RPG Maker XP documentation

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1 What this document is about

This document holds information about how RPG Maker XP implements *Maps* and *Events*, which is relevant in project PoGER's map/feature extraction effort.

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As a result of the limited scope of PoGER and the limited time and information available to the author, the following documentation isn't complete and may not be accurate.

The information was obtained through the official RPG Maker XP built-in documentation, user content found on the internet (forum posts, videos) and the author's reverse-engineering work.

The following abbreviations may be present:

- RMXP RPG Maker XP
- PE Pokemon Essentials

Please note that the author is not a native English speaker.

2 How RMXP stores data

A crucial first step in any reverse-engineering effort in data extraction is to understand used data structures.

As RMXP games run on a *Ruby interpreter*, every element we encounter is either of a *primitive type* or an *object* (class instance).

Ruby primitive types:

- Arrays
- Hashes
- Boolean
- Symbols
- Numbers
- Strings

For the task at end, let's focus on the classes that are associated with maps and events, most of which are part of the RMXP library (other are defined in PE scripts). See RMXP_full.png

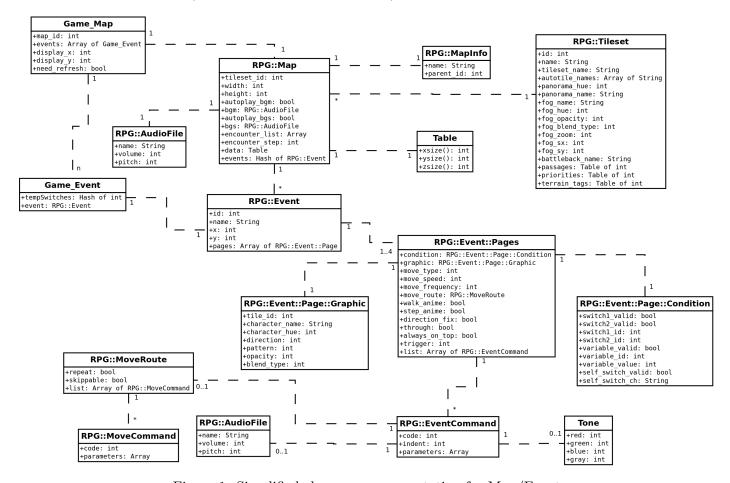


Figure 1: Simplified class map representation for Map/Event

Semantic/Syntax: Linked classes (with arity) display an associative relationship.

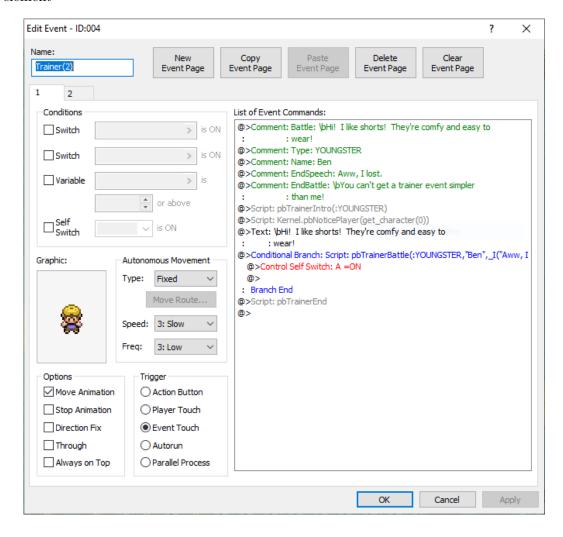
Note: There is no inheritance relationship between any two classes represented. Arities are logically deduced and may not be exact depending in proprietary implementation details. Class RPG::AudioFile was duplicated for ease of association routing.

3 Events

An event, or more precisely a *map event*, is a way to introduce elements with behavior, therefore bringing flexibility and dynamism into the game world.

Events have two aspects:

• A GUI element



• Its data class instance counterpart RPG::Event

```
{} Map031_eventTrainer(2)_2.json > [ ] pages > {} 0
"_class": "Event",
"name": "Trainer(2)",
"name": "Ti
"x": 5,
"y": 14,
"pages": [
                                                                                                                                                                                                  "code": 108,
"indent": 0,
"parameters": "Type: YOUNGSTER"
             "_class": "Page",
"condition": {
    "_class": "Page::Condition",
    "switchl": null,
    """tsta" null
                                                                                                                                                                                                  "code": 108,
"indent": 0,
"parameters": "Name: Ben"
                    "self_switch": null,
"variable": null,
                     "variable": null,
"variable value": null
                                                                                                                                                                                                  "code": 108,
                                                                                                                                                                                                  "indent": 0,
"parameters": "EndSpeech: Aww, I lost."
               "graphic": {
    "_class": "Page::Graphic",
    "tile_id": 0,
                     "character name": "trchar037",
                     "character_hue": 0,
"direction": "Down",
                                                                                                                                                                                                  "code": 108,
"indent": 0,
"parameters": "EndBattle: \\bYou can't get a trainer e
                     "pattern": 0,
"opacity": 255,
"blend_type": "Normal"
                                                                                                                                                                                                  "code": 408,
"indent": 0,
"parameters": "than me!
               "move speed": 3,
              "step_anime": false,
"direction_fix": false,
              "through": false,
"always on top": false,
"trigger": "onEventTouch",
"list": [
                                                                                                                                                                                                  "indent": 0,
"parameters": "pbTrainerIntro(:YOUNGSTER)"
                                                                                                                                                                                                  "code": 355,
"indent": 0,
"parameters": "Kernel.pbNoticePlayer(get_character(0))
                           "code": 108,
"indent": 0,
                             "parameters": "Battle: \\bHi! I like shorts! They're
                           "code": 408,
"indent": 0,
"parameters": "wear!"
                                                                                                                                                                                                  "code": 101,
"indent": 0,
"parameters": "\\bHi! I like shorts! They're comfy a
```

3.1 Basic functionalities

These are the easiest and most straightforward behavior to implement into an event:

- Giving an element a *sprite* (texture): This is useful for objects capable of movement, NPCs, etc.
- Movement: Select how the element moves with presets (speed, frequency, pattern, etc).
- Event commands: Select the trigger for behavior and what the element does when triggered (movement, dialogue, etc) within the extensive command list.

