

Python: How would you save a simple settings/config file?

I don't care if it's JSON, pickle, YAML, or whatever.

14 All other implementations I have seen are not forwards compatible, so if I have a config file, add a new key in the code, then load that config file, it'll just crash.

Are there any simple way to do this?

9

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asked Sep 29 '13 at 12:44



[user1438098](#)

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I believe using the `.ini` -like format of the `configparser` module should do what you want. – [Bakuriu](#)Sep 29 '13 at 12:49

any chance of selecting my answer as correct? – [Graeme Stuart](#) Nov 4 '15 at 14:41

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Configuration files in python

24 There are several ways to do this depending on the file format required.

ConfigParser [.ini format]

I would use the standard `configparser` approach unless there were compelling reasons to use a different format.

Write a file like so:

```
from ConfigParser import SafeConfigParser

config = SafeConfigParser()
config.read('config.ini')
config.add_section('main')
config.set('main', 'key1', 'value1')
config.set('main', 'key2', 'value2')
config.set('main', 'key3', 'value3')

with open('config.ini', 'w') as f:
    config.write(f)
```

The file format is very simple with sections marked out in square brackets:

```
[main]
key1 = value1
key2 = value2
key3 = value3
```

Values can be extracted from the file like so:

```
from ConfigParser import SafeConfigParser

config = SafeConfigParser()
config.read('config.ini')

print config.get('main', 'key1') # -> "value1"
print config.get('main', 'key2') # -> "value2"
print config.get('main', 'key3') # -> "value3"

# getfloat() raises an exception if the value is not a float
a_float = config.getfloat('main', 'a_float')

# getint() and getboolean() also do this for their respective types
an_int = config.getint('main', 'an_int')
```
