# javaproperties Documentation

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John T. Wodder II

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<code>javaproperties</code> provides support for reading & writing Java .properties files (both the "plain" format and XML) with a simple API based on the <code>json</code> module — though, for recovering Java addicts, it also includes a <code>Properties</code> class intended to match the behavior of Java 8's <code>java.net.Properties</code> as much as is Pythonically possible.

Also included are three command-line programs for basic manipulation of .properties files (getting & setting values, etc.) as well as converting to & from the much more widely-supported JSON format.

**Note:** Throughout the following, "text string" means a Unicode character string — unicode in Python 2, str in Python 3.

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## "Plain" .properties Format

### 1.1 Format Overview

The "plain" .properties file format consists of a series of key-value string pairs, one (or fewer) per line, with the key & value separated by the first occurrence of an equals sign (=, optionally with surrounding whitespace), a colon (:, optionally with surrounding whitespace), or non-leading whitespace. A line without a separator is treated as a key whose value is the empty string. If the same key occurs more than once in a single file, only its last value is used.

**Note:** Lines are terminated by  $\n (LF)$ ,  $\r (CR LF)$ , or  $\r (CR)$ .

**Note:** For the purposes of this format, only the space character (ASCII 0x20), the tab character (ASCII 0x09), and the form feed character (ASCII 0x0C) count as whitespace.

Leading whitespace on a line is ignored, but trailing whitespace (after stripping trailing newlines) is not. Lines whose first non-whitespace character is # or ! (not escaped) are comments and are ignored.

Entries can be extended across multiple lines by ending all but the last line with a backslash; the backslash, the line ending after it, and any leading whitespace on the next line will all be discarded. A backslash at the end of a comment line has no effect. A comment line after a line that ends with a backslash is treated as part of a normal key-value entry, not as a comment.

Occurrences of =, :, #, !, and whitespace inside a key or value are escaped with a backslash. In addition, the following escape sequences are recognized:

```
\t \n \f \r \uXXXX \\
```

If a backslash is followed by any other character, the backslash is dropped.

By default, keys & values in .properties files are encoded in ASCII, and comments are encoded in Latin-1; characters outside these ranges, along with any unprintable characters, are escaped with the escape sequences listed above. Unicode characters outside the Basic Multilingual Plane are first converted to UTF-16 surrogate pairs before escaping with \uXXXX escapes.

### 1.2 Functions

javaproperties.dump (props, fp, separator=u'=', comments=None, timestamp=True, sort\_keys=False)
Write a series of key-value pairs to a file in .properties format.

### **Parameters**

- **props** A mapping or iterable of (key, value) pairs to write to fp. All keys and values in props must be text strings. If sort\_keys is False, the entries are output in iteration order.
- **fp** A file-like object to write the values of props to. It must have been opened as a text file with a Latin-1-compatible encoding.
- **separator** (text string) the string to use for separating keys & values. Only " ", "=", and ": " (possibly with added whitespace) should ever be used as the separator.
- comments (text string or None) if non-None, comments will be written to fp as a comment before any other content
- timestamp (None, bool, number, or datetime.datetime) If neither None nor False, a timestamp in the form of Mon Sep 02 14:00:54 EDT 2016 is written as a comment to fp after comments (if any) and before the key-value pairs. If timestamp is True, the current date & time is used. If it is a number, it is converted from seconds since the epoch to local time. If it is a datetime.datetime object, its value is used directly, with naïve objects assumed to be in the local timezone.
- **sort\_keys** (bool) if true, the elements of props are sorted lexicographically by key in the output

#### Returns None

javaproperties.dumps (props, separator=u'=', comments=None, timestamp=True, sort\_keys=False)
Convert a series of key-value pairs to a text string in .properties format.

