

# INI / INIT file format description

## Key/Value Pairs

- Key/value pairs are separated by equal signs
- Key/value pairs must be on separate lines
- Equal signs in keys and values can be escaped by the use of sequence \=
- New lines may be inserted by using their escape sequences. Literal \r and \n sequences will be transformed into their respective newline characters on parsing. Note that inserting a real \r can be done with \\r or \\n.
- Backslashes must be preceded by a backslash unless they are escaping an equal's sign
- Any characters that do not break the above rules are allowed in the key/value pairs except new lines

Key=value

Key with \= in it=value that has spaces and an \= in it

Key with \\ in it=pathlike C:\\thomaspovinelli\\

## Sections

- Sections are noted by placing the section title in some well-balanced number of square brackets
- Subsections are denoted by adding more pairs of brackets
- Section names may not contain square brackets or new lines but may contain all other characters
- Sections are not required.
- Unsectioned key/value pairs are listed under the section “default.” If a section named “default” exists in the document **all unsectioned key/value pairs will be added to the section named “default”**
- Strictly, subsections may not be introduced without first adding all supersections up to the first level, however, loosely, supersections will be assumed to exist but be unnamed (anonymous sections) if subsections are introduced
- Explicit section ends are not mandatory; a section end can be indicated by any of the following things:
  - The start of a new section of the same or higher level
  - The end of the document
  - The end of a supersection
  - The explicit section end marker ~ which must be enclosed in the same number of square brackets at the section it is ending

[Main Section]

Key=value

Key2=value2

[[Sub-section]]

More keys=more values

[[[sub-sub-section]]]

More sub sub keys=values

[~] ;End of [main section] and therefore end of the two sub-sections as well

## Comments

- Comments begin with a ;
- Comments may appear anywhere on a line but the comment will continue until the next \n or \r
- There are no multiline comments.
- Comments can contain any character that is not \n or \r