Working with JSON in RPG

(YAJL Open Source JSON Tool)

Presented by

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"A computer once beat me at chess, but it was no match for me at kick boxing." — Emo Philips

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The Agenda

Agenda for this session:

1. What is JSON?
   - Why use JSON?
   - Syntax Overview

2. The YAJL JSON reader/writer
   - Why YAJL?
   - Scott's RPG interface

3. Generating JSON in RPG Code
   - Example

4. Reading JSON in RPG Code
   - Example with DATA-INTO
   - Example with YAJL subprocedures

Ugggh, Another Thing to Learn!

This is pretty much how I felt about JSON at first!
- ugggh, I just learned XML. Do I need to learn something new?!
- But, as I learned more, I started to love it.
- Now I much prefer JSON over XML.

Much Like XML

JSON is a format for encapsulating data as it's sent over networks
    Much Like XML.

JSON is self-describing (field names are in the data itself) and human-readable.
    Much Like XML

Very popular in Web Services and AJAX
    Much Like XML

Can be used by all major programming languages
    Much Like XML

So why is it better than XML…..?

XML!   JSON!

Much Different Than XML

JSON is simpler:
- only supports UTF-8, whereas XML supports a variety of encodings.
- doesn't support schemas, transformations.
- doesn't support namespaces
- method of "escaping" data is much simpler.

JSON is faster
- more terse (less verbose). About 70% of XML's size on average
- simpler means faster to parse
- dead simple to use in JavaScript

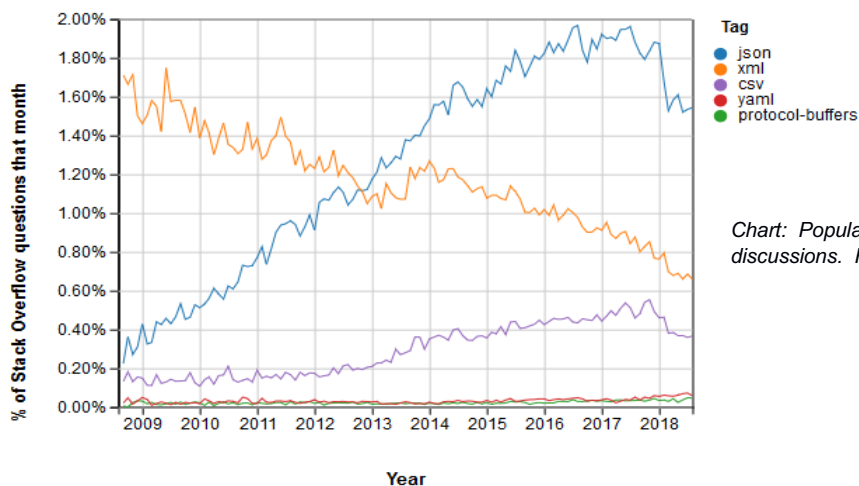---

JSON Has Mostly Replaced XML

Chart: Popularity in StackOverflow discussions. Retrieved Nov 2018.

Have you noticed that people are rarely discussing XML anymore?
- Google, Facebook, Twitter, IBM Watson focus on JSON
- JSON has become the most popular for REST APIs
- JSON has become the de-facto standard for Internet of Things (IoT)
- XML is still used, but mainly in pre-existing applications. Rarely in new projects.

JSON Evolved from JavaScript

Originally JSON was the language used to describe "initializers" for JavaScript objects.

- Used to set the initial values of JavaScript Objects (data structures), and arrays. Even for arrays nested in data structures or vice-versa.

- Conceptually similar to "CTDATA" in RPG, except supports nested data as well.

- Unlike JavaScript, however, JSON does not support "methods" (executable routines in the object) so it's objects are equivalent to RPG data structures.

```
var DaysOfWeek = [ "Sunday",
                   "Monday",
                   "Tuesday",
                   "Wednesday",
                   "Thursday",
                   "Friday",
                   "Saturday" ];
```

JSON Syntax Summary

Arrays start/end with square brackets
  ["Monday", "Tuesday", "Wednesday", "Thursday", "Friday"]

Objects (data structures in RPG) start/end with curly braces { x, x, x, x }
  { "first": "Scott", "last": "Klement", "sex": "male" }

Strings are in double-quotes. Quotes and control characters are escaped with backslashes. Numbers and true/false are not quoted.
  { "name": "Henry \"Hank\" Aaron", "home_runs": 755, "retired": true }

Names are separated from values with a colon (as above)

Successive elements (array elements or fields in an object) are separated by commas. (as above)

Data can be nested (arrays inside objects and/or objects inside arrays).

