How do I turn a C# object into a JSON string in .NET?

Ask Question



I have classes like these:

And I would like to turn a Lad object into a JSON string like this:

```
{
    "firstName":"Markoff",
    "lastName":"Chaney",
    "dateOfBirth":
    {
        "year":"1901",
        "month":"4",
        "day":"30"
    }
}
```

(without the formatting). I found this link, but it uses a namespace that's not in .NET 4. I also heard about JSON.NET, but their site seems to be down at the moment, and I'm not keen on using external DLL files. Are there other options besides manually creating a JSON string writer?



edited Mar 2 '18 at 10:56



Liam

16.3k 16 76 130

asked Jun 1 '11 at 12:59



Hui

,**294** 8 20 20

1 JSON.net can be loaded here An other and faster (as they say - I did not test it myself) solution is ServiceStack.Text I would not recommend rolling your own JSON parser. It will likely be slower and more error prone or you have to invest lots of time. — Zebi Jun 1 '11 at 13:01

yes. C# has a type called JavaScriptSerializer – Glenn Ferrie Jun 1 '11 at 13:02

possible duplicate of <u>Generics / JSON JavaScriptSerializer C#</u> – Filip Ekberg Jun 1 '11 at 13:03

2 Hm.. as far as I can see you should be able to use: msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/... Which is also in .Net 4.0 according to the MSDN page. You should be able to use the Serialize(Object obj) method: msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/bb292287.aspx Am I missing something here? Btw. you link seems to be a some code and not a link – Holger Jun 1 '11 at 13:04

Not to mention it has no dependencies on the System.Web.Xyz namespaces... – Dave Jellison Mar 6 '13 at 18:58 ▶

14 Answers



You could use the <u>JavaScriptSerializer</u> class (add reference to System.Web.Extensions):

using System.Web.Script.Serialization;

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```
var json = new JavaScriptSerializer().Serialize(obj);
```



A full example:

```
using System;
using System.Web.Script.Serialization;
public class MyDate
   public int year;
   public int month;
   public int day;
public class Lad
   public string firstName;
   public string lastName;
   public MyDate dateOfBirth;
class Program
   static void Main()
       var obj = new Lad
           firstName = "Markoff",
           lastName = "Chaney",
            dateOfBirth = new MyDate
                year = 1901,
                month = 4,
                day = 30
        };
       var json = new JavaScriptSerializer().Serialize(obj);
       Console.WriteLine(json);
```

edited Oct 12 '15 at 19:33



answered Jun 1 '11 at 13:05



Darin Dimitrov

2749

847k 223 3022

- 61 Please have in mind that Microsoft suggests to use JSON.net instead of this solution. I think that this answer became inappropriate. Take a look at willsteel's answer. Source: https://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/system.web.script.serialization.javascriptserializer.aspx. rzelek Feb 1 '16 at 15:12
- @DarinDimitrov you should consider adding a hint about JSON.net. Microsoft recommends it over JavascriptSerializer: msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/... You could also add a hint to msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/... which is the framework included approach – Mafii Jul 6 '16 at 10:19

here is **online tool** to convert your classes to json format, hope helps someone. – stom Jan 25 '17 at 8:24 /

using System.Web.Script.Serialization; – Happy Bird Feb 13 '17 at 15:31

5 Why would Microsoft recommend a 3rd party solution over their own? Their wording is very odd as well: "Json.NET should be used serialization and deserialization. Provides serialization and deserialization functionality for AJAX-enabled applications." − Protector one Mar 17 '17 at 9:53 ▶



Since we all love one liners

809

... this one depends on the Newtonsoft NuGet package, which is popular and better than the default serializer.



Newtonsoft.Json.JsonConvert.SerializeObject(new {foo = "bar"})

Documentation: Serializing and Deserializing JSON

edited Jan 30 '15 at 22:09



answered Oct 2 '13 at 12:39



willsteel
12.1k 4 25 31

- 113 Newtonsoft serializer is way faster and mor customizable then built in. Highly recommend to use it. Thanks for the answer @willsteel Andrei Oct 2 '13 at 13:04
- 8 @JosefPfleger the pricing is for JSON.NET Schema, not JSON.NET the regular serializer, which is MIT David Cumps Jun 3 '15 at 19:51 ✓
- 1 @DavidCumps right, thank you for the clarification Josef Pfleger Jun 10 '15 at 9:03
- 1 My testing showed that Newtonsoft is slower than JavaScriptSerializer class. (.NET 4.5.2) nemke Sep 28 '15 at 11:34
- 26 If you read the MSDN documentation for <u>JavaScriptSerializer</u>, it flat out says use JSON.net. dsghi Nov 5 '15 at 6:10 ℯ



Use <u>Json.Net</u> library, you can download it from Nuget Packet Manager.

59

Serializing to Json String:



