
yacker Documentation

Release 1.0.0

Alan Christie

Feb 08, 2019

Contents

1	Variable Files	3
2	YACKER_PACKER_PATH	5

- 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 `.yaml` (or `.yml`) 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
```