

Primitive Type	Serialization	C++	Python
bool	unsigned 8-bit int	uint8_t	bool
int8	signed 8-bit int	int8_t	int
uint8	unsigned 8-bit int	uint8_t	int
int16	signed 16-bit int	int16_t	int
uint16	unsigned 16-bit int	uint16_t	int
int32	signed 32-bit int	int32_t	int
uint32	unsigned 32-bit int	uint32_t	int
int64	signed 64-bit int	int64_t	long
uint64	unsigned 64-bit int	uint64_t	long
float32	32-bit IEEE float	float	float
float64	64-bit IEEE float	double	float
string	ascii string (4)	std::string	str
time	secs/nsecs unsigned 32-bit ints	ros::Time	rospy.Time
duration	secs/nsecs signed 32-bit ints	ros::Duration	rospy.Duration

Array Type	Serialization	C++	Python
fixed-length	no extra serialization	boost::array, std::vector	tuple
variable-length	uint32 length prefix	std::vector	tuple
uint8[]			bytes
bool[]		std::vector<uint8_t>	list of bool

<http://wiki.ros.org/msg>