

Housekeeping

- Timing
- Breaks
- Takeaways



What You Will Learn

Ansible is capable of handling many powerful automation tasks with the flexibility to adapt to many environments and workflows.

- What is Ansible, its common use cases
- How Ansible works and terminology
- Network modules
 - Backup and Restore network devices
 - Self documenting networks
- Using roles
- Ansible Tower





According to Gartner

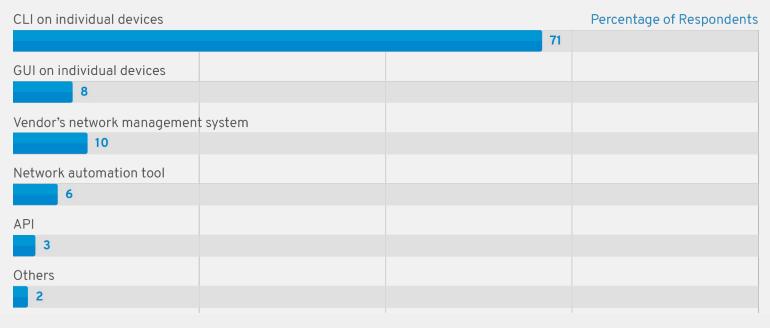


Figure 1Primary Method for Making Network Changes

Source: Gartner, Look Beyond Network Vendors for Network Innovation. January 2018. Gartner ID: G00349636. (n=64)



Automation considerations

- Compute is no longer the slowest link in the chain
- Businesses demand that networks deliver at the speed of cloud
- Automation of repeatable tasks
- Bridge silos



WHAT IS ANSIBLE AUTOMATION?

Ansible Automation is the enterprise **framework** for automating across IT operations.

Ansible Engine runs Ansible Playbooks, the automation **language** that can perfectly describe an IT application infrastructure.

Ansible Tower allows you **scale** IT automation, manage complex deployments and speed productivity.



WHY ANSIBLE?



SIMPLE

Human readable automation

No special coding skills needed

Tasks executed in order

Usable by every team

Get productive quickly



POWERFUL

App deployment

Configuration management

Workflow orchestration

Network automation

Orchestrate the app lifecycle



AGENTLESS

Agentless architecture

Uses OpenSSH & WinRM

No agents to exploit or update

Get started immediately

More efficient & more secure



MANAGE YOUR ENTIRE ENTERPRISE





ANSIBLE NETWORK AUTOMATION

50 Network Platforms

700+

Network Modules 12*

Galaxy Network Roles

ansible.com/networking galaxy.ansible.com/ansible-network

Common use cases

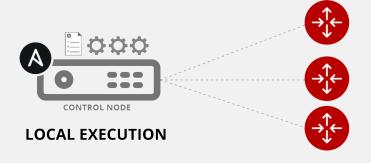
- Backup and restore device configurations
- Upgrade network device OS
- Ensure configuration compliance
- Apply patches to address CVE
- Generate dynamic documentation
- Discrete Tasks
 - Ensure VLANs are present/absent
 - Enable/Disable netflow on WAN interfaces
 - Manage firewall access list entries

Basically anything an operator can do manually, Ansible can automate.



