2024-05-05-Free Range Programming

The Power of PEG

PEG - and my favourite OhmJS - can match patterns in text in ways that CFGs can't.

To demonstrate, here's a snippet of code. Don't worry about what the code says, just notice that it begins with

```
      def Das2json
```

And ends with

```
      return _r.return_string_pop ()
```

I don't care about all of the stuff in between.

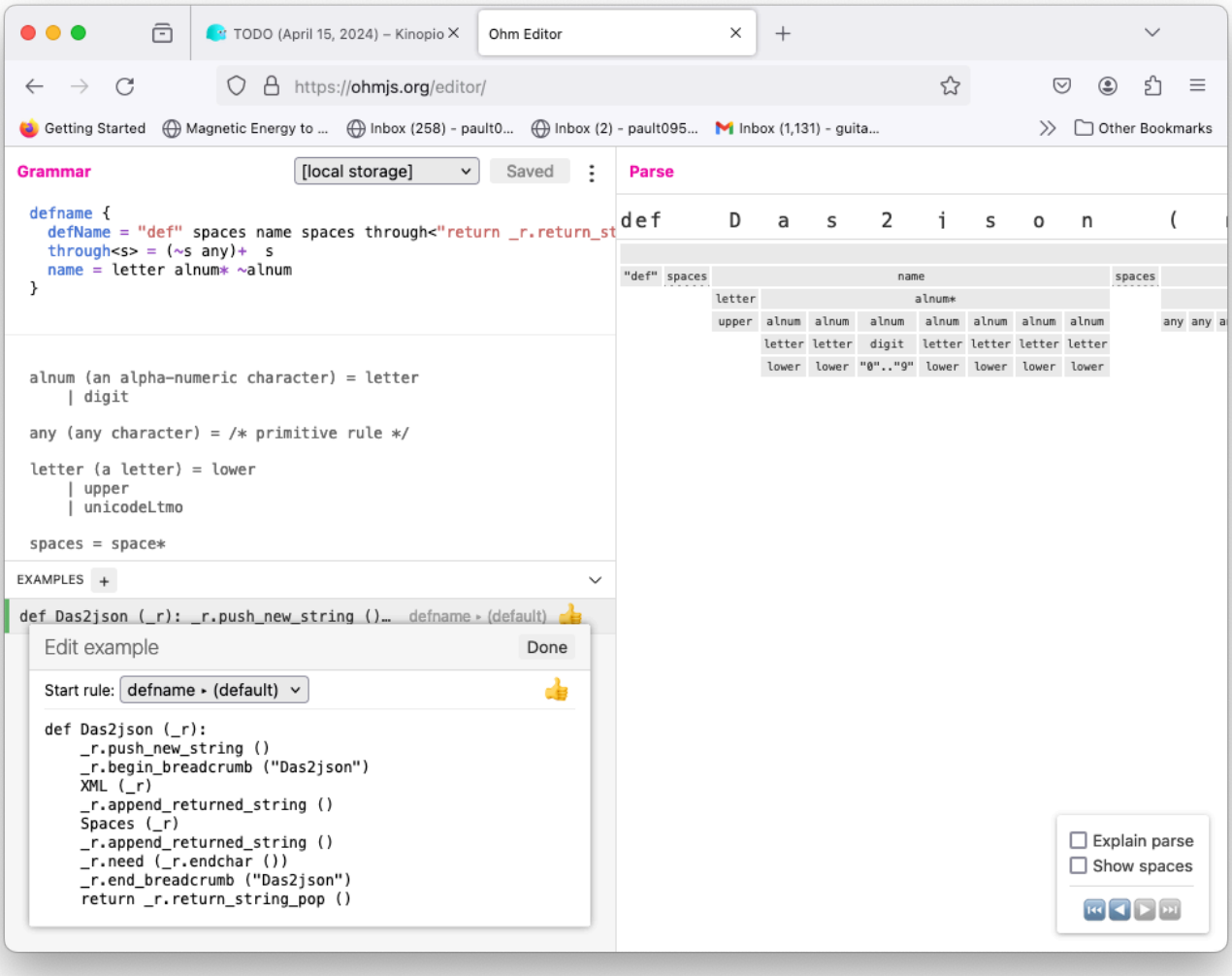
```
      def Das2json (_r):
          _r.push_new_string ()
          _r.begin_breadcrumb ("Das2json")
          XML (_r)
          _r.append_returned_string ()
          Spaces (_r)
          _r.append_returned_string ()
          _r.need (_r.endchar ())
          _r.end_breadcrumb ("Das2json")
          return _r.return_string_pop ()
```

Using a CFG-based parser, I would need to write out, in detail, a grammar for all of the stuff in between the beginning and the ending phrases.

With OhmJS, though, I can skip over the stuff in the middle and just match for the beginning and the ending phrases.

Below is an experimental OhmJS grammar that matches the beginning and ending phrases without making me write a grammar for all of the stuff in between. It's kinda like REGEX, only more powerful:

```
defname {
  defName = "def" spaces name spaces through<"return _r.return_string_pop ()">
  through<s> = (~s any)+  s
  name = letter alnum* ~alnum
}
```



Would I use this in production code? No.

Would I use this in development code? Yes.

Appendix - See Also

See Also

References *https://guitarvydas.github.io/2024/01/06/References.html*
Blog *https://guitarvydas.github.io/*
Blog *https://publish.obsidian.md/programmingsimplicity*
Videos *https://www.youtube.com/@programmingsimplicity2980*
[see playlist "programming simplicity"]
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