static assets from the following path:

```
/-/static-plugins/NAME_OF_PLUGIN_PACKAGE/yourfile.js
```

See the `datasette-plugin-demos` repository for an example of how to create a package that includes a static folder.
1.17.6 Custom templates

If your plugin has a templates/ directory, Datasette will attempt to load templates from that directory before it uses its own default templates.

The priority order for template loading is:

- templates from the --template-dir argument, if specified
- templates from the templates/ directory in any installed plugins
- default templates that ship with Datasette

See Customization for more details on how to write custom templates, including which filenames to use to customize which parts of the Datasette UI.

1.17.7 Plugin configuration

Plugins can have their own configuration, embedded in a Metadata file. Configuration options for plugins live within a "plugins" key in that file, which can be included at the root, database or table level.

Here is an example of some plugin configuration for a specific table:

```json
{
   "databases": {
      "sf-trees": {
         "tables": {
            "Street_Tree_List": {
               "plugins": {
                  "datasette-cluster-map": {
                     "latitude_column": "lat",
                     "longitude_column": "lng"
                  }
               }
            }
         }
      }
   }
}
```

This tells the datasette-cluster-map column which latitude and longitude columns should be used for a table called Street_Tree_List inside a database file called sf-trees.db.

Secret configuration values

Any values embedded in metadata.json will be visible to anyone who views the /-/metadata page of your Datasette instance. Some plugins may need configuration that should stay secret - API keys for example. There are two ways in which you can store secret configuration values.

As environment variables. If your secret lives in an environment variable that is available to the Datasette process, you can indicate that the configuration value should be read from that environment variable like so:

```json
{
   "plugins": {
      "datasette-auth-github": {
         "client_secret": {
            "$env": "GITHUB_CLIENT_SECRET"
         }
      }
   }
}
```

(continues on next page)
As values in separate files. Your secrets can also live in files on disk. To specify a secret should be read from a file, provide the full file path like this:

```
{
  "plugins": {
    "datasette-auth-github": {
      "client_secret": {
        "$file": "/secrets/client-secret"
      }
    }
  }
}
```

If you are publishing your data using the `datasette publish` family of commands, you can use the `--plugin-secret` option to set these secrets at publish time. For example, using Heroku you might run the following command:

```
$ datasette publish heroku my_database.db \
  --name my-heroku-app-demo \
  --plugin-secret datasette-auth-github client_id your_client_id \
  --plugin-secret datasette-auth-github client_secret your_client_secret
```

Writing plugins that accept configuration

When you are writing plugins, you can access plugin configuration like this using the `datasette.plugin_config()` method. If you know you need plugin configuration for a specific table, you can access it like this:

```
plugin_config = datasette.plugin_config(  
  "datasette-cluster-map", database="sf-trees", table="Street_Tree_List"
)
```

This will return the `{"latitude_column": "lat", "longitude_column": "lng"}` in the above example.

If it cannot find the requested configuration at the table layer, it will fall back to the database layer and then the root layer. For example, a user may have set the plugin configuration option like so:

```
{
  "databases": {
    "sf-trees": {
      "plugins": {
        "datasette-cluster-map": {
          "latitude_column": "xlat",
          "longitude_column": "xlng"
        }
      }
    }
  }
}
```
In this case, the above code would return that configuration for ANY table within the sf-trees database.

The plugin configuration could also be set at the top level of metadata.json:

```json
{
    "title": "This is the top-level title in metadata.json",
    "plugins": {
        "datasette-cluster-map": {
            "latitude_column": "xlat",
            "longitude_column": "xlng"
        }
    }
}
```

Now that `datasette-cluster-map` plugin configuration will apply to every table in every database.

### 1.17.8 Plugin hooks

When you implement a plugin hook you can accept any or all of the parameters that are documented as being passed to that hook. For example, you can implement a `render_cell` plugin hook like this even though the hook definition defines more parameters than just `value` and `column`:

```python
@hookimpl
def render_cell(value, column):
    if column == "stars":
        return "*" * int(value)
```

The full list of available plugin hooks is as follows.

**prepare_connection(conn, database, datasette)**

- **conn** - sqlite3 connection object  The connection that is being opened
- **database** - string  The name of the database
- **datasette** - Datasette class  You can use this to access plugin configuration options via datasette. `plugin_config(your_plugin_name)`

This hook is called when a new SQLite database connection is created. You can use it to register custom SQL functions, aggregates and collations. For example:

```python
from datasette import hookimpl
import random

@hookimpl
def prepare_connection(conn):
    conn.create_function('random_integer', 2, random.randint)
```

This registers a SQL function called `random_integer` which takes two arguments and can be called like this:

```sql
select random_integer(1, 10);
```

Examples: `datasette-jellyfish`, `datasette-jq`, `datasette-haversine`, `datasette-rure`
**prepare_jinja2_environment(env)**

**env - jinja2 Environment**  The template environment that is being prepared

This hook is called with the Jinja2 environment that is used to evaluate Datasette HTML templates. You can use it to do things like register custom template filters, for example:

```python
from datasette import hookimpl

@hookimpl
def prepare_jinja2_environment(env):
    env.filters['uppercase'] = lambda u: u.upper()
```

You can now use this filter in your custom templates like so:

```plaintext
Table name: {{ table|uppercase }}
```

**extra_css_urls(template, database, table, datasette)**

**template - string**  The template that is being rendered, e.g. database.html

**database - string or None**  The name of the database

**table - string or None**  The name of the table

**datasette - Datasette class**  You can use this to access plugin configuration options via datasette.

    plugin_config(your_plugin_name)

Return a list of extra CSS URLs that should be included on the page. These can take advantage of the CSS class hooks described in **Customization**.

This can be a list of URLs:

```python
from datasette import hookimpl

@hookimpl
def extra_css_urls():
    return ['https://stackpath.bootstrapcdn.com/bootstrap/4.1.0/css/bootstrap.min.css']
```

Or a list of dictionaries defining both a URL and an SRI hash:

```python
from datasette import hookimpl

@hookimpl
def extra_css_urls():
    return [{
        'url': 'https://stackpath.bootstrapcdn.com/bootstrap/4.1.0/css/bootstrap.min.css',
        'sri': 'sha384-9gVQ4dYFwwWSjID2nLEWnxCjeSWFphJiwGPXr1jddIhOegiu1FwO5qRGvFX0dJ24',
    }]
```

Examples: datasette-cluster-map, datasette-vega
extra_js_urls(template, database, table, datasette)

Same arguments as extra_css_urls.

This works in the same way as extra_css_urls() but for JavaScript. You can return either a list of URLs or a list of dictionaries:

```python
from datasette import hookimpl

@hookimpl
def extra_js_urls():
    return [{
        'url': 'https://code.jquery.com/jquery-3.3.1.slim.min.js',
        'sri': 'sha384-q8i/
→X+965DzO0rT7abK41JStQIAqVgRVzpboo5smXKp4YfRvH+8abtTE1Pi6jizo',
    }]
```

You can also return URLs to files from your plugin’s static/ directory, if you have one:

```python
from datasette import hookimpl

@hookimpl
def extra_js_urls():
    return ['/-/static-plugins/your-plugin/app.js']
```

Examples: datasette-cluster-map, datasette-vega

**publish_subcommand(publish)**

**publish** - Click publish command group The Click command group for the datasette publish subcommand

This hook allows you to create new providers for the datasette publish command. Datasette uses this hook internally to implement the default now and heroku subcommands, so you can read their source to see examples of this hook in action.

Let’s say you want to build a plugin that adds a datasette publish my_hosting_provider --api_key=xxx mydatabase.db publish command. Your implementation would start like this:

```python
from datasette import hookimpl
from datasette.publish.common import add_common_publish_arguments_and_options
import click

@hookimpl
def publish_subcommand(publish):
    @publish.command()
    @add_common_publish_arguments_and_options
    @click.option("-k",
                  "--api_key",
                  help="API key for talking to my hosting provider",
                  )
    def my_hosting_provider(
        files,
```

(continues on next page)
metadata,
extra_options,
branch,
template_dir,
plugins_dir,
static,
install,
plugin_secret,
version_note,
title,
license,
license_url,
source,
source_url,
about,
about_url,
api_key,
):
    # Your implementation goes here

Examples: datasette-publish-fly, datasette-publish-now

render_cell(value, column, table, database, datasette)

Lets you customize the display of values within table cells in the HTML table view.

value - string, integer or None  The value that was loaded from the database

column - string  The name of the column being rendered

table - string or None  The name of the table - or None if this is a custom SQL query

database - string  The name of the database

datasette - Datasette class  You can use this to access plugin configuration options via datasette.

    plugin_config(your_plugin_name)

If your hook returns None, it will be ignored. Use this to indicate that your hook is not able to custom render this particular value.

If the hook returns a string, that string will be rendered in the table cell.

If you want to return HTML markup you can do so by returning a jinja2.Markup object.

Datasette will loop through all available render_cell hooks and display the value returned by the first one that does not return None.

