

---

# **spawn Documentation**

***Release 0.2.1+15.g488a03c.dirty***

**Michael Tinning, Philip Bradstock**

**Mar 26, 2020**



# USER GUIDE

<b>1</b>	<b>Spawn Input File Definition</b>	<b>3</b>
1.1	Getting Started . . . . .	3
1.2	Arrays . . . . .	4
1.3	Value Proxies . . . . .	5
1.4	Literals . . . . .	7
1.5	Policies . . . . .	7
1.6	Indexing . . . . .	9
<b>2</b>	<b>Spawn Command Line Interface</b>	<b>11</b>
2.1	spawn . . . . .	11
<b>3</b>	<b>Glossary</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>API Reference</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>spawn.parsers</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>spawn.runners</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>spawn.schedulers</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>spawn.simulation_inputs</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>spawn.spawnners</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>spawn.specification</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>spawn.tasks</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>spawn.util</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Indices and tables</b>	<b>39</b>
	<b>Python Module Index</b>	<b>41</b>
	<b>Index</b>	<b>43</b>





Spawn is a python package that allows users to concisely specify and execute a large number of tasks with complex and co-dependent input parameter variations. It is used particularly in engineering where frequently thousands of similar simulations with input parameter variations are run for design and certification purposes. Spawn allows the specification of such large task sets to be formulated in a concise and readable input file.

A typical Spawn process is: 1. Write an input specification file in JSON that specifies the parameters and their values. 2. Inspect the fully expanded specification tree with the *inspect* command. 3. Execute all tasks with the *run* command. This uses a back-end “spawner” to create the tasks, which can be fully customised for individual use cases.

If you are interested in using Spawn for executing wind turbine aeroelastic simulation using NREL’s FAST, please see the [spawn-wind](#) page.

Read [Spawn Input File Definition](#) to discover how to build your first Spawn spec file.

If you’re using the command line interface, take a look at [Spawn Command Line Interface](#).

A full [API Reference](#) is also provided.



## SPAWN INPUT FILE DEFINITION

Spawn input is a hierarchical structure of branching nodes which allows large numbers of parameter sets (referred to as “specification nodes”) to be specified in a declarative manner. The input is defined in JSON format (see <http://json.org> for the JSON standard). JSON editors are widely available, or you can use your favourite text editor to write Spawn input files.

### 1.1 Getting Started

The specification is defined in an object named "spec". Each name/value pair within this object is a parameter name and its value. The following generates a single specification node with one parameter, named "alpha" with a value of 4:

```
{
  "spec": {
    "alpha": 4
  }
}
```

Sibling name/value pairs are simultaneous (i.e. occur on the same node). The following generates a single node with *two* simultaneous parameters - "alpha" with a value of 4, and "beta" with a value of "tadpole":

```
{
  "spec": {
    "alpha": 4,
    "beta": "tadpole"
  }
}
```

Separate nodes can be created by separating parameters into different JSON nodes. Parameters defined outside of the object are also applied on each node. The following creates two nodes, both with parameters named "alpha" and "beta", where the first node has parameter values of 4 and "tadpole" respectively and the second has values of 6 and "tadpole" respectively. Note that the names of the sub-objects ("blah" and "blo") do not contribute to the parameter specification:

```
{
  "spec": {
    "beta": "tadpole",
    "blah": { "alpha": 4 },
    "blo": { "alpha": 6 }
  }
}
```

An identical specification could be written (less concisely) as:

```
{
  "spec": {
    "blah": { "alpha": 4, "beta": "tadpole"},
    "blo": { "alpha": 6, "beta": "tadpole"}
  }
}
```

Avoiding repetitive definition and enabling concise and readable but complex specifications is one of the key aims of Spawn.

## 1.2 Arrays

Multiple specification nodes where one parameter is varied can be created by using the array property of JSON. The same specification as at the end of the last section (two nodes, both with parameter “beta” of “tadpole” and parameter “alpha with values of 4 and 6) can be created by:

```
{
  "spec": {
    "alpha": [4, 6],
    "beta": "tadpole"
  }
}
```

### 1.2.1 Cartesian Product

The automatic behaviour of multiple sibling arrays is to create all the parameter combinations of them (i.e. apply [Cartesian Product](#)). The following will create 6 (3\*2) nodes (2D product):

```
{
  "spec": {
    "alpha": [3, 5, 8],
    "beta": ["tadpole", "frog"]
  }
}
```

Additional sibling arrays will add additional dimensions to the Cartesian product, and there is no limit. In this manner, a very large number of nodes can be created with just a few lines.

### 1.2.2 Zip

To apply a one-one mapping between, we apply the zip “combinator” on the two arrays. A “combinator” is a name/object pair where the name determines the combination to be performed. The name starts with a # to differentiate it from other name/object pairs. The following generates three nodes ((3, “egg”), (5, “tadpole”), (8, “frog”)):

```
{
  "spec": {
    "combine:zip": {
      "alpha": [3, 5, 8],
      "beta": ["egg", "tadpole", "frog"]
    }
  }
}
```



There is no limit to the number of sibling arrays, but they *must* all have equal size.