#### Parameters

- **props** A mapping or iterable of (key, value) pairs to serialize. All keys and values in props must be text strings. If sort\_keys is False, the entries are output in iteration order.
- **separator** (text string) the string to use for separating keys & values. Only " ", "=", and ":" (possibly with added whitespace) should ever be used as the separator.
- comments (text string or None) if non-None, comments will be output as a comment before any other content
- timestamp (None, bool, number, or datetime.datetime) If neither None nor False, a timestamp in the form of Mon Sep 02 14:00:54 EDT 2016 is output as a comment after comments (if any) and before the key-value pairs. If timestamp is True, the current date & time is used. If it is a number, it is converted from seconds since the epoch to local time. If it is a datetime.datetime object, its value is used directly, with naïve objects assumed to be in the local timezone.
- **sort\_keys** (bool) if true, the elements of props are sorted lexicographically by key in the output

### Return type text string

javaproperties.load(fp, object\_pairs\_hook=<type 'dict'>)

Parse the contents of the readline-supporting file-like object fp as a .properties file and return a dict of the key-value pairs.

fp may be either a text or binary filehandle, with or without universal newlines enabled. If it is a binary filehandle, its contents are decoded as Latin-1.

By default, the key-value pairs extracted from fp are combined into a dict with later occurrences of a key overriding previous occurrences of the same key. To change this behavior, pass a callable as the

object\_pairs\_hook argument; it will be called with one argument, a generator of (key, value) pairs representing the key-value entries in fp (including duplicates) in order of occurrence. *load* will then return the value returned by object\_pairs\_hook.

### **Parameters**

- fp (file-like object) the file from which to read the .properties document
- **object\_pairs\_hook** (callable) class or function for combining the key-value pairs

Return type dict of text strings or the return value of object\_pairs\_hook

javaproperties.loads (s, object\_pairs\_hook=<type 'dict'>)

Parse the contents of the string s as a .properties file and return a dict of the key-value pairs.

s may be either a text string or bytes string. If it is a bytes string, its contents are decoded as Latin-1.

By default, the key-value pairs extracted from s are combined into a dict with later occurrences of a key overriding previous occurrences of the same key. To change this behavior, pass a callable as the object\_pairs\_hook argument; it will be called with one argument, a generator of (key, value) pairs representing the key-value entries in s (including duplicates) in order of occurrence. <code>loads</code> will then return the value returned by <code>object\_pairs\_hook</code>.

#### **Parameters**

- **s** (*string*) the string from which to read the .properties document
- **object\_pairs\_hook** (callable) class or function for combining the key-value pairs

Return type dict of text strings or the return value of object\_pairs\_hook

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### XML .properties Format

### 2.1 Format Overview

The XML .properties file format encodes a series of key-value string pairs (and optionally also a comment) as an XML document conforming to the following Document Type Definition (published at <a href="http://java.sun.com/dtd/properties.dtd">http://java.sun.com/dtd/properties.dtd</a>):

```
<!ELEMENT properties (comment?, entry*)>
<!ATTLIST properties version CDATA #FIXED "1.0">
<!ELEMENT comment (#PCDATA)>
<!ELEMENT entry (#PCDATA)>
<!ATTLIST entry key CDATA #REQUIRED>
```

### 2.2 Functions

javaproperties.dump\_xml (props, fp, comment=None, encoding=u'UTF-8', sort\_keys=False)
Write a series props of key-value pairs to a binary filehandle fp in the format of an XML properties file. The file will include both an XML declaration and a doctype declaration.

### Parameters

- **props** A mapping or iterable of (key, value) pairs to write to fp. All keys and values in props must be text strings. If sort\_keys is False, the entries are output in iteration order.
- fp (binary file-like object) a file-like object to write the values of props to
- comment (text string or None) if non-None, comment will be output as a <comment> element before the <entry> elements
- **encoding** (*string*) the name of the encoding to use for the XML document (also included in the XML declaration)
- **sort\_keys** (bool) if true, the elements of props are sorted lexicographically by key in the output

### Returns None

```
javaproperties.dumps_xml (props, comment=None, sort_keys=False)
```

Convert a series props of key-value pairs to a text string containing an XML properties document. The document will include a doctype declaration but not an XML declaration.

#### **Parameters**

- **props** A mapping or iterable of (key, value) pairs to serialize. All keys and values in props must be text strings. If sort\_keys is False, the entries are output in iteration order
- comment (text string or None) if non-None, comment will be output as a <comment> element before the <entry> elements
- sort\_keys (bool) if true, the elements of props are sorted lexicographically by key in the output

### Return type text string

javaproperties.load\_xml (fp, object\_pairs\_hook=<type 'dict'>)

Parse the contents of the file-like object fp as an XML properties file and return a dict of the key-value pairs.