JSON and XML to Represent a DS

```
D list              ds                      qualified
D                                           dim(2)
D   custno                        4p 0
D   name                          25a
```

For example, this is an array of a data structure in RPG.

```
[
  {
    "custno": 1000,
    "name": "ACME, Inc"
  },
  {
    "custno": 2000,
    "name": "Industrial Supply Limited"
  }
]
```

This is how the same array might be represented (with data inside) in a JSON document.

```
<list>
  <cust>
    <custno>1000</custno>
    <name>Acme, Inc</name>
  </cust>
  <cust>
    <custno>2000</custno>
    <name>Industrial Supply Limited</name>
  </cust>
</list>
```

And it's approximately the same as this XML document.

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Without Adding Spacing for Humans

```
[{"custno":1000,"name":"ACME, Inc"},{"custno":2000,
"name":"Industrial Supply Limited"}]
```

88 bytes

```
<list><cust><custno>1000</custno><name>ACME, Inc</n
ame></cust><cust><custno>2000</custno><name>Industr
ial Supply Limited</name></cust></list>
```

142 bytes

In this simple "textbook" example, that's a 35% size reduction.

50 bytes doesn't matter, but sometimes these documents can be megabytes long – so a 35% reduction can be important.

…and programs process JSON faster, too!

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The YAJL Open Source Tool

YAJL = Yet Another JSON Library
- Created by Lloyd Hilaiel (who works for Mozilla)
- completely Open Source (very permissive ISC license)
- <u>Extremely</u> fast. (Fastest one we benchmarked)
- Written in C.
- Bindings available for Ruby, Python, Perl, Lua, Node.js and others

Ported to IBM i (ILE C) by Scott Klement & David Russo.
- Available at http://www.scottklement.com/yajl
- IBM i 6.1 or higher (7.2 for DATA-INTO)
- Works entirely in UTF-8 Unicode

YAJLR4 = Scott's ILE RPG language bindings
- Simplifies calling YAJL from ILE RPG
- Replaces C macros with RPG subprocedures
- Handles UTF-8/EBCDIC translation for you

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YAJL Provides

YAJL provides sets of routines for:

- Generating JSON data
- Parsing JSON data in an event-driven (SAX-like) manner
- Parsing JSON in a tree (DOM-like) manner

I have found the tree-style routines to be easier to work with, so will use them in my examples.

Scott's RPG adapter additionally provides
- YAJLINTO – a DATA-INTO interface for reading JSON
- YAJLDTAGEN – a DATA-GEN generator for creating JSON

DATA-INTO requires IBM i 7.2+ w/PTFs (7.4+ without PTFs)
DATA-GEN will be released for IBM I 7.3+ in November 2019

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Example of Writing JSON

For an example, an RPG program that lists invoices in a date range in JSON format, like this:

```
{
  "success": true,
  "errmsg": "",
  "list": [
     {
        "invoice": "70689",
        "date": "03/01/2014",
        "name": "SCOTT KLEMENT",
        "amount": 14.80,
        "weight": 3.5
     },
     { another invoice },
     { another invoice },
     ...etc...
  ]
}
```

Example of Writing JSON

Or if an error occurs, it'd return an abbreviated document like this:

```
{
  "success": false,
  "errmsg": "Error Message Here",
  "list": [ ]
}
```

To keep it simple, we'll just have it write the result to an IFS file.