3.2 Advanced functionalities

These require an understanding of conditional execution and scripting:

- Conditional execution: branching instructions based on the value of: global variables, global switches, self switches, script return, etc.
- Pages: Allow to give an element different behavior depending on conditions.
- Move routes: Define a sequence of movement commands to be executed.
- Script calls: Call a script to be executed for more complex behavior, launching mini-games, retrieving data, etc.

4 Commands

Commands are a mechanism, through which most of an RPG::Event's behavior is defined.

Although they are very similar in structure and use, a distinction is made between RPG::EventCommand and RPG::MoveCommand.

EventCommands are the representation of elements present in the "List of Event Commands" in the GUI. They are the building block of event's behavior.

MoveCommands are the representation of an individual movement the event is capable of, typically found in sequences RPG::MoveRoute associated with a dedicated EventCommand.

They both have, at least:

- A code: An integer that uniquely identifies the particular command.
- Parameters: Depend on the particular command, can be empty, a variable, an object, or a list of objects.

Additionally, *EventCommands* have an *indent* integer value, tied to the layout visible in the "List of Event Commands" in the GUI.

4.1 Methodology

In order to successfully extract semantic from events, it was decided that documenting every command used in Pokemon Essentials and finding an appropriate (human-readable) representation was the way forward.

The objective is to formalize a **DSL** (Domain Specific Language) into which events will be translated to, which exhibit desirable properties (See Command Representation decisions section.).

4.2 Miscellaneous information

Codes used in Pokemon Essentials 17.2 (81 total):

```
0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 33, 34, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 44, 101, 102, 104, 106, 108, 111, 112, 113, 115, 118, 119, 121, 122, 123, 125, 201, 202, 208, 209, 210, 221, 222, 223, 225, 231, 232, 235, 236, 241, 242, 247, 248, 249, 250, 314, 354, 355, 401, 402, 404, 408, 411, 412, 413, 655
```

Implementation details:

- RPG::MoveCommand use range [1-45]
- RPG::EventCommand use range [101-x], $x \ge 655$
- A "frame" is defined as $\frac{1}{20}$ second \Rightarrow change into milliseconds $m = n * 1000/20 \equiv n * 50$.
- Every event has an ID (integer > 0). Actions that can affect other events can target the player using id -1 and the current event using id 0.
- Special variables: MapID, PartyMembers, Gold, Steps, PlayTime, Timer, SaveCount.

They should all be read accessible. <u>Underlined ones should also be write accessible</u>. *Italic ones are probably not used*.

4.3 List of commands

	_	
	Description	Nothing, empty command or end of the event command list
0	Parameters	None
	Notes	Will not be represented
	Description	RPG::MoveCommand - Move to the South
1	Parameters	None
	Notes	See footnote ¹
	Description	RPG::MoveCommand - Move to the West
2	Parameters	None
	Notes	See footnote ¹
	Description	RPG::MoveCommand - Move to the East
3	Parameters	None
	Notes	See footnote ¹
	Description	RPG::MoveCommand - Move to the North
4	Parameters	None
	Notes	See footnote ¹
	Description	RPG::MoveCommand - Move to the SouthWest
5	Parameters	None
	Notes	See footnote ¹
	Description	RPG::MoveCommand - Move to the SouthEast
6	Parameters	None
	Notes	See footnote ¹
	Description	RPG::MoveCommand - Move to the NorthWest
7	Parameters	None
	Notes	See footnote ¹
	Description	RPG::MoveCommand - Move to the NorthEast
8	Parameters	None
	Notes	See footnote ¹
	Description	$\mathtt{RPG::MoveCommand-Move\ at\ random\ }(N,\!E,\!S,\!W)$
9	Parameters	None
	Notes	See footnote ¹
	Representation	"Move, R"
	Description	RPG::MoveCommand - Move towards player
10	Parameters	None
	Notes	See footnotes ^{1,3}
	Description	RPG::MoveCommand - Move away from player
11	Parameters	None
	Notes	See footnotes ^{1,3}
	Description	RPG::MoveCommand - Take 1 step forward
12	Parameters	None
	Notes	See footnote ¹

	Description	RPG::MoveCommand - Take 1 step backward
13	Parameters	None
10		See footnote ¹
	Notes	
1.4	Description	RPG::MoveCommand - Jump to relative coordinates on the same map
14	Parameters	[2] - O:deltaX [signed integer], 1:deltaY [signed integer]
	Notes	
15	Description	RPG::MoveCommand - Wait n seconds
15	Parameters	[1] - 0 :number of seconds to wait n [integer $\in \mathbb{N}^*$]
	Notes	Typically $n == 2$, but values up to 15 were found in PE.
	Description	RPG::MoveCommand - Turn towards South
16	Parameters	None
	Notes	See footnote ²
	Description	RPG::MoveCommand - Turn towards West
17	Parameters	None
	Notes	See footnote ²
	Description	RPG::MoveCommand - Turn towards East
18	Parameters	None
	Notes	See footnote ²
	Description	RPG::MoveCommand - Turn towards North
19	Parameters	None
	Notes	See footnote ²
	Description	RPG::MoveCommand - Turn 90° right, relative to current position
20	Parameters	None
	Notes	See footnote ²
	Description	RPG::MoveCommand - Turn 90° left, relative to current position
21	Parameters	None
	Notes	See footnote ²
	Description	RPG::MoveCommand - Turn 180°
22	Parameters	None
	Notes	See footnote ²
	Description	RPG::MoveCommand - Turn 90° to the left or right, at random
23	Parameters	None
	Notes	See footnote ²
	Description	RPG::MoveCommand - Turn at random (90° or 180°)
24	Parameters	None
	Notes	See footnote ²
	Description	RPG::MoveCommand - Turn towards player
25	Parameters	None
	Notes	See footnotes ^{2,3}
	Description	RPG::MoveCommand - Turn away from player
26	Parameters	None
	Notes	See footnotes ^{2,3}