Beyond basic XML well-formedness, <code>load\_xml</code> only checks that the root element is named properties and that all of its <code>entry</code> children have key attributes. No further validation is performed; if any <code>entrys</code> happen to contain nested tags, the behavior is undefined.

By default, the key-value pairs extracted from fp are combined into a dict with later occurrences of a key overriding previous occurrences of the same key. To change this behavior, pass a callable as the object\_pairs\_hook argument; it will be called with one argument, a generator of (key, value) pairs representing the key-value entries in fp (including duplicates) in order of occurrence. <code>load\_xml</code> will then return the value returned by object\_pairs\_hook.

**Note:** This uses xml.etree.ElementTree for parsing, which does not have decent support for unicode input in Python 2. Files containing non-ASCII characters need to be opened in binary mode in Python 2, while Python 3 accepts both binary and text input.

### **Parameters**

- $fp(file-like \ object)$  the file from which to read the XML properties document
- object\_pairs\_hook (callable) class or function for combining the key-value pairs

Return type dict or the return value of object\_pairs\_hook

Raises ValueError – if the root of the XML tree is not a properties> tag or an <entry>
element is missing a key attribute

javaproperties.loads\_xml (s, object\_pairs\_hook=<type 'dict'>)

Parse the contents of the string s as an XML properties document and return a dict of the key-value pairs.

Beyond basic XML well-formedness, <code>loads\_xml</code> only checks that the root element is named properties and that all of its <code>entry</code> children have key attributes. No further validation is performed; if any <code>entrys</code> happen to contain nested tags, the behavior is undefined.

By default, the key-value pairs extracted from s are combined into a dict with later occurrences of a key overriding previous occurrences of the same key. To change this behavior, pass a callable as the object\_pairs\_hook argument; it will be called with one argument, a generator of (key, value) pairs representing the key-value entries in s (including duplicates) in order of occurrence. <code>loads\_xml</code> will then return the value returned by object\_pairs\_hook.

**Note:** This uses xml.etree.ElementTree for parsing, which does not have decent support for unicode input in Python 2. Strings containing non-ASCII characters need to be encoded as bytes in Python 2 (Use either

UTF-8 or UTF-16 if the XML document does not contain an encoding declaration), while Python 3 accepts both binary and text input.

### **Parameters**

- **s** (string) the string from which to read the XML properties document
- **object\_pairs\_hook** (callable) class or function for combining the key-value pairs

Return type dict or the return value of object\_pairs\_hook

**Raises ValueError** – if the root of the XML tree is not a properties> tag or an <entry> element is missing a key attribute

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### Properties Class

### class javaproperties.Properties (data=None, defaults=None)

A port of Java 8's java.net.Properties that tries to match its behavior as much as is Pythonically possible. *Properties* behaves like a normal MutableMapping class (i.e., you can do props[key] = value and so forth), except that it may only be used to store strings (str and unicode in Python 2; just str in Python 3). Attempts to use a non-string object as a key or value will produce a TypeError.

### **Parameters**

- data (mapping or None) A mapping or iterable of (key, value) pairs with which to initialize the *Properties* object. All keys and values in data must be text strings.
- defaults (Properties or None) a set of default properties that will be used as fallback for getProperty

### defaults = None

A Properties subobject used as fallback for getProperty. Only getProperty, propertyNames, and stringPropertyNames use this attribute; all other methods (including the standard mapping methods) ignore it.

### getProperty (key, defaultValue=None)

Fetch the value associated with the key key in the *Properties* object. If the key is not present, *defaults* is checked, and then *its defaults*, etc., until either a value for key is found or the next *defaults* is None, in which case defaultValue is returned.

### **Parameters**

- **key** (text string) the key to look up the value of
- **defaultValue** the value to return if key is not found in the *Properties* object

**Return type** text string (if key was found)

Raises TypeError – if key is not a string

### load(inStream)

Update the Properties object with the entries in a .properties file or file-like object.

inStream may be either a text or binary filehandle, with or without universal newlines enabled. If it is a binary filehandle, its contents are decoded as Latin-1.