```
{
    year = 1901,
    month = 4,
    day = 30
}

year = 1901,
    month = 4,
    day = 30
}

year jsonString = Newtonsoft.Json.JsonConvert.SerializeObject(obj);
```

Deserializing to Object:

var obj = Newtonsoft.Json.JsonConvert.DeserializeObject<Lad>(jsonStr

answered Jun 21 '17 at 8:15



Gokulan P H

975 5 10



Use the DataContractJsonSerializer class: MSDN1, MSDN2.

53

My example: <u>HERE</u>.



It can also safely deserialize objects from a JSON string, unlike <code>JavaScriptSerializer</code> . But personally I still prefer <code>Json.NET</code>.

edited Jul 15 '16 at 14:09

answered Jun 1 '11 at 13:03



Edgar

951 4 34 5

Not to mention it has no dependencies on the System.Web.Xyz namespaces... – Dave Jellison Mar 6 '13 at 18:58 ℯ

Still don't see any examples on that page, but here are some on MSDN

and <u>elsewhere</u> -> the last one uses extension methods to achieve oneliners. – Cristi Diaconescu Jan 17 '15 at 21:26 /*

Oh, I missed the 2nd MSDN link:) – Cristi Diaconescu Jan 19 '15 at 8:48

- 2 It doesn't serialize plain classes. The error reported "Consider marking it with the DataContractAttribute attribute, and marking all of its members you want serialized with the DataMemberAttribute attribute. If the type is a collection, consider marking it with the CollectionDataContractAttribute." Michael Freidgeim Jul 14 '16 at 2:56
- 1 @MichaelFreidgeim Which is better depends on the requirements. The attributes let you configure how the property is serialized. – Edgar Jul 15 '16 at 13:49



Wooou! Really better using a JSON framework:)

21

Here is my example using Json.NET (http://james.newtonking.com/json):



```
using System;
using System.Collections.Generic;
using System.Text;
using Newtonsoft.Json;
using System.IO;

namespace com.blogspot.jeanjmichel.jsontest.model
{
    public class Contact
    {
        private Int64 id;
        private String name;
        List<Address> addresses;

    public Int64 Id
      {
            set { this.id = value; }
            get { return this.id; }
        }

        public String Name
      {
```

```
set { this.name = value; }
    get { return this.name; }
public List<Address> Addresses
    set { this.addresses = value; }
    get { return this.addresses; }
public String ToJSONRepresentation()
    StringBuilder sb = new StringBuilder();
    JsonWriter jw = new JsonTextWriter(new StringWriter(sb))
    jw.Formatting = Formatting.Indented;
    jw.WriteStartObject();
    jw.WritePropertyName("id");
    jw.WriteValue(this.Id);
    jw.WritePropertyName("name");
    jw.WriteValue(this.Name);
    jw.WritePropertyName("addresses");
    jw.WriteStartArray();
    int i;
    i = 0;
    for (i = 0; i < addresses.Count; i++)</pre>
        jw.WriteStartObject();
        jw.WritePropertyName("id");
        jw.WriteValue(addresses[i].Id);
        jw.WritePropertyName("streetAddress");
        jw.WriteValue(addresses[i].StreetAddress);
        jw.WritePropertyName("complement");
        jw.WriteValue(addresses[i].Complement);
        jw.WritePropertyName("city");
        jw.WriteValue(addresses[i].City);
        jw.WritePropertyName("province");
        jw.WriteValue(addresses[i].Province);
        jw.WritePropertyName("country");
        jw.WriteValue(addresses[i].Country);
        jw.WritePropertyName("postalCode");
        jw.WriteValue(addresses[i].PostalCode);
        jw.WriteEndObject();
    }
```

