JSON-LD

JSON for Linked Data:
a standard for serializing RDF using JSON
JSON as an XML Alternative

- Light-weight XML alternative for data-interchange
- **JSON** = JavaScript Object Notation
  - It’s really language independent
  - Most programming languages can easily read it and instantiate objects
- Defined in [RFC 4627](http://json.org/)
- Started gaining traction ~2006, now widely used
- [http://json.org/](http://json.org/) has more information
Example

{"firstName": "John",
"lastName": "Smith",
"age" : 25,
"address" :
    {"streetAdr": "21 2nd Street",
     "city": "New York",
     "state": "NY",
     "zip": "10021"},
"phoneNumber":
    [{"type": "home",
      "number": "212 555-1234"},
     {"type": "fax",
      "number": "646 555-4567"}]
}

- This is a JSON object with five key-value pairs
- Objects are wrapped by curly braces
- There are no object IDs
- Keys are strings
- Values are numbers, strings, objects or arrays
- Arrays are wrapped by square brackets
The BNF is simple
Evaluation

- JSON is simpler than XML and more compact
  - No closing tags, but after compressing XML and JSON the difference is not so great
  - XML parsing is hard because of its complexity
- JSON has a better fit for OO systems than XML, but not as extensible
- Preferred for simple data exchange by many
- MongoDB: ‘NoSQL’ database for JSON objects
- ElasticSearch: Lucene-based IR system using JSON to represent documents
JSON objects: like key-value stores where the values can be atomic, lists or JSON objects

These map to Python simple types, lists and dictionaries

```python
>>> j_string = """{"firstName":"John", "lastName":"Smith" ... }"""
>>> j_obj = json.loads(j_string)
>>> j_obj
{'firstName':'John','lastName':'Smith','age':25,'address':{'streetAdr':'21 2ndStreet','city':'NewYork','state':'NY','zip':'10021'},'phoneNumber':[{'type':'home','number':'212-555-1234'},{'type':'fax','number':'646-555-4567'}]}
>>> j_obj['phoneNumber'][0]['number']
'212-555-1234'
```
Using JSON for knowledge graphs requires us to develop conventions to:

- Represent a general graph structure with this tree-oriented data structure
- Encode aspects for a RDF knowledge graph, like namespaces, prefixes, distinguishing URI representing objects from those representing web pages
JSON-LD Status

- JSON-LD: **2014 W3C recommendation** for representing RDF **data** as JSON objects
  - See **JSON-LD 1.1** for a draft of a new version
- Google, Bing and Yandex look for embedded JSON-LD data in web pages
  - and use the information they understand, e.g., statements using schema.org terms
  - Google now recommends using JSON-LD for structured data whenever possible
JSON-LD

JSON-LD: 2014 W3C recommendation for representing RDF as JSON objects

```json
{
  "@context": {
    "name": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/name",
    "homepage": {
      "@id": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/workplaceHomepage",
      "@type": "@id"
    },
    "Person": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/Person"
  },
  "@id": "http://me.markus-lanthaler.com",
  "@type": "Person",
  "name": "Markus Lanthaler",
  "homepage": "http://www.tugraz.at/"
}
```

@prefix foaf: <http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/> .
@prefix xsd: <http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#> .
<http://me.markus-lanthaler.com> a foaf:Person ;
  foaf:name "Markus Lanthaler"^^xsd:string ;
  foaf:workplaceHomepage <http://www.tugraz.at/> .
In the beginning

{
  "name": "Manu Sporny",
  "homepage": "http://manu.sporny.org/",
  "image": "http://manu.sporny.org/images/manu.png"
}
A bit better

{  
  "http://schema.org/name": "Manu Sporny",
  "http://schema.org/url": { "@id": "http://manu.sporny.org/" }
  "http://schema.org/image": 
    { "@id": "http://manu.sporny.org/images/manu.png" }
}

- The '@id' keyword means 'This value is an identifier that is an IRI'
- i.e., it’s not just a reference to a web page
Define a context

A context lets you define things that apply to the entire JSON object, such as full versions of some terms and (we will see) namespace prefixes and other properties

```json
{  "@context":

  {
  "name": "http://schema.org/name", % [1]
  "image": {
    "@id": "http://schema.org/image", % [2]
    "@type": "@id" % [3]
  },
  "homepage": {
    "@type": "@id" % [5]
  }
}
```

[1] means 'name' is short for 'http://schema.org/name'
[2] means 'image' is short for 'http://schema.org/image'
[3] means a string value associated with 'image' should be interpreted as an identifier that is an IRI
[5] means string value associated with 'homepage' to be interpreted as an identifier that is an IRI
Reference an external context

A context can be specified by a URL that points to a JSON object

{
  "@context": "http://json-ld.org/contexts/person.jsonld",
  "name": "Manu Sporny",
  "homepage": "http://manu.sporny.org/",
  "image": "http://manu.sporny.org/images/manu.png"
}
More typically: add context inline

{"@context":
  {
    "name": "http://schema.org/name",
    "image": {
      "@id": "http://schema.org/image",
      "@type": "@id"
    },
    "homepage": {
      "@id": "http://schema.org/url",
      "@type": "@id"
    }
  },
  "name": "Manu Sporny",
  "homepage": "http://manu.sporny.org/",
  "image": "http://manu.sporny.org/images/manu.png"
Making assertions about things

The "@id" JSON property means value is (1) a reference to an RDF object, not a literal, and (2) the subject of all other property/values pairs in this object. @type is rdf:type

```
{
    "@context": {
        ...
        "Restaurant": "http://schema.org/Restaurant",
        "Brewery": "http://schema.org/Brewery"
    }
    "@id": "http://example.org/places#BrewEats",
    "@type": [ "Restaurant", "Brewery" ],
    ...
}
```
Adding a default vocabulary