Though, you can also use this in a web service, if desired (code download from ScottKlement.com will have an example of this)

RPG Writing JSON with YAJL APIs

```
H DFTACTGRP(*NO) ACTGRP('KLEMENT') OPTION(*SRCSTMT)
H BNDDIR('YAJL') DECEDIT('0.')

 /include yajl_h

D row             ds                  qualified
D   inv                      5a
D   date                     8s 0
D   name                    25a
D   amount                   9p 2
D   weight                   9p 1

D cust            s          4s 0 inz(4997)
D sdate           s          8s 0 inz(20100901)
D edate           s          8s 0 inz(20100930)
D dateUSA         s         10a    varying

D success         s          1n
D errMsg          s        500a    varying
```

Numbers in JSON must start a digit (not the decimal point)

The BNDDIR and copy book are needed to access YAJL's routines

To keep example simple, query criteria is hard-coded.

RPG Writing JSON -- Mainline

```
    exec SQL declare C1 cursor for
        select aiOrdn, aiIDat, aiSNme, aiDamt, aiLbs
          from ARSHIST
          where aiCust=:cust
            and aiIDat between :sdate and :edate;

    exec SQL open C1;
    exec SQL fetch next from C1 into :row;

    exsr JSON_Start;

    dow sqlstt='00000' or %subst(sqlstt:1:2)='01';
       exsr JSON_AddRow;
       exec SQL fetch next from C1 into :row;
    enddo;

    exec SQL close C1;

    exsr JSON_Finish;
    exsr JSON_Save;
    *inlr = *on;
```

Using SQL to get list of invoices from sales history file

At the start of the list, output JSON start (subroutine)

For each invoice found, add the 'row' data structure to JSON document

At the end of the list, call subroutines to finish the JSON data & save it.

YAJL Routines Used

To generate the JSON data we'll use the following YAJL procedures:

yajl_genOpen() / yajl_genClose() = Open/Close JSON generator.
   The genOpen routine has a parm of *ON or *OFF tells whether JSON is "pretty" or "compact"

yajl_beginObj() / yajl_endObj() = start or end JSON object (data struct)

yajl_beginArray() / yajl_endArray() = start or end JSON array

yajl_addBool() = add a boolean (true/false) value to JSON

yajl_addChar() = add a character string to JSON

yajl_addNum() = add a numeric value to JSON

yajl_saveBuf() = write JSON document to IFS

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JSON_Start Routine

```
begsr JSON_Start;

   yajl_genOpen(*ON);  // use *ON for easier to read JSON
                       //    *OFF for more compact JSON

   yajl_beginObj();
   yajl_addBool('success': success );
   yajl_addChar('errmsg': errMsg );
   yajl_beginArray('list');

endsr;
```

```
{                                          ←—— yajl_beginObj
  "success": false,                        ←—— yajl_addBool
  "errmsg": "Error Message Here",          ←—— yajl_addChar
  "list": [                                ←—— yajl_beginArray
```

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JSON_addRow Routine

```
begsr JSON_addRow;

  dateUsa = %char( %date(row.date:*iso) : *usa );

  yajl_beginObj();
  yajl_addChar('invoice': row.inv );
  yajl_addChar('date': dateUsa );
  yajl_addChar('name': %trim(row.name));
  yajl_addNum('amount': %char(row.amount));
  yajl_addNum('weight': %char(row.weight));
  yajl_endObj();

endsr;
```

```
{
  "invoice": "XYX",
  "date": "12/31/2013",
  "name": "John Doe",
  "amount": 123.45,
  "weight": 100.5
}
```

Each time this runs, it adds a new JSON element to the end of the document.
Since we have not yet called YAJL_endArray(), each object is a new element in the array that was started in the JSON_start subroutine.

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JSON_Finish & JSON_Save

```
begsr JSON_Finish;
    yajl_endArray();
    yajl_endObj();
endsr;
```

Finish off the array and the object that began in JSON_start.

```
begsr JSON_Save;

    yajl_saveBuf('/tmp/example.json': errMsg);
    if errMsg <> '';
        // handle error
    endif;

    yajl_genClose();

endsr;
```

Save result to IFS file

Close JSON generator (frees up memory)

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RPG Writing JSON – "Pretty" Output

```
{
    "success": true,
    "errmsg": "",
    "list": [
        {
            "invoice": "70689",
            "date": "09/01/2010",
            "name": "JIM JOHNSON",
            "amount": 14.80,
            "weight": 3.5
        },
        {
            "invoice": "70695",
            "date": "09/01/2010",
            "name": "BILL VIERS",
            "amount": 9.80,
            "weight": 3.2
        }
    ]
}
```

> **Result with yajl_genOpen(*ON)**
>
> ("pretty" JSON data)
>
> Includes line breaks and indenting to make it easy as possible for humans to read.
>
> This extra formatting isn't needed for computer programs to read it, however.

