

JSON & YAML

Computing

What each format allows, and the YAML gotchas that bite.

JSON

- Strings must use double quotes
- No comments, ever
- No trailing commas
- Types: string, number, bool, null, array, object
- Unambiguous — that is the point

YAML

- Indentation is structure; spaces only
- Comments with #
- Strings often need no quotes
- --- separates documents
- &anchor and *alias reuse a block

THE DIFFERENCE THAT MATTERS

YAML's convenience is also its risk: unquoted ``no`` becomes false, ``1.0`` becomes a number, and version ``1.10`` becomes 1.1.

Quote anything that could be read as a boolean, a number or a date. In YAML 1.1, yes/no/on/off are all booleans.