

Main Page

Related Pages

Namespaces ▾

Classes ▾

Files ▾

Search

▼ Wikibase

► Architecture Decision Records

► Components

▼ Topics

Change propagation

► Change op serializations

► Constraints

► Controllers

► Datatypes

► Entity sources

► Entitytypes

► Federation

Hooks JS

► Hooks PHP

► JSON

Inclusion Syntax

► LUA

► MediaWiki

Globals

► Options

► Pingback mechanism

► Public APIs

► Repo Client Relationship

► RDF binding

► Services

► Storage

Summaries

Usage tracking

► Usagetracking migration

Documentation

► dist/ size over time

README

CODE_OF_CONDUCT

► Cypress tests

► DomainDb Database Connection Abstrac

► Wikibase Lib Packages

► wikibase/changes

► Wikibase DataModel Serialization

► Wikibase DataModel Serialization releas

► Wikibase DataModel Services

► Wikibase DataModel Services release nc

► Wikibase DataModel

► Wikibase DataModel release notes

↔

JSON

This document describes the canonical JSON format used to represent **Wikibase** entities in the API, in JSON dumps, as well as by Special:EntityData (when using JSON output). This format can be expected to be reasonably stable, and is designed with flexibility and robustness in mind.

For an explanation of the terms used in this document, please refer to the **Wikibase Glossary**. For a specification of the semantics of the data structures described here, see the **Wikibase Data Model**.

Changes to the JSON format are subject to **Stable Interface Policy**.

NOTE: The canonical copy of this document is in Wikibase.git. Changes can be requested by filing a ticket on Phabricator.

JSON Flavor

Wikibase follows the JSON specification as given in **RFC 7159**, aiming for interoperability in the sense of that RFC. When encoding the **Wikibase** data structure as JSON, several choices have been made as to how values are represented:

- Keys in JSON objects are unique, their order is not significant.
- Strings are encoded in one of two ways:
 - using either Unicode escape sequences (like `\u0645`) resulting in a UTF16 representation when decoded.
 - ...or using native UTF8 encoding.
- Numbers may be given in two ways:
 - integers from $-(2^{31})$ to $2^{31}-1$ may be represented as number literals.
 - all numbers may be represented as decimal strings. In particular, quantity values are represented as arbitrary precision decimal strings.
- Entity IDs are given as upper-case strings, e.g. "P29" or "Q623289".
- In JSON dumps, each entity is encoded in as a single line. This allows consumers to process the dump line by line, decoding each entity separately.

Clients should be ready to process any of the forms given above.

In Code

The wikibase/data-model-serialization library provides the majority of the serialization of core entities.

For public consumption **ResultBuilder** is used to modify the standard storage serialization.

Wikibase

Topics

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