## 1.3 Value Proxies

The value of parameter/value pairs can be represented by a proxy. The proxy is a string that starts with either a type identifier followed by a colon (longhand) or a special character (shorthand) to determine which type of value proxy it is. The parser then replaces the proxy when the specification is resolved. The types of value proxies are as follows:

Type	Long-hand	Short-hand	Description
Macro	macro:	\$	Direct substitution of a previously declared value
Generator	gen:	@	Generates a (in general different) value each time it is resolved
Evaluator	eval:	#	Evaluates a value based on a deterministic function which can take arguments

### 1.3.1 Macros

Macros are declared alongside the spec and can then be used repeatedly. The name of the name/value pairs in the `macros` object determines the name of the macro that can be used in the `spec` object (where it must be prefixed). They can be a single value, array or object. The following will produce six nodes (three values of "alpha" with "beta" parameter specified, and three more with "gamma" parameter specified):

```
{
  "macros": {
    "Alphas": [3, 5, 8]
  },
  "spec": {
    "a": {
      "alpha": "macro:Alphas",
      "beta": "tadpole"
    },
    "b": {
      "alpha": "$Alphas",
      "gamma": 4.2
    }
  }
}
```

### 1.3.2 Generators

Generators generate a value each time they are resolved in the specification. The main uses of generators is providing random variates and counters. Generators are declared in an object named `generators`. Each generator is a name/object pair, where the name specifies the name of the generator to be used in the `spec` object. Each generator object must specify its method and arguments to its constructor. These are the inbuilt constructors:

method	Argument names (default value)	Description
IncrementalInt	start(1), step(1)	An incrementing integer starting at start and incrementing by step each time it is resolved
RandomInt	min(1), max(999), seed(1)	A random integer between min and max each time it's resolved

The following example generates a value of 4 for “alpha” via the “a” object and a value of 5 via the “b” node:

```
{
  "generators": {
    "Counter": {
      "method": "IncrementalInt",
      "start": 4
    }
  },
  "spec": {
    "a": {
      "alpha": "@Counter",
      "beta": "tadpole"
    },
    "b": {
      "alpha": "gen:Counter",
      "gamma": 4.2
    }
  }
}
```

### 1.3.3 Evaluators

Evaluators allow function-style syntax to evaluate expressions with arguments. Arithmetic operations are supported as well as inbuilt evaluators `range`, which produces an evenly spaced array, and `repeat`, which repeats a particular value. Unlike macros and generators, evaluators do not need an object defined alongside the `spec`. Some examples:

Example	Resolution
"#3 + 5"	8
"#3 - 5"	-2
"#3 * 5"	15
"#3 / 5"	0.6
"#range(3, 8) "	[3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8]
"#range(0.3, 0.5, 0.1) "	[0.3, 0.4, 0.5]
"eval:repeat(5, 3) "	[5, 5, 5]

Note that the `repeat` can be used with a generator as argument and therefore generate a different value for each element of the array. Evaluators can also take other parameters simultaneously present in the specification if they are prefixed by `!`. They do not need to be in the same object, but if not they must be defined higher up the object tree (i.e. they are not referenceable if in sub-objects). The following resolves "gamma" into the list [3, 4]:

```
{
  "spec": {
    "alpha": 3,
    "blah": {
```

(continues on next page)

(continued from previous page)

```

        "beta": 5,
        "gamma": "#range(!alpha, !beta)"
    }
}

```

When referencing a parameter in an arithmetic operation, the # is no longer needed (but the ! is required):

```

{
  "spec": {
    "alpha": 4,
    "beta": "!alpha + 3"
  }
}

```

## 1.4 Literals

There are cases in which it is desired that specification value does not take on its default spawn interpretation. For this, there is the concept of a literal. This is done by prefixing the parameter name with ~. The following will generate a single node where `alpha` is an array (passed through to the spawner as a list) and `beta` is a string starting with \$ (rather than looking up a macro). Arrays, objects, all (apparent) value proxies and equations can be taken as literal and therefore not expanded or looked up:

```

{
  "spec": {
    "~alpha": ["egg", "tadpole", "frog"],
    "~beta": "$NotAMacro"
  }
}

```

Literals can also be specified on the value-side. This can be particularly useful when it is desired to expand literals as part of an expansion. In this case, the value must always be a string, but if the string succeeding the literal prefix is JSON serialisable it will be serialised as such, otherwise the value will remain a string. For example, the following produces three nodes, each with an array as the value of the `alpha` parameter:

```

{
  "spec": {
    "alpha": ["~[1, 2]", "~[3, 4]", "~[5, 6, 7]"]
  }
}

```

## 1.5 Policies

Policies do not generate parameters but provide additional information for the spawner to work with. The use of the end policy is determined by the spawner. The only policy at current is the path policy

### 1.5.1 Path

This may generally be interpreted as a file path but could also be for example a URL endpoint or any other kind of path. All specification nodes have a path associated with them, whether specified by the user or not. In the case of simulations, this path can be used to determine where the output of the simulation is saved. The following produces one specification node with the path `my_path`

```
{
  "spec": {
    "policy:path": "my_path",
    "alpha": "tadpole"
  }
}
```

Paths that are declared at different levels of the tree are appended as sub-folders. For example the following will produce a single node with the path `my/path`:

```
{
  "spec": {
    "policy:path": "my",
    "alpha": "tadpole",
    "blah": {
      "policy:path": "path",
      "beta": 2
    }
  }
}
```

