# Usage Notes: dereference-json.exe

dereference-json.exe is an executable application that dereferences OpenAPI JSON files. Deferencing means to replace all $ref statements and OpenAPI anchors with the appropriate text. It is meant as a means to deliver complete and independent OpenAPI files. Some tools, for example, do not handle $ref statements.

Usage

This may be used in the following ways.

As an executable file. The source file may be dragged and released on the application. This initiates the dereferencing. An output file with the same name, except for the addition of “-derefernced”. For example, for **openapi.json**, the name of the newly created file will be **openapi-derefereced.json**. The file will be in the same location (that is, the same directory) as dereference-json.exe.

As a command line. The application may be run in the command line, and so, as part of a script, too. In a command window in the same location as dereference-json.exe, enter:

**node dereference-json.exe <your-file-name.json>**. For example, **node dereference-json.exe openapi.json.** An output file with the same name, except for the addition of “-derefernced”. For example, for **openapi.json**, the name of the newly created file will be **openapi-derefereced.json**. The file will be in the same location (that is, the same directory) as dereference-json.exe.