RPG Writing JSON – "Compact" output

> **Result with yajl_genOpen(*OFF)**
>
> ("compact" JSON data)
>
> No line breaks or indenting. Makes file size smaller, so it transmits over the network a little bit faster.
>
> But, is the exact same document.

```
{"success":true,"errmsg":"","list":[{"invoice":"70689","date":"09/01/
2010","name":"JIM JOHNSON","amount":14.80,"weight":3.5},{"invoice":"7
0695","date":"09/01/2010","name":"BILL VIERS","amount":9.80,"weight":
3.2}]}
```

What if I Wanted a Web Service?

Although there isn't time to go into detail about how to code RESTful web services in this presentation, the gist would be:

- Get input parameters from the URL.
- Create the JSON document in exactly the same way.
- Use YAJL_writeStdout() instead of YAJL_saveBuf()

YAJL_writeStdout() writes the JSON data to standard output with HTTP headers, as would be needed if writing your own web service provider to be run through the IBM HTTP Server (powered by Apache.)

For consuming web services, you can use YAJL_copyBuf() or YAJL_copyBufStr() which returns the JSON data into a buffer (pointer) or RPG string so that you can pass it to HTTPAPI or another HTTP tool to send it.

Examples are provided in the sample code on Scott's web site, here:
http://www.scottklement.com/yajl

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With DATA-GEN (Instead of APIs)

```
dcl-ds invData qualified;
  success   ind;
  errmsg    varchar(500);
  num_list int(10);

  dcl-ds list dim(999);
    invoice char(5);
    date    char(10);
    name    char(25);
    amount  packed(9: 2);
    weight  packed(9: 1);
  end-ds;

end-ds;
```

```
{
  "success": true,
  "errmsg": "{string}",

  "list": [{
      "invoice": "{string}",
      "date": "{string}",
      "name": "{string}",
      "amount": {number},
      "weight": {number}
  }]

}
```

```
File = '/tmp/example.json';
DATA-GEN invData %DATA(File: 'doc=file output=clear countprefix=num_')
              %GEN('YAJLDTAGEN');
```

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Reading JSON Data With DATA-INTO

DATA-INTO is an RPG opcode that was added to IBM i 7.2 and newer releases.

The following link describes the PTFs needed for DATA-INTO support on 7.2 and 7.3 releases:
http://ibm.biz/data-into-rpg-opcode-ptfs

YAJL supports DATA-INTO as of the April 2018. (But, get the latest copy with the latest enhancements!)

DATA-INTO is supported with a program named YAJLINTO that works with the RPG %PARSER function.

What is DATA-INTO?

- RPG opcode that maps data into an RPG data structure

- Almost exactly the same as XML-INTO, but for other types of data

- Works with a 3rd party external parser (YAJLINTO in this case) that interprets the document.

- With the right parser, should be able to read just about any type of document. YAJLINTO is designed for JSON documents

- Fields are mapped by their name

- RPG field names must match the JSON field names to work

- Various options are provided, but I cannot cover them all here. See the ILE RPG Reference for details.

DATA-INTO Syntax

The DATA-INTO opcode syntax is:

```
DATA-INTO result %DATA(document[:options])
               %PARSER(parser[:options]);
```

result = RPG variable (data structure) that data will be loaded into

document = the XML document, or IFS path to the XML document.

%DATA options = optional parameter containing options passed to RPG to control the reading of the XML document, or how it is mapped into variables

%PARSER options = optional parameter containing options passed to the parser program. The syntax will vary depending on the parser program.

%HANDLER = like XML-INTO, the DATA-INTO opcoe supports a handler. This is an advanced topic I will not cover today.