Distinct nodes in the tree *always* have different paths. If there are two nodes that resolve to the same path, then they will be put into lettered sub-folders a, b, c etc... For example, the following produces the paths `my_path/a`, `my_path/b`, `my_path/c`:

```
{
  "spec": {
    "policy:path": "my_path",
    "alpha": ["egg", "tadpole", "frog"]
  }
}
```

In order to make more meaningful paths, parameter values (of any type that is convertible to string) can also be inserted in the path, by using `{name}` syntax in the path. For example, the following produces the paths `a_egg`, `a_tadpole`, `a_frog`:

```
{
  "spec": {
    "policy:path": "a_{alpha}",
    "alpha": ["egg", "tadpole", "frog"]
  }
}
```

Sub-folders can also be assigned in a single `policy:path` value by adding `/` in the path:

```
{
  "spec": {
    "policy:path": "{alpha}/{beta}",
    "alpha": ["egg", "tadpole", "frog"],
    "beta": [1, 2, 3]
  }
}
```

(continues on next page)

(continued from previous page)

```
}
}
```

Rather than using the value of a parameter in the path, an incremental digit or letter can be used instead by introducing the syntax `{name:1}` or `{name:a}` respectively. For example, the following produces the paths `alpha_1`, `alpha_2`, `alpha_3`:

```
{
  "spec": {
    "policy:path": "alpha_{alpha:1}",
    "alpha": ["egg", "tadpole", "frog"]
  }
}
```

Sequences can also be made to start at other letters/digits by using the syntax `{name:4}` (which would start at 4) for example. Here is a full table the alphanumeric indicators that can be used:

Identifier	Sequence
a	a, b, c, ... aa, ab, ...
f	f, g, h, ... aa, ab, ...
1	1, 2, 3, ... 10, 11, ...
5	5, 6, 7, ... 10, 11, ...
aa	aa, ab, ... ba, bb, ...
01	01, 02, ... 10, 11, ...

## 1.6 Indexing

Spawners may define certain parameters as arrays. In order to set the values of elements in an array parameter, the specification allows indexing with use of square brackets suffixing the name parameter pair. For example, `"alpha[1]": 3` sets the first element of the `"alpha"` parameter array to 3. Whether the index is 0-based or 1-based is ultimately the decision of the spawner (which gets passed the index) but by convention is generally 1-based.



## SPAWN COMMAND LINE INTERFACE

Command Line Interface for spawn

### 2.1 spawn

Command Line Interface

```
spawn [OPTIONS] COMMAND [ARGS]...
```

#### Options

**--log-level** <log\_level>

The log level

**Options** error|warning|info|debug

**--log-console**

Write logs to the console

**-d** <d>

Definitions to override configuration file parameters (e.g. -d spawn.workers=2)

**--config-file** <config\_file>

Path to the config file.

#### 2.1.1 check-config

Check the configuration. Parses the current configuration and prints to stdout

```
spawn check-config [OPTIONS]
```

## 2.1.2 inspect

Expand and write to console the contents of the SPECFILE

```
spawn inspect [OPTIONS] SPECFILE
```

### Options

**-o, --outfile** <outfile>  
write inspection output to file rather than to console

**-f, --format** <format>  
format of specification inspection

**Options** txtljson

### Arguments

**SPECFILE**  
Required argument

## 2.1.3 run

Runs the SPECFILE contents and write output to OUTDIR

```
spawn run [OPTIONS] SPECFILE OUTDIR
```

### Options

**--type** <type>  
The type of runs to create. Must have a corresponding plugin.

**--local, --remote**  
Run local or remote. Remote running requires a luigi server to be running

### Arguments

**SPECFILE**  
Required argument

**OUTDIR**  
Required argument



## 2.1.4 stats

Analyse the SPECFILE and print stats to the screen

```
spawn stats [OPTIONS] SPECFILE
```

### Arguments

#### **SPECFILE**

Required argument

## 2.1.5 work

Adds a worker to a remote scheduler

```
spawn work [OPTIONS]
```



## GLOSSARY

Term	Definition
<b>Combi-nator</b>	Functor that combines multiple parameter arrays e.g. Cartesian outer product and “zip”. They are defined in the key string with the prefix <code>combine:</code>
<b>Evalu-a-tor</b>	Object that generates a value deterministically based on input arguments. In the input it is referenced by using a string value that is prefixed with <code>eval:</code> or <code>#</code>
<b>Genera-tor</b>	Object that generates a (different) value each time it is referenced. In the input it is declared in a <code>generators</code> top-level section and referenced using a string value that is prefixed with <code>gen:</code> or <code>@</code>
<b>Macro</b>	Direct substitution of a value with another value defined in the <code>macro</code> top-level section. Referenced using a string value that is prefixed with <code>macro:</code> or <code>\$</code>
<b>Spawner</b>	The object that is responsible for creating (“spawning”) simulation or calculations based on a specification tree that is parsed from the input
<b>Specifi-cation Node</b>	A single node in the specification tree with any given number of parameters associated with it. Generally the spawner will interpret spawn one simulation for each specification node.