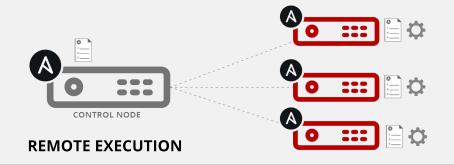
How Ansible Works

Module code is executed locally on the control node



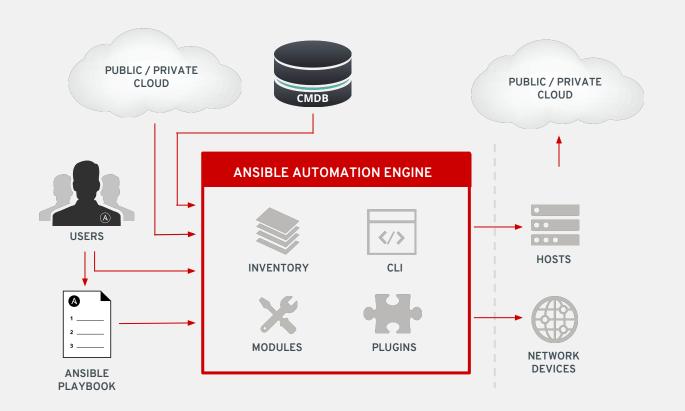
NETWORKING DEVICES

Module code is copied to the managed node, executed, then removed

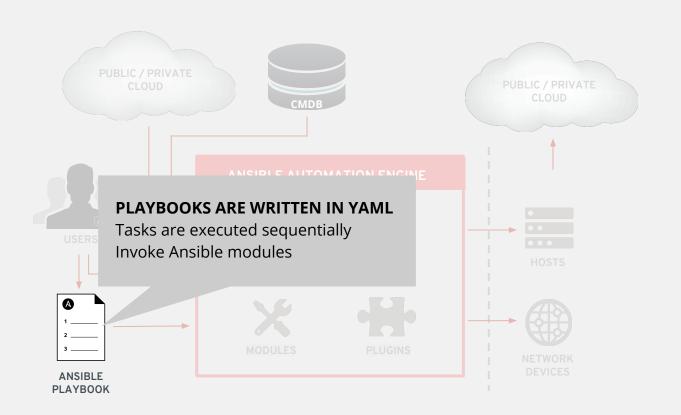


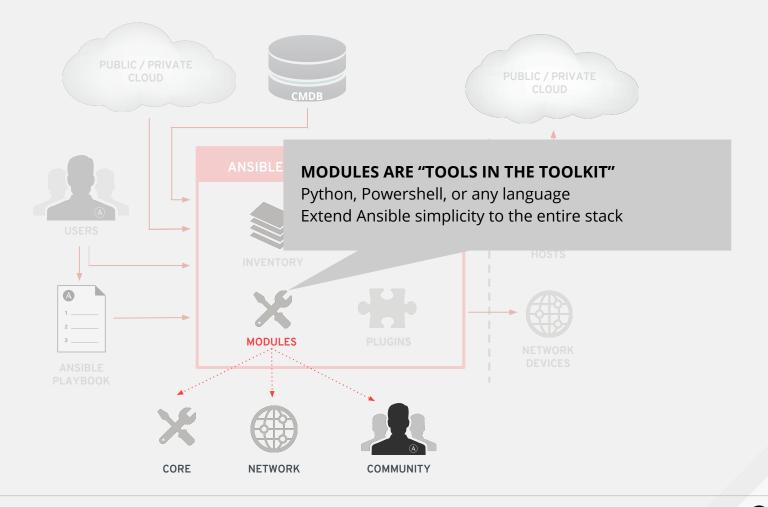
LINUX/WINDOWS HOSTS



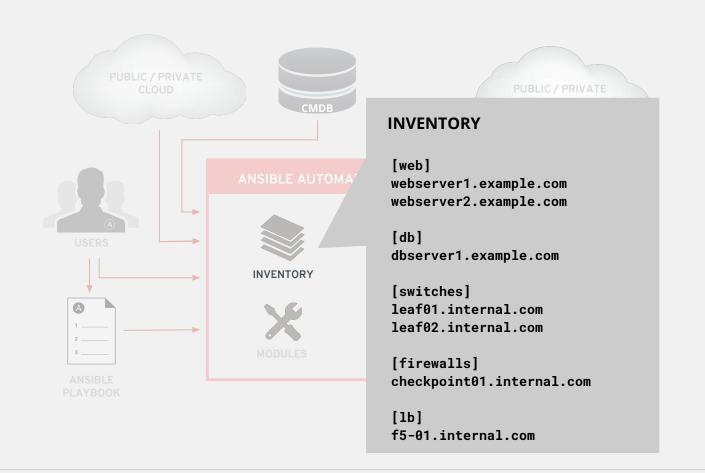














Understanding Inventory

```
10.1.1.2
10.1.1.3
172.16.1.1
172.16.1.2
192.168.1.2
192.168.1.3
```



Understanding Inventory - Groups

There is always a group called "all" by default

```
[atl]
access1.atl.com ansible_host=10.1.1.2
access2.atl.com ansible_host=192.168.1.2

[core]
core1.nw.com
core2.nw.com

[access]
access1.nw.com
access2.nw.com
```