	Description	RPG::MoveCommand - Turn ON walking animation
33	Parameters	None
	Notes	
	Description	RPG::MoveCommand - Turn OFF walking animation
34	Parameters	None
	Notes	
	Description	RPG::MoveCommand - Turn ON "through"
37	Parameters	None
	Notes	Equivalent to activating "walk through walls", making it possible to walk through impassable tiles/characters.
	Description	RPG::MoveCommand - Turn OFF "through"
38	Parameters	None
	Notes	Equivalent to deactivating "walk through walls".
	Description	RPG::MoveCommand - Always on top ON
39	Parameters	None
	Notes	Elevate the display priority, therefore bringing the event graphic to the forefront (above any tile/character)
	Description	RPG::MoveCommand - Always on top OFF
40	Parameters	None
	Notes	
	Description	RPG::MoveCommand - Change event's graphic
41	Parameters	[2] - O:texture file (no ext) [String], 1:hue - unused, 2:direction d [integer], 3:step [integer 0-3]
	Notes	step is the horizontal offset (column), direction is the vertical offset
	Description	RPG::MoveCommand - Change event's graphic opacity
42	Parameters	[1] - 0 :new opacity value n [integer 0-255]
	Notes	
	Description	RPG::MoveCommand - Play a sound effect
44	Parameters	TODO
	Notes	
	Description	RPG::EventCommand - Show text
101	Parameters	[1] - 0:text s [String]
	Notes	s must be properly double-quoted and formatted (inner double-quotes and back-slashes must be escaped).
	Description	RPG::EventCommand - Show text (continued)
401	Parameters	[1] - 0:text s [String]
	Notes	Continuation of 101.
	Description	RPG::EventCommand - Show choices
102	Parameters	[2] - 0 :array of size n [Array of Strings], 1 :cancel behaviour [integer 0-4]
	Notes	Displays up to 4 selectable options in a message window. Cancel behaviour : 0 disallow canceling, $1-4 \le n$ selects choice by default.
	Description	RPG::EventCommand - Change text options
104	Parameters	[2] - 0 :position p [integer 0-2], 1:window border b [integer 0-1]
	Notes	Sets message window position and border. p follows "common relation 1", b follows "common relation 2"
	Description	RPG::EventCommand - Wait
106	Parameters	[1] - 0 :number of frames to wait n [integer $\in \mathbb{N}^*$]
	Notes	Conversion to milliseconds chosen for its more precise and general use : $m = n * 1000/20 \equiv n * 50$, TODO:research its use

	Description	RPG::EventCommand - Comment
108	Parameters	[1] - 0:comment text s [String]
100	Notes	
		Has no effect. TODO:research link to particle effects.
408	Description	RPG::EventCommand - Comment (continued)
400	Parameters	[1] - 0:comment text s [String]
	Notes	Happens after a 108.
111	Description	RPG::EventCommand - Conditional branch
111	Parameters	See "Conditional branch" section.
	Notes	Complex but essential command.
110	Description	RPG::EventCommand - Loop
112	Parameters	None
	Notes	Loops over commands until broken. TODO:research usage
440	Description	RPG::EventCommand - Break loop
113	Parameters	None
	Notes	Escape innermost loop. TODO:research usage
	Description	RPG::EventCommand - Exit Event Processing
115	Parameters	None
	Notes	TODO:research usage
	Description	RPG::EventCommand - Label
118	Parameters	[1] - 0 :label name s [String]
	Notes	Sets a label to allow jumping to.
	Description	RPG::EventCommand - Jump to Label
119	Parameters	[1] - 0 :label name s [String]
	Notes	Jumps to a label.
	Description	RPG::EventCommand - Control switches
121	Parameters	[3] - 0 :starting switch ssa [integer], 0 :starting switch ssz [integer], 0 :new state n [integer]
	Notes	Batch control is unused in PE, therefore deprecated. n follows "common relation 3".
	Description	RPG::EventCommand - Control variables
122	Parameters	See "Control variables" section.
	Notes	Batch control is unused in PE, therefore deprecated.
	Description	RPG::EventCommand - Control Self Switch
123	Parameters	[2] - $0:SS$ character s [String of length 1], $1:new$ state n [integer 0-1]
	Notes	n follows "common relation 3".
	Description	RPG::EventCommand - Change Gold
125	Parameters	[3] - 0 :operation o [integer 0-1], 1 :operand n [integer 0-1], 2 :value v [integer]
	Notes	Values of n : $0:v$ is a constant, $1:v$ is a variable(id). o follows "common relation 4"
	Description	RPG::EventCommand - Transfer Player
	Parameters	[6] - 1:map m [integer], 2:coordinate x [integer], 3:coordinate y [integer],
201		4:player direction d [integer], 5:fading f [integer].
	Notes	$\{0\}$ must be 0, 1 unused in PE. d follows "common relation 5". f follows "common relation 3".

	Description	RPG::EventCommand - Set Event Location
202	Parameters	[5] - 0 :event id e [integer], 2 :coordinate x [integer],
202	Notes	3:coordinate y [integer], 4:direction d [integer] Change an event's location on the current map. {1} must be 0, other values unused in PE. d follows "common relation 5".
	Description	RPG::EventCommand - Change Transparency Flag
208	Parameters	[2] - 0 :flag d [integer 0-1]
	Notes	When transparency is set, the graphic isn't displayed. d follows "common relation 3".
	Description	RPG::EventCommand - Set Move Route
209	Parameters	[2] - O:target id d [integer], 1:RPG::MoveRoute
	Notes	
	Description	RPG::EventCommand - Wait for Move's Completion
210	Parameters Notes	None To be put after a Set Move Route. Without it, further commands can be executed before the end of the walking animation.
	Description	RPG::EventCommand - Prepare for transition
221	Parameters	None
	Notes	Freezes the screen, so there's nothing moving during the transition. To be fused with Execute Transition.
	Description	RPG::EventCommand - Execute Transition
222	Parameters	[1] - 0:transition file name s [String]
	Notes	Plays the animation. TODO:research how transition work.
	Description	RPG::EventCommand - Change Screen Color Tone
223	Parameters	[2] - 0 :RPG::Tone, 1 :duration(frames) d [integer]
	Notes	Typically used in fade out (to black/white)/fade in cycles. d to be changed into ms.
	Description	RPG::EventCommand - Screen Shake
225	Parameters Notes	[3] - 0:shake power [integer], 1:shake speed [integer], 2:duration(frames) d [integer] Scarcely used in PE, {0} and {1} are not well defined so they can be deprecated. d to be changed into ms.
	Description	RPG::EventCommand - Show Picture
231	Parameters	See "Show Picture" section.
	Notes	
	Description	RPG::EventCommand - Move Picture
232	Parameters	See "Move Picture" section.
	Notes	
	Description	RPG::EventCommand - Erase Picture
235	Parameters	[1] - 0:picture id [integer]
	Notes	
	Description	RPG::EventCommand - Set Weather effect
236	Parameters	[3] - 0:weather id [integer], 1:power [integer], 2:transition duration (frames) [integer]
	Notes	power and transition duration to be removed. TODO:research how weather is generated.
		weather id follows "common relation 13".
	Description	RPG::EventCommand - Play BGM
241	Parameters	[1] - 0 :audio a [AudioFile]
	Notes	
242	Description	RPG::EventCommand - Fade Out BGM
	Parameters	[1] - 0 :duration (seconds) n [integer]