## API REFERENCE

<i>spawn.cli</i>	Command Line Interface for spawn
<i>spawn.parsers</i>	Parsers for spawn spec files
<i>spawn.runners</i>	Runners for spawn tasks
<i>spawn.schedulers</i>	Schedulers for spawn
<i>spawn.simulation_inputs</i>	Simulation inputs
<i>spawn.spawners</i>	Task Spawners for spawn
<i>spawn.specification</i>	Specification definition
<i>spawn.tasks</i>	Simulation Tasks
<i>spawn.util</i>	Utility classes and functions used by spawn



## SPAWN.PARSERS

Parsers for spawn spec files

This module contains any classes, functions and utilities related to parsing data

```
class spawn.parsers.DictSpecificationProvider(spec)
    Implementation of SpecificationDescriptionProvider that reads the specification from a provided dict

    get ()
        Gets the specification

        Returns A dict representation of the description

        Return type dict

class spawn.parsers.SpecificationDescriptionProvider
    Abstract base class for implementations that provide the specification description.

    get ()
        Gets the specification description

        Returns A dict representation of the description

        Return type dict

class spawn.parsers.SpecificationFileReader(input_file)
    Implementation of SpecificationDescriptionProvider that reads the specification from a file

    get ()
        Reads the specification description from a file

        Returns A dict representation of the description

        Return type dict

class spawn.parsers.SpecificationNodeParser(value_proxy_parser, combinators=None, default_combinator=None)
    Expands the specification nodes, starting at the node_spec provided

    Given a starting node_spec, the specification node_spec parser assesses child nodes and expands them according to their values.

    parse (node_spec, parent=None, node_policies=None, ghost_parameters=None)
        Parse the node_spec, and expand its children.

        This iterates through a node_spec and expands its children.

        Parameters
        • node_spec (dict) – A node specification
```

- **parent** (*SpecificationNode*) – A specification node to add the new nodes to

**Returns** The expanded *node\_spec*

**Return type** *SpecificationNode*

**class** `spawn.parsers.SpecificationParser` (*plugin\_loader*)

Class for parsing specifications

Given a specification provider, the *SpecificationParser* will get the specification and produce a tree representation of the nodes.

**parse** (*description*)

Parse the specification description

Reads the metadata from the file and creates any required value libraries, before initialising a *SpecificationNodeParser* to expand the nodes defined in the description.

**Parameters** **description** (*dict*) – The specification description

**Returns** An object representing the expanded specification tree.

**Return type** *SpecificationModel*

**class** `spawn.parsers.ValueLibraries` (*generators=None, macros=None, evaluators=None*)

Container class for value libraries (generators, macros & evaluators)

**copy** ()

Copies the values library

**Returns** A copy of this object

**Return type** *ValueLibraries*

**property** **evaluators**

Evaluators library

**property** **generators**

Generators library

**property** **macros**

Macros library



## SPAWN.RUNNERS

Runners for spawn tasks

A runner has a `run` method, which runs the work required for a task, and a `complete` method, which returns `True` when the task has completed.

```
class spawn.runners.ProcessRunner(id_, input_file_path, exe_path, run_name=None, out-  
                                put_dir=None, cwd=None)
```

Runner that uses the native os process (provided by `subprocess`) in order to run tasks

**complete()**

Determine if the run is complete.

**Returns** `True` if the run is complete; `False` otherwise.

**Return type** `bool`

**error\_logs()**

Error logs produced by the process, if any

**Returns** The output written to stderr, if any, otherwise `None`

**Return type** `str`

**logs()**

Stdout logs produced by the process, if any

**Returns** The output written to stdout, if any, otherwise `None`

**Return type** `str`

**property output\_file\_base**

The base path of the output file (without extension)

**Returns** The path to the output file, without extension.

**Return type** path-like

**property process\_args**

The arguments to be provided to the subprocess.

Can be overridden in derived classes.

**Returns** An array containing the process arguments

**Return type** `list`

**run()**

Runs the process synchronously.

Runs the process synchronously and when complete writes the log files and a status file.

**property state\_file**

The path to the state file

**Returns** The path to the state file

**Return type** path-like

## SPAWN.SCHEDULERS

Schedulers for spawn

A scheduler understands how to turn a spec into a list of jobs and related dependencies to run

**class** spawn.schedulers.**LuigiScheduler** (*config*)  
Scheduler implementation for Luigi

Because this is currently the only scheduler implementation it's probable that the interface will evolve in time.

**add\_worker** ()  
Add a worker

**run** (*spawner, spec*)  
Run the spec by generating tasks using the spawner

### Parameters

- **spawner** (*TaskSpawner*) – The task spawner
- **spec** (*SpecificationModel*) – The specification



## SPAWN.SIMULATION\_INPUTS

Simulation inputs

An input a class that reads and writes parameter values, normally to a file

**class** `spawn.simulation_inputs.JsonSimulationInput` (*parameter\_set*, *\*\*write\_options*)  
A dictionary input written as a JSON file where the parameter set is deep copied

**class** `spawn.simulation_inputs.SimulationInput`  
Handler of inputs for a simulation that will typically be parsed from and written to a file

**classmethod** `from_file` (*file\_path*)  
Creates a *SimulationInput* by loading a file

**Parameters** `file_path` (*path-like*) – The file path to load

**Returns** The simulation input object

**Return type** An instance of *SimulationInput*

**abstract** `hash` ()  
Returns a hash of the contents of the file

**Returns** The hash

**Return type** `str`

**abstract** `to_file` (*file\_path*)  
Writes the contents of the input file to disk

**Parameters** `file_path` (*path-like*) – The path of the file to write



## SPAWN.SPAWNERS

Task Spawners for spawn

Task spawners turn specification nodes into tasks that can be submitted by a scheduler

