yacker Documentation

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Contents

- Love Packer?
- Frustrated by the lack of support for YAML?
- Even though the process of converting YAML to JSON is, well, simple?

Well, now there's yacker!

`yacker` is an open-source Python YAML interpreter for HashiCorp's Packer. It wraps Packer in a converting wrapper that allows you to drive it with YAML files.

Now you can craft your Packer files in YAML rather than JSON. Then, instead of running `packer` on JSON files, you run `yacker` on your YAML files:

```
yacker build template.yml
```

All `yacker` does is translate YAML to JSON *on the fly* (a super-trivial act in Python), calling on Packer to do the rest.

Now you can benefit from the more pleasant environment that YAML provides and still use a pretty cool tool.

`yacker`: -

- searches the command-line for `.yml` (or `.yaml`) files (specifically looking for the template and any `-var-file` references)
- converts the files (if found) to JSON files
- reconstructs the command line (using the remaining options)
- passes control to `packer`
- removes the JSON files it created
- passes control (and Packer's exit code) back to you

Packer's output and any errors are simply presented to you as if you'd run Packer using JSON.

CHAPTER 1

Variable Files

yacker also translates any YAML-based variable files you may have. If you name a YAML file in any -var-file argument yacker will temporarily convert that file for you before passing it to Packer and then removing it:

```
yacker build -var-file=v1.yml -var-file=v2.yml template.yml
```

CHAPTER 2

YACKER_PACKER_PATH

yacker expects to find packer on the system PATH.

If you don't have Packer on the system path, or want to use a different Packer, you can provide a path to it by using the YACKER_PACKER_PATH environment variable:

```
YACKER_PACKER_PATH=~/bin yacker version
```

Or:

```
export YACKER_PACKER_PATH=~/bin
yacker version
yacker build template.yml
```