	Description	RPG::EventCommand - Memorize BGM/BGS
247	Parameters	None
	Notes	
	Description	RPG::EventCommand - Restore BGM/BGS
248	Parameters	None
	Notes	
	Description	RPG::EventCommand - Play ME
249	Parameters	[1] - 0 :audio a [AudioFile]
	Notes	
	Description	RPG::EventCommand - Play SE
250	Parameters	[1] - 0 :audio a [AudioFile]
	Notes	
	Description	RPG::EventCommand - Restore All
314	Parameters	[1] - O:actor id [integer]
	Notes	Equivalent to healing and restoring PPs. Ignore parameter.
	Description	RPG::EventCommand - Return to Title Screen
354	Parameters	None
	Notes	
	Description	RPG::EventCommand - Script
355	Parameters	[1] - O:script string [String]
	Notes	To be overhauled.
	Description	RPG::EventCommand - Script (continued)
655	Parameters	[1] - O:script string [String]
	Notes	To be overhauled.
	Description	RPG::EventCommand - When
402	Parameters	[1] - 0:choice id [integer], 1:choice string equivalent [integer]
	Notes	Used with choices and conditional branches, has code block per choice.
40.4	Description	RPG::EventCommand - End of When
404	Parameters	None
	Notes	
411	Description	RPG::EventCommand - Else
411	Parameters	None
	Notes	Used with conditional branch 111.
	Description	RPG::EventCommand - Branch End
412	Parameters	None End of a code block (as result of branching). TODO:investigate whether it is present
	Notes	in every code block and if it should be represented (is indentation sufficient?).
	Description	RPG::EventCommand - Repeat above
411	Parameters	None
	Notes	Marks end of Loop 112 code block.

 $^{^1\}mathrm{Movements}$ consolidated with new Move command with argument. $^2\mathrm{Turs}$ consolidated with new Turn command with argument.

 $^{^3\}mathrm{Unknown}$ algorithm to determine direction "towards player" and "away from player.

⁴Is part of a command sequence that should be merged in a sensible way.

4.3.1 Common relations

In parenthesis are the proposed representation or information:

- 1. 0:Top, 1:Middle, 2:Bottom
- 2. 0:Show, 1:Hide
- 3. 0:ON, 1:OFF
- 4. 0:Increase, 1:Decrease (+=,-=)
- 5. 0:Keep same, 2:Down, 4:Left, 6:Right, 8:Up (K,S,W,E,N)
- 6. 0:'==', 1:'>=', 2:'<='', 3:'>', 4:'<', 5:'!='
- 7. 0:constant, 1:variable
- 8. 0:'>=', 1:'<='
- 9. 0:'=', 1:'+=', 2:'-=', 3:'*=', 4:'/=', 5:'%=' (affectation, increment, decrement, multiplication, division, modulo)
- 10. 0:coordinate X, 1:coordinate Y, 2:direction (3-5 unused)
- 11. 0:NW, 1:Centered (picture coordinate origin)
- 12. 0:Normal, 1:Additive, 2:Substractive (blending type)
- 13. 0:None, 1:Rain, 2:Storm, 3:Snow

TODO:determine if division is always rounded to an integer (and how) or not.

4.4 Complex commands

Some commands have complex behaviour that doesn't fit in the table above, therefore detailed explanation were put here instead.

4.4.1 Conditional branch - 111

This command is RMXP's equivalent of an 'if' instruction, and therefore hinges on expressing a condition. Given the expansive list of conditions that can be expressed, its syntax is quite complex.

The first parameter is crucial: it defines the type of condition. integer 0-12:

0 Check Switch state.

Parameters	[3] - 1:switch id n [integer], 2:switch state d [integer 0-1]
Notes	d follows "common relation 3".
Representation	"If, $n.$ toString(), $d.$ toString()"

1 Check Variable value.

Parameters	[5] - 1:variable id n [integer], 2:what it is compared to m [integer]
	3 :constant or variable id x [integer], 4 :comparator c [integer]
Notes	c follows "common relation 6", m follows "common relation 7".
Representation	m=='constant': "If, $n.$ toString(), $c.$ toString(), x "
	m=='variable': "If, $n.toString()$, $c.toString()$, $x.toString()$ "

2 Check Self-Switch state.

Parameters	[3] - 1:self switch character n [String of size 1], 2:switch state d [integer 0-1]
Notes	d follows "common relation 3".
Representation	"If, n , d .toString()"

6 Check *Event* direction.

Parameters	[3] - 1:event id n [integer], 2:direction d [integer 0-1]
Notes	d follows "common relation 5".
Representation	"If, $n.$ toString(), Facing, $d.$ toString()

7 Check Player's money.

Parameters	[3] - 1:amount n [integer], 2:comparator d [integer 0-1]
Notes	d follows "common relation 8".
Representation	"If, Money, $d.$ toString(), n

12 Check Script's return.

Parameters	[2] - 1:Script s [String]
Notes	Script must return a boolean (prehaps returning nothing is OK?)
Representation	"If, Script, s

Values 3,4,5,8,9,10,11 were not found in PE, therefore not researched.

4.4.2 Control variables - 122

Parameters $\mathbf{0}$ and $\mathbf{1}$ [integer] are indexes for the range of variables that will be affected. Variable is s As batch control of variables is unused in PE, it is deprecated in the representation (parameter $\mathbf{1}$ is ignored).

Parameter **2** o [integer 0-5] sets the **operation** to be performed on the variable, and follows "common relation 9".