**Parameters inStream** (file-like object) - the file from which to read the properties document

Returns None

### loadFromXML (inStream)

Update the Properties object with the entries in the XML properties file inStream.

Beyond basic XML well-formedness, <code>loadFromXML</code> only checks that the root element is named <code>properties</code> and that all of its <code>entry</code> children have key attributes; no further validation is performed.

**Note:** This uses xml.etree.ElementTree for parsing, which does not have decent support for unicode input in Python 2. Files containing non-ASCII characters need to be opened in binary mode in Python 2, while Python 3 accepts both binary and text input.

**Parameters inStream** (file-like object) - the file from which to read the XML properties document

Returns None

**Raises ValueError** – if the root of the XML tree is not a properties> tag or an <entry> element is missing a key attribute

### propertyNames()

Returns a generator of all distinct keys in the *Properties* object and its *defaults* (and its *defaults*'s *defaults*, etc.) in unspecified order

**Return type** generator of text strings

### setProperty (key, value)

Equivalent to self[key] = value

### store (out, comments=None)

Write the *Properties* object's entries (in unspecified order) in .properties format to out, including the current timestamp.

#### **Parameters**

- out A file-like object to write the properties to. It must have been opened as a text file with a Latin-1-compatible encoding.
- comments (text string or None) If non-None, comments will be written to out as a comment before any other content

Returns None

### storeToXML (out, comment=None, encoding='UTF-8')

Write the Properties object's entries (in unspecified order) in XML properties format to out.

#### **Parameters**

- out (binary file-like object) a file-like object to write the properties to
- comment (text string or None) if non-None, comment will be output as a <comment> element before the <entry> elements
- **encoding** (*string*) the name of the encoding to use for the XML document (also included in the XML declaration)

Returns None

### stringPropertyNames()

Returns a set of all keys in the *Properties* object and its defaults (and its defaults's defaults, etc.)

Return type set of text strings

### **Low-Level Utilities**

```
javaproperties.escape (field)
```

Parameters field (text string) - the string to escape

**Return type** text string

```
javaproperties.java_timestamp(timestamp=True)
```

New in version 0.2.0.

Returns a timestamp in the format produced by Java 8's Date.toString(), e.g.:

```
Mon Sep 02 14:00:54 EDT 2016
```

If timestamp is True (the default), the current date & time is returned.

If timestamp is None or False, an empty string is returned.

If timestamp is a number, it is converted from seconds since the epoch to local time.

If timestamp is a datetime .datetime object, its value is used directly, with naïve objects assumed to be in the local timezone.

The timestamp is always constructed using the C locale.

Parameters timestamp (None, bool, number, or datetime.datetime) - the date & time to display

**Return type** text string

```
javaproperties.join_key_value(key, value, separator=u'=')
```

Join a key and value together into a single line suitable for adding to a .properties file. No trailing newline is added.

```
>>> join_key_value('possible separators', '= : space')
'possible\\ separators=\\= \\: space'
```

### **Parameters**

- **key** (text string) the key
- value (text string) the value

• **separator** (text string) – the string to use for separating the key & value. Only ", "=", and ":" (possibly with added whitespace) should ever be used as the separator.

Return type text string

```
javaproperties.parse(fp)
```

Parse the contents of the readline-supporting file-like object fp as a .properties file and return a generator of (key, value, original\_lines) triples for every entry in fp (including duplicate keys) in order of occurrence. The third element of each triple is the concatenation of the unmodified lines in fp (including trailing newlines) from which the key and value were extracted. The generator also includes comments and blank/all-whitespace lines found in fp, one triple per line, with the first two elements of the triples set to None. This is the only way to extract comments from a .properties file with this library.

fp may be either a text or binary filehandle, with or without universal newlines enabled. If it is a binary filehandle, its contents are decoded as Latin-1.