```
jw.WriteEndArray();
             jw.WriteEndObject();
             return sb.ToString();
         public Contact()
         public Contact(Int64 id, String personName, List<Address> add
             this.id = id;
             this.name = personName;
             this.addresses = addresses;
         public Contact(String JSONRepresentation)
             //To do
The test:
 using System;
 using System.Collections.Generic;
 using com.blogspot.jeanjmichel.jsontest.model;
 namespace com.blogspot.jeanjmichel.jsontest.main
     public class Program
         static void Main(string[] args)
             List<Address> addresses = new List<Address>();
             addresses.Add(new Address(1, "Rua Dr. Fernandes Coelho, a
 "São Paulo", "São Paulo", "Brazil", "05423040"));
             addresses.Add(new Address(2, "Avenida Senador Teotônio V:
 "São Paulo", "São Paulo", "Brazil", null));
             Contact contact = new Contact(1, "Ayrton Senna", address
```

```
Console.WriteLine(contact.ToJSONRepresentation());
             Console.ReadKey();
The result:
   "id": 1,
   "name": "Ayrton Senna",
   "addresses": [
       "id": 1,
       "streetAddress": "Rua Dr. Fernandes Coelho, 85",
       "complement": "15º andar",
       "city": "São Paulo",
       "province": "São Paulo",
       "country": "Brazil",
       "postalCode": "05423040"
       "id": 2,
       "streetAddress": "Avenida Senador Teotônio Vilela, 241",
       "complement": null,
       "city": "São Paulo",
       "province": "São Paulo",
       "country": "Brazil",
       "postalCode": null
```

Now I will implement the constructor method that will receives a JSON string and populates the class' fields.

edited May 7 '15 at 15:23



answered Feb 4 '14 at 20:07

Jean J. Michel



376 3 10

1 Good post, this is the most current way to do it. – MatthewD May 30 '16 at 13:33 /



If you are in an ASP.NET MVC web controller it's as simple as:

4 string ladAsJson = Json(Lad);



Can't believe no one has mentioned this.

answered Sep 16 '16 at 15:53



micahhoover 1,280 4 24 43

I get an error about not being able to cast jsonresult to string. – csga5000 Sep 23 '16 at 5:30 ✓

It will compile with implicit typing: var ladAsJson = Json(Lad). – ewomack Nov 7 '16 at 19:55



If they are not very big, whats probably your case export it as Json. Also this makes portable among all plattforms

4



answered Jan 28 '18 at 16:00



user8426627



Use <u>this tools</u> for generate C# class, then use this code to serialize your object

2

var json = new JavaScriptSerializer().Serialize(obj);



edited Aug 17 '18 at 15:14

Mathis Perrier

21 6

answered Nov 21 '14 at 22:18



Artem Polischuk

193 2 1



As easy as this, works for dynamic objects as well (type object):





string json = new System.Web.Script.Serialization.JavaScriptSerializer().Serialize(MYO

edited Apr 27 '15 at 6:24



Chandan Kumar **3,127** 3 27 54

answered Jun 26 '14 at 14:02



MarzSocks

there is no default script under web. :(- Mahdi Rafatjah Jul 11 '16 at 7:17

You are looking for this: msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/... – MarzSocks Jul 11 '16 at 19:08 /

I kind of tried that but no. Script I guess I should add it as reference. So thanks a lot - Mahdi Rafatjah Jul 12 '16 at 3:43



Use the below code for converting XML to JSON.

var json = new JavaScriptSerializer().Serialize(obj);



edited Nov 9 '14 at 9:46



Peter Mortensen **13.7k** 19 86 113

answered Mar 6 '14 at 9:39



Hithesh



I would vote for ServiceStack's JSON Serializer:

1

using ServiceStack.Text



string jsonString = new { FirstName = "James" }.ToJson();

It is also the fastest JSON serializer available for .NET: http://www.servicestack.net/benchmarks/

answered Oct 2 '13 at 13:39



- Those are very old benchmarks there. I've just test all three current versions of Newtonsoft, ServiceStack and JavaScriptSerializer and currently Newtonsoft is the fastest. Tho they all do quite fast. – Michael Logutov Oct 25 '13 at 9:22
- 1 ServiceStack doesn't appear to be free. joelnet Dec 19 '13 at 0:25
 - @joelnet this is now the case, but was free when answering the question. However it is free for small sites, and I am still using it even though it is paid, it is a superb framework. − James Dec 19 '13 at 10:21 ✓
- 5 Dead link for the benchmark Thomas May 7 '15 at 12:03

Some benchmarks here, though there's non for the serialization on its own: docs.servicestack.net/real-world-performance – JohnLBevan Dec 13 '18 at 9:39



There is this really nifty utility right here: http://csharp2json.io/

0

answered Apr 24 '18 at 18:03 jallen







Serializer

0

Object

