gron Greppable JSON

CONCEPTS

gron turns every leaf of a JSON document into one line such as json.user.tags[0] = "a"; and the root is always called json. grep keeps whole paths, so you see where a value lives. Do not rely on grep and sed pipelines in scripts; use jq there.

JSON file, URL or stdin
↓ gron
Assignments json.a.b[0] = 1;
↓ grep / sed / diff
Fewer lines still valid statements
↓ gron -u
JSON again
Round trip: flatten, filter, rebuild

READING INPUT

`gron <file>`
Flatten a JSON file

`gron <url>`
Fetch a URL and flatten the body

`curl -s <url> | gron`
Flatten JSON from stdin

`gron -`
Read from stdin explicitly

`gron -s <file>`
Treat each line as its own JSON object

`gron -k <url>`
Skip TLS certificate checks for a URL

OUTPUT CONTROL

`gron -m <file>`
Monochrome, no ANSI colours

`gron -c <file> | less -R`
Force colour through a pager

`gron --no-sort <file>`
Keep document order, faster

`gron --version`
Print the version

SEARCHING

`gron <file> | grep <text>`
Show paths whose line matches

`gron <file> | grep -i <text>`
Case-insensitive match

SEARCHING (cont.)

`gron <file> | grep -v <text>`
Drop lines that match

`gron <file> | grep '^json\.<key>'`
Anchor to a top-level key

`gron <file> | grep -F '[0]'`
Match a literal array index

`gron <file> | grep -E '<a>|<b>'`
Match either of two patterns

REBUILDING JSON

`gron -u <file>`
Turn assignments back into JSON

`gron <file> | grep <text> | gron -u`
Keep a slice of a document as valid JSON

`gron --ungron`
Long form of -u

`gron <file> | gron -v`
Print the values of the statements

COMPARING AND EDITING

`diff <(gron <a>) <(gron <b>)`
See which paths differ between two files

`diff -u <(gron <a>) <(gron <b>)`
Unified diff of two documents

`gron <file> | sed 's/<old>/<new>/' | gron -u`
Substitute a value, then rebuild

`gron <file> | grep -v <path> | gron -u`
Delete a key

EXIT CODES

Exit codes

Code	Meaning
0	OK
1	Failed to open file
2	Failed to read input
3	Failed to form statements
4	Failed to fetch URL
5	Failed to parse statements
6	Failed to encode JSON