YAML (YAML Ain't Markup Language) is a human-readable data serialization language frequently used in Spring Boot for externalized configuration. It serves as an alternative to the traditional .properties files for defining application settings.

Key aspects of using YAML in Spring Boot:

* **File Naming:**

Spring Boot automatically recognizes application.yml or application.yaml files located in the src/main/resources directory as configuration files.

* **Hierarchical Structure:**

YAML's indentation-based syntax allows for clear and concise representation of hierarchical configuration data, which is more readable than the flat key-value pairs in .properties files for complex structures.

* **Automatic Loading:**

Spring Boot automatically loads and parses application.yml files at startup, making the defined properties available to your application.

* **Binding to POJOs:**

You can bind YAML properties to Plain Old Java Objects (POJOs) using the @ConfigurationProperties annotation. This allows you to define a class with fields corresponding to your YAML structure and Spring Boot will automatically populate these fields with the respective values.

* **Accessing Properties:**

Individual properties can be injected using the @Value annotation, or you can programmatically access them through the Environment object.

* **Multi-Profile Support:**

YAML allows defining multiple profiles within a single application.yml file using a --- separator and a spring.profiles key, enabling environment-specific configurations.

* **Dependency:**

The SnakeYAML library is required on the classpath for Spring Boot to support YAML. If you are using Spring Boot's "starter POMs" (e.g., spring-boot-starter), SnakeYAML is typically included automatically.

Extra Reference

https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/java/spring-boot-application-yml-application-yaml-file/