JSON as an XML Alternative

- JSON is a light-weight alternative to XML for data-interchange
- JSON = JavaScript Object Notation
  - It’s really language independent
  - most programming languages can easily read it and instantiate objects or some other data structure
- Defined in RFC 4627
- Started gaining tracking ~2006 and now widely used
- [http://json.org/](http://json.org/) has more information
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 if you compress 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
● JSON is not as extensible as XML
● Preferred for simple data exchange by many
● Less syntax, no semantics
● Schemas? We don’t need no stinkin schemas!
● Transforms? Write your own.
● **Worse is better**