```
namespace MyConfig
{
    public class AppConfigurationSettings
    {
        public AppConfigurationSettings()
        {
            /* initialize the object if you want to output a new docall temporal tem
```

Implementation

```
var jsonObject = new AppConfigurationSettings();
WriteToJsonFile<AppConfigurationSettings>(file.FullName, jsonObject)
```

Output

```
{
   "AppSettings": {
      "DebugMode": false
   }
}
```

edited Feb 3 '16 at 19:31

answered Feb 3 '16 at 18:00



C0r3yh

,569 19 2



Take care to create your class with the right attribute too:



Create this class with <Serializable> attribute as per the example C# example followed by vb.net exmpale



C#

```
using Microsoft.VisualBasic;
using System;
using System.Collections;
using System.Collections.Generic;
using System.Data;
using System.Diagnostics;
using System.Web;
using System.Web.Script.Serialization;
```

```
namespace Samples
[Serializable()]
public class Customer
   private int idcustomer;
   public int IDCustomer {
       get { return idcustomer; }
       set { idcustomer = value; }
   private System.DateTime _RegistrationDate;
   public System.DateTime RegistrationDate {
       get { return _RegistrationDate; }
       set { _RegistrationDate = value; }
   private string _Name;
   public string Name {
       get { return _Name; }
       set { _Name = value; }
   private string _Surname;
   public string Surname {
       get { return _Surname; }
       set { _Surname = value; }
[Serializable()]
public class Product
   private int _ProductID;
   public int ProductID {
       get { return _ProductID; }
       set { _ProductID = value; }
```

```
private string ProductName;
   public string ProductName {
       get { return ProductName; }
       set { ProductName = value; }
   private int _Price;
   public int Price {
       get { return _Price; }
       set { _Price = value; }
   private bool inStock;
   public bool inStock {
       get { return inStock; }
       set { _inStock = value; }
[Serializable()]
public class Order
   private int _OrderId;
   public int OrderID {
       get { return _OrderId; }
       set { _OrderId = value; }
   private int customerID;
   public int CustomerID {
       get { return _customerID; }
       set { customerID = value; }
   private List<Product> _ProductsList;
   public List<Product> ProductsList {
       get { return _ProductsList; }
       set { _ProductsList = value; }
```