Here is an example of a custom render_cell() plugin which looks for values that are a JSON string matching the following format:

```json
{"href": "https://www.example.com/", "label": "Name"}
```

If the value matches that pattern, the plugin returns an HTML link element:

```python
from datasette import hookimpl
import jinja2
import json
```
@hookimpl
def render_cell(value):
    # Render {"href": ".", "label": "."} as link
    if not isinstance(value, str):
        return None
    stripped = value.strip()
    if not stripped.startswith(""") and stripped.endswith("""): return None
    try:
        data = json.loads(value)
    except ValueError:
        return None
    if not isinstance(data, dict):
        return None
    if set(data.keys()) != {"href", "label"]: return None
    href = data["href"]
    if not (href.startswith("/") or href.startswith("http://")
    or href.startswith("https://")
    ): return None
    return jinja2.Markup('<a href="{href}">{label}</a>'.format(
        href=jinja2.escape(data["href"]
        label=jinja2.escape(data["label"] or "") or "nbsp;")
    ))

Examples: datasette-render-binary, datasette-render-markdown

extra_body_script(template, database, table, view_name, datasette)

Extra JavaScript to be added to a <script> block at the end of the <body> element on the page.

template - string The template that is being rendered, e.g. database.html
database - string or None The name of the database, or None if the page does not correspond to a database (e.g. the root page)
table - string or None The name of the table, or None if the page does not correspond to a table
view_name - string The name of the view being displayed. (index, database, table, and row are the most important ones.)
datasette - Datasette class You can use this to access plugin configuration options via datasette.

    plugin_config(your_plugin_name)

The template, database and table options can be used to return different code depending on which template is being rendered and which database or table are being processed.

The datasette instance is provided primarily so that you can consult any plugin configuration options that may have been set, using the datasette.plugin_config(plugin_name) method documented above.

The string that you return from this function will be treated as "safe" for inclusion in a <script> block directly in the page, so it is up to you to apply any necessary escaping.

Example: datasette-cluster-map
extra_template_vars(template, database, table, view_name, request, datasette)

Extra template variables that should be made available in the rendered template context.

**template** - string  The template that is being rendered, e.g. database.html

**database** - string or None  The name of the database, or None if the page does not correspond to a database (e.g. the root page)

**table** - string or None  The name of the table, or None if the page does not correct to a table

**view_name** - string  The name of the view being displayed. (index, database, table, and row are the most important ones.)

**request** - object  The current HTTP request object. request.scope provides access to the ASGI scope.

**datasette** - Datasette class  You can use this to access plugin configuration options via datasette.

This hook can return one of three different types:

**Dictionary**  If you return a dictionary its keys and values will be merged into the template context.

**Function that returns a dictionary**  If you return a function it will be executed. If it returns a dictionary those values will be merged into the template context.

**Function that returns an awaitable function that returns a dictionary**  You can also return a function which returns an awaitable function which returns a dictionary.

Datasette runs Jinja2 in async mode, which means you can add awaitable functions to the template scope and they will be automatically awaited when they are rendered by the template.

Here’s an example plugin that returns an authentication object from the ASGI scope:

```python
@hookimpl
def extra_template_vars(request):
    return {
        "auth": request.scope.get("auth")
    }
```

This example returns an awaitable function which adds a list of hidden_table_names to the context:

```python
@hookimpl
def extra_template_vars(datasette, database):
    async def hidden_table_names():
        if database:
            db = datasette.databases[database]
            return {"hidden_table_names": await db.hidden_table_names()}
        else:
            return {}
    return hidden_table_names
```

And here’s an example which adds a sql_first(sql_query) function which executes a SQL statement and returns the first column of the first row of results:

```python
@hookimpl
def extra_template_vars(datasette, database):
    async def sql_first(sql, dbname=None):
        dbname = dbname or database or next(iter(datasette.databases.keys()))
        return (await datasette.execute(dbname, sql)).rows[0][0]
    return {"sql_first": sql_first}
```
You can then use the new function in a template like so:

```sql
SQLite version: {{ sql_first("select sqlite_version()") }}
```

Examples: datasette-search-all, datasette-template-sql

**register_output_renderer(datasette)**

**datasette** - **Datasette class** You can use this to access plugin configuration options via `datasette.plugin_config(your_plugin_name)`

Allows the plugin to register a new output renderer, to output data in a custom format. The hook function should return a dictionary, or a list of dictionaries, which contain the file extension you want to handle and a callback function:

```python
@hookimpl
def register_output_renderer(datasette):
    return {
        'extension': 'test',
        'callback': render_test
    }
```

This will register `render_test` to be called when paths with the extension `.test` (for example `/database.test`, `/database/table.test`, or `/database/table/row.test`) are requested. When a request is received, the callback function is called with three positional arguments:

- **args** - dictionary The GET parameters of the request
- **data** - dictionary The data to be rendered
- **view_name** - string The name of the view where the renderer is being called. (`index`, `database`, `table`, and `row` are the most important ones.)

The callback function can return `None`, if it is unable to render the data, or a dictionary with the following keys:

- **body** - string or bytes, optional The response body, default empty
- **content_type** - string, optional The Content-Type header, default `text/plain`
- **status_code** - integer, optional The HTTP status code, default 200

A simple example of an output renderer callback function:

```python
def render_test(args, data, view_name):
    return {'body': 'Hello World'}
```

Examples: datasette-atom, datasette-ics

**register_facet_classes()**

Return a list of additional Facet subclasses to be registered.

Each Facet subclass implements a new type of facet operation. The class should look like this:

```python
class SpecialFacet(Facet):
    # This key must be unique across all facet classes:
    type = "special"
```

(continues on next page)
async def suggest(self):
    # Use self.sql and self.params to suggest some facets
    suggested_facets = []
    suggested_facets.append(
        "name": column, # Or other unique name
        # Construct the URL that will enable this facet:
        "toggle_url": self.ds.absolute_url(
            self.request, path_with_added_args(
                self.request, {"_facet": column}
            )
        ),
    )
    return suggested_facets

async def facet_results(self):
    # This should execute the facet operation and return results, again
    # using self.sql and self.params as the starting point
    facet_results = {}
    facets_timed_out = []
    # Do some calculations here...
    for column in columns_selected_for_facet:
        try:
            facet_results_values = []
            # More calculations...
            facet_results_values.append(
                "value": value,
                "label": label,
                "count": count,
                "toggle_url": self.ds.absolute_url(self.request, toggle_path),
                "selected": selected,
            )
            facet_results[column] = {
                "name": column,
                "results": facet_results_values,
                "truncated": len(facet_rows_results) > facet_size,
            }
        except QueryInterrupted:
            facets_timed_out.append(column)
    return facet_results, facets_timed_out

See datasette/facets.py for examples of how these classes can work.
The plugin hook can then be used to register the new facet class like this:

```
@hookimpl
def register_facet_classes():
    return [SpecialFacet]
```

\[asgi\_wrapper(datasette)\]

Return an ASGI middleware wrapper function that will be applied to the Datasette ASGI application.
This is a very powerful hook. You can use it to manipulate the entire Datasette response, or even to configure new URL routes that will be handled by your own custom code.
You can write your ASGI code directly against the low-level specification, or you can use the middleware utilities provided by an ASGI framework such as Starlette.

This example plugin adds a \texttt{x-databases} HTTP header listing the currently attached databases:

```python
from datasette import hookimpl
from functools import wraps

@hookimpl
def asgi_wrapper(datasette):
    def wrap_with_databases_header(app):
        @wraps(app)
        async def add_x_databases_header(scope, receive, send):
            async def wrapped_send(event):
                if event["type"] == "http.response.start":
                    original_headers = event.get("headers") or []
                    event = {
                        "type": event["type"],
                        "status": event["status"],
                        "headers": original_headers + [
                            [b"x-databases",
                             ", " + \texttt{\texttt{.join(datasette.databases.keys())}}.encode("utf-8")]
                        ],
                    }
                    await send(event)
                await app(scope, receive, wrapped_send)
            return add_x_databases_header
        return wrap_with_databases_header
```

Examples: datasette-auth-github, datasette-search-all

### 1.18 Internals for plugins

Many \textit{Plugin hooks} are passed objects that provide access to internal Datasette functionality. The interface to these objects should not be considered stable (at least until Datasette 1.0) with the exception of methods that are documented on this page.

#### 1.18.1 Datasette class

This object is an instance of the Datasette class, passed to many plugin hooks as an argument called \texttt{datasette}.

$.plugin\_config(plugin\_name, database=None, table=None)$

- \texttt{plugin\_name} - string The name of the plugin to look up configuration for. Usually this is something similar to \texttt{datasette-cluster-map}.
- \texttt{database} - None or string The database the user is interacting with.
- \texttt{table} - None or string The table the user is interacting with.

This method lets you read plugin configuration values that were set in \texttt{metadata.json}. See \textit{Writing plugins that accept configuration} for full details of how this method should be used.
**Datasette Documentation**

**.render_template(template, context=None, request=None)**

**template** - string  The template file to be rendered, e.g. my_plugin.html. Datasette will search for this file first in the --template-dir= location, if it was specified - then in the plugin’s bundled templates and finally in Datasette’s set of default templates.

**context** - None or a Python dictionary  The context variables to pass to the template.

**request** - request object or None  If you pass a Datasette request object here it will be made available to the template.

Renders a Jinja template using Datasette’s preconfigured instance of Jinja and returns the resulting string. The template will have access to Datasette’s default template functions and any functions that have been made available by other plugins.

**.add_database(name, db)**

**name** - string  The unique name to use for this database. Also used in the URL.

**db** - datasette.database.Database instance  The database to be attached.

The datasette.add_database(name, db) method lets you add a new database to the current Datasette instance. This database will then be served at URL path that matches the name parameter, e.g. /mynewdb/.

The db parameter should be an instance of the datasette.database.Database class. For example:

```python
from datasette.database import Database

datasette.add_database("my-new-database", Database(  
    datasette,  
    path="path/to/my-new-database.db",  
    is_mutable=True  
))
```

This will add a mutable database from the provided file path.

The Database() constructor takes four arguments: the first is the datasette instance you are attaching to, the second is a path=, then is_mutable and is_memory are both optional arguments.

Use is_mutable if it is possible that updates will be made to that database - otherwise Datasette will open it in immutable mode and any changes could cause undesired behavior.

Use is_memory if the connection is to an in-memory SQLite database.

**.remove_database(name)**

**name** - string  The name of the database to be removed.

This removes a database that has been previously added. name= is the unique name of that database, also used in the URL for it.