Groups can be nested

```
[DC:children]
core
access

[east-coast:children]
DC
atl

[atl]
access1.atl.com ansible_host=10.1.1.2
access2.atl.com ansible_host=192.168.1.2

[core]
core1.nw.com
core2.nw.com

[access]
access1.nw.com
access2.nw.com
```



Inventory - variables

```
[all:vars]
                                               Group variables apply for all devices
ansible username=admin
ansible password=pa55w0rd
                                               in that group
snmp ro=public123
snmp rw=private123
[east-coast:vars]
ntp server=10.99.99.99
anycast=169.1.1.1
[DC:children]
core
access
[east-coast:children]
DC
atl
[atl]
access1.atl.com ansible host=10.1.1.2 snmp ro=atl123
access2.atl.com ansible host=192.168.1.2
[core]
core1.nw.com snmp ro=corepub123 snmp rw=corepri123
core2.nw.com
```

Host variables apply to the host and override group vars



A Sample Playbook

```
---
- name: DEPLOY VLANS
hosts: access
connection: network_cli
gather_facts: no

tasks:

- name: ENSURE VLANS EXIST
nxos_vlan:
vlan_id: 100
admin_state: up
name: WEB
```

- Playbook is a list of plays.
- Each play is a list of tasks.
- Tasks invoke modules.
- A playbook can contain more than one play.







Exercise 1.0 Exploring the lab environment

In this lab you will explore the lab environment and build familiarity with the lab inventory.

Approximate time: 10 mins



Playbook definition for network automation

- Target play execution using hosts
- Define the connection : network_cli
- About gather_facts



Running a playbook

```
---
- name: GATHER INFORMATION FROM ROUTERS hosts: cisco connection: network_cli gather_facts: no

tasks:
- name: GATHER ROUTER FACTS ios_facts:
```

```
[student1@control-node networking-workshop] ansible-playbook gather ios data.yml
ok: [rtr1]
ok: [rtr4]
ok: [rtr3]
ok: [rtr2]
rtr1
                  : ok=1
                         changed=0
                                 unreachable=0
                                             failed=0
rtr2
                  : ok=1
                         changed=0
                                 unreachable=0
                                             failed=0
rtr3
                  : ok=1
                         changed=0
                                 unreachable=0
                                             failed=0
rtr4
                  : ok=1
                         changed=0
                                 unreachable=0
                                             failed=0
[student1@ip-172-16-101-121 networking-workshop]$
```



Displaying output

Use the optional **verbose** flag during playbook execution

Increase the level of verbosity by adding more "v's" -vvvv



Limiting Playbook execution

Playbook execution can be limited to a subset of devices using the --limit flag.

\$ ansible-playbook gather_ios_data.yml -v --limit rtr1

Forget a flag / option ?
Just type ansible-playbook then press enter



A note about variables

Other than the user defined variables, Ansible supports many inbuilt variables. For example:

Variable	Explanation
ansible_*	Output of fact gathering
inventory_hostname	magic inbuilt variable that is the name of the host as defined in inventory
hostvars	<pre>magic inbuilt variable dictionary variable whose key is inventory_hostname e.g. hostvars[webserver1].my_variabl e</pre>



Displaying output - The "debug" module

The **debug** module is used like a "print" statement in most programming languages. Variables are accessed using "{{ }}" - quoted curly braces





10:00

Exercise 1.1 Writing your first playbook

In this lab you will write your first playbook and run it to gather facts from routers. You will also practice the use of "verbose" and "limit" flags in addition to working with variables within a playbook.

Approximate time: 10 mins



Modules

Modules do the actual work in Ansible, they are what gets executed in each playbook task.

- Typically written in Python (but not limited to it)
- Modules can be idempotent
- Modules take user input in the form of parameters



Network modules

Ansible modules for network automation typically references the vendor OS followed by the module name.

- *_facts
- *_command
- *_config

More modules depending on platform



Modules per network platform

```
tasks:
    - name: configure eos system properties
    eos_system:
        domain_name: ansible.com
        vrf: management
    when: ansible_network_os == 'eos'

- name: configure nxos system properties
    nxos_system:
        domain_name: ansible.com
        vrf: management
    when: ansible_network_os == 'nxos'
```



Modules Documentation

https://docs.ansible.com/

Docs » Module Index

Module Index

- All Modules
- Cloud Modules
- Clustering Modules
- Commands Modules
- Crypto Modules
- Database Modules
- Files Modules
- Identity Modules
- Inventory Modules
- Messaging Modules
- Monitoring Modules
- Network Modules
- Notification Modules
- Packaging Modules
- Remote Management Modules
- Source Control Modules
- Storage Modules
- System Modules
- Utilities Modules
- Web Infrastructure Modules
- Windows Modules

service - Manage services.