Data Structure Must Match

The trickiest part is that the DS must match the JSON document

```
dcl-ds result qualified;      // {

  success  ind;               //    "success": true,
  errmsg   varchar(500);      //    "errmsg": "Error message",
  num_list int(10);

  dcl-ds list dim(999);       //    "list": [ {
    invoice char(5);          //        "invoice": "xxxxx",
    date    char(10);         //        "date": "xx/xx/xxxx",
    name    char(25);         //        "name": "xxxxxxxxx"
    amount  packed(9: 2);     //        "amount": "xx.xx",
    weight  packed(9: 1);     //        "weight": "xxx.x",
  end-ds;                     //    } ]

end-ds;                       // }
```

field names must match, objects must match a data structure, arrays must match an array.

YAJLINTO Parser

Example of DATA-INTO with YAJLINTO as the Parser:

```
DATA-INTO result %DATA( '/tmp/example.json'
                      : 'doc=file case=any countprefix=num_')
              %PARSER('YAJLINTO');
```

result – the name of RPG data structure that I want to load the JSON into. You can name it whatever you like on your DCL-DS.

/tmp/example.json - IFS path to the JSON document we generated

doc=file – tells RPG to read the document from a file (vs. a variable)

case=any – tells RPG that the upper/lower case of variable names does not have to match the document

countprefix=num_ – any variables in the DS that start with "num_" should receive counts of matching fields. For example, "num_list" would give the number elements in the "list" array.

YAJLINTO Example (1 of 2)

```
**free
ctl-opt DFTACTGRP(*NO) OPTION(*SRCSTMT) BNDDIR('YAJL');

dcl-f QSYSPRT printer(132);

/include yajl_h

dcl-ds result qualified;
  success  ind;
  errmsg   varchar(500);
  num_list int(10);

  dcl-ds list dim(999);
    invoice char(5);
    date    char(10);
    name    char(25);
    amount  packed(9: 2);
    weight  packed(9: 1);
  end-ds;

end-ds;
```

```
dcl-ds printme len(132) end-ds;

dcl-s i int(10);
dcl-s dateISO date(*ISO);

data-into result %DATA('/tmp/example.json'
                     : 'doc=file case=any countprefix=num_')
               %PARSER('YAJLINTO');

for i = 1 to result.num_list;
  dateISO = %date(result.list(i).date:*USA);
  printme = result.list(i).invoice        + ' '
        + %char(dateISO:*ISO)             + ' '
        + result.list(i).name             + ' '
        + %editc(result.list(i).amount:'L') + ' '
        + %editc(result.list(i).weight:'L');
  write QSYSPRT printme;
endfor;

*inlr = *on;
```

YAJLINTO Output

The output of the program would look as follows (goes to the spool, I didn't take the time to add headings, etc)

```
70689  2010-09-01  JIM JOHNSON           14.80      3.5
70695  2010-09-01  BILL VIERS             9.80      3.2
70700  2010-09-01  JOSE MENDOZA           6.00      3.0
70703  2010-09-01  RICHARD KERBEL        10.00      5.0
70715  2010-09-01  JACKIE OLSON          23.80     10.0
70736  2010-09-01  LISA XIONG            24.00      7.0
70748  2010-09-01  JOHN HANSON           11.80      5.0
70806  2010-09-01  JOHN ESSLINGER         7.50      5.0
70809  2010-09-01  LORI SKUZENSKI        20.00      1.0
70826  2010-09-02  KURT KADOW            11.25      7.0
70926  2010-09-02  PENNY STRAW           25.00      5.0
70979  2010-09-02  WOLSKI STEVE          12.75       .0
71021  2010-09-02  KENNETH HALE          21.25      5.9
71062  2010-09-02  ALEX AGULIERA         10.00      2.0
71081  2010-09-03  JIM JOHNSON           41.50     13.5
71270  2010-09-03  DAVE DRESEN           11.90      3.5
```

Data-Into from a Web Service

If you need to read JSON from a web service, the JSON may be provided to you in two ways:
- some tools provide JSON as a string (usually parameter) to your program
- some tools (such as the IBM HTTP server (powered by Apache)) send the data via "standard input"

