Ansible and AWS

Introduction to YAML

What is YAML?

During its initial development, YAML was reported to stand for "**Y**et **A**nother **M**arkup **L**anguage." However, once it was completed as a standard, that acronym was morphed into "**Y**AML **A**in't **M**arkup **L**anguage."

In short, YAML is meant to be a "human-readable data serialization format." In other words, it's meant for non-computers (us) to be able to read easily and recognize the significance of its content without complex translation applications.

It was designed to be easy to map to high-level languages, and you will often see it compared to key/value lists, associative arrays, and data outlines.

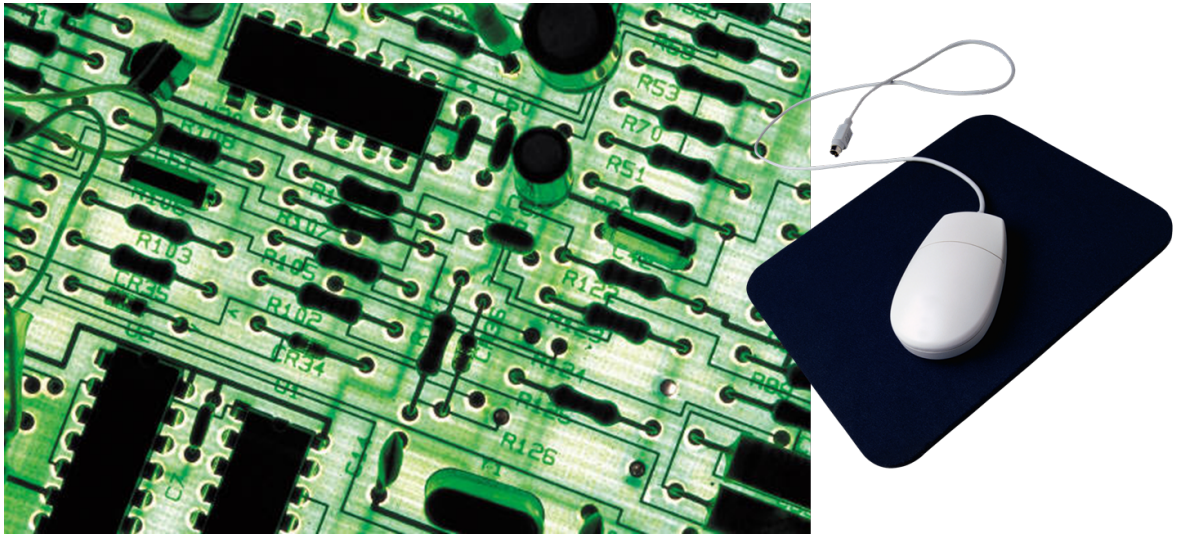
Structure

As a data structure, YAML most closely resembles an outline or list of things with basic descriptions.

For example, if we wanted to list our favorite movies in a way that YAML processing engines would be able to recognize, our YAML file would contain something like:

```
--- # Our Favorite Movies of All Time
- The Terminator
- Star Trek
- Star Wars
```

Summary



YAML is a powerful configuration tool for our DevOps toolkit and is the perfect candidate for compiling and running complex configuration and deployment tasks in our Ansible Playbooks. Spend some time with the basic concepts of YAML outside of its Ansible capabilities and it will help you in the long run.