```
private System.DateTime _PurchaseDate;
public System.DateTime PurchaseDate {
    get { return _PurchaseDate; }
    set { _PurchaseDate = value; }
}

private string _PaymentMethod;
public string PaymentMethod {
    get { return _PaymentMethod; }
    set { _PaymentMethod = value; }
}

public string ToJson()
{
    string json = string.Empty;
    JavaScriptSerializer js = new JavaScriptSerializer();
    json = js.Serialize(this);
    js = null;
    return json;
}
```

VBNET EXAMPLE

```
End Property
   Private _RegistrationDate As Date
   Public Property RegistrationDate() As Date
           Return _RegistrationDate
       End Get
       Set(ByVal value As Date)
            _RegistrationDate = value
       End Set
    End Property
   Private _Name As String
   Public Property Name() As String
       Get
            Return Name
       End Get
       Set(ByVal value As String)
           Name = value
       End Set
    End Property
   Private _Surname As String
   Public Property Surname() As String
       Get
            Return _Surname
        End Get
       Set(ByVal value As String)
            _Surname = value
       End Set
   End Property
End Class
<Serializable()>
Public Class Product
   Private _ProductID As Integer
   Public Property ProductID() As Integer
       Get
            Return _ProductID
        End Get
       Set(ByVal value As Integer)
```

```
ProductID = value
       End Set
   End Property
   Private ProductName As String
   Public Property ProductName() As String
       Get
           Return _ProductName
       End Get
       Set(ByVal value As String)
            _ProductName = value
       End Set
   End Property
   Private _Price As Integer
   Public Property Price() As Integer
       Get
            Return _Price
       End Get
       Set(ByVal value As Integer)
            Price = value
       End Set
   End Property
   Private inStock As Boolean
   Public Property inStock() As Boolean
           Return inStock
       End Get
       Set(ByVal value As Boolean)
            inStock = value
       End Set
   End Property
End Class
<Serializable>
Public Class Order
   Private _OrderId As Integer
   Public Property OrderID() As Integer
       Get
            Return _OrderId
```

```
End Get
   Set(ByVal value As Integer)
        OrderId = value
   End Set
End Property
Private customerID As Integer
Public Property CustomerID() As Integer
   Get
        Return customerID
   End Get
   Set(ByVal value As Integer)
        customerID = value
   End Set
End Property
Private _ProductsList As List(Of Product)
Public Property ProductsList() As List(Of Product)
   Get
        Return _ProductsList
    End Get
    Set(ByVal value As List(Of Product))
        _ProductsList = value
   End Set
End Property
Private _PurchaseDate As Date
Public Property PurchaseDate() As Date
   Get
        Return _PurchaseDate
    End Get
   Set(ByVal value As Date)
        _PurchaseDate = value
   End Set
End Property
Private _PaymentMethod As String
Public Property PaymentMethod() As String
   Get
        Return _PaymentMethod
    End Get
    Set(ByVal value As String)
        _PaymentMethod = value
```

```
End Set
End Property

Public Function ToJson() As String
    Dim json As String = String.Empty
    Dim js As New JavaScriptSerializer
    json = js.Serialize(Me)
    js = Nothing
    Return json
End Function

End Class
```

End Namespace

The second step is to create a simple test data like this:

C#

```
void Main() {
          List<Samples.Product> ListProducts = new List<Samples.Product>()
           ListProducts.Add(new Samples.Product(), With, {.inStock=False,.Pl
 .ProductID=1,.ProductName=BookOne);
           ListProducts.Add(new Samples.Product(), With, {.inStock=False,. |
.ProductID=2, .ProductName=Hotels California);
           ListProducts.Add(new Samples.Product(), With,
{.inStock=False,.Price=10,.ProductID=3,.ProductName=Cbr);
           ListProducts.Add(new Samples.Product(), With,
{ .inStock=False, .Price=10, .ProductID=4, .ProductName=Mustang);
           ListProducts.Add(new Samples.Product(), With, {.inStock=False,.Product(), With, {.inStock=False,.Produc
.ProductID=15,.ProductName=Anything);
            ListProducts.Add(new Samples.Product(), With,
{.inStock=False,.Price=10,.ProductID=38,.ProductName=Monster Truck);
           Samples.Customer Customer = new Samples.Customer();
          // With...
           Customer.IDCustomer = 1;
           Customer.Name = "Customer1";
           Customer.RegistrationDate = Now;
           Customer.Surname = "SurnameCustomer";
          Samples.Order Order = new Samples.Order();
           // With...
          Order.CustomerID = Customer.IDCustomer;
          Order.OrderID = 1;
          Order.PaymentMethod = "PayPal";
          Order.ProductsList = ListProducts;
```

