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Lab Time: Friday, 4:00pm - 5:50pm

Lab 3 Report

1. In a paragraph or two, describe another input-to-output translation that Lex could be used for. What domain specific concerns need to be addressed? Can Lex handle them, and if so, how? In the interest of keeping things interesting, please avoid translations similar to the one we dealt with in this lab.

Lex could be useful for a JSON to YAML conversion. JSON objects are nested in arrays, and YAML 'objects' are similarly nested in a tab structure. Since both notations implement the ':' character, it would be simple to find the middle of each line so the left side of the JSON object matches the left side of the YAML object, and the right to the right. To designate multiple items in the same list every time a comma was parsed, a hyphen would be added to the corresponding YAML object.

The specific domain concerns in this case that need to be addressed are obviously nesting data multiple layers deep. A counter would need to be in place to track the level of indentation for the current line. This would have to correspond with ending brackets (] and }) in order to see if we've left that level of the JSON object.

Thanks,

Jay