Parameter 3 defines the operand type [integer 0-7]:

0 Constant.

Parameters	[5] - 4:constant n [integer]
Notes	
Representation	"Control, $s.$ toString(), $o.$ toString(), n

2 Random integer.

Parameters	[6] - 4:constant a [integer], 5:constant z [integer]
Notes	Will choose a number $x \in [a, z]$. TODO:check if a and z are included.
Representation	"Control, $s.$ toString(), $o.$ toString(), $[a,z]$

6 Event's attribute.

Parameters	[6] - 4:event id n [integer], 5:attribute id d [integer 0-2]
Notes	d follows "common relation 10".
Representation	"Control, s.toString(), o.toString(), Event, n.toString(), d.toString()

7 Only used once, to put the "Money"/"Gold" special variable in a temporary variable to be used in a condition, therefore isn't really needed.

Values 1,3,4,5 were not found in PE, therefore not researched.

4.4.3 Show Picture - 231

This command is only used in the intro.

Description	Display a picture.		
Parameters	[10] - 0 :picture priority number p [integer], 1 :picture name s [String], 2 :coordinate		
	origin c [integer 0-1], 3:unused, 4:relative position x [integer], 5:relative		
	position y [integer], 6:horizontal zoom zx [integer], 7:vertical zoom yx [integer]		
	8:opacity o [integer 0-255], 9:blending type b [integer 0-2]		
Notes	c follows "common relation 11", b follows "common relation 12".		
Representation	"Show Picture, s, priority=p, coordinates= $(c.\text{toString}(), x, y)$, zoom= (zx, zy) , opacity=o,		
	blending = b.toString()"		

Picture priority number p is used when multiple pictures are on display, because overlapping textures need to have an unambiguous drawing order.

Here, let there be pictures p_1, p_2 with priorities 2,4 respectively. Therefore, p_1 is drawn first, then p_2 . The result is that, if they are overlapping, p_2 will be drawn **over** p_1 , removing parts of p_1 from being displayed.

Typically, x = y = 0

4.4.4 Move Picture - 232

Parameters are mostly identical to "Show Picture". This is mostly used to animate intro's pictures (movement and opacity).

Description	Move a picture.	
Parameters	[10] - 0 :picture priority number p [integer], 1 :duration in frames f [integer], 2 :coordinate	
	origin c [integer 0-1], 3:unused, 4:relative position x [integer], 5:relative	
	position y [integer], 6:horizontal zoom zx [integer], 7:vertical zoom yx [integer]	
	8:opacity o [integer 0-255], 9:blending type b [integer 0-2]	
Notes	c follows "common relation 11", b follows "common relation 12".	
Representation	"Move Picture, priority= p , coordinates= $(c.\text{toString}(), x, y)$, zoom= (zx, zy) , opacity= o ,	
	blending = b.toString()"	

5 Command Representation

The representation chosen is a result of careful consideration of its future usage requirements (including but not limited to):

- Readability: It is destined to be read and written by humans, therefore it should be as straightforward and non-cryptic as possible.
- Brevity: In the interest of anyone (human or software) reading/writing it, the *less is more* approach is to be applied: instructions should not be longer than what is necessary.
- Unambiguity: As any formal language, its use and syntax should be unambiguous.
- Simplicity: Limiting the amount of available instructions by combining related ones is good practice.
- Expandability: There should be room left for additional behavior to be implemented.

At the time of writing these lines, representations in this document are still not final, it's a work-in-progress.

Particular decisions

- Python syntax style: Reduces explicit syntax (like semicolons and curly braces), therefore reducing syntax errors. Takes advantage of "implicit" syntax by making indentation itself meaningful.
- Case insensitive: Simplification allowing any program to simply make everything lowercase when reading an *Event*, and users to Use any casing style they prefer. This also makes it harder to have variable/switch name collisions by forcing users to explicitly name their variables.
- Switches, self-switches and variables: Should be all represented as **symbols**.

Proposed representation: ":s" [String] (string beginning with colon)

Let s be the string representation (name) of the Switch/Self-switch/Variable. s of length 1 is to be reserved to self-switches.

Note that merging variables and switches may allow greater flexibility for users.

Ideas

• Timers could be implemented as integers: Let :PlayTime be a read-olny integer variable that counts the seconds of play time (an epoch of sorts).

Then, setting a timer for x seconds could be as simple as storing (:PlayTime + x) in a variable and testing it later against the current value of :PlayTime!

- Commands have parameters (see examples):
 - No parameter: command line must contain the command keyword only.
 - 1 parameter: command line must contain the command keyword, plus the expected parameter parameter_name = parameter_value (parameter name recommended but not mandatory; parameter may be facultative)
 - n>1 parameters: command line must contain the command keyword, and the expected parameters parameter_name = parameter_value as a comma-separated list (no brackets; parameter name mandatory; parameter may be facultative).
 - Note on facultative parameters : marked with a *.
 - Strictly equivalent: ':ON'≡'True', ':OFF'≡'False', 'is'≡'==' (when placed where a comparator would be).

