



# Building Automated Machine Images using HashiCorp Packer

## Section 4: Variables

### Syntax

- Works a lot like variables from other programming languages
- Allows removal of hard coded values
- Makes configuration easier to understand and re-use

### Types of Variables

- String
- Number
- List
- Map
- Boolean

### Declaring Variables

- using a .pkrvars.hcl file
- declare on the CLI
- inside the main template itself
- declaring the type
- validation

### Using Variables in Templates

- Default Values
- Environment Variables
- Definition files
- CLI Prompts
- Locals
- Order of Operations