writing JSON object to .json file on server

I'm trying to write my JSON object to a .json file on the server. The way I'm doing this now is:

JavaScript:

```
function createJsonFile() {

    var jsonObject = {
        "metros" : [],
        "routes" : []
    };

    // write cities to JSON Object
    for ( var index = 0; index < graph.getVerticies().length; index++) {
        jsonObject.metros[index] = JSON.stringify(graph.getVertex(index).getData());
    }

    // write routes to JSON Object
    for ( var index = 0; index < graph.getEdges().length; index++) {
        jsonObject.routes[index] = JSON.stringify(graph.getEdge(index));
    }

    // some jQuery to write to file
    $.ajax({
        type : "POST",
        url : "json.php",
        dataType : 'json',
        data : {
            json : jsonObject
        }
    });
};
```

PHP:

```
<?php
    $json = $_POST['json'];
    $info = json_encode($json);

    $file = fopen('new_map_data.json','w+');
    fwrite($file, $info);
    fclose($file);
?>
```

It is writing fine and the information seems to be correct, but it is not rendering properly. It is coming out as:

```
{"metros":
["{\\\"code\\\":\\\"SCL\\\",\\\"name\\\":\\\"Santiago\\\",\\\"country\\\":\\\"CL\\\",\\\"con
America\\\",\\\"timezone\\\":-4,\\\"coordinates\\\":
{\\\"S\\\":33,\\\"W\\\":71},\\\"population\\\":6000000,\\\"region\\\":1}",
```

... but I'm expecting this:

```
"metros" : [
    {
        "code" : "SCL" ,
        "name" : "Santiago" ,
        "country" : "CL" ,
```

```
        "continent" : "South America" ,
        "timezone" : -4 ,
        "coordinates" : {"S" : 33, "W" : 71} ,
        "population" : 6000000 ,
        "region" : 1
    } ,
```

Any idea why I'm getting all of these slashes and why it is all on one line?

Thanks, Hristo

php   javascript   ajax   json   writefile

asked Oct 13 '10 at 7:18

Hristo
19.3k   45   125   202

Are you using a framework or performing any sanitization in POST before hand, try turning magic_qoutes of in php ini and restart. – RobertPitt Oct 13 '10 at 12:23

4 Answers

You are double-encoding. There is no need to encode in JS *and* PHP, just do it on one side, and just do it once.

```javascript
// step 1: build data structure
var data = {
    metros: graph.getVerticies(),
    routes: graph.getEdges()
}

// step 2: convert data structure to JSON
$.ajax({
    type : "POST",
    url : "json.php",
    data : {
        json : JSON.stringify(data)
    }
});
```

Note that the `dataType` parameter denotes the expected *response* type, not the the type you send the data as. Post requests will be sent as `application/x-www-form-urlencoded` by default.

I don't think you need that parameter at all. You could trim that down to:

```javascript
$.post("json.php", {json : JSON.stringify(data)});
```

Then (in PHP) do:

```php
<?php
    $json = $_POST['json'];

    /* sanity check */
    if (json_decode($json) != null)
    {
      $file = fopen('new_map_data.json','w+');
      fwrite($file, $json);
      fclose($file);
    }
    else
    {
      // user has posted invalid JSON, handle the error
    }
?>
```

edited Apr 12 at 14:37   answered Oct 13 '10 at 7:32

Tomalak
211k   41   349   467

should'nt be fwrite($file, $json); ?? – Francesco May 14 '11 at 4:33

Don't `JSON.stringify` . You get a double JSON encoding by doing that.

You first convert your array elements to a JSON string, then you add them to your full object, and then you encode your big object, but when encoding the elements already encoded are treated as simple strings so all the special chars are escaped. You need to have one big object and encode it just once. The encoder will take care of the children.

For the on row problem try sending a JSON data type header: `Content-type: text/json` I think (didn't google for it). But rendering will depend only on your browser. Also it may be possible to encode with indentation.

edited Oct 13 '10 at 7:35   answered Oct 13 '10 at 7:21

Alin Purcaru
29.3k   5   53   77

I guess that worked... I thought I need to do `JSON.stringify` so that it formats my object properly? I defined a `toJSON` function for my object so that is why i was using `stringify`. I took it out and it got rid of the \\\ but it is still all on one line... – Hristo Oct 13 '10 at 7:25

@Hristo: What's wrong with all of it being on one line? I don't think you should care. – Tomalak Oct 13 '10 at 7:33

He may need to check if while in development and this might help him. If it's just for storing there's nothing wrong. – Alin Purcaru Oct 13 '10 at 7:36

jsonlint.com does that better than visually scanning a formatted string. – Tomalak Oct 13 '10 at 7:38

```html
<html>
<head>
    <link rel="stylesheet"
href="https://maxcdn.bootstrapcdn.com/bootstrap/3.3.7/css/bootstrap.min.css"
integrity="sha384-BVYiiSIFeK1dGmJRAkycuHAHRg32OmUcww7on3RYdg4Va+PmSTsz/K68vbdEjh4u"
crossorigin="anonymous">
    <script type="text/javascript" src="http://code.jquery.com/jquery-1.4.3.min.js"
></script>
</head>
<body>
    <?php
        $str = file_get_contents('data.json');//get contents of your json file and store
it in a string
        $arr = json_decode($str, true);//decode it
        $arrne['name'] = "sadaadad";
        $arrne['password'] = "sadaadad";
        $arrne['nickname'] = "sadaadad";
        array_push( $arr['employees'], $arrne);//push contents to ur decoded array i.e
$arr
        $str = json_encode($arr);
        //now send evrything to ur data.json file using folowing code
        if (json_decode($str) != null)
          {
            $file = fopen('data.json','w');
            fwrite($file, $str);
            fclose($file);
          }
        else
          {
          //  invalid JSON, handle the error
          }

    ?>
    <form method=>
</body>
```

data.json

```json
{
   "employees":[
  {
    "email":"11BD1A05G9",
    "password":"INTRODUCTION TO ANALYTICS",
    "nickname":4
  },
  {
    "email":"Betty",
    "password":"Layers",
    "nickname":4
  },
  {
    "email":"Carl",
    "password":"Louis",
    "nickname":4
  },
  {
    "name":"sadaadad",
    "password":"sadaadad",
    "nickname":"sadaadad"
  },
  {
    "name":"sadaadad",
```

```
      "password":"sadaadad",
      "nickname":"sadaadad"
  },
  {
      "name":"sadaadad",
      "password":"sadaadad",
      "nickname":"sadaadad"
  }
   ]
   }
```

edited Aug 23 at 2:12   answered Aug 23 at 1:57

michael jackson
11   2

> evrything you need in one file,this is the most inefficient code i've ever writeen in my life ,but it solves ur problem! – michael jackson Aug 23 at 1:58

Probably too late to answer the question. But I encountered the same issue. I resolved it by using "JSON_PRETTY_PRINT"

Following is my code:

```php
<?php

if(isset($_POST['object'])) {
    $json = json_encode($_POST['object'],JSON_PRETTY_PRINT);
    $fp = fopen('results.json', 'w');
    fwrite($fp, $json);
    fclose($fp);
} else {
    echo "Object Not Received";
}
?>
```

answered Sep 6 at 16:11

Suveer Jacob
478   4   8