5.1 Commands

I	Description	Step - Move the event (perform 1 step).
I	Parameters	[1] - 0: direction - [String]
1	Notes	$\texttt{direction} \in \{\text{S,W,E,N,SW,NW,NE,SE,R,1F,1B,1A,1T}\}, \text{ see "Directions" below.}$
I	Examples	"Step NW", "Step 1T"
I	Description	Turn - Turn the event (change direction).
I	Parameters	[1] - 0: direction - [String]
I	Notes	direction, see "Directions" below.
I	Examples	"Turn N", "Turn W"
I	Description	Move Event - Move Event to absolute/relative coordinates on the same map.
I	Parameters	[3] - O:event* - [String/int] (name/id of the event to move)
		1:relative_coordinates/absolute_coordinates - [list of 2 int]
		2:direction* - [int]
I	Notes	event is optional, defaults to self. direction is optional, defaults to "K".
I	Examples	"Move Event relative_coordinates=[7,-5]",
		"Move Event event=Jack, absolute_coordinates=[4,12]"
I	Description	Wait - Pause event behavior execution for a given amount of time.
I	Parameters	[1] - 0: ms/s - [int] (time in milliseconds/seconds)
1	Notes	If parameter name is unspecified, defaults to \mathfrak{s} .
I	Examples	"Wait ms=3000", "Wait s=3"
I	Description	Set - Set event properties value
I	Parameters	[2] - 0: property - [String], 1: value - [int/String/:ON/OFF]
1	Notes	property must be a configuration variable, see "Configuration variables" below.
		value must be a valid value for that property.
I	Examples	"Set property=move_animation value=:ON"
		"Set property=Animation value=:OFF"
		"Set property=graphic value="trchar28,S,0""
I	Description	Play - Play audio.
I	Parameters	[3] - 0: SE/BGM/ME - [String], 1: volume* - [int], 2: pitch* - [int]
1	Notes	volume and pitch default to 100, their values are relative to 100 (percentage).
I	Example	"Play BGM="022-Field05", volume=100, pitch=100"
I	Description	Show Text
I	Parameters	[1] - 0: text - [String]
I	Example	"Show Text "Hello, World !""
I	Description	Choose - Give player a list of items to choose from.
I	Parameters	[2] - 0 : choices - [list of String], 1 : default* - [int] n (behavior on cancel)
1	Notes	If default not set, the player must choose (no cancel). Otherwise, select n^{th} item on the list.
I	Examples	"Choose choices=["Yes","No"]", "Choose choices=["One","Two","Three"], default=1"
I	Description	Change Text Options
I	Parameters	[9] O. nocition - [Ton/Middle/Dettem] 1. handon - [Char/Hidel (window handow))
	i arameters	[2] - 0: position* - [Top/Middle/Bottom], 1: border* - [Show/Hide] (window border))

Description	End Execution - Ends behavior execution.		
Parameters	[0]		
Example	"End Execution"		
Description	Label - Marks a line as a target for a Goto.		
Parameters	[1] - 0: name - [String]		
Notes	Please find a good name for the label (not like the example).		
Example	"Label "here""		
Description	Goto - Change line to be executed next.		
Parameters	[1] - 0: label - [String]		
Example	"Goto "here""		
Description	Transfer Player - Teleport player.		
Parameters	[6] - 0: map* - [String], 1: x - [int], 2: y - [int]		
	3: direction* - [String], 4: fading* - [:ON/:OFF]		
Notes	map defaults to the one the player is in. $direction \in \{S,W,E,N,K\}$, defaults to "K".		
	fading defaults to (TODO).		
Example	"Transfer Player map="Kurt's house", x=2, y=4"		
Description	Set Move Route - Set a sequence of commands, to be executed by a set event		
Parameters	[1] - 0: event* - [String]		
Notes event defaults to self. Must be followed by a <i>code block</i> .			
	Used to move other events or to semantically indicate a "move sequence/route".		
Example	See "Move Route" section below.		
Description	Screen Shake		
Parameters	[1] - 0: duration - [int]		
Notes	duration is expressed in milliseconds.		
Example	"Screen Shake 600"		
Description	Transition - Execute transition visual effect.		
Parameters	[2] - 0: name - [String], 1: freeze - [True/False]		
Notes	If freeze is enabled, stops every animation.		
Example	"Transition name="battle1", freeze=True"		
Description	Show Picture		
Parameters	TODO		
Notes	TODO.		
Example	TODO		
Description	Move Picture		
Parameters	TODO		
Notes	TODO.		
Example	TODO		
Description	Erase Picture		
Parameters	TODO		
Notes	TODO.		
Example	TODO		

Description	Set weather - Set overworld's weather.			
Parameters	[2] - 0: name - [String], 1: duration* - [int]			
Notes	duration defaults to infinite duration. The effect scope of Set weather is to be determined (for			
	current map, radius on the current map, across maps). Provisionally, it's limited to current map			
Example	"Set weather name="Rainy", duration=12000"			
Description	Fade out BGM			
Parameters	[1] - 0: duration - [int]			
Notes	duration in milliseconds.			
Example	"Fade out BGM 3000"			
Description	Memorize BGx			
Parameters	[0]			
Example	"Memorize BGx"			
Description	Restore BGx			
Parameters	[0]			
Example	"Restore BGx"			
Description	Restore All			
Parameters	[0]			
Notes	Restore all stats for player's party.			
Example	"Restore All"			
Description	Return to title screen			
Parameters	[0]			
Notes	Quits current game and returns to title screen (without saving).			
Example	Return to title screen			
Description	Save			
Parameters	[1] - 0: allow_cancel - [True/False]			
Notes	Prompts a "save your progress" dialog to the player.			
Example	Save allow_cancel=True			

Directions:

- S,W,E,N: South, West, East, North (vertical/horizontal movement)
- Step directions:
 - SW,NW,NE,SE: South-West, North-East, South-East (diagonal movement, not recommended)
 - -R: random movement (S,W,E,N)
 - 1F,1B: one step Forwards/Backwards (according to current orientation/direction)
 - 1A,1T: one step Away from/Towards the player
- Turn directions:
 - "90 Right", "90 Left": Turn 90 degrees right/left.
 - "random", "90 random": Turn at random, turn "90 Right" or "90 Left" at random.
 - "towards player", "away from player": Turn based on player's position.
- Transfer directions:
 - K : Keep the same (for teleportation)

Execution flow control:

- if code_block [else code_block]?: For implementing conditional execution of code blocks.
- loop code_block : code_block must contain a break statement for the loop to not be infinite. Infinite loop detection should be implemented.
- choice ... [when (value) code_block] + : For implementing behavior on player's choice.

Total:

- 25 (+ 1 new) commands + 3 forms of flow control!
- vs. 81 commands!
- 3 pages de doc vs. 9 pages de doc

