

Lecture 20: JSON

JSON stands for JavaScript Object Notation. It is a data format and it has become a standard for lightweight data exchange on the web. Many websites that contain active updating use JSON to exchange data between the web server and the web browser. At its core, JSON is either a *dictionary*, a *list*, or a built-in *type* like string, integer, or boolean. It has several nice properties with respect to Python:

- JSON is valid Python;
- JSON is human readable;
- JSON is compact; and
- JSON is an accepted, ubiquitous format.

```
{'retweet_count': 3,
  'retweeted': False,
  'source': '<a href="http://sproutsocial.com" rel="nofollow">Sprout Social</a>',
  'text': 'Congratulations to Class of 1946 Environmental Fellow in Residence @ElizKolbert on her #Pulitzer for The Sixth Extinction!',
  'truncated': False,
  'user': {'contributors_enabled': False,
           'created_at': 'Tue Sep 16 15:13:15 +0000 2008',
           'default_profile': False,
           'default_profile_image': False,
           'description': 'Founded in 1793, Williams is a private, liberal arts college located in Williamstown, Mass. Tweets by the Office of Communications staff.',
           'entities': {'description': {'urls': []},
                        'url': {'urls': [{'display_url': 'williams.edu',
                                           'expanded_url': 'http://www.williams.edu',
                                           'indices': [0, 22],
                                           'url': 'http://t.co/55j6uDzJm5'}]}}}
  'favourites_count': 569}}
```