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r/learnpython • 2 yr. ago

StormStrikes



Comparing Two JSON Files For Differences

I need to compare two JSON files that contain a list of dictionaries whose basic format is:

```
[{"protocol": "S", "type": "", "network": "0.0.0.0", "mask": "0", "distance": "254", "metr:
```

Though there are many, many more dictionary items in the list than that shown above. I am not quite sure how best to go about comparing the files to spot differences and return or save those difference to another file, preferably in JSON format, though a CSV would be fine too.

The one gotcha that there may be is I need to exclude, at a minimum, the *uptime* value as it is constantly changing so it will of course trigger anything looking for changes. Can anyone help get me started please?



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```
data1 = [{"protocol": "S", "type": "", "network": "0.0.0.0", "mask": "0", "distance": ""}
data2 = [{"protocol": "S", "type": "", "network": "0.0.0.0", "mask": "0", "distance": ""}

def data_message(data):
    del data['uptime']
    return frozenset(data.items())

data1_set = {data_message(x) for x in data1}
data2_set = {data_message(x) for x in data2}

# I'm assuming by "compare" you mean you want to know what values are in data2 that wer
for item in data2_set - data1_set:
    print(dict(item))
```

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StormStrikes OP • 2y ago •

Wow! Thank you. Let me run that.

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StefanM3e46 • 2y ago •

Few words... Pandas, dataframe...

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StormStrikes OP • 2y ago •

I had in the back of my head someone would probably suggest that. I have never used pandas, so I wouldn't have any idea how to start, but I suppose Google would, LOL

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no kill like overkill, right?

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Remove the uptime value, convert what's left to frozensets and use a set difference operation.

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the network device, I can't, as far as I know, prevent its inclusion, its raw text output formatted by TextFSM.

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kellyjonbrazil • 2y ago •

You can also use unittest. The assertEqual method can compare dictionaries and lists of dictionaries and show differences.

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StormStrikes OP • 2y ago •

Doesn't *assert* only work if you use debug mode?

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luke-juryous • 2y ago •

I'd use the "sure" package. It's meant for unit testing, but it does an excellent job of comparing data structures

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