To read data sent in a character string, use doc=string (just as you would with XML-INTO)

```
data-into result %DATA( myJsonString
                       : 'doc=string case=convert countprefix=num_')
              %PARSER('YAJLINTO');
```

Since September 2018, YAJLINTO supports direct reading from standard input by passing the special value *STDIN. This makes it easy to get input via Apache.

```
data-into result %DATA( '*STDIN'
                       : 'case=convert countprefix=num_')
              %PARSER('YAJLINTO');
```

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Using YAJL's Tree Method

As mentioned earlier, YAJL provides two ways of reading JSON data:
- event-based (like SAX in XML) APIs
- tree-based (like DOM in XML) APIs

This talk will discuss the tree-based method, since I have found it much easier to use.

Advantages over DATA-INTO:
- Works on older releases (6.1+)
- has more capabilities (pointers, generate, generate from tree nodes)
- the RPG document doesn't have to match the JSON document

Disadvantages:
- tricker to learn/code
- uses more memory

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Populating the YAJL tree

To load JSON data from IFS into the tree parser, call
yajl_stmf_load_tree(), as follows:

```
docNode = yajl_stmf_load_tree( '/tmp/example.json' : errMsg );
```
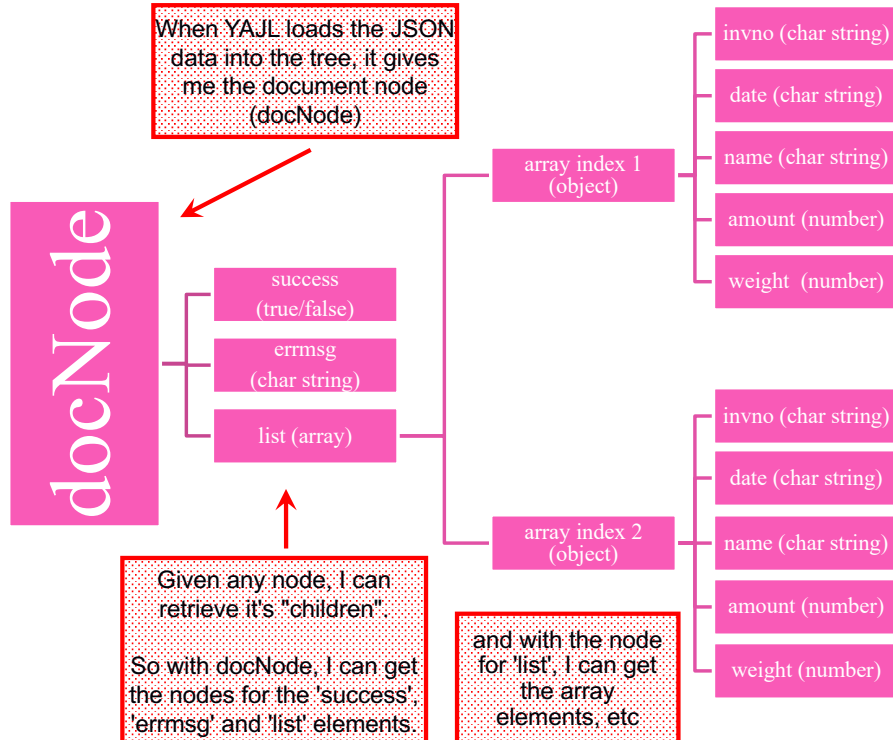
There is also yajl_buf_load_tree() and yajl_string_load_tree() if you
prefer to load from a buffer or RPG variable.

The return value is a YAJL 'node' that represents the outermost
element of the JSON document. (the tree's "trunk")

A 'node' represents data at one level of the document, and can be
used to retrieve 'child nodes' that are within the current 'node'.

(To understand better, see the diagram on the next slide.)

Diagram of a JSON Tree

When YAJL loads the JSON data into the tree, it gives me the document node (docNode)

docNode

- success (true/false)
- errmsg (char string)
- list (array)
  - array index 1 (object)
    - invno (char string)
    - date (char string)
    - name (char string)
    - amount (number)
    - weight (number)
  - array index 2 (object)
    - invno (char string)
    - date (char string)
    - name (char string)
    - amount (number)
    - weight (number)

Given any node, I can retrieve it's "children".

