

Using Templates

Extracting the Content for Clarity



Cleaner Recipes

In the last section we updated our two cookbooks to display information about our node.

We added this content to the file resource in their respective recipes.

Viewing the workstation's setup recipe

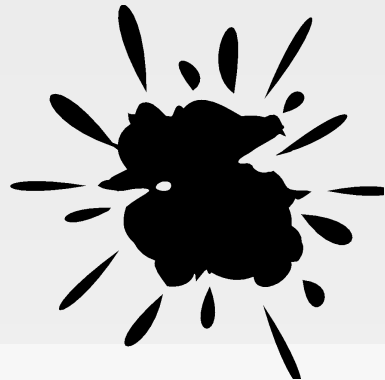
```
~/cookbooks/workstation/recipes/setup.rb
```

```
package 'tree'

file '/etc/motd' do
  content "Property of ...

  IPADDRESS: #{node['ipaddress']}
  HOSTNAME  : #{node['hostname']}
  MEMORY    : #{node['memory']['total']}
  CPU       : #{node['cpu']['0']['mhz']}
"
end
```

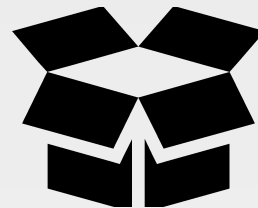
Double Quotes Close Double Quotes



Double quoted strings are terminated by double quotes.

```
"<h1 style="color: red;">Hello, World!</h1>"
```

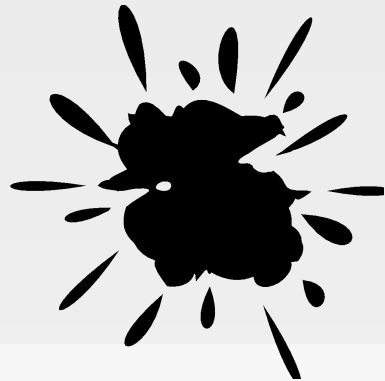
CONCEPT



Backslash

We can use double-quotes as long as we prefix them with a backslash.

```
"<h1 style=\"color: red;\">Hello, World!</h1>"
```



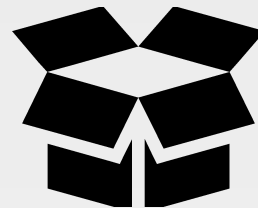
Backslash

Backslashes are reserved characters. So to use them you need to use a backslash.

"Root Path: \"



CONCEPT



Backslash

Backslashes are reserved characters. So to use them you need to use a backslash.

"Root Path: \\"

Unexpected Formatting

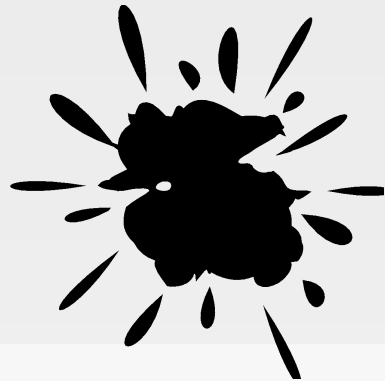
```
file '/etc/motd' do
  content 'This is the first line of the file.
          This is the second line. If I try and line it up...'

  Don't even think about pasting ASCII ART in here!
'
end
```

This is the first line of the file.

 This is the second line. If I try and line
it up...

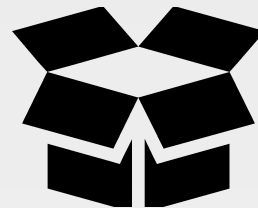
Don't even think about pasting ASCII ART in here!



Copy Paste

This process is definitely error prone. Especially because a human has to edit the file again before it is deployed.

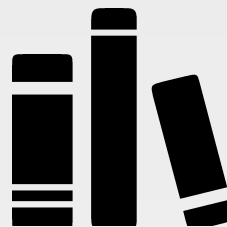
CONCEPT



What We Need

We need the ability to store the data in another file, which is in the native format of the file we are writing out but that still allows us to insert ruby code...

...specifically, the node attributes we have defined.



Template

A cookbook template is an Embedded Ruby (ERB) template that is used to generate files ... Templates may contain Ruby expressions and statements and are a great way to...

Use the template resource to add cookbook templates to recipes; place the corresponding Embedded Ruby (ERB) template in a cookbook's /templates directory.

https://docs.chef.io/resource_template.html

Demo: Template File's Source Matches Up

```
$ tree cookbooks/apache/templates/default  
templates/default
```

```
└─ index.html.erb
```

```
0 directories, 1 file
```

```
template 'var/www/index.html' do
```

```
  source 'index.html.erb'
```

```
end
```



Template

To use a template, two things must happen:

1. A template resource must be added to a recipe
2. An Embedded Ruby (ERB) template must be added to a cookbook

https://docs.chef.io/resource_template.html#using-templates