**class** spawn.spawners.**SingleInputFileSpawner** (*simulation\_input, file\_name*)

Runs bespoke executable taking a single input file as its only command line argument

**branch** ()

Deep copy task input and dependencies so that they can be edited without affecting trunk object

**spawn** (*path\_, metadata*)

Create new derivative of luigi.Task for later execution

**class** spawn.spawners.**TaskSpawner**

Base class task spawner

**branch** ()

Deep copy task input and dependencies so that they can be edited without affecting trunk object

**spawn** (*path\_, metadata*)

Create new derivative of luigi.Task for later execution





## SPAWN.SPECIFICATION

Specification definition

The *SpecificationModel* contains the definition of the tasks to be spawned

**class** spawn.specification.DictSpecificationConverter

Class for converting specification models

Converts *SpecificationModel* into dict

**convert** (*spec*)

Converts the given spec model into a dict

**Parameters** *spec* (*SpecificationModel*) – The specification model to convert

**Returns** A dict representation of the specification model

**Return type** dict

**class** spawn.specification.Evaluator (\*args, name=None)

Evaluator base class implementation of *ValueProxy*

Implements the *evaluate()* method of the parent class to expand any arguments

**evaluate** (\*\*kwargs)

Evaluates the value proxy.

Expands any arguments that are evaluators, and calls the *\_evaluate()* implementation required by base class

**class** spawn.specification.Macro (*value*)

Implementation of *ValueProxy* that can contain a value

**evaluate** ()

Evaluates the *Macro* - returns the value

**Returns** The value contained within the *Macro*

**Return type** object

**class** spawn.specification.SpecificationMetadata (*spec\_type, creation\_time, notes*)

Container class for the *SpecificationModel* metadata

**property** creation\_time

The creation time

**property** notes

Notes related to the specification model

**property** spec\_type

The type of this specification

```
class spawn.specification.SpecificationModel(base_file, root_node, metadata)
    Class to contain the description of the spawn specification

    property base_file
        The base file

    property metadata
        The metadata

    property root_node
        The root node

class spawn.specification.SpecificationNode(parent, property_name, property_value,
                                           path, ghosts)
    Tree node representation of the nodes of the specification

    add_child(child)
        Adds a child to this node

        Parameters child (SpecificationNode) – The child node to add

    property children
        Get the children of this node

        Returns Child nodes

        Return type list

    property collected_indices
        Gets the property names and indices of this node and all ancestor nodes

        Returns A dict containing the properties of this node and all ancestor nodes

        Return type dict

    property collected_properties
        Gets the properties and values of this node and all ancestor nodes

        Returns A dict containing the properties of this node and all ancestor nodes

        Return type dict

    copy(new_parent)
        Copies this node and this node's children

        Parameters new_parent (SpecificationNode) – The new parent node

        Returns A copy of this node

        Return type SpecificationNode

    classmethod create_root(path=None)
        Create a root node

        Parameters path (str) – The path for the root node

        Returns A root specification node (without parents)

        Return type SpecificationNode

    property description
        Description of this node

        Returns A description of the node

        Return type str
```

**evaluate()**

Evaluates all children in this node

**property ghosts**

Returns the collected ghost parameters

**Returns** The ghost parameters for this node

**Return type** `dict`

**property has\_property**

Does this node have a property value

**Returns** `True` if this node has a type that contains properties

**Return type** `bool`

**property index**

Gets the index of this node in the parent's child nodes

**Returns** The index if this node is not a root node; otherwise -1

**Return type** `int`

**property is\_root**

Is this the root node

**Returns** `True` if this node is the root; otherwise `False`

**Return type** `bool`

**property leaves**

Gets the leaf nodes descended from this node

**Returns** The leaf nodes

**Return type** `list`

**property parent**

Get the parent

**Returns** The parent node

**Return type** `SpecificationNode`

**property path**

The path for this node.

Used as a key to locate the outputs. Evaluate using the path property and the collected properties and indices at this node.

**Returns** The path for this node

**Return type** `str`

**property property\_name**

Gets the property name for this node

**Returns** The property name

**Return type** `str`

**property property\_value**

Gets the property value for this node

**Returns** The property value

**Return type** `object`

**property root**

Gets the root node from this node

**Returns** The root node

**Return type** *SpecificationNode*

**class** spawn.specification.SpecificationNodeFactory

Factory class for creating *SpecificationNode* objects

**create** (*parent*, *name*, *value*, *path*, *ghosts*, *children*=None, *literal*=False)

Creates a *SpecificationNode*, based on the value

**Parameters**

- **parent** (*SpecificationNode*) – The parent *SpecificationNode*
- **name** (*str*) – The name of the node
- **value** (*object*) – The value of the node
- **ghosts** (*dict*) – Ghost values
- **children** (*list*) – The children of the new node, if any
- **literal** (*bool*) – if True, the value is not expandable and is set literally

**class** spawn.specification.ValueProxy

Base value proxy class

A value proxy is anything that can be *evaluate*d in place of a value

**evaluate** ()

Evaluates the *ValueProxy*

Must be implemented in a derived class

**Returns** A value

**Return type** *object*

**class** spawn.specification.ValueProxyNode (*parent*, *name*, *value\_proxy*, *path*, *ghosts*)

Implementation of *SpecificationNode* that allows a *ValueProxy* definition of a node

**evaluate** ()

Evaluates this node to determine what its value should be.