Parameters fp (file-like object) - the file from which to read the .properties document

**Return type** generator of triples of text strings

```
javaproperties.to_comment (comment)
```

Convert a string to a .properties file comment. All non-Latin-1 characters in the string are escaped using \uXXXX escapes (after converting non-BMP characters to surrogate pairs), a # is prepended to the string, any CR LF or CR line breaks in the string are converted to LF, and a # is inserted after any line break not already followed by a # or !. No trailing newline is added.

```
>>> to_comment('They say foo=bar,\r\nbut does bar=foo?')
'#They say foo=bar,\n#but does bar=foo?'
```

**Parameters** comment (text string) – the string to convert to a comment

**Return type** text string

```
javaproperties.unescape (field)
```

Decode escape sequences in a .properties key or value. The following escape sequences are recognized:

If a backslash is followed by any other character, the backslash is dropped.

In addition, any valid UTF-16 surrogate pairs in the string after escape-decoding are further decoded into the non-BMP characters they represent. (Invalid & isolated surrogate code points are left as-is.)

**Parameters field** (text string) – the string to decode

Return type text string

### **Command-Line Utilities**

javaproperties includes three command-line programs for manipulating .properties files, including support for getting & setting values and converting files to & from the much more widely-supported JSON format. Currently, the programs only support "plain" .properties files.

### 5.1 javaproperties

New in version 0.2.0.

### 5.1.1 NAME

javaproperties — Basic manipulation of Java .properties files

### 5.1.2 SYNOPSIS

```
javaproperties get [<OPTIONS>] <file> <key> ...
javaproperties select [<OPTIONS>] <file> <key> ...
javaproperties set [<OPTIONS>] <file> <key> <value>
javaproperties delete [<OPTIONS>] <file> <key> ...
javaproperties format [<OPTIONS>] [<file>]
```

**Note:** If the *javaproperties* package was installed but the **javaproperties** script is not present, this command can still be run by replacing javaproperties with python -m javaproperties on the command line.

### 5.1.3 get

```
javaproperties get [<OPTIONS>] <file> <key> ...
```

Print out the values of the given keys in the given .properties file. Each value is printed out on a separate line with escape sequences interpolated.

If you want the output to also be in .properties format, see select.

### **Options**

-d <value>, --default-value <value>

Default value for undefined keys. If this option is not specified, keys requested on the command line that are not defined in either the main .properties file or the --defaults file will cause a warning to be printed to stderr and the command to exit with a failure status.

-D <file>, --defaults <file>

.properties file of default values. If this option is specified, keys requested on the command line that are not defined in the main .properties file will be looked up in this file.

-e, --escaped

Parse the keys and default value specified on the command line for .properties-style escape sequences (specifically, those supported by unescape)

-E <encoding>, --encoding <encoding>

Specifies the encoding of the input file(s); default value: iso-8859-1 (a.k.a. Latin-1). Output always uses the locale's encoding.

### 5.1.4 select

```
javaproperties select [<OPTIONS>] <file> <key> ...
```

Print out the key-value entries in the given .properties file for the given keys. The output is in .properties format, reformatted as though by *format*.

### **Options**

-d <value>, --default-value <value>

Default value for undefined keys. If this option is not specified, keys requested on the command line that are not defined in either the main .properties file or the --defaults file will cause a warning to be printed to stderr and the command to exit with a failure status.

-D <file>, --defaults <file>

.properties file of default values. If this option is specified, keys requested on the command line that are not defined in the main .properties file will be looked up in this file.

-e, --escaped

Parse the keys and default value specified on the command line for .properties-style escape sequences (specifically, those supported by unescape)

-E <encoding>, --encoding <encoding>

Specifies the encoding of the input and output files; default value: iso-8859-1 (a.k.a. Latin-1)

-o <file>, --outfile <file>

Write output to this file instead of standard output

-s <sep>, --separator <sep>

Use <sep> as the key-value separator in the output; default value: =

### 5.1.5 set

```
javaproperties set [<OPTIONS>] <file> <key> <value>
```

Set the value of <key> in the .properties file <file> to <value> and output the results. The other entries in the file (including comments, possibly not including the timestamp; see below) will be left as-is.