### 1.18.2 Database class

Instances of the Database class can be used to execute queries against attached SQLite databases, and to run introspection against their schemas.
SQLite only allows one database connection to write at a time. Datasette handles this for you by maintaining a queue of writes to be executed against a given database. Plugins can submit write operations to this queue and they will be executed in the order in which they are received.

```
await db.execute_write(sql, params=None, block=False)
```

This method can be used to queue up a non-SELECT SQL query to be executed against a single write connection to the database.

You can pass additional SQL parameters as a tuple or dictionary.

By default queries are considered to be "fire and forget" - they will be added to the queue and executed in a separate thread while your code can continue to do other things. The method will return a UUID representing the queued task.

If you pass `block=True` this behaviour changes: the method will block until the write operation has completed, and the return value will be the return from calling `conn.execute(...)` using the underlying `sqlite3` Python library.

```
await db.execute_write_fn(fn, block=False)
```

This method works like `.execute_write()`, but instead of a SQL statement you give it a callable Python function. This function will be queued up and then called when the write connection is available, passing that connection as the argument to the function.

The function can then perform multiple actions, safe in the knowledge that it has exclusive access to the single writable connection as long as it is executing.

For example:

```
def my_action(conn):
    conn.execute("delete from some_table")
    conn.execute("delete from other_table")
await database.execute_write_fn(my_action)
```

This method is fire-and-forget, queueing your function to be executed and then allowing your code after the call to `.execute_write_fn()` to continue running while the underlying thread waits for an opportunity to run your function. A UUID representing the queued task will be returned.

If you pass `block=True` your calling code will block until the function has been executed. The return value to the `await` will be the return value of your function.

If your function raises an exception and you specified `block=True`, that exception will be propagated up to the `await` line. With `block=False` any exceptions will be silently ignored.

Here’s an example of `block=True` in action:

```
def my_action(conn):
    conn.execute("delete from some_table where id > 5")
    return conn.execute("select count(*) from some_table").fetchone()[0]
try:
    num_rows_left = await database.execute_write_fn(my_action, block=True)
except Exception as e:
    print("An error occurred:", e)
```
1.19 Contributing

Datasette is an open source project. We welcome contributions!

This document describes how to contribute to Datasette core. You can also contribute to the wider Datasette ecosystem by creating new Plugins.

1.19.1 General guidelines

• **master should always be releasable.** Incomplete features should live in branches. This ensures that any small bug fixes can be quickly released.

• **The ideal commit** should bundle together the implementation, unit tests and associated documentation updates. The commit message should link to an associated issue.

1.19.2 Setting up a development environment

If you have Python 3.6 or higher installed on your computer (on OS X the easiest way to do this is using homebrew) you can install an editable copy of Datasette using the following steps.

If you want to use GitHub to publish your changes, first create a fork of datasette under your own GitHub account. Now clone that repository somewhere on your computer:

```
$ git clone git@github.com:YOURNAME/datasette
```

If you just want to get started without creating your own fork, you can do this instead:

```
$ git clone git@github.com:simonw/datasette
```

The next step is to create a virtual environment for your project and use it to install Datasette’s dependencies:

```
cd datasette
# Create a virtual environment in ./venv
python3 -m venv ./venv
# Now activate the virtual environment, so pip can install into it
source venv/bin/activate
# Install Datasette and its testing dependencies
python3 -m pip install -e .[test]
```

That last line does most of the work: `pip install -e` means "install this package in a way that allows me to edit the source code in place". The `[test]` option means "use the setup.py in this directory and install the optional testing dependencies as well".

Once you have done this, you can run the Datasette unit tests from inside your `datasette/` directory using `pytest` like so:

```
pytest
```

To run Datasette itself, just type `datasette`.

You’re going to need at least one SQLite database. An easy way to get started is to use the fixtures database that Datasette uses for its own tests.

You can create a copy of that database by running this command:
Now you can run Datasette against the new fixtures database like so:

```bash
datasette fixtures.db
```

This will start a server at `http://127.0.0.1:8001/`.

Any changes you make in the `datasette/templates` or `datasette/static` folder will be picked up immediately (though you may need to do a force-refresh in your browser to see changes to CSS or JavaScript).

If you want to change Datasette’s Python code you can use the `--reload` option to cause Datasette to automatically reload any time the underlying code changes:

```bash
datasette --reload fixtures.db
```

You can also use the `fixtures.py` script to recreate the testing version of `metadata.json` used by the unit tests. To do that:

```bash
git pull
python tests/fixtures.py fixtures.db fixtures-metadata.json
```

(You may need to delete `fixtures.db` before running this command.)

Then run Datasette like this:

```bash
datasette fixtures.db --metadata fixtures-metadata.json
```

### 1.19.3 Editing and building the documentation

Datasette’s documentation lives in the `docs/` directory and is deployed automatically using Read The Docs.

The documentation is written using reStructuredText. You may find this article on The subset of reStructuredText worth committing to memory useful.

You can build it locally by installing `sphinx` and `sphinx_rtd_theme` in your Datasette development environment and then running `make html` directly in the `docs/` directory:

```bash
# You may first need to activate your virtual environment:
source venv/bin/activate

# Install the dependencies needed to build the docs
pip install -e .[docs]

# Now build the docs
cd docs/
make html
```

This will create the HTML version of the documentation in `docs/_build/html`. You can open it in your browser like so:

```bash
open _build/html/index.html
```

Any time you make changes to a `.rst` file you can re-run `make html` to update the built documents, then refresh them in your browser.

For added productivity, you can use `sphinx-autobuild` to run Sphinx in auto-build mode. This will run a local webserver serving the docs that automatically rebuilds them and refreshes the page any time you hit save in your editor.

### 1.19. Contributing
sphinx-autobuild will have been installed when you ran pip install -e .[docs]. In your docs/ directory you can start the server by running the following:

```
make livehtml
```

Now browse to http://localhost:8000/ to view the documentation. Any edits you make should be instantly reflected in your browser.

## 1.19.4 Release process

Datasette releases are performed using tags. When a new version tag is pushed to GitHub, a Travis CI task will perform the following:

- Run the unit tests against all supported Python versions. If the tests pass...
- Set up https://v0-25-1.datasette.io/ (but with the new tag) to point to a live demo of this release
- Build a Docker image of the release and push a tag to https://hub.docker.com/r/datasetteproject/datasette
- Re-point the "latest" tag on Docker Hub to the new image
- Build a wheel bundle of the underlying Python source code
- Push that new wheel up to PyPI: https://pypi.org/project/datasette/

To deploy new releases you will need to have push access to the main Datasette GitHub repository.

Datasette follows Semantic Versioning:

```
major.minor.patch
```

We increment major for backwards-incompatible releases. Datasette is currently pre-1.0 so the major version is always 0.

We increment minor for new features.

We increment patch for bugfix releases.

To release a new version, first create a commit that updates the changelog with highlights of the new version. An example commit can be seen here:

```
# Update changelog
git commit -m "Release 0.25.2" -a
git push
```

For non-bugfix releases you may want to update the news section of README.md as part of the same commit.

Wait long enough for Travis to build and deploy the demo version of that commit (otherwise the tag deployment may fail to alias to it properly). Then run the following:

```
git tag 0.25.2
git push --tags
```

Final steps once the release has deployed to https://pypi.org/project/datasette/

- Manually post the new release to GitHub releases: https://github.com/simonw/datasette/releases
- Manually kick off a build of the stable branch on Read The Docs: https://readthedocs.org/projects/datasette/builds/
1.20 Changelog

1.20.1 0.41 (2020-05-06)

You can now create custom pages within your Datasette instance using a custom template file. For example, adding a template file called `templates/pages/about.html` will result in a new page being served at `/about` on your instance. See the custom pages documentation for full details, including how to return custom HTTP headers, redirects and status codes. (#648)

**Configuration directory mode** (#731) allows you to define a custom Datasette instance as a directory. So instead of running the following:

```
$ datasette one.db two.db \
  --metadata.json \ 
  --template-dir=templates/ \ 
  --plugins-dir=plugins \ 
  --static css:css
```

You can instead arrange your files in a single directory called `my-project` and run this:

```
$ datasette my-project/
```

Also in this release:

- New **NOT LIKE** table filter: `?colname__notlike=expression`. (#750)
- Datasette now has a *pattern portfolio* at `/-/patterns` - e.g. https://latest.datasette.io/-/patterns. This is a page that shows every Datasette user interface component in one place, to aid core development and people building custom CSS themes. (#151)
- SQLite **PRAGMA** functions such as `pragma_table_info(tablename)` are now allowed in Datasette SQL queries. (#761)
- Datasette pages now consistently return a *content-type* of `text/html; charset=utf-8"`. (#752)
- Datasette now handles an ASGI **raw_path** value of `None`, which should allow compatibility with the Mangum adapter for running ASGI apps on AWS Lambda. Thanks, Colin Dellow. (#719)
- Installation documentation now covers how to **Install using pipx**. (#756)
- Improved the documentation for **Full-text search**. (#748)

1.20.2 0.40 (2020-04-21)

- Datasette **Metadata** can now be provided as a YAML file as an optional alternative to JSON. See *Using YAML for metadata*. (#713)
- Removed support for datasette publish now, which used the the now-retired Zeit Now v1 hosting platform. A new plugin, datasette-publish-now, can be installed to publish data to Zeit (now Vercel) Now v2. (#710)
- Fixed a bug where the `extra_template_vars(request, view_name)` plugin hook was not receiving the correct `view_name`. (#716)
- Variables added to the template context by the `extra_template_vars()` plugin hook are now shown in the `?_context=1` debugging mode (see `template_debug`). (#693)
- Fixed a bug where the "templates considered" HTML comment was no longer being displayed. (#689)
• Fixed a datasette publish bug where --plugin-secret would over-ride plugin configuration in the provided metadata.json file. (#724)
• Added a new CSS class for customizing the canned query page. (#727)

1.20.3 0.39 (2020-03-24)

• New base_url configuration setting for serving up the correct links while running Datasette under a different URL prefix. (#394)
• New metadata settings "sort" and "sort_desc" for setting the default sort order for a table. See Setting a default sort order. (#702)
• Sort direction arrow now displays by default on the primary key. This means you only have to click once (not twice) to sort in reverse order. (#677)
• New await Request(scope, receive).post_vars() method for accessing POST form variables. (#700)
• Plugin hooks documentation now links to example uses of each plugin. (#709)

1.20.4 0.38 (2020-03-08)

• The Docker build of Datasette now uses SQLite 3.31.1, upgraded from 3.26. (#695)
• datasette publish cloudrun now accepts an optional --memory=2Gi flag for setting the Cloud Run allocated memory to a value other than the default (256Mi). (#694)
• Fixed bug where templates that shipped with plugins were sometimes not being correctly loaded. (#697)

1.20.5 0.37.1 (2020-03-02)

• Don’t attempt to count table rows to display on the index page for databases > 100MB. (#688)
• Print exceptions if they occur in the write thread rather than silently swallowing them.
• Handle the possibility of scope["path"] being a string rather than bytes
• Better documentation for the extra_template_vars(template, database, table, view_name, request, datasette) plugin hook.