5.2 Formal grammar

```
EVENT
    : LF* '[event]' LF+ (CONFIG LF)+ LF+ PAGE+ <EOF>
PAGE
    : '[page]' LF+ (CONFIG_OR_COND LF)* LF+ STATEMENTS '[end]' LF+
CONFIG_OR_COND
    : CONFIG_VAR '=' PARAMETER_VALUE
    | LOG_EXPR
STATEMENTS
                     // block of lines that define an event's behavior
    : (STATEMENT LF+)*
STATEMENT
                      // line that define an event's behavior
   : 'if' LOG_EXPR LF CODE_BLOCK ('else' LF CODE_BLOCK)?
    | 'loop' LF CODE_BLOCK
    | 'when' WHITESPACE VALUE LF CODE_BLOCK
   /'break'
   | CMD
   | VAR_MANIPULATION
   | SCRIPT
CODE_BLOCK
                      // block of lines whose execution is subject to flow control
   : INDENT STATEMENTS DEDENT
CMD
   : CMD_ID PARAMETERS?
PARAMETERS
   : PARAMETER (',' WHITESPACE? PARAMETER)*
PARAMETER
   : (PARAMETER_NAME '=')? PARAMETER_VALUE
PARAMETER_VALUE
   : LIST
    | VALUE
    | BOOL
VAR_MANIPULATION
    : SYMBOL ASSIGN_OPERATOR EXPRESSION
EXPRESSION
                       // expression that returns a value
   : LOG_EXPR
    | (MATH_OP | NUMBER | SYMBOL)+ // Imperfect : allows invalid expressions
   | SCRIPT
    | PARAMETER_VALUE
LOG_EXPR
                      // expression that returns a logical value
    : COMPARABLE LOG_OPERATOR COMPARABLE
    | SCRIPT
NUM_EXPR
                      // expression that returns a numerical value
   : TERM (ADD_OP TERM)*
PARAMETER_NAME
   : WORD
```

```
LIST
    : '[' VALUE (WHITESPACE VALUE)* ']'
SCRIPT
    : s\:.*
TERM
    : FACTOR (MUL_OP FACTOR)*
FACTOR
    : NUMBER
    | '(' NUM_EXPR ')'
CMD_ID
   : WORDS
SYMBOL
   : ':' WORD
VALUE
    : NUMBER
    | STRING
    | WORD
    | TURN_VALUE
STRING
   : '"' [^"]* '"'
NUMBER
   : -?[0-9]+('.'[0-9]+)?
LF
    : '\r\n' | '\n'
WORDS
    : WORD+
WORD
    : [a-z][a-z\setminus_0-9]*
BOOL
   : ':ON' | ':OFF' | 'True' | 'False'
LOG_OPERATOR
    : '==' | '>=' | '<=' | '>' | '<' | '!='
ASSIGN_OPERATOR
    : '=' | '+=' | '-=' | '*=' | '/='
MATH_OP
    : '+' | '-' | '*' | '/'
COMMENT
                       // Rejected by the lexer
    : #.*
SPACE
                       // Rejected by the lexer
    : [ \t]+
```

- CMD_ID is expected to be one of the defined operation. An error should be thrown otherwise.
- Comments must be stripped before lexing. Multi-line comments aren't supported.

• Tokens (terminal values) INDENT and DEDENT should be generated when reading the event file in order to represent indentation, thus allowing for block of statements to be syntactically represented.

5.2.1 Configuration variables

Mostly contained in the event, but can be overridden by the pages.

CONFIG_VAR	type	Default	Description.
name	String	N/A	Identifies the event.
xy	[int, int]	N/A*	Position of the event.
graphic	String/int	None	Texture of the event.
pattern	int	0	Column index for the sub-texture from graphic to use.
opacity	int	255	0-255 Opacity for event's texture.
transparent	bool	False	Transparency flag. When enabled, graphic isn't displayed.
direction	String	S	[N,E,S,W] Initial facing direction (if has graphic).
trigger	String	"onPlayerAction"	Trigger for the behavior of the event.
$move_animation$	bool	True	Whether the graphic should be animated when moving/walking.
stop_animation	bool	False	Whether the graphic should be animated when not moving/walking.
direction_fix	bool	False	The direction (of the texture) of the event cannot be changed
			when True.
through	bool	False	"Walk through walls" switch: when True, collision is ignored and
			the event can go anywhere (walk on water, walls, holes, etc).
always_on_top	bool	False	Event's graphic should be drawn last, as to always be "on top"
			of everything else. Scarcely used.
movement	String	"Fixed"	"Fixed", "Random" or "Approach".
movement_speed	String	"Slow"	"Slow" or "Fast". Vaguely defined. Player's movement is "Fast".
preset String None Proposed "preset" for simple, con		Proposed "preset" for simple, common events (boulder, door, etc).	

^{*:} Mandatory configuration, therefore no default.

Notes:

- graphic can be either a string (name of a character file) or a int (tile id from the current tileset). Defaults to None: the event has no texture.
- move_animation: False, stop_animation: True is mostly used for berry trees.
- As anything in an event file, it should be read in a case-insensitive way.
- trigger can have values:
 - on Player Action: The event is triggered by the player interacting (using action button) with it.
 - onPlayerTouch: The event is triggered by the player touching (walking into) it.
 - on Touch: The event is triggered by the player touching (walking into) it OR the event touching the player.
 - onAutorun: The event is triggered when the map is loaded.
 - ready: The event is always triggered, its execution is controlled through its behavior conditions.
 - on Seen n: The event is triggered when the player is on the event's line of sight, within n tiles (n is optional, defaults to no limit)

5.3 Notes

Unfortunately, it is not possible to cover every command used in PE, just as it is not possible to extract the underlying semantic behind every event, for the simple reason that PE doesn't always implement things in a straightforward way.

Reading some events, it appears obvious that the authors of PE had to work around limitations of event commands, relying on scripts to expand capabilities. These result in artifacts.

These include, but are not limited to:

- Recurring events: Some events, like *doors*, are common and have straightforward behavior, so authors just copy-pasted them everywhere they were needed, only applying modifications when necessary (eg: appearance and transfer destination on doors).
 - These were the motivation behind the creation of the preset configuration variable on events. It would allow for all recurring commands to be abstracted away, allowing for shorter and cleaner events.
- Text hack: According to PE's wiki, there are plenty of modifiers that can be integrated to text in order to modify its behavior: changing text font, size, setting it bold, italic, changing its position or alignment, displaying a selection menu, etc..
 - This would need to be re-implemented entirely to replicate behavior.
- Arbitrary code: The ability to execute scripts in events, and the global nature of most elements in the game, allows scripts to perform basically any action.
 - Replicating this much flexibility without a Ruby interpreter and PE's original scripts would be completely impractical. The only sensible way forward would be to implement the basic function calls and elevate the abstraction level for complex behavior, or fixing it by hand. Decision are to be made on a case-by-case basis.
- Arbitrary variable use: This is not exactly an artifact or RMXP's limitations, but one of PE's authors. They sometimes use variables, whose name imply a certain usage scope, for unrelated purposes.
 - This could have been simply avoided by creating new variables. It is not technically an issue: the game already runs with these artifacts, therefore it doesn't need fixing.
 - There is no other solution than fixing it by hand (by creating new variables and changing usage).

