# A Nerd's Guide to

# **DATA-INTO in RPG**

Presented by

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Two bytes meet. The first byte asks, "Are you ill?" The second byte replies, "No, just feeling a bit off."



## Background

Its often useful to read structured documents in business applications.

- Data interchange between business partners
- Data interchange between applications
- Simple way to store non-database data (such as configurations)

RPG's first foray into support for reading these was XML-INTO (which supported only XML)

The concept of XML-INTO: think of your data as an RPG variable

- data structure
- array
- data structure inside an array
- array inside a data structure
- ...or any combination of the above

Define an RPG variable in the same format as the XML, let XML-INTO do the rest.

XML-INTO Concept Think of XML like a data structure, it's one larger field (such as "address") that contains sub-fields (such as "street", "city", "state" and "postal") It'd be helpful to be able to load the RPG DS from the XML. dcl-ds address; <address> street varchar(30); 123 Main Street </street> city varchar(20); Anywhere </city> state char(2) WI </state> postal varchar(10); 12345 </postal> end-ds; </address> That's what XML-INTO does! Maps XML fields into corresponding DS fields

- Field names must match (special characters can be mapped into underscores if needed)
- Repeating elements can be loaded into arrays





# DATA-INTO was: • added to RPG in March 2018 (via PTF) • added to RPG in March 2018 (via PTF) • added to RPG in March 2018 (via PTF) • releases after 7.3 (7.4+) will include DATA-INTO at GA • RDi version 9.6.0.2 or newer to avoid syntax errors NOTE: Like all RPG features released after March 2008, it will show up as a syntax error in SEU. SEU is no longer viable for anything but legacy work!! PTF information can be found here: http://ibm.biz/data-into-rpg-opcode-ptfs Installing support for DATA-INTO will include/update the QOAR library with copybooks and sample programs from IBM







### **Basic JSON Example** Basic DATA-INTO example using YAJLINTO dcl-ds address; street varchar(30); city varchar(20); state char(2) - : postal varchar(10); end-ds; $myJSON = ' \{ +$ "street": "123 Example Street", + "city": "Milwaukee", + "state": "WI", + "postal": "53201-1234" + **}';** data-into address %DATA(myJSON) %PARSER('YAJLINTO'); For simplicity, myJSON is a string built in the program. But, it could've been a parameter, read from an API call, etc.



DOC Option	
The default is doc=string (read from a string)	
doc=file tells DATA-INTO to read the data from the IFS. The firs parameter to %DATA is now the IFS path name.	st
Imagine the "address" example (from the first example) was in a file named /home/scott/address.json	an IFS
<pre>myStmf = '/home/scott/address.json';</pre>	



### CASE Example



```
end-ds;
myJSON = '{ "Postal Code": "53201-1234" }';
data-into address2 %DATA(myJSON:'case=convert') %PARSER('YAJLINTO');
```



- This example would fail (without allowmissing=yes) because the document is missing the "postal code"
- allowmissing may be yes or no. (default=no)
- the missing element is left unchanged (\*NONE) in the RPG variable.

### AllowExtra Option

```
dcl-ds address;
  street varchar(30);
         varchar(20);
  city
  state char(2)
                   ;
  postal code varchar(10) inz('*NONE');
end-ds;
myJSON = ' \{ +
            "street": "123 Example Street", +
            "city": "Milwaukee", +
            "state": "WI", +
            "Postal Code": "53201-1234", +
            "country": "US" +
          }';
data-into address %DATA(myJSON:'case=convert allowextra=yes')
                  %PARSER('YAJLINTO');
```

- This example would fail (without allowextra=yes) because the document has an extra 'country' field that is not in the RPG code.
- allowextra may be yes or no. (default=no)





Now imagine the RPG code needed to read this....

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### CountPrefix Option (3 of 3)

You can now use num\_invoices to loop through the data. For example:

```
.
for x = 1 to statement.num_invoices;
    prinvn = statement.invoices(x).invoice;
    prdamt = statement.invoices(x).amount;
    prsdat = statement.invoices(x).date;
    write prrec;
endfor;
.
```

This example writes the fields to a database table (physical file).

