YAML

# Overview

YAML Ain't Markup Languauge is a markup language commonly used in place of JSON due to its readability and data oriented features.

# Structure

The file starts with three dashes to indicate the start of a new YAML document, allowing the parser to recognise more than one document in a file. It ends with three dots to indicate the end of the document without starting a new one.

## Key Values

The main construct which builds YAMLs is the key value pair. Keys are written as strings, without or without quotes. Values are scalar, so can by any datatype.

Typical value types are:

### strings:

key: 'a string',

### integers:

key: 1,

### floating-points:

key: 3.14159,

### booleans:

key: true,

### arrays:

key:

- 'value at index 1'

- 'value at index 2'

- 'two space indentation indicates nesting'

### dictionarys:

key:

key1: 'nested keys make dictionarys'

key2: 'another value'

## Other Features

There are also many synatic features to YAML files which allow for quick creation of specific data types and patterns:

### Comments

Comments are written using a hash and it doesn’t matter where they are unless they are the last item on the line:

# a comment

key: # a comment

- value # a comment

### Paragraphs

Paragraphs can be written as folded scalars using the following syntax, newlines will not be preserved unless a break is defined:

paragraph: >

Blank lines denote

paragraph breaks

Literals can also be used for paragrahs where all newlines are preserved:

paragraph: |

New lines

preserved

### Repeated objects

Nodes can be marked as repeated and aliased later on in the document. To mark a node as repeated anchor with an ampersand (&) followed with the label. Reference later as an asterisk and alias:

---

hr:

- Mark McGwire

- &SS Sammy Sosa

rbi:

- \*SS # Subsequent occurrence

- Ken Griffey

### Complex mapping

A question mark and space indicate a complex mapping key, allowing for any structure to be used as the mapping key, instead of just strings. For example:

---

? - Detroit Tigers

- Chicago cubs

:

- 2001-07-23

? - foo: bar

baz:

- { qux: quux }

- stahp

: 4