So with docNode, I can get the nodes for the 'success', 'errmsg' and 'list' elements.

and with the node for 'list', I can get the array elements, etc

Retrieving A "Child Node"

yajl_object_find() will get a child node by field name.

yajl_is_true() returns whether a true/false value is true.

yajl_is_false() returns whether a true/false value is false.

```
//  { "success": true }

succNode = yajl_object_find( docNode : 'success' );

if yajl_is_true( succNode );
    // success!
else;
    // failure
endif;
```

Get a String Value From a Node

yajl_get_string() = returns a string value from a node

```
// { "success": false, "errmsg": "invalid start date" }

succNode = yajl_object_find( docNode : 'success' );

if yajl_is_false( succNode );
    errMsgNode = yajl_object_find( docNode: 'errmsg' );
    msg = yajl_get_string(errMsgNode);
    // msg now contains "invalid start date"
endif;
```

For numeric values, there's also yajl_get_number()

Processing an Array

yajl_array_loop() = loops through all elements in a JSON array

```
// { "list": [ invoice1, invoice2, invoice 3 ] }

list = yajl_object_find( docNode : 'list' );

i = 0;
dow YAJL_ARRAY_LOOP( list: i: node );

   // code here is repeated for each array element.
   // each time through, node and i are updated
   // to point to reflect the current array element.

enddo;
```

yajl_array_elem() (not demonstrated here) can be used if you prefer to get each element by it's array index number.

Processing an Object (DS)

yajl_object_loop() = loops through all sub-fields in an object, and returns the field name ("key"), child node ("val") and index for each.

This is, equivalent to calling yajl_object_find() separately for each field name.

```
// { "invoice": 123, "name": "Scott Klement", "amount": 100.00 }

i = 0;
dow YAJL_OBJECT_LOOP( docNode: i: key: val );

   // code here is repeated for each field in the object
   // each time through, key, val and i are updated
   // to point to reflect the current field

enddo;
```

Freeing Up Resources (When Done)

When yajl_stmf_load_tree() ran, all of the JSON details were loaded into memory. To free up that memory, you must call yajl_tree_free()

```
yajl_tree_free( docNode );
```

You must pass the document node into yajl_tree_free(), so be sure to save it when you call yajl_xxxx_load_tree().

yajl_tree_free() will free up all of the child nodes as well as the document node. So be sure that you do not refer to any of the nodes after calling it.

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Reading JSON – RPG Example

To put together all of the YAJL tree concepts shown in the preceding slides, I have provided an RPG example.

- Reads the same JSON file (from IFS) that we created earlier
- Loads the JSON data into an RPG data structure.
- After all is loaded, loops through and prints the data (just to demonstrate reading)

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```
H DFTACTGRP(*NO) ACTGRP('KLEMENT') OPTION(*SRCSTMT)
H BNDDIR('YAJL')

 /include yajl_h

D list_t          ds                    qualified
D                                       template
D   inv                        5a
D   date                       8s 0
D   name                      25a
D   amount                     9p 2
D   weight                     9p 1

D result          ds                    qualified
D   success                    1n
D   errmsg                   500a   varying
D   list                            likeds(list_t) dim(999)

D i              s            10i 0
D j              s            10i 0
D dateUSA        s            10a
D errMsg         s           500a   varying inz('')
```

The 'result' data structure will be populated from the JSON data

```
D docNode        s                    like(yajl_val)
D list           s                    like(yajl_val)
D node           s                    like(yajl_val)
D val            s                    like(yajl_val)

D key            s            50a   varying
```

Variables that represent JSON nodes are defined as 'yajl_val'

Technically, under the covers, these are pointers to the data structures that YAJL uses internally.

However, there's no need for the RPG program to be concerned with how it works, and it's not necessary to do any sort of pointer logic on these fields. They are just placeholders for the JSON nodes.