```
Order.PurchaseDate = Now:
            Console.WriteLine(Order.ToJson);
            Console.ReadLine();
VB.NET
  Sub Main()
           Dim ListProducts As New List(Of Samples.Product)
           ListProducts.Add(New Samples.Product With {.inStock = False, .Pr
                                                     .ProductID = 1, .ProductName = "BookOne"})
            ListProducts.Add(New Samples.Product With {.inStock = False, .Pr
                                                     .ProductID = 2, .ProductName = "Hotels Californ:
            ListProducts.Add(New Samples.Product With {.inStock = False, .Pr:
                                                     .ProductID = 3, .ProductName = "Cbr"})
           ListProducts.Add(New Samples.Product With {.inStock = False, .Pr
                                                     .ProductID = 4, .ProductName = "Mustang"})
            ListProducts.Add(New Samples.Product With {.inStock = False, .Pr
                                                     .ProductID = 15, .ProductName = "Anything"})
            ListProducts.Add(New Samples.Product With {.inStock = False, .Pr
                                                     .ProductID = 38, .ProductName = "Monster Truck"
           Dim Customer As New Samples.Customer
           With {.IDCustomer = 1, .Name = "Customer1",.RegistrationDate = No
  ="SurnameCustomer"}
            Dim Order As New Samples.Order With {
                      .CustomerID = Customer.IDCustomer,
                      .OrderID =
                                                             1,
                      .PaymentMethod = "PayPal",
                      .ProductsList = ListProducts,
                      .PurchaseDate = Now
            Console.WriteLine(Order.ToJson)
            Console.ReadLine()
  End Sub
And this is the final result:
   {"OrderID":1,"CustomerID":1,"ProductsList":[{"ProductID":1,"ProductNo
     e","Price":10,"inStock":false},{"ProductID":2,"ProductName":"Hotels
     "Price":10, "inStock": false }, { "ProductID":3, "ProductName": "Cbr", "Price": "Cbr", "Price": "Price": "Cbr", "Cb
     ck":false},{"ProductID":4,"ProductName":"Mustang","Price":10,"inSto
```

```
ProductID":15,"ProductName":"Anything","Price":10,"inStock":false},
38,"ProductName":"Monster Truck","Price":10,"inStock":false}],"Purcl
Date(1396642206155)\/","PaymentMethod":"PayPal"}
```

Remember to add a reference to system.web.extension.dll in order to achive your goal.

edited Jun 5 '16 at 12:54

answered Apr 4 '14 at 20:30



11 Sorry, but what was the point of offering your answer to a well-answered question especially when it's not even in the same programming language? – JW Lim May 10 '14 at 2:22

It is simple:) => anyone con go here and translate it developerfusion.com/tools/convert/csharp-to-vb i forget to mention in the post. Usually i use to post both suggestion in this case i forget it:) lol that's all. C# and vbnet can be translated in a simple manner and it is very usefull. – makemoney2010 May 10 '14 at 15:57 makemoney2010 May 10 '14 at 15:57

protected by Brian Rogers Nov 23 '14 at 0:39

Thank you for your interest in this question. Because it has attracted low-quality or spam answers that had to be removed, posting an answer now requires 10 reputation on this site (the association bonus does not count).

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