- Syno
- Examples
- o Status o Support

Synopsis

 $\bullet \quad \text{Controls services on remote hosts. Supported in it systems include BSD in it, OpenRC, SysV, Solar is SMF, systemd, upstart. }$

Options

parameter	required	default	choices	comments
arguments	no			Additional arguments provided on the command line
				aliases: args
enabled	no		• yes • no	Whether the service should start on boot. At least one of state and enabled are required
name	yes			Name of the service.
pattern	no			If the service does not respond to the status command, name a substring to look for as would be found in the output of the ps command as a stand-in for a status result. If the string is found, the service will be assumed to be running.
runlevel	no	default		For OpenRC init scripts (ex: Gentoo) only. The runlevel that this service belongs to.
sleep (added in 1.3)	no			If the service is being restarted, then sleep this many seconds between the stop and start command. This helps to workaround badly behaving init scripts that exit immediately after signaling a process to stop.
state	no		started stopped restarted reloaded	started / stopped are idemoptent actions that will not run commands unless necessary, restarted will supply bounce the service, reloader will slowly reload. At least one of state and enabled are required. Note that reloaded will start the service if it is not already started, even if your chosen init system wouldn't normally.
use (added in 2.2)	no	auto		The service module actually uses system specific modules, normally through auto detection, this setting can force a specific module. Normally it uses the value of the 'ansible_service_mgr' fact and falls back to the old



Modules Documentation

Documentation right on the command line

```
List out all modules installed
$ ansible-doc -1
ios banner
                                           Manage multiline banners on Cisco IOS devices
                                           Run commands on remote devices running Cisco IOS
ios command
ios config
                                           Manage Cisco IOS configuration sections
. . .
# Read documentation for installed module
$ ansible-doc ios command
  IOS COMMAND
     Sends arbitrary commands to an ios node and returns the results read from the
     device. This module includes an argument that will cause the module to wait for a
     specific condition before returning or timing out if the condition is not met. This
     module does not support running commands in configuration mode. Please use
     [ios config] to configure IOS devices.
Options (= is mandatory):
```



Limiting tasks within a play

- Tags allow the user to selectively execute tasks within a play.
- Multiple tags can be associated with a given task.
- Tags can also be applied to entire plays or roles.

```
- name: DISPLAY THE COMMAND OUTPUT
```

debug:

var: show output

tags: show

Tags are invoked using the --tags flag while running the playbook

[user@ansible]\$ ansible-playbook gather_ios_data.yml --tags=show

This is useful while working with large playbooks, when you might want to "jump" to a specific task.



Limiting tasks within a play - or skip them!

--skip-tags allows you to skip everything

```
- name: DISPLAY THE COMMAND OUTPUT
```

debug:

var: show_output

tags: show

[user@ansible]\$ ansible-playbook gather_ios_data.yml --skip-tags=show



Registering the output

The **register** parameter is used to collect the output of a task execution. The output of the task is 'registered' in a variable which can then be used for subsequent tasks.







Exercise 1.2 Module documentation, Registering output & tags

In this lab you will learn how to use module documentation. You will also learn how to selectively run tasks using tags and learn how to collect task output into user defined variables within the playbook.



The *_config module

Vendor specific config modules allow the user to update the configuration on network devices. Different ways to invoke the *_config module:

```
tasks:
- name: ENSURE THAT THE DESIRED SNMP STRINGS ARE PRESENT
ios_config:
    commands:
- snmp-server community ansible-public RO
- snmp-server community ansible-private RW
- snmp-server community ansible-test RO

tasks:
- name: ENSURE THAT ROUTERS ARE SECURE
ios_config:
    src: secure_router.cfg
```



Validating changes before they are applied

Ansible lets you validate the impact of the proposed configuration using the **--check** flag. Used together with the **--verbose** flag, it lets you see the actual change being pushed to the device:







Exercise 2.0 Updating the router configurations

In this lab you will learn how to make configuration changes using Ansible. The exercise will demonstrate the idempotency of the module. Additionally you will learn how to validate a change before actually applying it to the devices.