Replaces children with new values generated by this node. Subsequently evaluates all children.

spawn.specification.**evaluate** (*value\_proxy*, *\*args*, *\*\*kwargs*)

Utility function to evaluate a *ValueProxy*

Determines whether *kwargs* needs to be provided

**Parameters** **value\_proxy** (*ValueProxy*) – The *ValueProxy* to evaluate

## SPAWN.TASKS

### Simulation Tasks

```
class spawn.tasks.SimulationTask (*args, **kwargs)
    Implementation of luigi.Task

    property available_runners
        Runners available for this task.

        Can be overridden by derived tasks

    complete ()
        Determine if this task is complete

        Returns True if this task is complete; otherwise False

        Return type bool

    on_failure (exception)
        Interprets any exceptions raised by the run method.

        Attempts to find any logs associated with the runner.

        Returns A string representation of the error.

        Return type str

    run ()
        Run this task

    property run_name_with_path
        Return the run name of this task

class spawn.tasks.SpawnTask (*args, **kwargs)
    Implementation of luigi.Task that defines ID and dependencies parameters

    complete ()
        Determine if this task is complete

        Returns True if this task is complete; otherwise False

        Return type bool

    property metadata
        Metadata for this task

    requires ()
        The prerequisites for this task

    run ()
        Run the task. Derived classes should implement this method.
```

```
class spawn.tasks.TaskListParameter (default=<object object>, is_global=False,
                                     significant=True, description=None, con-
                                     fig_path=None, positional=True, al-
                                     ways_in_help=False, batch_method=None, visibil-
                                     ity=<ParameterVisibility.PUBLIC: 0>)
```

Implementation of `luigi.Parameter` to allow definitions of multiple tasks as dependencies

**parse** (*x*)

Parse the string

**serialize** (*x*)

Serialize this object

## SPAWN.UTIL

Utility classes and functions used by spawn

**class** spawn.util.**ArrayProperty** (*type\_, fget=None, fset=None, fdel=None, fvalidate=None, default=None, doc=None, abstract=False, readonly=False*)  
Implementation of PropertyBase for array properties `__get__()`, `__set__()` and `__delete__()`  
return array wrappers that allow indexes to be used

**class** spawn.util.**FloatProperty** (*fget=None, fset=None, fdel=None, fvalidate=None, default=None, doc=None, abstract=False, readonly=False, min=None, max=None*)  
Implementation of NumericProperty for float properties

**class** spawn.util.**IntProperty** (*fget=None, fset=None, fdel=None, fvalidate=None, default=None, doc=None, abstract=False, readonly=False, min=None, max=None*)  
Implementation of NumericProperty for int properties

**class** spawn.util.**PathBuilder** (*path=""*)  
The path builder class

This class provides a standardised way to build paths and interpolate/format them with values

**format** (*properties, indices=None*)  
Format the path by interpolating with the properties provided.  
If indices are provided, use them in place of the properties.

### Parameters

- **properties** (*dict*) – The properties to interpolate with.
- **indices** – The indices to use in place of the properties, if any. Defaults to `None`.

**Returns** A new instance with the interpolated values

**Return type** *PathBuilder*

**static index** (*index, index\_format='I'*)  
Formats an index given the `index_format` provided

### Parameters

- **index** (*int*) – The index to format
- **index\_format** (*str*) – The index format (see below for examples).

**Returns** The formatted index

**Return type** *str*

Format	Description	Examples
0*[d]+	Padded integer with start value	01 -> 01, 02, 03... 002 -> 002, 003, 004...
[a]+	Alphabetical	a -> a, b, c, d... aa -> aa, ab, ac, ad...

**join** (*other*)

Join two paths by adding *other* onto the end of *self*

**Parameters** *other* (*str*) – The path to add to the end of this path

**Returns** A new path builder with the joined paths

**Return type** *PathBuilder*

**join\_start** (*other*)

Join two paths by adding *other* onto the start of *self*

**Parameters** *other* (*str*) – The path to add to the start of this path

**Returns** A new path builder with the joined paths

**Return type** *PathBuilder*

**class** spawn.util.**StringProperty** (*fget=None, fset=None, fdel=None, fvalidate=None, default=None, doc=None, abstract=False, readonly=False, possible\_values=None, regex=None*)

Implementation of *TypedProperty* for string properties

**class** spawn.util.**TypedProperty** (*type\_, fget=None, fset=None, fdel=None, fvalidate=None, default=None, doc=None, abstract=False, readonly=False*)

Base class for typed properties

spawn.util.**configure\_logging** (*log\_level, command\_name, log\_console=True, log\_file=True*)

Configure logging

**Parameters**

- **log\_level** (*str*) – The log level (error, warning, info, debug, trace)
- **command\_name** (*str*) – The name of the invoked subcommand
- **log\_console** (*bool*) – True if logs should be displayed in the console; otherwise False. Defaults to True.
- **log\_file** (*bool*) – True if logs should be written to file; otherwise False. Defaults to True.