```
// load the example.json document into a tree.

docNode = yajl_stmf_load_tree( '/tmp/example.json' : errMsg );
if errMsg <> '';
  // handle error
endif;

// get the 'success' field into 'result' DS
// result.success is an RPG named indicator, and will be
//    *ON if success=true, *OFF if success=false

node = YAJL_object_find(docNode: 'success');
result.success = YAJL_is_true(node);

// get the 'errmsg' field into 'result' DS

node = YAJL_object_find(docNode: 'errmsg');
result.errmsg = YAJL_get_string(node);
```

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```
 list = YAJL_object_find(docNode: 'list');

 i = 0;
 dow YAJL_ARRAY_LOOP( list: i: node );

    j = 0;
    dow YAJL_OBJECT_LOOP( node: j: key: val);

       // when 'load_subfield' is run, "key" will contain
       //  the JSON field name, and "val" will contain
       //  a YAJL node from which the value can be extracted

       exsr load_subfield;

    enddo;

 enddo;
```

'node' contains the array element that represents an invoice object in the list.

yajl_object_loop is called for each array 'node' to get it's subfields.

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```
begsr load_subfield;

   select;
   when key = 'invoice';
      result.list(i).inv = yajl_get_string(val);

   when key = 'date';
      dateUSA = yajl_get_string(val);
      result.list(i).date = %dec(%date(dateUSA:*usa):*iso);

   when key = 'name';
      result.list(i).name = yajl_get_string(val);

   when key = 'amount';
      result.list(i).amount = yajl_get_number(val);

   when key = 'weight';
      result.list(i).weight = yajl_get_number(val);
   endsl;

endsr;
```

Just for the sake of having some output, here's a quick & dirty routine to print the invoice list (with O-specs)

```
 D prt             ds              likeds(list_t)
    .
    .
   for i = 1 to YAJL_ARRAY_SIZE(list);
      prt = result.list(i);
      except print;
   endfor;
    .
    .
 OQSYSPRT    E            PRINT
 O                        PRT.INV                5
 O                        PRT.DATE              17 '    -   - '
 O                        PRT.NAME              44
 O                        PRT.AMOUNT    L       56
 O                        PRT.WEIGHT    L       67
```

RPG Reading JSON -- Output

The output of the program would look as follows:

```
70689  2010-09-01  JIM JOHNSON                 14.80       3.5
70695  2010-09-01  BILL VIERS                   9.80       3.2
70700  2010-09-01  JOSE MENDOZA                 6.00       3.0
70703  2010-09-01  RICHARD KERBEL              10.00       5.0
70715  2010-09-01  JACKIE OLSON                23.80      10.0
70736  2010-09-01  LISA XIONG                  24.00       7.0
70748  2010-09-01  JOHN HANSON                 11.80       5.0
70806  2010-09-01  JOHN ESSLINGER               7.50       5.0
70809  2010-09-01  LORI SKUZENSKI              20.00       1.0
70826  2010-09-02  KURT KADOW                  11.25       7.0
70926  2010-09-02  PENNY STRAW                 25.00       5.0
70979  2010-09-02  WOLSKI STEVE                12.75        .0
71021  2010-09-02  KENNETH HALE                21.25       5.9
71062  2010-09-02  ALEX AGULIERA               10.00       2.0
71081  2010-09-03  JIM JOHNSON                 41.50      13.5
71270  2010-09-03  DAVE DRESEN                 11.90       3.5
```

What About Web Service Input?

Although there isn't time to go into detail about how to code RESTful web services in this presentation, the gist would be:

- Get input parameters from the URL.
- Load the input document with YAJL_stdin_load_tree()

YAJL_stdin_load_tree() reads JSON data from standard input, and returns the document node. If you are writing a web service provider called from Apache, you can use it in place of YAJL_stmf_load_tree() to get the data from Apache instead of from a file.

There is also a routine called YAJL_buf_load_tree() for loading JSON data from a buffer or variable instead of a file.

Examples are provided in the sample code on Scott's web site, here:
http://www.scottklement.com/yajl

This Presentation

You can download YAJL and the sample code presented in this session from:

http://www.scottklement.com/yajl

You can download a PDF copy of this presentation from:

http://www.scottklement.com/presentations/

Thank you!

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