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JSON Reference  
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## Abstract

JSON Reference allows a JSON value to be referenced from within a JSON document.

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## [1.](#) Introduction

This specification defines a JSON [[RFC4627](#)] structure for referencing a specific JSON value within a JSON document. This provides a basis for transclusion in JSON: the use of a target resource as an effective substitute for the reference.

## [2.](#) Conventions

The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in [[RFC2119](#)].

## [3.](#) Syntax

A JSON Reference is a JSON object containing a single member "\$ref", whose value identifies another JSON value via a URI [[RFC3986](#)].

Example:

```
{ "$ref": "http://example.com/example.json#/foo/bar" }
```

## [4.](#) Resolution

Resolution of a JSON Reference object SHOULD yield the referenced JSON value.

If the URI contained in the JSON Reference value is a relative URI, then the base URI resolution MUST be calculated according to [[RFC3986](#), section 5.2]. Resolution is performed relative to the referring document.

If a URI contains a fragment identifier, then the fragment should be resolved per the fragment resolution mechanism of the referrant

document. If the representation of the referrant document is JSON, then the fragment identifier SHOULD be interpreted as a [JSON Pointer].

## 5. Media Type

Documents that use JSON Reference SHOULD include a media type parameter: `application/json; profile=http://json-schema.org/json-ref` or refer to a schema that extends <http://json-schema.org/json-ref>.

## 6. IANA Considerations

This draft includes no request to IANA.

## 7. Security Considerations

A JSON Reference is not guaranteed to resolve to a JSON value. Implementations of this specification should be aware of this and take appropriate precautions.

## 8. Normative References

[JSON Pointer]

Bryan, P. and K. Zyp, "JSON Pointer", October 2011, <<http://tools.ietf.org/html/draft-pbryan-zyp-json-pointer-02>>.

[RFC2119] Bradner, S., "Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels", [BCP 14](#), [RFC 2119](#), March 1997.

[RFC3986] Berners-Lee, T., Fielding, R., and L. Masinter, "Uniform Resource Identifier (URI): Generic Syntax", STD 66, [RFC 3986](#), January 2005.

[RFC4627] Crockford, D., "The application/json Media Type for JavaScript Object Notation (JSON)", [RFC 4627](#), July 2006.

[Appendix A](#). Examples

TBD.

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