spawn.util.**float\_property** (*fget*)

Function decorator for *FloatProperty*

spawn.util.**int\_property** (*fget*)

Function decorator for *IntProperty*

spawn.util.**prettyspec** (*spec, outstream=None*)

Writes the given spec tree to the stream provided

spawn.util.**quote** (*strpath*)

Wrap the given string in quotes

**Parameters** *strpath* (*str*) – A string representing a path

spawn.util.**string\_property** (*fget*)

Function decorator for *StringProperty*



`spawn.util.typed_property(type_)`  
Function decorator for *TypedProperty*



## INDICES AND TABLES

- `genindex`
- `modindex`
- `search`



## PYTHON MODULE INDEX

### S

- `spawn.cli`, [11](#)
- `spawn.parsers`, [19](#)
- `spawn.runners`, [21](#)
- `spawn.schedulers`, [23](#)
- `spawn.simulation_inputs`, [25](#)
- `spawn.spawners`, [27](#)
- `spawn.specification`, [29](#)
- `spawn.tasks`, [33](#)
- `spawn.util`, [35](#)



## Symbols

`--config-file <config_file>`  
     spawn command line option, 11  
`--format <format>`  
     spawn-inspect command line option, 12  
`--local`  
     spawn-run command line option, 12  
`--log-console`  
     spawn command line option, 11  
`--log-level <log_level>`  
     spawn command line option, 11  
`--outfile <outfile>`  
     spawn-inspect command line option, 12  
`--remote`  
     spawn-run command line option, 12  
`--type <type>`  
     spawn-run command line option, 12  
`-d <d>`  
     spawn command line option, 11  
`-f`  
     spawn-inspect command line option, 12  
`-o`  
     spawn-inspect command line option, 12

## A

`add_child()` (*spawn.specification.SpecificationNode method*), 30  
`add_worker()` (*spawn.schedulers.LuigiScheduler method*), 23  
`ArrayProperty` (*class in spawn.util*), 35  
`available_runners()`  
     (*spawn.tasks.SimulationTask property*), 33

## B

`base_file()` (*spawn.specification.SpecificationModel property*), 30  
`branch()` (*spawn.spawnners.SingleInputFileSpawner method*), 27

`branch()` (*spawn.spawnners.TaskSpawner method*), 27

## C

`children()` (*spawn.specification.SpecificationNode property*), 30  
`collected_indices()`  
     (*spawn.specification.SpecificationNode property*), 30  
`collected_properties()`  
     (*spawn.specification.SpecificationNode property*), 30  
`complete()` (*spawn.runners.ProcessRunner method*), 21  
`complete()` (*spawn.tasks.SimulationTask method*), 33  
`complete()` (*spawn.tasks.SpawnTask method*), 33  
`configure_logging()` (*in module spawn.util*), 36  
`convert()` (*spawn.specification.DictSpecificationConverter method*), 29  
`copy()` (*spawn.parsers.ValueLibraries method*), 20  
`copy()` (*spawn.specification.SpecificationNode method*), 30  
`create()` (*spawn.specification.SpecificationNodeFactory method*), 32  
`create_root()` (*spawn.specification.SpecificationNode class method*), 30  
`creation_time()` (*spawn.specification.SpecificationMetadata property*), 29

## D

`description()` (*spawn.specification.SpecificationNode property*), 30  
`DictSpecificationConverter` (*class in spawn.specification*), 29  
`DictSpecificationProvider` (*class in spawn.parsers*), 19

## E

`error_logs()` (*spawn.runners.ProcessRunner method*), 21  
`evaluate()` (*in module spawn.specification*), 32  
`evaluate()` (*spawn.specification.Evaluator method*), 29

`evaluate()` (*spawn.specification.Macro method*), 29  
`evaluate()` (*spawn.specification.SpecificationNode method*), 30  
`evaluate()` (*spawn.specification.ValueProxy method*), 32  
`evaluate()` (*spawn.specification.ValueProxyNode method*), 32  
`Evaluator` (*class in spawn.specification*), 29  
`evaluators()` (*spawn.parsers.ValueLibraries property*), 20

## F

`float_property()` (*in module spawn.util*), 36  
`FloatProperty` (*class in spawn.util*), 35  
`format()` (*spawn.util.PathBuilder method*), 35  
`from_file()` (*spawn.simulation\_inputs.SimulationInput class method*), 25

## G

`generators()` (*spawn.parsers.ValueLibraries property*), 20  
`get()` (*spawn.parsers.DictSpecificationProvider method*), 19  
`get()` (*spawn.parsers.SpecificationDescriptionProvider method*), 19  
`get()` (*spawn.parsers.SpecificationFileReader method*), 19  
`ghosts()` (*spawn.specification.SpecificationNode property*), 31

## H

`has_property()` (*spawn.specification.SpecificationNode property*), 31  
`hash()` (*spawn.simulation\_inputs.SimulationInput method*), 25

## I

`index()` (*spawn.specification.SpecificationNode property*), 31  
`index()` (*spawn.util.PathBuilder static method*), 35  
`int_property()` (*in module spawn.util*), 36  
`IntProperty` (*class in spawn.util*), 35  
`is_root()` (*spawn.specification.SpecificationNode property*), 31