6 Maps

Here we will focus on RPG:: Map. Here are its components:

tileset_id	int	Value of a RPG::Tileset unique identifier component id. The RPG::Tileset object can be retrieved through the global hash \$data_tilesets using the id as the key.		
width, height	int,int	Attribute equivalent to data.xsize() and data.ysize().		
autoplay_bgX	bool	Indicated whether an audio is to be played as soon as the map is loaded.		
bgm/bgs	AudioFile	The audio that is to be played when loading the map. bgs unused by PE		
encounter_list	Array	Unused by PE.		
encounter_step	int	Unused by PE.		
data	Table of int	Contain the map representation of the 3 tile layers.		
events	Hash	Contain the <i>Event</i> representation (RPG::Event) for this map.		

6.1 Associated classes

- The role of the associated <code>Game_Map</code> instance is to be studied further, but current understanding indicated that it is an alias derived from its <code>RPG::Map</code> instance that is tailored for PE's needs.
- About the associated RPG::MapInfo instance: It contains a few useful informations:

name	String	The name of the map.
parent_id	int	In the map tree, the id of the parent map.

This information can retrieved directly from the compiled MapInfos file:

```
mapinfos = pbLoadRxData("Data/MapInfos")
map_name = mapinfos[id].name
parent_map_id = mapinfos[id].parent_id
parent_map_name = mapinfos[parent_map_id].name rescue nil
```

RMXP allows maps to be structured in a hierarchy, where a map can have a "parent map", but this is only used in the UI to emulate a file system-like tree. This is purely cosmetic. Only the name value will be used.

• RPG::Tileset: Represents a normal tileset:

id	int	The id of the tileset.
name	String	Its name (no extension).
tileset_name	String	Name of tileset. Moved to Map.
autotile_names	Array of String	Names of associated autotiles (up to 7). Moved to Map.
panorama_*		Unused by PE.
fog_*		Unused by PE.
battleback_name	String	Name of the texture that appears during combat. Moved to Map.
passages	2D Table of int	Properties of individual textures.
priorities	2D Table of int	Properties of individual textures.
terrain_tags	2D Table of int	Properties of individual textures.

• RPG::AudioFile: Basic data container:

name	String	The name of the audio file (no extension).
volume	int	Acts like a volume slider, normalized at 100.
pitch	int	Allows to adjust sound pitch, normalized at 100.

A global variable (\$data_tilesets, Array) stores this information.

• Table: Used for 2D/3D arrays, with 3 class mathods to retrieve dimensions. x and y correspond to their GUI map representation and z the map layers (background, intermediate, foreground).

6.1.1 Values for tileset tables

Each table contains int values, one for each texture. This value is to be interpreted.

passages: let's consider the 6 least significant bits

• bit 0 : Cannot move S

• bit 1 : Cannot move W

• bit 2 : Cannot move E

• bit 3 : Cannot move N

• bit 4: Is a bush

• bit 5: Is a counter (tile through which interaction is possible)

terrain_tags: see PBTerrain module for values.

priorities: default value is 0. Any higher value means that the texture has priority. In practice, it means that the texture is "above" its own layer (drawn last). Combined with passability, it's possible for it to be on the same layer as NPCs/the player and give the illusion that they can pass behind it.

Proposition: integrate priorities to passages as a 7th bit (bit 6: Can be passed behind).

6.2 Map and Tileset files

There should be a well-defined way of representing extracted map and tileset information.

Map

- Located in the "Maps" directory.
- Naming convention: <id>_<name>.txt (id must have 3 digits and use zero-padding). The name is only here as a quality-of-life addition, for developers to easily know what map they're dealing with. It must be present, though.
- Location agnostic: A map file can be at the root of the "Maps" directory, or in any subdirectory, allowing for the same flexibility as RMXP's UI.
- Content: JSON with the following entries

_class	String	Must be "Map".
name	String	Map's name.
width	int	Map's width. Should be checked against the content of table.
height	int	Map's height. Should be checked against the content of table.
battleback	String	Picture to be displayed behind battles.
tileset	String	Map's tileset (without extension).
autoplay_bgm	bool	Sets whether the bmg should be played when entering the map.
bgm	String	Map's background music.
table	3D array of int	Describes map's texture placement (3 layers).

Note: bgm formats: "<name>" or "<name>,<volume>,<pitch>"

Note: table must have dimensions width x height x 3

Tileset

- Located in the "Tileset" directory.
- Naming convention: <id>_<name>.txt (id must have 3 digits and use zero-padding). The name is only here as a quality-of-life addition, for developers to easily know what map they're dealing with. It must be present, though.
- Content: JSON with the following entries

_class	String	Must be "Tileset".
name	String	Tileset's file name (without extension). Referenced by map's property tileset
passages	1D array of int	Tileset's passage table.
terrain_tags	1D array of int	Tileset's terrain tag table.

• Advantages : Decoupling a Tileset from the autotilesets used for a particular map allows

7 Manual extraction

Unfortunately, I found some elements of RPG Maker XP to not be accessible using scripting or external utilities, thus making it impossible to automatically extract.

Fortunately, they are scarce and there is a manual way to extract them from the UI.

7.1 Switch and Variable names

There are around 34 switches and a dozen variables used by PE. Commands that use them use their *id* to reference them, not their name.

While it is not strictly necessary to extract their corresponding names, it makes resulting commands way easier to read.

The most straightforward id-to-name conversion strategy is to create a Python dictionary with ids as key and name as values. This allows the conversion with a simple dictionary call.

You can find such an implementation in the PE_variables_switches.py file.

Procedure to extract names:

- 1. Create/Select an event, to display the "Event" window.
- 2. Create a new event command. In the "Event command" window, select "Conditional Branch". There are other commands that could do the trick, I just chose this one.
- 3. On the "Conditional Branch" window, select either "Switch" or "Variable" and click on the switch/variable selection box immediately to its right.
- 4. You should see a new window lists of items. Just select them one by one and copy-paste their name in the dictionary you're building (at the corresponding index of course).

8 Remarks

8.1 Contact

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