1.20.6 0.37 (2020-02-25)

• Plugins now have a supported mechanism for writing to a database, using the new .execute_write() and .execute_write_fn() methods. Documentation. (#682)
• Immutable databases that have had their rows counted using the inspect command now use the calculated count more effectively - thanks, Kevin Keogh. (#666)
• --reload no longer restarts the server if a database file is modified, unless that database was opened immutable mode with -i. (#494)
• New ?_searchmode=raw option turns off escaping for FTS queries in ?_search= allowing full use of SQLite’s FTS5 query syntax. (#676)
1.20.7 0.36 (2020-02-21)

- The `datasette` object passed to plugins now has API documentation: *Datasette class*. (#576)
- New methods on `datasette`: `.add_database()` and `.remove_database()` - *documentation*. (#671)
- `prepare_connection()` plugin hook now takes optional `datasette` and `database` arguments - `prepare_connection(conn, database, datasette)`. (#678)
- Added three new plugins and one new conversion tool to the *The Datasette Ecosystem*.

1.20.8 0.35 (2020-02-04)

- Added five new plugins and one new conversion tool to the *The Datasette Ecosystem*.
- The `Datasette` class has a new `render_template()` method which can be used by plugins to render templates using `Datasette`'s pre-configured Jinja templating library.
- You can now execute SQL queries that start with a `-- comment` - thanks, Jay Graves (#653)

1.20.9 0.34 (2020-01-29)

- `_search=` queries are now correctly escaped using a new `escape_fts()` custom SQL function. This means you can now run searches for strings like `park` without seeing errors. (#651)
- Google Cloud Run is no longer in beta, so `datasette publish cloudrun` has been updated to work even if the user has not installed the `gcloud` beta components package. Thanks, Katie McLaughlin (#660)
- `datasette` package now accepts a `--port` option for specifying which port the resulting Docker container should listen on. (#661)

1.20.10 0.33 (2019-12-22)

- `rowid` is now included in dropdown menus for filtering tables (#636)
- Columns are now only suggested for faceting if they have at least one value with more than one record (#638)
- Queries with no results now display "0 results" (#637)
- Improved documentation for the `--static` option (#641)
- asyncio task information is now included on the `/-/threads` debug page
- Bumped Uvicorn dependency 0.11
- You can now use `--port 0` to listen on an available port
- New `template_debug` setting for debugging templates, e.g. https://latest.datasette.io/fixtures/roadside_attractions?_context=1 (#654)

1.20.11 0.32 (2019-11-14)

Datasette now renders templates using Jinja async mode. This makes it easy for plugins to provide custom template functions that perform asynchronous actions, for example the new `datasette-template-sql` plugin which allows custom templates to directly execute SQL queries and render their results. (#628)
1.20.12 0.31.2 (2019-11-13)
- Fixed a bug where `datasette publish heroku` applications failed to start (#633)
- Fix for `datasette publish` with just `--source_url` - thanks, Stanley Zheng (#572)
- Deployments to Heroku now use Python 3.8.0 (#632)

1.20.13 0.31.1 (2019-11-12)
- Deployments created using `datasette publish` now use `python:3.8` base Docker image (#629)

1.20.14 0.31 (2019-11-11)
This version adds compatibility with Python 3.8 and breaks compatibility with Python 3.5. If you are still running Python 3.5 you should stick with 0.30.2, which you can install like this:

```
pip install datasette==0.30.2
```
- Format SQL button now works with read-only SQL queries - thanks, Tobias Kunze (#602)
- New `?column__notin=x,y,z` filter for table views (#614)
- Table view now uses `select col1, col2, col3` instead of `select *`
- Database filenames can now contain spaces - thanks, Tobias Kunze (#590)
- Removed obsolete `?_group_count=col` feature (#504)
- Improved user interface and documentation for `datasette publish cloudrun` (#608)
- Tables with indexes now show the `CREATE INDEX` statements on the table page (#618)
- Current version of `uvicorn` is now shown on /-/versions
- Python 3.8 is now supported! (#622)
- Python 3.5 is no longer supported.

1.20.15 0.30.2 (2019-11-02)
- /-/plugins page now uses distribution name e.g. `datasette-cluster-map` instead of the name of the underlying Python package (`datasette_cluster_map`) (#606)
- Array faceting is now only suggested for columns that contain arrays of strings (#562)
- Better documentation for the `--host` argument (#574)
- Don’t show None with a broken link for the label on a nullable foreign key (#406)

1.20.16 0.30.1 (2019-10-30)
- Fixed bug where `?_where=` parameter was not persisted in hidden form fields (#604)
- Fixed bug with `JSON` representation of row pages - thanks, Chris Shaw (#603)
1.20.17 0.30 (2019-10-18)

- Added \-threads debugging page
- Allow EXPLAIN WITH... (#583)
- Button to format SQL - thanks, Tobias Kunze (#136)
- Sort databases on homepage by argument order - thanks, Tobias Kunze (#585)
- Display metadata footer on custom SQL queries - thanks, Tobias Kunze (#589)
- Use --platform=managed for publish cloudrun (#587)
- Fixed bug returning non-ASCII characters in CSV (#584)
- Fix for /foo vs. /foo-bar bug (#601)

1.20.18 0.29.3 (2019-09-02)

- Fixed implementation of CodeMirror on database page (#560)
- Documentation typo fixes - thanks, Min ho Kim (#561)
- Mechanism for detecting if a table has FTS enabled now works if the table name used alternative escaping mechanisms (#570) - for compatibility with a recent change to sqlite-utils.

1.20.19 0.29.2 (2019-07-13)

- Bumped Uvicorn to 0.8.4, fixing a bug where the querystring was not included in the server logs. (#559)
- Fixed bug where the navigation breadcrumbs were not displayed correctly on the page for a custom query. (#558)
- Fixed bug where custom query names containing unicode characters caused errors.

1.20.20 0.29.1 (2019-07-11)

- Fixed bug with static mounts using relative paths which could lead to traversal exploits (#555) - thanks Abdussamet Kocak!
- Datasette can now be run as a module: python -m datasette (#556) - thanks, Abdussamet Kocak!

1.20.21 0.29 (2019-07-07)

ASGI, new plugin hooks, facet by date and much, much more...

ASGI

ASGI is the Asynchronous Server Gateway Interface standard. I’ve been wanting to convert Datasette into an ASGI application for over a year - Port Datasette to ASGI #272 tracks thirteen months of intermittent development - but with Datasette 0.29 the change is finally released. This also means Datasette now runs on top of Uvicorn and no longer depends on Sanic.

I wrote about the significance of this change in Porting Datasette to ASGI, and Turtles all the way down.

The most exciting consequence of this change is that Datasette plugins can now take advantage of the ASGI standard.
New plugin hook: asgi_wrapper

The `asgi_wrapper(datasette)` plugin hook allows plugins to entirely wrap the Datasette ASGI application in their own ASGI middleware. (#520)

Two new plugins take advantage of this hook:

- `datasette-auth-github` adds a authentication layer: users will have to sign in using their GitHub account before they can view data or interact with Datasette. You can also use it to restrict access to specific GitHub users, or to members of specified GitHub organizations or teams.

- `datasette-cors` allows you to configure CORS headers for your Datasette instance. You can use this to enable JavaScript running on a whitelisted set of domains to make `fetch()` calls to the JSON API provided by your Datasette instance.

New plugin hook: extra_template_vars

The `extra_template_vars(template, database, table, view_name, request, datasette)` plugin hook allows plugins to inject their own additional variables into the Datasette template context. This can be used in conjunction with custom templates to customize the Datasette interface. `datasette-auth-github` uses this hook to add custom HTML to the new top navigation bar (which is designed to be modified by plugins, see #540).

Secret plugin configuration options

Plugins like `datasette-auth-github` need a safe way to set secret configuration options. Since the default mechanism for configuring plugins exposes those settings in `/-/metadata` a new mechanism was needed. `Secret configuration values` describes how plugins can now specify that their settings should be read from a file or an environment variable:

```json
{
    "plugins": {
        "datasette-auth-github": {
            "client_secret": {
                "$env": "GITHUB_CLIENT_SECRET"
            }
        }
    }
}
```

These plugin secrets can be set directly using `datasette publish`. See `Custom metadata and plugins` for details. (#538 and #543)

Facet by date

If a column contains datetime values, Datasette can now facet that column by date. (#481)

Easier custom templates for table rows

If you want to customize the display of individual table rows, you can do so using a `_table.html` template include that looks something like this:

```jsp
{% for row in display_rows %}
    <div>
        <h2>{{ row["title"] }}</h2>
    </div>
{% endfor %}
```

(continues on next page)
This is a **backwards incompatible change**. If you previously had a custom template called `_rows_and_columns.html` you need to rename it to `_table.html`.