## J

`join()` (*spawn.util.PathBuilder method*), 36  
`join_start()` (*spawn.util.PathBuilder method*), 36  
`JsonSimulationInput` (*class in spawn.simulation\_inputs*), 25

## L

`leaves()` (*spawn.specification.SpecificationNode property*), 31

`logs()` (*spawn.runners.ProcessRunner method*), 21  
`LuigiScheduler` (*class in spawn.schedulers*), 23

## M

`Macro` (*class in spawn.specification*), 29  
`macros()` (*spawn.parsers.ValueLibraries property*), 20  
`metadata()` (*spawn.specification.SpecificationModel property*), 30  
`metadata()` (*spawn.tasks.SpawnTask property*), 33

## N

`notes()` (*spawn.specification.SpecificationMetadata property*), 29

## O

`on_failure()` (*spawn.tasks.SimulationTask method*), 33  
`OUTDIR`  
    *spawn-run command line option*, 12  
`output_file_base()`  
    (*spawn.runners.ProcessRunner property*), 21

## P

`parent()` (*spawn.specification.SpecificationNode property*), 31  
`parse()` (*spawn.parsers.SpecificationNodeParser method*), 19  
`parse()` (*spawn.parsers.SpecificationParser method*), 20  
`parse()` (*spawn.tasks.TaskListParameter method*), 34  
`path()` (*spawn.specification.SpecificationNode property*), 31  
`PathBuilder` (*class in spawn.util*), 35  
`prettyspec()` (*in module spawn.util*), 36  
`process_args()` (*spawn.runners.ProcessRunner property*), 21  
`ProcessRunner` (*class in spawn.runners*), 21  
`property_name()` (*spawn.specification.SpecificationNode property*), 31  
`property_value()` (*spawn.specification.SpecificationNode property*), 31

## Q

`quote()` (*in module spawn.util*), 36

## R

`requires()` (*spawn.tasks.SpawnTask method*), 33  
`root()` (*spawn.specification.SpecificationNode property*), 31  
`root_node()` (*spawn.specification.SpecificationModel property*), 30  
`run()` (*spawn.runners.ProcessRunner method*), 21



run() (*spawn.schedulers.LuigiScheduler method*), 23  
 run() (*spawn.tasks.SimulationTask method*), 33  
 run() (*spawn.tasks.SpawnTask method*), 33  
 run\_name\_with\_path()  
     (*spawn.tasks.SimulationTask property*), 33

## S

serialize() (*spawn.tasks.TaskListParameter method*), 34  
 SimulationInput (*class in spawn.simulation\_inputs*), 25  
 SimulationTask (*class in spawn.tasks*), 33  
 SingleInputFileSpawner (*class in spawn.spawnners*), 27  
 spawn command line option  
     --config-file <config\_file>, 11  
     --log-console, 11  
     --log-level <log\_level>, 11  
     -d <d>, 11  
 spawn() (*spawn.spawnners.SingleInputFileSpawner method*), 27  
 spawn() (*spawn.spawnners.TaskSpawner method*), 27  
 spawn.cli (*module*), 11  
 spawn.parsers (*module*), 19  
 spawn.runners (*module*), 21  
 spawn.schedulers (*module*), 23  
 spawn.simulation\_inputs (*module*), 25  
 spawn.spawnners (*module*), 27  
 spawn.specification (*module*), 29  
 spawn.tasks (*module*), 33  
 spawn.util (*module*), 35  
 spawn-inspect command line option  
     --format <format>, 12  
     --outfile <outfile>, 12  
     -f, 12  
     -o, 12  
     SPECFILE, 12  
 spawn-run command line option  
     --local, 12  
     --remote, 12  
     --type <type>, 12  
     OUTDIR, 12  
     SPECFILE, 12  
 spawn-stats command line option  
     SPECFILE, 13  
 SpawnTask (*class in spawn.tasks*), 33  
 spec\_type() (*spawn.specification.SpecificationMetadata property*), 29  
 SPECFILE  
     spawn-inspect command line option, 12  
     spawn-run command line option, 12  
     spawn-stats command line option, 13

SpecificationDescriptionProvider (*class in spawn.parsers*), 19  
 SpecificationFileReader (*class in spawn.parsers*), 19  
 SpecificationMetadata (*class in spawn.specification*), 29  
 SpecificationModel (*class in spawn.specification*), 29  
 SpecificationNode (*class in spawn.specification*), 30  
 SpecificationNodeFactory (*class in spawn.specification*), 32  
 SpecificationNodeParser (*class in spawn.parsers*), 19  
 SpecificationParser (*class in spawn.parsers*), 20  
 state\_file() (*spawn.runners.ProcessRunner property*), 21  
 string\_property() (*in module spawn.util*), 36  
 StringProperty (*class in spawn.util*), 36

## T

TaskListParameter (*class in spawn.tasks*), 33  
 TaskSpawner (*class in spawn.spawnners*), 27  
 to\_file() (*spawn.simulation\_inputs.SimulationInput method*), 25  
 typed\_property() (*in module spawn.util*), 36  
 TypedProperty (*class in spawn.util*), 36

## V

ValueLibraries (*class in spawn.parsers*), 20  
 ValueProxy (*class in spawn.specification*), 32  
 ValueProxyNode (*class in spawn.specification*), 32