yamllint YAML linter

CONCEPTS

Without a config file yamllint uses the default preset: syntax errors and style (indent, line length 80, trailing spaces) are errors; document-start, truthy and comments are warnings.

-c / -d flag wins if given
↓ else
.yamllint[.yaml/.yml] cwd or a parent
↓ else
$YAMLLINT_CONFIG_FILE env var
↓ else
~/.config/yamllint/config then built-in default

How a config is chosen

Exit code: 1 on any error, 0 on warnings only. With -s warnings alone give 2.

RUNNING

yamllint *<file> <dir>*
Lint files and directories

yamllint .
Lint every YAML file below here

cat *<file>* **| yamllint -**
Lint standard input

yamllint -s .
Exit non-zero on warnings too

RUNNING (cont.)

yamllint --no-warnings .
Show errors only

yamllint --list-files .
List files that would be linted

yamllint -f parsable .
file:line:col output for scripts

yamllint -f github .
GitHub Actions annotations

CONFIG SELECTION

yamllint -c *<config> <file>*
Use a config file

yamllint -d relaxed *<file>*
Built-in lenient preset

yamllint -d "{extends: default, rules: {line-length: {max: 120}}}" .
Inline config on the CLI

.yamllint
Per-project config file name

CONFIG FILE KEYS

extends: default
Start from the default preset

extends: relaxed
Start from the lenient preset

rules:
Map of rule name to settings

CONFIG FILE KEYS (cont.)

<rule>: **enable**
Turn a rule on with defaults

<rule>: **disable**
Turn a rule off

level: warning
Rule problems become warnings

ignore: |
Gitignore-style paths to skip

<rule>: **{ignore:** *<patterns>***}**
Skip paths for one rule only

ignore-from-file: .gitignore
Read ignore patterns from a file

INLINE DISABLES

 # yamllint disable-line
Skip this line

 # yamllint disable-line rule:*<rule>*
Skip one rule on this line

 # yamllint disable
Skip all rules from here

 # yamllint enable
Resume checking

 # yamllint disable rule:*<rule>*
Skip one rule from here

 # yamllint disable-file
Skip the whole file

INLINE DISABLES (cont.)

Prefer a rule-specific disable: a bare disable-line hides every rule, including real mistakes.

WHITESPACE RULES

indentation: {spaces: 2}
Fixed indent width

indentation: {indent-sequences: consistent}
Allow both list indent styles

line-length: {max: 120}
Longer lines allowed

line-length: disable
No line length limit

empty-lines: {max: 1}
Limit consecutive blank lines

SYNTAX AND STYLE RULES

document-start: {present: false}
Do not require ---

document-start: disable
Ignore the --- check

truthy: {allowed-values: ["true", "false"]}
Which bool words are allowed

SYNTAX AND STYLE RULES (cont.)

truthy: {allowed-values: ["true", "false", "on"]}
Allow on (GitHub Actions)

truthy: {check-keys: false}
Do not flag keys like on:

comments: {min-spaces-from-content: 1}
Gap before inline comment

comments-indentation: disable
Allow odd comment indent

colons: {max-spaces-after: -1}
No limit after colon (aligned values)

braces: {min-spaces-inside: 0, max-spaces-inside: 1}
Spaces inside { }

VALUE AND KEY RULES

key-duplicates: enable
Same key twice in a mapping

anchors: {forbid-unused-anchors: true}
Flag &anchors nobody uses

quoted-strings: {required: only-when-needed}
Quote only when necessary