See [Custom templates](#) for full details.

### `_through=` for joins through many-to-many tables

The new `_through={json}` argument to the Table view allows records to be filtered based on a many-to-many relationship. See [Special table arguments](#) for full documentation - here’s an example. (#355)

This feature was added to help support facet by many-to-many, which isn’t quite ready yet but will be coming in the next Datasette release.

### Small changes

- Databases published using `datasette publish` now open in **Immutable mode**. (#469)
- `?col__date=` now works for columns containing spaces
- Automatic label detection (for deciding which column to show when linking to a foreign key) has been improved. (#485)
- Fixed bug where pagination broke when combined with an expanded foreign key. (#489)
- Contributors can now run `pip install -e .[docs]` to get all of the dependencies needed to build the documentation, including `cd docs && make livehtml` support.
- Datasette’s dependencies are now all specified using the `~=` match operator. (#532)
- `white-space: pre-wrap` now used for table creation SQL. (#505)

Full list of commits between 0.28 and 0.29.

### 1.20.22 0.28 (2019-05-19)

A *salmagundi* of new features!

### Supporting databases that change

From the beginning of the project, Datasette has been designed with read-only databases in mind. If a database is guaranteed not to change it opens up all kinds of interesting opportunities - from taking advantage of SQLite immutable mode and HTTP caching to bundling static copies of the database directly in a Docker container. The interesting ideas in Datasette explores this idea in detail.

As my goals for the project have developed, I realized that read-only databases are no longer the right default. SQLite actually supports concurrent access very well provided only one thread attempts to write to a database at a time, and I keep encountering sensible use-cases for running Datasette on top of a database that is processing inserts and updates. So, as-of version 0.28 Datasette no longer assumes that a database file will not change. It is now safe to point Datasette at a SQLite database which is being updated by another process.
Making this change was a lot of work - see tracking tickets #418, #419 and #420. It required new thinking around how Datasette should calculate table counts (an expensive operation against a large, changing database) and also meant reconsidering the "content hash" URLs Datasette has used in the past to optimize the performance of HTTP caches.

Datasette can still run against immutable files and gains numerous performance benefits from doing so, but this is no longer the default behaviour. Take a look at the new Performance and caching documentation section for details on how to make the most of Datasette against data that you know will be staying read-only and immutable.

Faceting improvements, and faceting plugins

Datasette Facets provide an intuitive way to quickly summarize and interact with data. Previously the only supported faceting technique was column faceting, but 0.28 introduces two powerful new capabilities: facet-by-JSON-array and the ability to define further facet types using plugins.

Facet by array (#359) is only available if your SQLite installation provides the json1 extension. Datasette will automatically detect columns that contain JSON arrays of values and offer a faceting interface against those columns - useful for modelling things like tags without needing to break them out into a new table. See Facet by JSON array for more.

The new register_facet_classes() plugin hook (#445) can be used to register additional custom facet classes. Each facet class should provide two methods: suggest() which suggests facet selections that might be appropriate for a provided SQL query, and facet_results() which executes a facet operation and returns results. Datasette’s own faceting implementations have been refactored to use the same API as these plugins.

datasette publish cloudrun

Google Cloud Run is a brand new serverless hosting platform from Google, which allows you to build a Docker container which will run only when HTTP traffic is received and will shut down (and hence cost you nothing) the rest of the time. It’s similar to Zeit’s Now v1 Docker hosting platform which sadly is no longer accepting signups from new users.

The new datasette publish cloudrun command was contributed by Romain Primet (#434) and publishes selected databases to a new Datasette instance running on Google Cloud Run.

See Publishing to Google Cloud Run for full documentation.

register_output_renderer plugins

Russ Garrett implemented a new Datasette plugin hook called register_output_renderer (#441) which allows plugins to create additional output renderers in addition to Datasette’s default .json and .csv.

Russ’s in-development datasette-geo plugin includes an example of this hook being used to output .geojson automatically converted from SpatiaLite.

Medium changes

- Datasette now conforms to the Black coding style (#449) - and has a unit test to enforce this in the future
- New Special table arguments:
  - ?columnname__in=value1,value2,value3 filter for executing SQL IN queries against a table, see Table arguments (#433)
  - ?columnname__date=yyyy-mm-dd filter which returns rows where the specified datetime column falls on the specified date (583b22a)
- `?tags__arraycontains=tag` filter which acts against a JSON array contained in a column (78e45ea)
- `?_where=sql-fragment` filter for the table view (#429)
- `?_fts_table=mytable` and `?_fts_pk=mycolumn` querystring options can be used to specify which FTS table to use for a search query - see Configuring full-text search for a table or view (#428)

• You can now pass the same table filter multiple times - for example, `?content__not=world&content__not=hello` will return all rows where the content column is neither hello or world (#288)
• You can now specify `about` and `about_url` metadata (in addition to `source` and `license`) linking to further information about a project - see Source, license and about
• New `?_trace=1` parameter now adds debug information showing every SQL query that was executed while constructing the page (#435)
• `datasette inspect` now just calculates table counts, and does not introspect other database metadata (#462)
• Removed `//-inspect` page entirely - this will be replaced by something similar in the future, see #465
• Datasette can now run against an in-memory SQLite database. You can do this by starting it without passing any files or by using the new `--memory` option to `datasette serve`. This can be useful for experimenting with SQLite queries that do not access any data, such as `SELECT 1+1` or `SELECT sqlite_version()`.

Small changes

• We now show the size of the database file next to the download link (#172)
• New `//-databases` introspection page shows currently connected databases (#470)
• Binary data is no longer displayed on the table and row pages (#442 - thanks, Russ Garrett)
• New show/hide SQL links on custom query pages (#415)
• The `extra_body_script` plugin hook now accepts an optional `view_name` argument (#443 - thanks, Russ Garrett)
• Bumped Jinja2 dependency to 2.10.1 (#426)
• All table filters are now documented, and documentation is enforced via unit tests (2c19a27)
• New project guideline: master should stay shippable at all times! (31f36e1)
• Fixed a bug where `sqlite_timelimit()` occasionally failed to clean up after itself (bac4e01)
• We no longer load additional plugins when executing `pytest` (#438)
• Homepage now links to database views if there are less than five tables in a database (#373)
• The `--cors` option is now respected by error pages (#453)
• `datasette publish heroku` now uses the `--include-vcs-ignore` option, which means it works under Travis CI (#407)
• `datasette publish heroku` now publishes using Python 3.6.8 (666c374)
• Renamed `datasette publish now` to `datasette publish nowv1` (#472)
• `datasette publish nowv1` now accepts multiple `--alias` parameters (09ef305)
• Removed the `datasette skeleton` command (#476)
• The documentation on how to build the documentation now recommends `sphinx-autobuild`
1.20.23 0.27.1 (2019-05-09)

- Tiny bugfix release: don’t install `tests/` in the wrong place. Thanks, Veit Heller.

1.20.24 0.27 (2019-01-31)

- New command: `datasette plugins` (*documentation*) shows you the currently installed list of plugins.
- Datasette can now output newline-delimited JSON using the new `?_shape=array&_nl=on` querystring option.
- Added documentation on *The Datasette Ecosystem*.
- Now using Python 3.7.2 as the base for the official Datasette Docker image.

1.20.25 0.26.1 (2019-01-10)

- `/-/versions` now includes SQLite `compile_options` (#396)
- `datasetteproject/datasette` Docker image now uses SQLite 3.26.0 (#397)
- Cleaned up some deprecation warnings under Python 3.7

1.20.26 0.26 (2019-01-02)

- `datasette serve --reload` now restarts Datasette if a database file changes on disk.
- `datasette publish` now takes an optional `--alias mysite.now.sh` argument. This will attempt to set an alias after the deploy completes.
- Fixed a bug where the advanced CSV export form failed to include the currently selected filters (#393)

1.20.27 0.25.2 (2018-12-16)

- `datasette publish heroku` now uses the `python-3.6.7` runtime
- Added documentation on how to build the documentation
- Added documentation covering our release process
- Upgraded to pytest 4.0.2

1.20.28 0.25.1 (2018-11-04)

Documentation improvements plus a fix for publishing to Zeit Now.

- `datasette publish` now uses Zeit’s v1 platform, to work around the new 100MB image limit. Thanks, @slygent - closes #366.
**1.20.29  0.25 (2018-09-19)**

New plugin hooks, improved database view support and an easier way to use more recent versions of SQLite.

- **New publish_subcommand plugin hook.** A plugin can now add additional datasette publish publishers in addition to the default now and heroku, both of which have been refactored into default plugins. 
  _publish_subcommand documentation_. Closes #349

- **New render_cell plugin hook.** Plugins can now customize how values are displayed in the HTML tables produced by Datasette’s browsable interface. _datasette-json-html_ and _datasette-render-images_ are two new plugins that use this hook. _render_cell documentation_. Closes #352

- **New extra_body_script plugin hook,** enabling plugins to provide additional JavaScript that should be added to the page footer. _extra_body_script documentation_.

- **extra_css_urls and extra_js_urls hooks** now take additional optional parameters, allowing them to be more selective about which pages they apply to. _Documentation_.

- You can now use the `sortable_columns` metadata setting to explicitly enable sort-by-column in the interface for database views, as well as for specific tables.

- The new `fts_table` and `fts_pk` metadata settings can now be used to _explicitly configure full-text search for a table or a view_, even if that table is not directly coupled to the SQLite FTS feature in the database schema itself.

