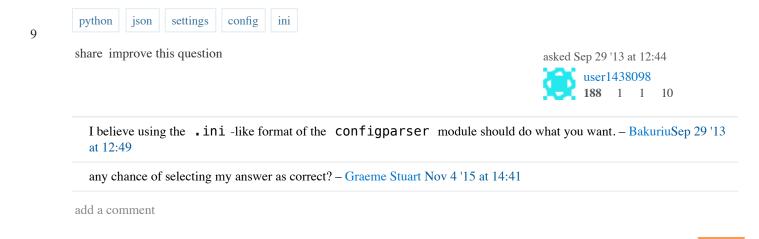
5 Answers

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

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

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?



Configuration files in python

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:

active

oldest

votes

```
[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')
```