Approximate time: 20 mins





Scenario: Day 2 Ops - Backing up and restoring router configuration



Backing up router configuration

The backup parameter of the **ios_config** module triggers the backup and automatically stores device configuration backups within a **backups** directory

```
---
- name: BACKUP ROUTER CONFIGURATIONS hosts: cisco connection: network_cli gather_facts: no

tasks:
- name: BACKUP THE CONFIG ios_config: backup: yes register: config_output
```



Cleaning up the backed up configuration

The backed up configuration has 2 lines that should be removed:

```
Building configuration...

Current configuration with default configurations exposed: 393416 bytes
```

The **lineinfile** module is a general purpose module that is used for manipulating file contents.



Cleaning up (cont'd)

Cleaning up an exact line match:

```
- name: REMOVE NON CONFIG LINES
    lineinfile:
       path: "./backup/{{inventory_hostname}}.config"
       line: "Building configuration..."
       state: absent
```



Cleaning up (cont'd)

Matching using a regular expression:

```
- name: REMOVE NON CONFIG LINES - REGEXP
lineinfile:
   path: "./backup/{{inventory_hostname}}.config"
   regexp: 'Current configuration.*'
   state: absent
```



Restoring the configuration

If any out of band changes were made to the device and it needs to be restored to the last known good configuration, we could take the following approach:

- Copy over the cleaned up configuration to the devices
- Use vendor provided commands to restore the device configuration

*In our example we use the Cisco IOS command **config replace**. This allows for applying only the differences between running and the copied configuration



Restoring (cont'd)

```
- name: RESTORE CONFIGURATION
hosts: cisco
connection: network_cli
gather_facts: no

tasks:
    - name: COPY RUNNING CONFIG TO ROUTER
    command: scp ./backup/{{inventory_hostname}}.config {{inventory_hostname}}:/{{inventory_hostname}}:/
    - name: CONFIG REPLACE
    ios_command:
        commands:
        - config replace flash:{{inventory_hostname}}.config force
```

Note the use of **inventory_hostname** to effect host specific changes







Exercise 2.1 & 2.2 Backup & Restore router configuration

In this lab you will implement a typical Day 2 Ops scenario of backing up and restoring device configurations.

Approximate time: 20 mins





Scenario: Creating living/dynamic documentation



Templates

- Ansible has native integration with the <u>Jinja2</u> templating engine
- Render data models into device configurations
- Render device output into dynamic documentation

Jinja2 enables the user to manipulate variables, apply conditional logic and extend programmability for network automation.



Using templates to generate configuration

```
Data model:
vlans:
  - id: 10
    name: WEB
  - id: 20
    name: APP
  - id: 30
    name: DB

Jinja2 template
{% for vlan in vlans %}
vlan {{ vlan.id }}
    name {{ vlan.name }}
{% endfor %}
```

```
Tying it all together

- name: RENDER THE VLAN CONFIGURATION
  template:
    src: vlans.j2
    dest: "vlan_configs/{{ inventory_hostname }}.conf"
  leaf1.conf

vlan 10
    name WEB
vlan 20
    name APP
vlan 30
    name DB
```



Using templates to build dynamic documentation

```
inventory hostname.upper() }}
   ansible net serialnum }} : {{ ansible net version }}
RTR1
9YJXS2VD3Q7 : 16.08.01a
RTR2
90HUCH0VZI9 : 16.08.01a
RTR3
9ZGJ5B1DL14 : 16.08.01a
RTR4
9TCM27U9TOG : 16.08.01a
```

- Generate documentation that never goes stale
- Build troubleshooting reports
- Same data to generate exec reports and engineering reports using different templates



Assembling the data

The **assemble** module is used to generate a consolidated file by combining fragments. This is a common strategy used to put snippets together into a final document.

```
- name: CONSOLIDATE THE IOS DATA
   assemble:
        src: reports/
        dest: network_os_report.md
   delegate_to: localhost
   run_once: yes
```

```
RTR1
---
9YJXS2VD3Q7 : 16.08.01a

RTR2
---
9QHUCH0VZI9 : 16.08.01a

RTR3
---
9ZGJ5B1DL14 : 16.08.01a

RTR4
---
9TCM27U9TQG : 16.08.01a
```







Exercise 3.0 An introduction to templating

In this lab you will use a basic Jinja2 template to generate a markdown report that contains the device name, serial number and operating system version. You will create a report per device and then use the assemble module to consolidate them.

