Properties of a YAML File

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This document is designed to guide engineers and API documentation contributors to write properly formatted YAML files. Following this guide will cut down on broken documentation builds and reduce the time it takes to troubleshoot and fix YAML files.

As a general rule, always run your YAML file through our doc linter (DLinter) to confirm the format is correct and to fix any issues the linter may provide warnings or errors.

If you have any questions about this document, need help formatting or starting a YAML doc, please reach out to Brian Immel.

Top level properties

Property	Purpose	Type	Example
`---`	The opening of the yaml file should include this "marker".	n/a	`---`
`name`	Name of the module.	String	`name: Titanium.Accelerometer`
`summary`	Summary of the module.	String with mixed content.	`summary: |` `The top-level Accelerometer module...`
`description`	Description of the module.	String with mixed content.	`description: |` `An accelerometer is a hardware unit...`
`extends`	Extends another module. This brings in content from another module.	String with link to another module.	`extends: Titanium.Module`
`since`	Which release this module was introduced.	String, number or object.	`since: 0.1`

platforms	List of platforms this module works with.	String or array.	platforms: [android, iphone, ipad]
creatable	If the module is creatable.	Boolean (true/false).	creatable: false
excludes	Exclude select pieces of extended module.	String or Object with nested array.	excludes: { methods: [addEventListener, applyProperties, fireEvent, removeEventListener] }

Properties

Property	Purpose	Type	Example
properties	Header for properties section.	n/a	properties:
name	Property name.	String	name: lastEvent
summary	Property summary.	String with mixed content	summary: JSON representation of the last Analytics event generated.
description	Property description.	String with mixed content	description: | LastEvent is the JSON version...
type	Property type.	String or nested string	type: String
platforms	Property platforms.	String or array	platforms: [android, iphone, ipad]
permission	Property permission.	String with either 'read-only' or 'write-only' values	permission: read-only
osver	Property osver.	Object with nested objects	osver: {android: {max: "4.1"}}
accessors	Property accessor.	Boolean (true/false)	accessors: false
availability	Property availability.	Only has one string value: 'creation'	availability: creation
value	Property value.	String or number	value: "public.text"
since	Which release this property was introduced.	Number or object	since: 3.1.2
constants	Property constant.	String or array	constants: Titanium.Android.SCREEN_ORIENTATION_*
deprecated	Property deprecated object.	Number	deprecated:

(deprecated) since	Which release this property was deprecated.	Number or object	`since: 2.0.0`
(deprecated) removed	Which release this property was removed.	Number	`removed: 3.3.0`
(deprecated) notes	Property deprecated summary.	String with mixed content	`notes: Use Titanium.Android.Activity.onCreate instead.`
default	Property default.	Simple string, NO mixed content	`default: null`
examples	Header for the examples section of a property.	n/a	`examples:`
title	Example title (similar to event names) of a property.	String	`title: Basic Accelerometer Event`
example	Example of the example (similar to event description) of a property.	String with mixed content	`example: |` `Adds an accelerometer update event listener...`

Methods

Property	Purpose	Type	Example
methods	Header for the methods section.	n/a	`methods:`
name	Method name.	String	`name: addEvent`
summary	Method summary.	String with mixed content	`summary: |` `Sends a generic event for...`
description	Method description.	String with mixed content	`description: |` `LastEvent is the JSON version...`
deprecated	Method deprecated object.	n/a	`deprecated:`
(deprecated) since	Method deprecated since. Which release this method was deprecated.	Number, string, or object	`since: 2.0.0`
(deprecated) removed	Method deprecated removed. Which release this method was removed.	Number or string	`removed: 3.3.0`
(deprecated) notes	Method deprecated summary.	String with mixed content	`notes: Use Titanium.Android.Activity.onCreate instead.`
returns	Method return object.	n/a	`returns:`

(returns) type	Method return type.	String, nested string, link, or nested link	`type: Number`
`parameters`	Method parameters header.	n/a	`parameters:`
`(parameters) name`	Method parameter name.	String	`name: type`
`(parameters) summary`	Method parameter summary.	String with mixed content	`summary: Event type.`
`(parameters) type`	Method parameter type.	String or nested string	`type: String`
`(parameters) optional`	Method parameter optional.	Boolean (true/false)	`optional: true`
`(parameters) default`	Method parameter default.	String with mixed content/td>	`default: null`
`platforms`	Method platforms.	String or array	`platforms: [android, iphone, ipad]`
`since`	Method since. Which release this method was introduced.	Number or object	`since: 4.1.0`