This also illustrates the use of nested data structures/arrays. You separate each nested level with a period, and place the array index (the (x) above) on the level that is an array.







NOTE: This problem is exclusive to JSON and similar formats. XML, for example, does assign a name to its document-level tag. (Other formats may as well, depending on the format.)

IBM may fix this in a future update?











## Debugging the Parser

IBM provides a special environment variable to assist you with using DATA-INTO. It traces all of the information passed into DATA-INTO from the parser. (Parsers can add additional information as well.)

To enable it for your job:

ADDENVVAR ENVVAR(QIBM\_RPG\_DATA\_INTO\_TRACE\_PARSER) VALUE(\*STDOUT)

### Example output:

------ Start ------Data length 886 bytes Data CCSID 13488 Document name "statement" has been added to path ReportName: 'statement' Converting data to UTF-8 Allocating YAJL stream parser Parsing JSON data (yajl\_parse) StartStruct ReportName: 'customer' ReportValue: '5406' ReportValue: '5406' ReportName: 'statement date' ReportName: 'start date' ReportValue: '2018-09-01'

# Writing Your Own Parser First is for the real nerds out there! (ahem, like Scott) Imagine what you could do if you wrote your own parser!! Why? • Write your own JSON one because it's fun. • Write one for a different document type – where no other option exists • Add cool features that don't already exist! Ideas: • Maybe autodetect XML or JSON, and handle either one. • Parser that fetches data from https:// URLs before parsing • Just about anything, really.... E-mail? Spreadsheet? • Less limiting than Open Access because not limited to a 32k flat record.



# DATA-INTO Exceptions

### NOTE:

Any of the events on the preceding slide can cause DATA-INTO to end the parser program if an error is detected.

- i.e. control won't return to the parser after calling a subprocedure.
- You must ensure that anything you allocated or opened has been cleaned up.
- Or provide a clean-up routine using something like ON-EXIT or an ILE cancel handler.

### **IMPORTANT:**

Not cleaning up resources properly when RPG stops the parser is the most common mistake when writing a DATA-INTO parser.









CSVINTO: The Caller		<u></u>
The goal of this parser will be to read a CSV file like	this:	K
<pre>dcl-ds pgmStat psds; numRows int(20) pos(372); end-ds;</pre>		
<pre>dcl-ds CSV qualified dim(5000); field1 like(acct); // acct field2 like(name); // name field8 like(credLmt); // credit limit end-ds;</pre>	Only need fields 1, 2 ar I can skip fields I don't because I used AllowE	need
<pre>data-into CSV %DATA( '/home/sklement/addrtest.csv'</pre>		
<pre>for x = 1 to numRows; acct = CSV(x).field1; name = CSV(x).field2; credLmt = CSV(x).field8; except rec;</pre>		









CSV Parser (5 of 5)		Ş
<pre>on-exit; if h &lt;&gt; *null; CSV_close(h); h = *null; endif;</pre>	CSV_close (mentioned before) frees up dynamic memory used inside CSVR4	K
end-proc; <i>IMPORTANT:</i> Any of the QrnDi functions can stop the pro • For example: if a field name isn't found i	•	
<ul> <li>…or a value isn't valid (invalid number, e</li> <li>…or various other reasons.</li> </ul> ON-EXIT code will still be called! <ul> <li>This way we can make sure any temporation.</li> </ul>		
cleaned up.	41	



## More Information

From Scott Klement:

Scott's IBM i Port of YAJL (includes YAJLINTO) <u>https://www.scottklement.com/yajl/</u>

Scott's CSVutil (includes CSVINTO, example report): <u>https://www.scottklement.com/csv/</u>

Consuming Web Services on IBM i with HTTPAPI http://www.scottklement.com/presentations/#HTTPAPI

Providing Web Services on IBM i http://www.scottklement.com/presentations/#PROVIDING

Working with JSON in RPG with YAJL <a href="http://www.scottklement.com/presentations/#YAJL">http://www.scottklement.com/presentations/#YAJL</a>