Approximate time: 15 mins



A quick introduction to roles

The 2 basic files required to get started with Ansible are:

- Inventory
- Playbook



Roles

Roles are Playbooks

- Roles help simplify playbooks.
- Think of them as callable functions for repeated tasks.
- Roles can be distributed/shared; similar to libraries.

Example Playbook

Directory Structure

```
site.yml
roles/
ntp/
    tasks/
    main.yml
vlan/
    tasks/
    main.yml
```



Roles - really simple, but powerful

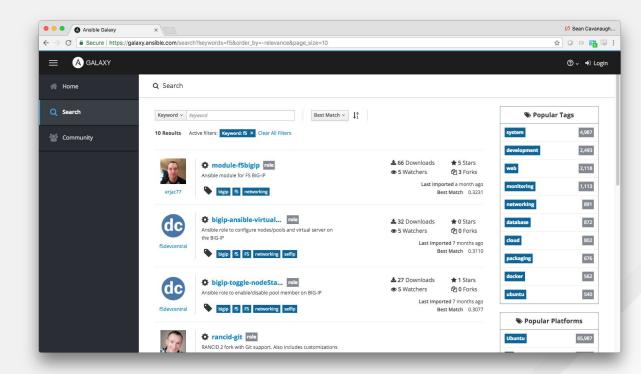
```
# site.yml
                             ntp/
                                                     - name: CONFIGURE NTP
                               tasks/
- hosts: routers
                                 main.yml
                                                       ios config:
                             vlan/
  roles:
                                                        lines: ntp server 1.2.3.4
                               tasks/
     - ntp
     - vlan
                                 main.yml
                    - name: CONFIGURE VLAN
                      ios vlan:
                        vlan id: 100
```



Ansible Galaxy

http://galaxy.ansible.com

- Ansible Galaxy is a hub for finding, reusing and sharing Ansible roles.
- Jump-start your automation project with content contributed and reviewed by the Ansible community.





Using parsers to generate custom reports

On most network devices, show command output is "pretty" formatted but not structured. The Ansible **network-engine** role provides support for 2 text parsing engines:

- TextFSM
- Command Parser

```
name: GENERATE INTERFACE REPORT
hosts: cisco
gather facts: no
connection: network cli
roles:
  - ansible-network.network-engine
tasks:
  - name: CAPTURE SHOW INTERFACES
    ios command:
      commands:

    show interfaces

    register: output
  - name: PARSE THE RAW OUTPUT
    command parser:
      file: "parsers/show interfaces.yml"
      content: "{{ output.stdout[0] }}"
```



Structured data from show commands

```
rtr2#show interfaces
GigabitEthernet1 is up, line protocol is up
   Hardware is CSR vNIC, address is 0e56.1bf5.5ee2 (bia 0e56.1bf5.5ee2)
   Internet address is 172.17.16.140/16
   MTU 1500 bytes, BW 1000000 Kbit/sec, DLY 10 usec,
        reliability 255/255, txload 1/255, rxload 1/255
   Encapsulation ARPA, loopback not set
   Keepalive set (10 sec)
   Full Duplex, 1000Mbps, link type is auto, media type is Virtual
   output flow-control is unsupported, input flow-control is unsupported
   ARP type: ARPA, ARP Timeout 04:00:00
.
.
.
.
.
.
.
.
.
```







Exercise 3.1 Building dynamic documentation using the command parser

The objective of this lab is to generate a dynamic documentation from the output of a device **show** command.

Approximate time: 20 mins

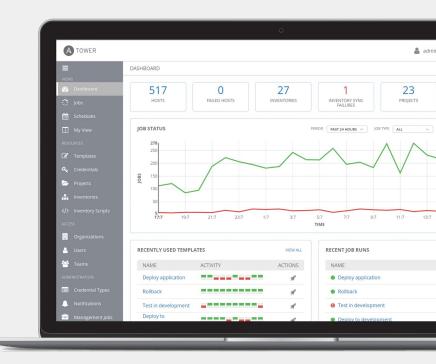




WHAT IS ANSIBLE TOWER?

