Drupal 8 configuration schema cheat sheet
1.5 - April 9, 2015.

Configuration schema in Drupal 8 is used to describe the structure of configuration files. It is then applied to:

- Typecast configuration to ensure type consistency (see StorableConfigBase::castValue())
- Automated persistence of configuration entity properties (see ConfigEntityBase::toArray())
- Automated generation of the configuration translation user interface (see the core module)

A simple example

```
config/install/my_module.settings.yml

my_module.settings:
  type: config_object
  mapping:
    type:
      type: string
      label: 'Message type'
    message:
      type: my_module_message.\[%parent.type\]
      label: 'Message text'
    langcode:
      type: string
      label: 'Language code'

my_module_message.warning:
  type: string
  label: 'Message'

my_module_message.multiple:
  type: sequence
  label: 'Messages'
  sequence:
    type: string
    label: 'Message'

config/schema/my_module.schema.yml
```

Basic schema types

Core provides the following data types. Contributed modules may define new base types. More are defined in core.data_types.schema.yml.

**Scalar types**
- boolean
- integer
- float
- string
- uri
- email

**List types**
- mapping: known keys
- sequence: unknown keys

**Common subtypes**
- label: short & translatable
- text: long & translatable
- config_object: object root
- config_entity: entity root

**Subtyping**
All of config schema is about subtyping from existing types. The simple example earlier is subtyping config_object (which is a subtype of mapping) further defining keys with their own types.

The config_object or config_entity types are for the root of config schema definitions as appropriate.

Types route, filter, mail, etc. are provided for common complex internal data structures.

Dynamic type with [%parent]

Exact types may not be known ahead of time and may depend on the data. Schema allows to define types based on the data as well. Let's say the type of message may depend on the type value: either a list of messages or a simple warning message. Let's use ‘multiple’ for the list case and keep ‘warning’ for the single line message.

```
config/install/my_module.message.single.yml

my_module.message.*:
  type: config_object
  mapping:
    type:
      type: string
      label: 'Message type'
    message:
      type: my_module_message.\[%parent.type\]
      label: 'Message text'
    langcode:
      type: string
      label: 'Language code'

config/install/my_module.message.multiple.yml

my_module.message.multiple:
  type: sequence
  label: 'Messages'
  sequence:
    type: string
    label: 'Message'
```

```
config/schema/my_module.schema.yml

my_module.message.tractor:
  type: config_object
  mapping:
    type:
      type: string
      label: 'Tractor type'
    message:
      type: my_module_message.\[%parent.type\]
      label: 'Message'
    langcode:
      type: string
      label: 'Language code'
```

Dynamic element type based on data

Used wildcard so it applies to a set of config names.

Settings in config

Used internally for translation

Chaining is possible as %parent.%parent.type, etc.

Internal types prefixed with module name to avoid conflict with top level types.
Dynamic type with [type]

If the data to vary your type by is under the data to be typed, that is when [type] becomes useful.

**config/install/my_module.message.single.yml**

message:
  type: warning
  value: 'Hello!'
  langcode: en

**config/install/my_module.message.multiple.yml**

message:
  type: multiple
  value:
    - 'Hello!'
    - 'Hi!'
  langcode: en

You may also define a **my_module_message_base** base type that includes common keys like ‘type’ and extend from that with any custom keys per type.

Dynamic type with [%key]

**config/install/my_module.messages.yml**

messages:
  'single:1': 'Hello!'
  'single:2': 'Hi!'
  'multiple:1':
    - 'Good morning!'
    - 'Good night!'
  langcode: en

This is now a list of arbitrary message elements.

**config/schema/my_module.schema.yml**

my_module.messages:
  type: config_object
  mapping:
    message:
      type: my_module_message.[%type]
      [...]

my_module_message.warning:
  type: mapping
  [...]

my_module_message.multiple:
  type: mapping
  [...]

You may define a **my_module_message_base** base type that includes common keys like ‘type’ and extend from that with any custom keys per type.

Schema debugging

To debug configuration schemas use the Configuration Inspector module ([http://drupal.org/project/config_inspector](http://drupal.org/project/config_inspector)) which helps you find schema mismatches with active configuration and inspect how your schema is applied to your configuration.

Schema testing

- All TestBase deriving tests in core now use $strictConfigSchema = TRUE which results in strict scheme adherence testing for all configuration saved. Only opt out of this if you really need to. Your schema should match your data and pass this test.
- Use SchemaCheckTestTrait in your test to check for specific config files only.

More documentation

See [https://www.drupal.org/node/1905070](https://www.drupal.org/node/1905070) for even more configuration schema documentation and examples.

Issues?

- For issues with core configuration schemas, tag them with ‘Configuration schema’ and ‘Configuration system’ and pick the appropriate module as component.
- For issues with the configuration schema system itself, use the ‘configuration system’ component and also tag with ‘Configuration schema’.

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