Events

Property	Purpose	Type	Example
`events`	Header for the events section.	n/a	`events:`
`name`	Event name.	String	`name: update`
`summary`	Event summary.	String with mixed content	`summary: Fired when the accelerometer changes.`
`properties`	Event properties header.	n/a	`properties:`
`(properties) name`	Event property name.	String	`name: timestamp`
`(properties) summary`	Event property summary.	String with mixed content	`summary: |` `Reference timestamp since the previous...`

Examples

Property	Purpose	Type	Example
`examples`	Header for the examples section.	n/a	`examples:`
`title`	Example title (similar to event names).	String	`title: Basic Accelerometer Event`
`example`	Example description.	String with mixed content	`example: |` `Adds an accelerometer update event listener...`

Working YAML Example

The following code snippet represents an example of using the above information to generate an API document.

```yaml
---
name: Titanium.Accelerometer
summary: The top-level API module, containing methods to output messages to the system log.
since: 0.1.0
platforms: [android, iphone, ipad]

properties:
name: lastEvent
    summary: JSON representation of the last Analytics event generated.
    type: String
    platforms: [android, iphone, ipad]
    default: null
    since: 0.1.0

methods:
name: addEvent
    summary: Send a generic event for ....
    since: 0.3.0
    parameters:
        name: type
        summary: Event type.
        type: String
        platforms: [android, iphone, ipad]
name: addMultiEvent
    summary: Send multiple generic events for ....
    since: 0.2.0
    deprecated:
        since: 0.3.0
        notes: Use Titanium.Android.Activity.onCreate instead.
        platforms: [android]
    parameters:
        name: type
        summary: Event type.
        type: String
        platforms: [android, iphone, ipad]
---
```

Notes

If a property ends with "|", then the content of that property is found on the next line(s). These indicators are typically found in summaries, descriptions, and examples.

Platforms are typically an array but can be a single value as well. For example: `'[android, iphone, ipad]'` though sometimes the array contains a single value (i.e. `'[android]'`).

`Since` is always be a number format as "#.#.#", '#.#.#', or #.#.#. The recommended format for a number is #.#.#. Sometimes, this value will be an object that lists the platform and then the version it was introduced in. For example: `'{android: "3.2.0", iphone: "3.1.0", ipad: "3.1.0"}'`.

Also, in some rare cases, some modules use since as an object with nested attributes. For example:

```
since:
      android: 5.4.0
      iphone: 5.4.0
      ipad: 5.4.0
```

Types values can be a string, string with a nested object, link to another module, or string with nested link to another module. Examples: `string: 'Array'`, `nested object: 'Array<String>'`, `link: 'Titanium.App.iOS.SearchableItemAttributeSet'`, `string with nested link: 'Array<Titanium.App.iOS.UserNotificationAction>'`.

Constants can be a string or array with a list of "constants" (typically pulled from other modules). Constant example: `string: 'constant'`. Constant arrays can list the constants as a hard list (`'[A,B,C]'`) or use a wildcard (`'[A*,B*,C*]'`) to pull in any other constant with similar name matches.

The osver property contains objects with one or more nested objects. The format typically looks like this: `{<platform>: {'min'/'max': "#.#"}}`. For example, a single nested object can look like this: `{android: {max: "4.1"}}`

Objects with nested multiple objects: `{android: {min: "4.1"}, ios: {min: "5.0"}}`

In some rare cases, some modules use `since` as an object with nested attributes. For example:

```
osver:
    ios:
          min: 4.3
```

Excludes can come in a few forms: object with nested array or nested object(s) with the following nested objects containing arrays: events, methods, properties.

Examples

- nested array: `{ methods: [ addEventListener, applyProperties, fireEvent, removeEventListener ] }`
- nested objects
  - `properties: [bubbleParent]`
  - `methods: [addEventListener, applyProperties]`
  - `events: ['focus', 'pinch', 'longclick']`

Other considerations

Comments within the yaml document (lines that start with '#') are commented out from the HTML output. Only use comments if necessary.

Spaces before or after a ":" character in a property is handled gracefully by the interpreter. Sometimes, contributors put a space between the property and colon. While we should strictly enforce the no space policy between a property and colon, the interpreter can handle a single space character without breaking the output.