The "@@vocab" JSON property means any unqualified properties (e.g., “name”) or objects (e.g., “Restaurant”) come from its value's vocabulary

```json
{
  "@context": {
    "@vocab": "http://schema.org/"
  },
  "@id": "http://example.org/places#BrewEats",
  "@type": "Restaurant",
  "name": "Brew Eats"
...}
```
Mixing vocabularies

{
"@context":
{
"xsd": "http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#",
"foaf": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/",
"foaf:homepage": { "@type": "@id" },
"picture": { "@id": "foaf:depiction", "@type": "@id" }
},
"@id": "http://me.markus-lanthaler.com/",
"@type": "foaf:Person",
"foaf:name": "Markus Lanthaler",
"foaf:homepage": "http://www.markus-lanthaler.com/",
"picture": "http://twitter.com/account/profile_image/mlanthaler"
}
Mixing vocabularies

@prefix foaf: <http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/> .
@prefix xsd: <http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#> .
<http://me.markus-lanthaler.com/> a foaf:Person ;
   foaf:depiction <http://twitter.com/account/profile_image/mlanthaler> ;
   foaf:homepage <http://www.markus-lanthaler.com/> ;
   foaf:name "Markus Lanthaler"^^xsd:string .
Embedding other objects

{
  ...
  "name": "Manu Sporny",
  "foaf:knows": {
    "@type": "Person",
    "name": "Gregg Kellogg",
  }
  ...
}

Produces a blank node
Search Engines looks for JSON-LD

- Google, Bing and Yandex all looks for and use JSON-LD markup
- Only schema.org vocabulary is “understood”
- Put a JSON-LD object in head or body of web page wrapped with script tags:
  ```html
  <script type="application/ld+json">
  {...}
  </script>
  ```
"@context": "http://schema.org",
"@type": "http://schema.org/EducationalOrganization",
"http://schema.org/address": {
  "@type": "http://schema.org/PostalAddress",
  "http://schema.org/addressCountry": "USA",
  "http://schema.org/addressLocality": "Baltimore",
  "http://schema.org/addressRegion": "Maryland",
  "http://schema.org/postalCode": "21250",
  "http://schema.org/streetAddress": "University of Maryland, Baltimore County, 1000 Hilltop Circle"
},

"http://schema.org/description": "The UMBC Ebiquity Research Group consists of faculty and students from the Department of Computer Science and Electrical Engineering (CSEE) of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC), located in Baltimore, Maryland.",
"http://schema.org/name": "UMBC Ebiquity Research Lab",
"email": "ebiquity@gmail.com",
"faxNumber": "1-410-455-3969",
"telephone": "1-410-455-3000",
"logo": {"@id": "http://ebiquity.umbc.edu/img/ebq_logo.png" },

"member": [
  {
    "@type": "Person",
    "email": "mailto:finin@umbc.edu",
    "image": "http://umbc.edu/~finin/images/headshot.jpg",
    "jobTitle": "Professor",
    "name": "Tim Finin",
    "telephone": "1-410-455-3522",
    "url": "http://umbc.edu/~finin/"
  }
]
https://search.google.com/structured-data/testing-tool
<html>
<head>
  <title>UMBC ebiquity research group</title>
  <meta http-equiv="Content-Language" content="en_US" />
  <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1">
  <script language="JavaScript" src="/js/menus.js" type="text/javascript"></script>
  <link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" href="/css/styles.css" />
  <link rel="shortcut icon" href="/favicon.ico" />
  <base href="http://ebiquity.umbc.edu" />
</head>
<body>
  <script src="http://www.google-analytics.com/urchin.js" type="text/javascript">
    _uacct = "UA-120147-16"; urchinTracker();
  </script>
</body>
</html>
JSON for Linking Data

Data is messy and disconnected. JSON-LD organizes and connects it, creating a better Web.

Linked Data

Linked Data empowers people that publish and use information on the Web. It is a way to create a network of standards-based, machine-readable data across Web sites. It allows an application to start at one piece of Linked Data, and follow embedded links to other pieces of Linked Data that are hosted on different sites across the Web.

A Simple Example

```json
{
    "@context": "http://json-ld.org_contexts/person.jsonld",
    "@id": "http://dbpedia.org/resource/John_Lennon",
    "name": "John Lennon",
    "born": "1948-10-09",
    "spouse": "http://dbpedia.org/resource/Cynthia_Lennon"
}
```

JSON-LD

JSON-LD is a lightweight Linked Data format. It is easy for humans to read and write. It is based on the already successful JSON format and provides a way to help JSON data interoperate at Web-scale. JSON-LD is an ideal data format for programming environments, REST Web services, and unstructured databases such as CouchDB and MongoDB.
JSON-LD Playground

Play around with JSON-LD markup by typing out some JSON below and seeing what gets generated from it at the bottom of the page. Pick any of the examples below to get started. The playground uses the jsonld.js JSON-LD processor which fully conforms to the JSON-LD Syntax and API specifications.

Examples: Person Event Place Product Recipe Library Activity

JSON-LD Input

```
{
  "@context": "http://schema.org/",
  "@type": "Person",
  "name": "Jane Doe",
  "jobTitle": "Professor",
  "telephone": "(425) 123-4567",
  "url": "http://www.janedoe.com"
}
```

Expanded  Compacted  Flattened  Framed  N-Quads  Normalized  Signed
Conclusion

- JSON-LD is a good solution to putting blocks of semantic data on web pages
- Aimed at publishing linked data, not ontologies, i.e., ABOX not TBOX
- Tools available for extracting RDF triples
- Search engines look for and use JSON-LD that use vocabularies they understand (i.e., schema.org)