Ansible Tower is a UI and RESTful API allowing you to scale IT automation, manage complex deployments and speed productivity.

- Role-based access control
- Deploy entire applications with push-button deployment access
- All automations are centrally logged
- Powerful workflows match your IT processes







RBAC

Allow restricting playbook access to authorized users. One team can use playbooks in check mode (read-only) while others have full administrative abilities.

WORKFLOWS

Ansible Tower's multi-playbook workflows chain any number of playbooks, regardless of whether they use different inventories, run as different users, run at once or utilize different credentials.

PUSH BUTTON

An intuitive user interface experience makes it easy for novice users to execute playbooks you allow them access to.

ENTERPRISE INTEGRATIONS

Integrate with enterprise authentication like TACACS+, RADIUS, Azure AD. Setup token authentication with OAuth 2. Setup notifications with PagerDuty, Slack and Twilio.

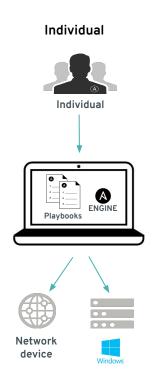
RESTful API

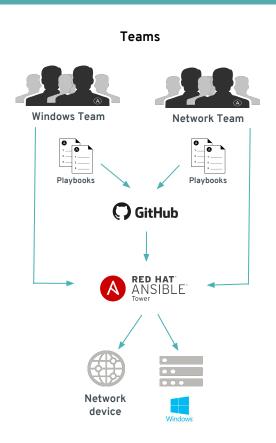
With an API first mentality every feature and function of Tower can be API driven. Allow seamless integration with other tools like ServiceNow and Infoblox.

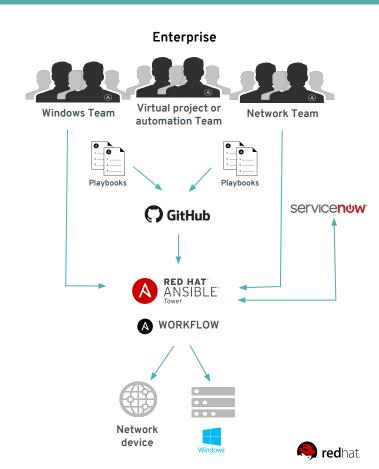
CENTRALIZED LOGGING

All automation activity is securely logged. Who ran it, how they customized it, what it did, where it happened - all securely stored and viewable later, or exported through Ansible Tower's API.











Next Steps

Thanks so much for joining the class. Here are some next steps on how to get more information and join the community!



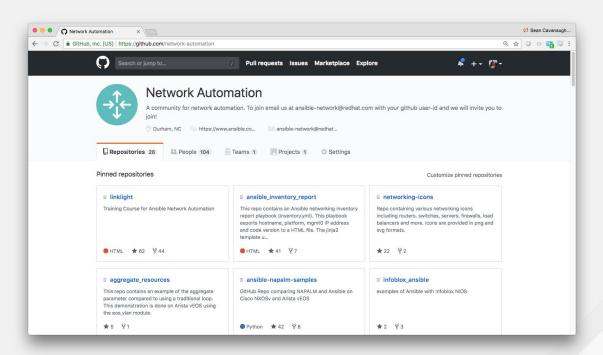
redhat

Bookmark the GitHub Project

https://www.github.com/network-automation

 Examples, samples and demos

 Run network topologies right on your laptop





Chat with us

Engage with the community

Slack

https://ansiblenetwork.slack.com
Join by clicking here https://bit.ly/20fNEBr

IRC

#ansible-network on freenode
http://webchat.freenode.net/?channels=ansible-network



Next Steps

- It's easy to get started
 https://ansible.com/get-started
- Do it again
 https://github.com/network-automation/linklight
 https://network-automation.github.io/linklight/

Instructor Led Classes
 Class DO457: Ansible for Network Automation
 https://red.ht/2MiAgvA



NEXT STEPS

GET STARTED

ansible.com/get-started

ansible.com/tower-trial

WORKSHOPS & TRAINING

ansible.com/workshops

Red Hat Training

JOIN THE COMMUNITY

ansible.com/community

SHARE YOUR STORY

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Friend us on Facebook