- Datasette will now use `psycopg2` in place of the standard library `sqlite3` module if it has been installed in the current environment. This makes it much easier to run Datasette against a more recent version of SQLite, including the just-released SQLite 3.25.0 which adds window function support. More details on how to use this in #360

- **New mechanism that allows plugin configuration options to be set using `metadata.json`.**

**1.20.30  0.24 (2018-07-23)**

A number of small new features:

- `datasette publish heroku` now supports `--extra-options`, fixes #334

- Custom error message if SpatiaLite is needed for specified database, closes #331

- **New config option:** `truncate_cells_html` for _truncating long cell values_ in HTML view - closes #330

- Documentation for _datasette publish_ and _datasette package_, closes #337

- Fixed compatibility with Python 3.7

- `datasette publish heroku` now supports app names via the `-n` option, which can also be used to overwrite an existing application [Russ Garrett]

- Title and description metadata can now be set for _canned SQL queries_, closes #342

- **New `force_https_on` config option,** fixes `https://` API URLs when deploying to Zeit Now - closes #333

- `_json_infinity=1` querystring argument for handling Infinity/-Infinity values in JSON, closes #332

- URLs displayed in the results of custom SQL queries are now URLified, closes #298
1.20.31 0.23.2 (2018-07-07)

Minor bugfix and documentation release.

- CSV export now respects --cors, fixes #326
- Installation instructions, including docker image - closes #328
- Fix for row pages for tables with / in, closes #325

1.20.32 0.23.1 (2018-06-21)

Minor bugfix release.

- Correctly display empty strings in HTML table, closes #314
- Allow "." in database filenames, closes #302
- 404s ending in slash redirect to remove that slash, closes #309
- Fixed incorrect display of compound primary keys with foreign key references. Closes #319
- Docs + example of canned SQL query using || concatenation. Closes #321
- Correctly display facets with value of 0 - closes #318
- Default 'expand labels' to checked in CSV advanced export

1.20.33 0.23 (2018-06-18)

This release features CSV export, improved options for foreign key expansions, new configuration settings and improved support for SpatiaLite.

See datasette/compare/0.22.1...0.23 for a full list of commits added since the last release.

CSV export

Any Datasette table, view or custom SQL query can now be exported as CSV.

Advanced export

| JSON shape: | default, array, newline-delimited, object |
| CSV options: | □ download file □ expand labels □ stream all rows |

Check out the CSV export documentation for more details, or try the feature out on https://fivethirtyeight.datasettes.com/fivethirtyeight/bechdel%2Fmovies

If your table has more than max_returned_rows (default 1,000) Datasette provides the option to stream all rows. This option takes advantage of async Python and Datasette’s efficient pagination to iterate through the entire matching result set and stream it back as a downloadable CSV file.
Foreign key expansions

When Datasette detects a foreign key reference it attempts to resolve a label for that reference (automatically or using the Specifying the label column for a table metadata option) so it can display a link to the associated row.

This expansion is now also available for JSON and CSV representations of the table, using the new _labels=on querystring option. See Expanding foreign key references for more details.

New configuration settings

Datasette’s Configuration now also supports boolean settings. A number of new configuration options have been added:

- num_sql_threads - the number of threads used to execute SQLite queries. Defaults to 3.
- allow_facet - enable or disable custom Facets using the _facet= parameter. Defaults to on.
- suggest_facets - should Datasette suggest facets? Defaults to on.
- allow_download - should users be allowed to download the entire SQLite database? Defaults to on.
- allow_sql - should users be allowed to execute custom SQL queries? Defaults to on.
- default_cache_ttl - Default HTTP caching max-age header in seconds. Defaults to 365 days - caching can be disabled entirely by settings this to 0.
- cache_size_kb - Set the amount of memory SQLite uses for its per-connection cache, in KB.
- allow_csv_stream - allow users to stream entire result sets as a single CSV file. Defaults to on.
- max_csv_mb - maximum size of a returned CSV file in MB. Defaults to 100MB, set to 0 to disable this limit.

Control HTTP caching with _ttl=

You can now customize the HTTP max-age header that is sent on a per-URL basis, using the new _ttl= querystring parameter.

You can set this to any value in seconds, or you can set it to 0 to disable HTTP caching entirely.

Consider for example this query which returns a randomly selected member of the Avengers:

```
select * from [avengers/avengers] order by random() limit 1
```

If you hit the following page repeatedly you will get the same result, due to HTTP caching:

```
/fivethirtyeight?sql=select+*+from+%5Bavengers%2Favengers%5D+order+by+random%28%29+limit+1
```

By adding _ttl=0 to the zero you can ensure the page will not be cached and get back a different super hero every time:

```
/fivethirtyeight?sql=select+*+from+%5Bavengers%2Favengers%5D+order+by+random%28%29+limit+1&_ttl=0
```

Improved support for SpatiaLite

The SpatiaLite module for SQLite adds robust geospatial features to the database.

Getting SpatiaLite working can be tricky, especially if you want to use the most recent alpha version (with support for K-nearest neighbor).

Datasette now includes extensive documentation on SpatiaLite, and thanks to Ravi Kotecha our GitHub repo includes a Dockerfile that can build the latest SpatiaLite and configure it for use with Datasette.
The `datasette publish` and `datasette package` commands now accept a new `--spatialite` argument which causes them to install and configure SpatiaLite as part of the container they deploy.

**latest.datasette.io**

Every commit to Datasette master is now automatically deployed by Travis CI to [https://latest.datasette.io/](https://latest.datasette.io/) - ensuring there is always a live demo of the latest version of the software.

The demo uses the fixtures from our unit tests, ensuring it demonstrates the same range of functionality that is covered by the tests.

You can see how the deployment mechanism works in our `.travis.yml` file.

**Miscellaneous**

- Got JSON data in one of your columns? Use the new `?_json=COLNAME` argument to tell Datasette to return that JSON value directly rather than encoding it as a string.
- If you just want an array of the first value of each row, use the new `?_shape=arrayfirst` option - example.

### 1.20.34 0.22.1 (2018-05-23)

Bugfix release, plus we now use `versioneer` for our version numbers.

- Faceting no longer breaks pagination, fixes #282
- Add `__version_info__` derived from `__version__` [Robert Gieseke]
  - This might be tuple of more than two values (major and minor version) if commits have been made after a release.
- Add version number support with `versioneer`. [Robert Gieseke]
  - Versioneer Licence: Public Domain (CC0-1.0)
  - Closes #273
- Refactor inspect logic [Russ Garrett]

### 1.20.35 0.22 (2018-05-20)

The big new feature in this release is *Facets*. Datasette can now apply faceted browse to any column in any table. It will also suggest possible facets. See the Datasette Facets announcement post for more details.

In addition to the work on facets:

- Added docs for introspection endpoints
- New `--config` option, added `--help-config`, closes #274
  - Removed the `--page_size=` argument to `datasette serve` in favour of:
    ```
    datasette serve --config default_page_size:50 mydb.db
    ```
- Added new help section:
$ datasette --help-config

Config options:

- **default_page_size**: Default page size for the table view (default=100)
- **max_returned_rows**: Maximum rows that can be returned from a table or custom query (default=1000)
- **sql_time_limit_ms**: Time limit for a SQL query in milliseconds (default=1000)
- **default_facet_size**: Number of values to return for requested facets (default=30)
- **facet_time_limit_ms**: Time limit for calculating a requested facet (default=200)
- **facet_suggest_time_limit_ms**: Time limit for calculating a suggested facet (default=50)

- Only apply responsive table styles to `.rows-and-column`

Otherwise they interfere with tables in the description, e.g. on https://fivethirtyeight.datasettes.com/fivethirtyeight/nba-elo%2Fnbaallelo

- Refactored views into new `views/` modules, refs #256
- Documentation for SQLite full-text search support, closes #253
- `/-/versions` now includes SQLite `fts_versions`, closes #252

### 1.20.36 0.21 (2018-05-05)

New JSON `_shape=`, the ability to set `table_size=`, and a mechanism for searching within specific columns.

- Default tests to using a longer timelimit

Every now and then a test will fail in Travis CI on Python 3.5 because it hit the default 20ms SQL time limit.

Test fixtures now default to a 200ms time limit, and we only use the 20ms time limit for the specific test that tests query interruption. This should make our tests on Python 3.5 in Travis much more stable.

- Support `_search_COLUMN=text` searches, closes #237
- Show version on `/-/plugins` page, closes #248
- `_size=max` option, closes #249
- Added `/-/versions` and `/-/versions.json`, closes #244

Sample output:

```json
{
  "python": {
    "version": "3.6.3",
    "full": "3.6.3 (default, Oct 4 2017, 06:09:38) \n|GCC 4.2.1 Compatible Apple LLVM 9.0.0 (clang-900.0.37)]",
  },
  "datasette": {
    "version": "0.20"
  },
  "sqlite": {
    "version": "3.23.1",
    "extensions": {
      "json1": null,
      "fts": null
    }
  }
}
```

(continues on next page)
• Renamed `_sql_time_limit_ms` to `_timelimit`, closes #242
• New `_shape=array` option + tweaks to `_shape`, closes #245
  – Default is now `_shape=arrays` (renamed from `lists`)
  – New `_shape=array` returns an array of objects as the root object
  – Changed `_shape=object` to return the object as the root
• Updated docs
• FTS tables now detected by `inspect()`, closes #240
• New `_size=XXX` querystring parameter for table view, closes #229
  Also added documentation for all of the `_special` arguments.
  Plus deleted some duplicate logic implementing `_group_count`.
• If `max_returned_rows==page_size`, increment `max_returned_rows` - fixes #230
• New `hidden: True` option for table metadata, closes #239
• Hide `idx_*` tables if spatialite detected, closes #228
• Added `class=rows-and-columns` to custom query results table
• Added CSS class `rows-and-columns` to main table
• `label_column` option in `metadata.json` - closes #234

1.20.37 0.20 (2018-04-20)

Mostly new work on the `Plugins` mechanism: plugins can now bundle static assets and custom templates, and `datasette publish` has a new `--install=name-of-plugin` option.

