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YAML with Spring & Java Q&As

Posted on October 23, 2015 by Arulkumaran Kumaraswamipillai

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Q1. What is YAML?
A1. **YAML** Ain't Markup Language. It is a human friendly data serialization standard for all programming languages. A YAML file has an extension of "**.yml**".

Q2. What are the 3 rules of YAML?
A2.

Rule 1: Indentation YAML uses a fixed indentation scheme to represent relationships between data layers (i.e. 2 spaces). Never use a tab.

```
1
2    ---
3    YAML: YAML Ain't Markup Language
4
5    What It Is: YAML is a human friendly data serial
```

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```
 6      standard for all programming languages.
 7
 8  Projects:
 9    - PyYaml           # YAML 1.1, pure python and li
10    - PySyck           # YAML 1.0, syck binding
11    Java:
12    - JvYaml           # Java port of RbYaml
13    - SnakeYAML        # Java 5 / YAML 1.1
14    - YamlBeans        # To/from JavaBeans
15    - JYaml            # Original Java Implementation
16
17
```

Rule 2: Colons & case sensitive All keys/properties are case-sensitive. ("Hello", is not the same as "hello") and key value pairs are separated by ":" followed by a space.

```
1
2  YAML: YAML is case sensitive
3
```

Keys can be nested.

```
1
2  first_level_dict_key:
3    second_level_dict_key: value_in_second_level_di
4
```

Rule 3: Dashes To represent lists of items, a single dash followed by a space is used. Multiple items are a part of the same list as a function of their having the same level of indentation.

```
1
2    Java:
3    - JvYaml           # Java port of RbYaml
4    - SnakeYAML        # Java 5 / YAML 1.1
5    - YamlBeans        # To/from JavaBeans
6    - JYaml            # Original Java Implementation
7
```

Q3. Where will you use YAML in Java application?
A3.

1) Configuring applications: Java developers mostly deal with property (.properties), XML, and JSON files for configuring applications. YAML file can be used to configure

Java applications without being too verbose as XML and
being more expressive than .properties and JSON formats.

All you need is the YAML library

```
1
2  <dependency>
3      <groupid>org.yaml</groupid>
4      <artifactid>snakeyaml</artifactid>
5      <version>1.11</version>
6  </dependency>
7
```

Java application.yml file example

```
1
2  #Configure a DataSource
3
4  spring:
5
6    datasource:
7      driver-class-name: com.sybase.jdbc4.jdbc.Syb
8      url: jdbc:sybase:Tds:mydb-host:5700/mydb
9      username: user
10     password: password
11
```

The properties can be accessed via Spring configs as

```
1
2  @Configuration
3  @EnableTransactionManagement
4  public class AppConfig {
5
6      @Autowired
7      private Environment environment;
8
9      @Bean
10     public DriverManagerDataSource datasource()
11         DriverManagerDataSource ds = new DriverM
12         ds.setDriverClassName(environment.getReq
13         ds.setUrl(environment.getRequiredPropert
14         ds.setUsername(environment.getRequiredPr
15         ds.setPassword(environment.getRequiredPr
16         return ds;
17     }
18 }
```

Can you spot the expressive nature of the YAML file?

2) Serialize & Deserialize Java objects: YamlBeans makes it easy to serialize and deserialize Java object graphs. YAML is a human-friendly data format. Replace XML and properties files with YAML for more **expressive power**.

3) Spring boot supports YAML E.g.application.yml file.

More application configuration examples

Logging

```
1
2  logging:
3    path: ./logs/
4    file: myapp
5    level.com.mytutorial: DEBUG
6    level.: INFO
7
8
```

Messaging

```
1
2  env:
3
4    mq:
5      hostname: my-mq-host
6      channel: mychannel
7      port: 3500
8      queue.manager: JKGHJK
9      environment: EN7
10
```

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