### **Options**

### -e, --escaped

Parse <key> and <value> for .properties-style escape sequences (specifically, those supported by unescape)

-E <encoding>, --encoding <encoding>

Specifies the encoding of the input and output files; default value: iso-8859-1 (a.k.a. Latin-1)

-o <file>, --outfile <file>

Write output to this file instead of standard output

-s <sep>, --separator <sep>

Separate <key> and <value> in the output with <sep>; default value: =

### -T, --preserve-timestamp

Do not modify the timestamp in the .properties file. By default, if a timestamp is found, it is updated to the current time, even if the rest of the file is unchanged.

### 5.1.6 delete

```
javaproperties delete [<OPTIONS>] <file> <key> ...
```

Remove all entries for the given keys from the given .properties file and output the results. The other entries in the file (including comments, possibly not including the timestamp; see below) will be left as-is.

### **Options**

### -e, --escaped

Parse the keys specified on the command line for .properties-style escape sequences (specifically, those supported by unescape)

-E <encoding>, --encoding <encoding>

Specifies the encoding of the input and output files; default value: iso-8859-1 (a.k.a. Latin-1)

-o <file>, --outfile <file>

Write output to this file instead of standard output

### -T, --preserve-timestamp

Do not modify the timestamp in the .properties file. By default, if a timestamp is found, it is updated to the current time, even if the rest of the file is unchanged.

### 5.1.7 format

```
javaproperties format [<OPTIONS>] [<file>]
```

Normalize the formatting of the given .properties file (or standard input if no file is given) and output the results. All comments, excess whitespace, invalid escapes, and duplicate keys are removed, and the entries are sorted and converted to ASCII with *escape*.

### **Options**

**-E** <encoding>, **--encoding** <encoding>
Specifies the encoding of the input and output files; default value: iso-8859-1 (a.k.a. Latin-1)

```
-o <file>, --outfile <file>
    Write output to this file instead of standard output
```

```
-s <sep>, --separator <sep>
    Use <sep> as the key-value separator in the output; default value: =
```

### 5.2 json2properties

### 5.2.1 **NAME**

json2properties — Convert a JSON object to a Java .properties file

### 5.2.2 SYNOPSIS

```
json2properties [<OPTIONS>] [<infile> [<outfile>]]
```

**Note:** If the *javaproperties* package was installed but the **json2properties** script is not present, this command can still be run by replacing json2properties with python -m javaproperties.fromjson on the command line.

### 5.2.3 DESCRIPTION

Convert a JSON file infile to a .properties file and write the results to outfile. If not specified, infile and outfile default to sys.stdin and sys.stdout, respectively.

The JSON document must be an object with scalar (i.e., string, numeric, boolean, and/or null) values; anything else will result in an error.

Output is sorted by key, and numeric, boolean, & null values are output using their JSON representations; e.g., the input:

```
"yes": true,
    "no": "false",
    "nothing": null
}
```

### becomes:

```
#Mon Sep 26 18:57:44 UTC 2016
no=false
nothing=null
yes=true
```

### **5.2.4 OPTIONS**

-E <encoding>, --encoding <encoding>
 New in version 0.2.0.

Use <encoding> as the output encoding; default value: iso-8859-1 (a.k.a. Latin-1). (As all output is *currently* always pure ASCII, this option is not very useful.)

-s <sep>, --separator <sep>

New in version 0.2.0.

Use <sep> as the key-value separator in the output; default value: =

### 5.3 properties2json

### 5.3.1 NAME

properties2json — Convert a Java .properties file to JSON

### 5.3.2 SYNOPSIS

properties2json [<OPTIONS>] [<infile> [<outfile>]]

**Note:** If the *javaproperties* package was installed but the **properties2json** script is not present, this command can still be run by replacing properties2json with python -m javaproperties.tojson on the command line.

### 5.3.3 DESCRIPTION

Convert a .properties file infile to a JSON object and write the results to outfile. If not specified, infile and outfile default to sys.stdin and sys.stdout, respectively.

### **5.3.4 OPTIONS**

-E <encoding>, --encoding <encoding>

New in version 0.2.0.

Specifies the encoding of the input file; default value: iso-8859-1 (a.k.a. Latin-1)

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