• Add col-X classes to HTML table on custom query page
• Fixed out-dated template in documentation
• Plugins can now bundle custom templates, #224
• Added `/-/metadata /-/plugins /-/inspect`, #225
• Documentation for `--install` option, refs #223
• Datasette publish/package `--install` option, #223
• Fix for plugins in Python 3.5, #222
• New plugin hooks: `extra_css_urls()` and `extra_js_urls()`, #214
• `/-/static-plugins/PLUGIN_NAME/` now serves static/ from plugins
• `<th>` now gets class="col-X" - plus added col-X documentation
• Use to_css_class for table cell column classes
  This ensures that columns with spaces in the name will still generate usable CSS class names. Refs #209
• Add column name classes to <td>s, make PK bold [Russ Garrett]

• Don’t duplicate simple primary keys in the link column [Russ Garrett]
  When there’s a simple (single-column) primary key, it looks weird to duplicate it in the link column.
  This change removes the second PK column and treats the link column as if it were the PK column from a
  header/sorting perspective.

• Correct escaping for HTML display of row links [Russ Garrett]

• Longer time limit for test_paginate_compound_keys
  It was failing intermittently in Travis - see #209

• Use application/octet-stream for downloadable databases

• Updated PyPI classifiers

• Updated PyPI link to pypi.org

1.20.38 0.19 (2018-04-16)

This is the first preview of the new Datasette plugins mechanism. Only two plugin hooks are available so far - for
custom SQL functions and custom template filters. There’s plenty more to come - read the documentation and get
involved in the tracking ticket if you have feedback on the direction so far.

• Fix for _sort_desc=sortable_with_nulls test, refs #216

• Fixed #216 - paginate correctly when sorting by nullable column

• Initial documentation for plugins, closes #213

• New --plugins-dir=plugins/ option (#212)
  New option causing Datasette to load and evaluate all of the Python files in the specified directory and register
  any plugins that are defined in those files.
  This new option is available for the following commands:

  datasette serve mydb.db --plugins-dir=plugins/
  datasette publish now/heroku mydb.db --plugins-dir=plugins/
  datasette package mydb.db --plugins-dir=plugins/

• Start of the plugin system, based on pluggy (#210)
  Uses https://pluggy.readthedocs.io/ originally created for the py.test project
  We’re starting with two plugin hooks:
  prepare_connection(conn)
  This is called when a new SQLite connection is created. It can be used to register custom SQL functions.
  prepare_jinja2_environment(env)
  This is called with the Jinja2 environment. It can be used to register custom template tags and filters.
  An example plugin which uses these two hooks can be found at https://github.com/simonw/
  datasette-plugin-demos or installed using pip install datasette-plugin-demos
 Refs #14
• Return HTTP 405 on InvalidUsage rather than 500. [Russ Garrett]

This also stops it filling up the logs. This happens for HEAD requests at the moment - which perhaps should be handled better, but that’s a different issue.

1.20.39 0.18 (2018-04-14)

This release introduces support for units, contributed by Russ Garrett (#203). You can now optionally specify the units for specific columns using metadata.json. Once specified, units will be displayed in the HTML view of your table. They also become available for use in filters - if a column is configured with a unit of distance, you can request all rows where that column is less than 50 meters or more than 20 feet for example.

• Link foreign keys which don’t have labels. [Russ Garrett]

This renders unlabeled FKs as simple links.

Also includes bonus fixes for two minor issues:

– In foreign key link hrefs the primary key was escaped using HTML escaping rather than URL escaping. This broke some non-integer PKs.

– Print tracebacks to console when handling 500 errors.

• Fix SQLite error when loading rows with no incoming FKs. [Russ Garrett]

This fixes ERROR: conn=<sqlite3.Connection object at 0x10bbb9f10>, sql = 'select ', params = {'id': '1'} caused by an invalid query when loading incoming FKs.

The error was ignored due to async but it still got printed to the console.

• Allow custom units to be registered with Pint. [Russ Garrett]

• Support units in filters. [Russ Garrett]

• Tidy up units support. [Russ Garrett]

– Add units to exported JSON

– Units key in metadata skeleton

– Docs

• Initial units support. [Russ Garrett]

Add support for specifying units for a column in metadata.json and rendering them on display using pint

1.20.40 0.17 (2018-04-13)

• Release 0.17 to fix issues with PyPI

1.20.41 0.16 (2018-04-13)

• Better mechanism for handling errors; 404s for missing table/database

New error mechanism closes #193

404s for missing tables/databases closes #184

• long_description in markdown for the new PyPI

• Hide Spatialite system tables. [Russ Garrett]
• Allow `explain select`/`explain query plan` in `select #201`
• Datasette inspect now finds `primary_keys #195`
• Ability to sort using form fields (for mobile portrait mode) #199

We now display sort options as a select box plus a descending checkbox, which means you can apply sort orders even in portrait mode on a mobile phone where the column headers are hidden.

1.20.42 0.15 (2018-04-09)

The biggest new feature in this release is the ability to sort by column. On the table page the column headers can now be clicked to apply sort (or descending sort), or you can specify `?_sort=column` or `?_sort_desc=column` directly in the URL.

- `table_rows` => `table_rows_count`, `filtered_table_rows` => `filtered_table_rows_count`

Renamed properties. Closes #194

- New `sortable_columns` option in `metadata.json` to control sort options.

You can now explicitly set which columns in a table can be used for sorting using the `_sort` and `_sort_desc` arguments using `metadata.json`:

```json
{
  "databases": {
    "databases": {
      "tables": {
        "example_table": {
          "sortable_columns": [
            "height",
            "weight"
          ]
        }
      }
    }
  }
}
```

Refs #189

• Column headers now link to sort/desc sort - refs #189
• `_sort` and `_sort_desc` parameters for table views
  Allows for paginated sorted results based on a specified column.
  Refs #189
• Total row count now correct even if `_next` applied
• Use `.custom_sql()` for `_group_count` implementation (refs #150)
• Make HTML title more readable in query template (#180) [Ryan Pitts]
• New `?_shape=objects/object/lists` param for JSON API (#192)
  New `_shape=` parameter replacing old `.jsono` extension
  Now instead of this:
We use the _shape parameter like this:

```
/datasette/database/table.json?_shape=objects
```

Also introduced a new _shape called object which looks like this:

```
/datasette/database/table.json?_shape=object
```

Returning an object for the rows key:

```
...
"rows": {
  "pk1": {
    ...
  },
  "pk2": {
    ...
  }
}
```

Refs #122

- Utility for writing test database fixtures to a .db file
  ```
  python tests/fixtures.py /tmp/hello.db
  ```
  This is useful for making a SQLite database of the test fixtures for interactive exploration.
- Compound primary key _next= now plays well with extra filters
  Closes #190
- Fixed bug with keyset pagination over compound primary keys
  Refs #190
- Database/Table views inherit source/license/source_url/license_url metadata
  If you set the source_url/license_url/source/license fields in your root metadata those values will now be inherited all the way down to the database and table templates.
  The title/description are NOT inherited.
  Also added unit tests for the HTML generated by the metadata.
  Refs #185
- Add metadata, if it exists, to heroku temp dir (#178) [Tony Hirst]
- Initial documentation for pagination
- Broke up test_app into test_api and test_html
- Fixed bug with .json path regular expression
  I had a table called geojson and it caused an exception because the regex was matching .json and not \.json
- Deploy to Heroku with Python 3.6.3
1.20.43 0.14 (2017-12-09)

The theme of this release is customization: Datasette now allows every aspect of its presentation to be customized either using additional CSS or by providing entirely new templates.

Datasette’s metadata.json format has also been expanded, to allow per-database and per-table metadata. A new datasette skeleton command can be used to generate a skeleton JSON file ready to be filled in with per-database and per-table details.

The metadata.json file can also be used to define canned queries, as a more powerful alternative to SQL views.

- extra_css_urls/extra_js_urls in metadata

A mechanism in the metadata.json format for adding custom CSS and JS urls.

Create a metadata.json file that looks like this:

```
{
    "extra_css_urls": [
        "https://simonwillison.net/static/css/all.bf8cd891642c.css"
    ],
    "extra_js_urls": [
        "https://code.jquery.com/jquery-3.2.1.slim.min.js"
    ]
}
```

Then start datasette like this:

```
datasette mydb.db --metadata=metadata.json
```

The CSS and JavaScript files will be linked in the <head> of every page.

You can also specify a SRI (subresource integrity hash) for these assets:

```
{
    "extra_css_urls": [
        {
            "url": "https://simonwillison.net/static/css/all.bf8cd891642c.css",
            "sri": "sha384-9qI2ekWUyjCyDIf2YK1FRoKiPj4PHt6tp/˓
                ulnuuyRBvazd0h7pWbE99zwvSznI"
        }
    ],
    "extra_js_urls": [
        {
            "url": "https://code.jquery.com/jquery-3.2.1.slim.min.js",
            "sri": "sha256-k2WSCIexGzOj3Euiig+T1R8gA0EmPjuc790EeY5L45g="
        }
    ]
}
```

Modern browsers will only execute the stylesheet or JavaScript if the SRI hash matches the content served. You can generate hashes using https://www.srihash.org/

- Auto-link column values that look like URLs (#153)
- CSS styling hooks as classes on the body (#153)

Every template now gets CSS classes in the body designed to support custom styling.

The index template (the top level page at /) gets this:
The database template (/dbname/) gets this:

The table template (/dbname/tablename) gets:

The row template (/dbname/tablename/rowid) gets:

The \texttt{db-x} and \texttt{table-x} classes use the database or table names themselves IF they are valid CSS identifiers. If they aren’t, we strip any invalid characters out and append a 6 character md5 digest of the original name, in order to ensure that multiple tables which resolve to the same stripped character version still have different CSS classes.

Some examples (extracted from the unit tests):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Original Name</th>
<th>Stitched Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&quot;simple&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;simple&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;MixedCase&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;MixedCase&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;-no-leading-hyphens&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;no-leading-hyphens-65bea6&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;_no-leading-underscores&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;no-leading-underscores-b921bc&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;no spaces&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;no-spaces-7088d7&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;-&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;336d5e&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;no $ characters&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;no--characters-59e024&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- \texttt{datasette --template-dir=mytemplates/} argument
  You can now pass an additional argument specifying a directory to look for custom templates in.
  Datasette will fall back on the default templates if a template is not found in that directory.

- Ability to over-ride templates for individual tables/databases.
  It is now possible to over-ride templates on a per-database / per-row or per-table basis.
  When you access e.g. /mydatabase/mytable Datasette will look for the following:

  - table-mydatabase-mytable.html
  - table.html

If you provided a \texttt{--template-dir} argument to \texttt{datasette serve} it will look in that directory first.

The lookup rules are as follows:

Index page (\texttt{/}):  
  index.html

Database page (/mydatabase):  
  database-mydatabase.html  
  database.html

Table page (/mydatabase/mytable):  
  table-mydatabase-mytable.html  
  table.html

(continues on next page)
If a table name has spaces or other unexpected characters in it, the template filename will follow the same rules as our custom `<body>` CSS classes - for example, a table called "Food Trucks" will attempt to load the following templates:

```
| table - mydatabase - Food-Trucks-399138.html |
| table.html |
```

It is possible to extend the default templates using Jinja template inheritance. If you want to customize EVERY row template with some additional content you can do so by creating a row.html template like this:

```html
{% extends "default:row.html" %}
{% block content %}
<h1>EXTRA HTML AT THE TOP OF THE CONTENT BLOCK</h1>
<p>This line renders the original block:</p>
{{ super() }}
{% endblock %}
```

• --static option for datasette serve (#160)

You can now tell Datasette to serve static files from a specific location at a specific mountpoint.

For example:

```
datasette serve mydb.db --static extra-css:/tmp/static/css
```

Now if you visit this URL:

```
http://localhost:8001/extra-css/blah.css
```

The following file will be served:

```
/tmp/static/css/blah.css
```

• Canned query support.

Named canned queries can now be defined in metadata.json like this:

```
{
    "databases": {
        "timezones": {
            "queries": {
                "timezone_for_point": "select tzid from timezones ...
            }
        }
    }
}
```

These will be shown in a new "Queries" section beneath "Views" on the database page.

• New datasette skeleton command for generating metadata.json (#164)

• metadata.json support for per-table/per-database metadata (#165)

Also added support for descriptions and HTML descriptions.
Here’s an example metadata.json file illustrating custom per-database and per-table metadata:

```json
{
  "title": "Overall datasette title",
  "description_html": "This is a <em>description with HTML</em>.",
  "databases": {
    "db1": {
      "title": "First database",
      "description": "This is a string description & has no HTML",
      "license_url": "http://example.com/",
      "license": "The example license",
      "queries": {
        "canned_query": "select * from table1 limit 3;"
      },
      "tables": {
        "table1": {
          "title": "Custom title for table1",
          "description": "Tables can have descriptions too",
          "source": "This has a custom source",
          "source_url": "http://example.com/
        }
      }
    }
  }
}
```

- Renamed `datasette build` command to `datasette inspect` (#130)
- Upgrade to Sanic 0.7.0 (#168)
  
  https://github.com/channelcat/sanic/releases/tag/0.7.0

- Package and publish commands now accept `--static` and `--template-dir`
  
  Example usage:

  ```bash
  datasette package --static css:extra-css/ --static js:extra-js/ 
  sf-trees.db --template-dir templates/ --tag sf-trees --branch master
  ```

  This creates a local Docker image that includes copies of the templates/, extra-css/ and extra-js/ directories. You can then run it like this:

  ```bash
  docker run -p 8001:8001 sf-trees
  ```

  For publishing to Zeit now:

  ```bash
  datasette publish now --static css:extra-css/ --static js:extra-js/ 
  sf-trees.db --template-dir templates/ --name sf-trees --branch master
  ```

- HTML comment showing which templates were considered for a page (#171)

1.20.44 0.13 (2017-11-24)

- Search now applies to current filters.
  
  Combined search into the same form as filters.

  Closes #133
• Much tidier design for table view header.
  Closes #147
• Added ?column__not=blah filter.
  Closes #148
• Row page now resolves foreign keys.
  Closes #132
• Further tweaks to select/input filter styling.
 Refs #86 - thanks for the help, @natbat!
• Show linked foreign key in table cells.
• Added UI for editing table filters.
  Refs #86
• Hide FTS-created tables on index pages.
  Closes #129
• Add publish to heroku support [Jacob Kaplan-Moss]
  datasette publish heroku mydb.db
  Pull request #104
• Initial implementation of ?_group_count=column.
  URL shortcut for counting rows grouped by one or more columns.
  ?_group_count=column1&_group_count=column2 works as well.
  SQL generated looks like this:

```
select "qSpecies", count(*) as "count"
from Street_Tree_List
group by "qSpecies"
order by "count" desc limit 100
```

Or for two columns like this:

```
select "qSpecies", "qSiteInfo", count(*) as "count"
from Street_Tree_List
group by "qSpecies", "qSiteInfo"
order by "count" desc limit 100
```

Refs #44
• Added --build=master option to datasette publish and package.
  The datasette publish and datasette package commands both now accept an optional --build
  argument. If provided, this can be used to specify a branch published to GitHub that should be built into the
  container.
  This makes it easier to test code that has not yet been officially released to PyPI, e.g.:

```
datasette publish now mydb.db --branch=master
```

• Implemented ?_search=XXX + UI if a FTS table is detected.
  Closes #131
• Added `datasette --version` support.

• Table views now show expanded foreign key references, if possible.

  If a table has foreign key columns, and those foreign key tables have `label_columns`, the TableView will now query those other tables for the corresponding values and display those values as links in the corresponding table cells.

  `label_columns` are currently detected by the `inspect()` function, which looks for any table that has just two columns - an ID column and one other - and sets the `label_column` to be that second non-ID column.

• Don’t prevent tabbing to “Run SQL” button (#117) [Robert Gieseke]

  See comment in #115

• Add keyboard shortcut to execute SQL query (#115) [Robert Gieseke]

• Allow `--load-extension` to be set via environment variable.

• Add support for `?field_isnull=1` (#107) [Ray N]

• Add spatialite, switch to debian and local build (#114) [Ariel Núñez]

• Added `--load-extension` argument to `datasette serve`.

  Allows loading of SQLite extensions. Refs #110.

1.20.45 0.12 (2017-11-16)

• Added `__version__`, now displayed as tooltip in page footer (#108).

• Added initial docs, including a changelog (#99).

• Turned on auto-escaping in Jinja.

• Added a UI for editing named parameters (#96).

  You can now construct a custom SQL statement using SQLite named parameters (e.g. `:name`) and `datasette` will display form fields for editing those parameters. Here’s an example which lets you see the most popular names for dogs of different species registered through various dog registration schemes in Australia.

• Pin to specific Jinja version. (#100).

• Default to 127.0.0.1 not 0.0.0.0. (#98).

• Added extra metadata options to publish and package commands. (#92).

  You can now run these commands like so:

  ```
  datasette now publish mydb.db \
  --title="My Title" \
  --source="Source" \
  --source_url="http://www.example.com/" \
  --license="CC0" \
  --license_url="https://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/"
  ```

  This will write those values into the `metadata.json` that is packaged with the app. If you also pass `--metadata=metadata.json` that file will be updated with the extra values before being written into the Docker image.

• Added simple production-ready Dockerfile (#94) [Andrew Cutler]

• New `?_sql_time_limit_ms=10` argument to database and table page (#95)

• SQL syntax highlighting with Codemirror (#89) [Tom Dyson]
1.20.46 0.11 (2017-11-14)

- Added `datasette publish now --force` option.
  
  This calls `now` with `--force` - useful as it means you get a fresh copy of `datasette` even if `Now` has already cached that docker layer.

- Enable `--cors` by default when running in a container.

1.20.47 0.10 (2017-11-14)

- Fixed #83 - 500 error on individual row pages.
- Stop using sqlite WITH RECURSIVE in our tests.
  
  The version of Python 3 running in Travis CI doesn’t support this.

1.20.48 0.9 (2017-11-13)

- Added `--sql_time_limit_ms` and `--extra-options`.
  
  The `serve` command now accepts `--sql_time_limit_ms` for customizing the SQL time limit.
  
  The `publish` and `package` commands now accept `--extra-options` which can be used to specify additional options to be passed to the `datasette serve` command when it executes inside the resulting Docker containers.

1.20.49 0.8 (2017-11-13)

- V0.8 - added PyPI metadata, ready to ship.
- Implemented offset/limit pagination for views (#70).
- Improved pagination. (#78)
- Limit on max rows returned, controlled by `--max_returned_rows` option. (#69)

  If someone executes 'select * from table' against a table with a million rows in it, we could run into problems: just serializing that much data as JSON is likely to lock up the server.

  Solution: we now have a hard limit on the maximum number of rows that can be returned by a query. If that limit is exceeded, the server will return a "truncated": true field in the JSON.

  This limit can be optionally controlled by the new `--max_returned_rows` option. Setting that option to 0 disables the limit entirely.