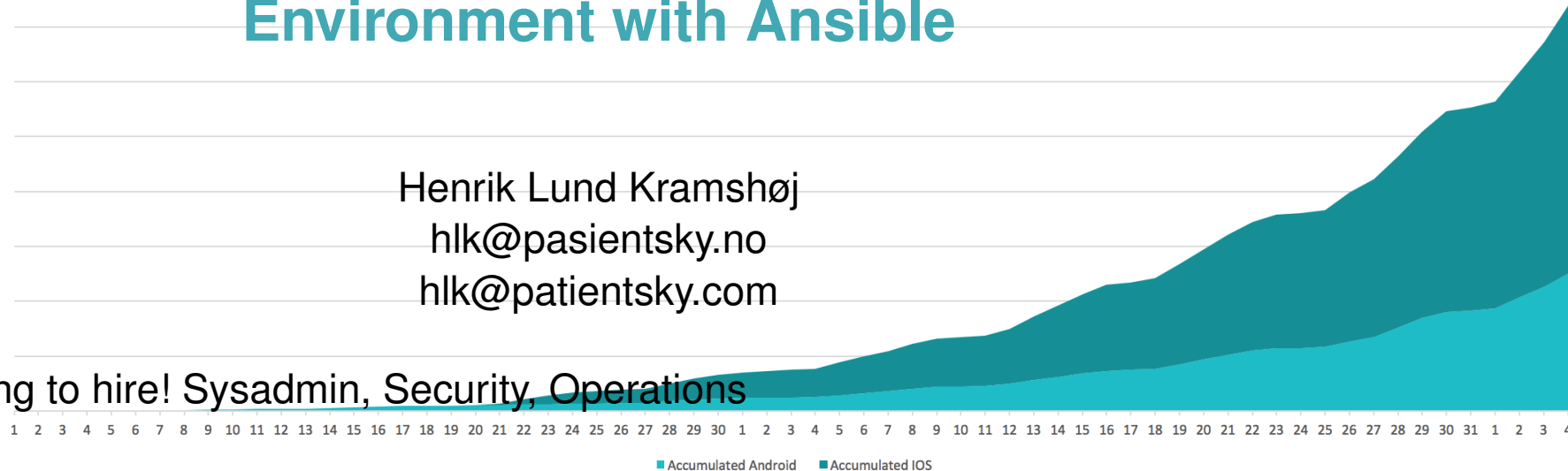


Welcome to

## Controlling a High Security Environment with Ansible

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BTW we are looking to hire! Sysadmin, Security, Operations



# En enklere hverdag med PasientSky

Health data

Doctors appointment

Doctors Journals

Medical data

Prescriptions

...

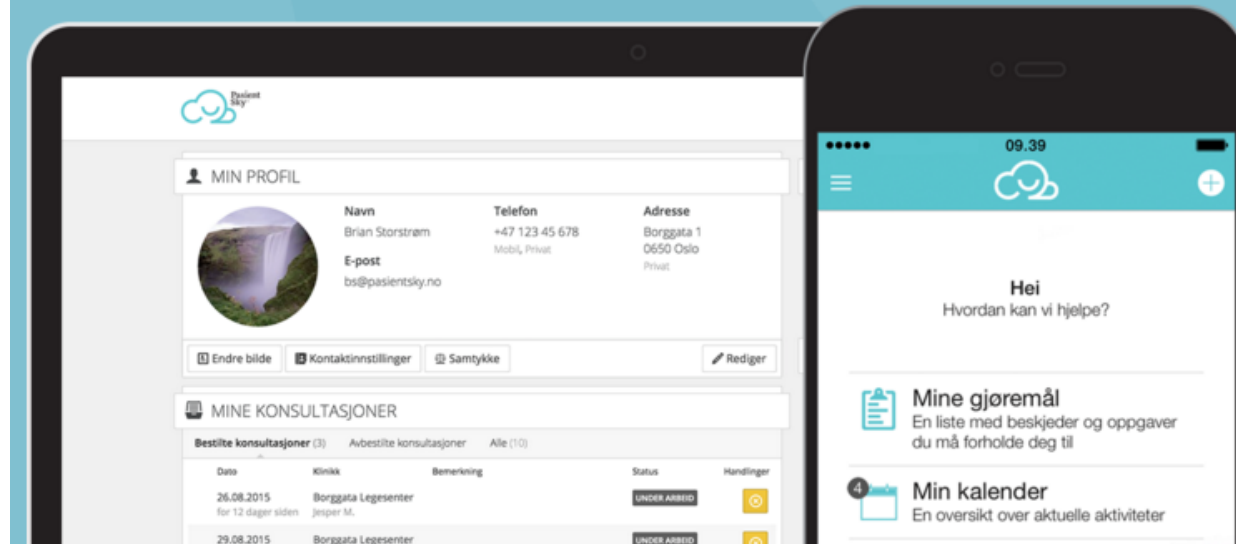
Obviously this means personal data

## En enklere hverdag med PasientSky

Reduser distansen mellom deg og din behandler, uansett hvor i verden du befinner deg. Få oversikt med PasientSky.

Kom i gang med PasientSky nå

Se om din klinikk bruker PasientSky →



# Ansible: provisioning, configuration management, security

Open Source ☺

Simple playbooks and ad-hoc commands

Well supported on mainstream OSs

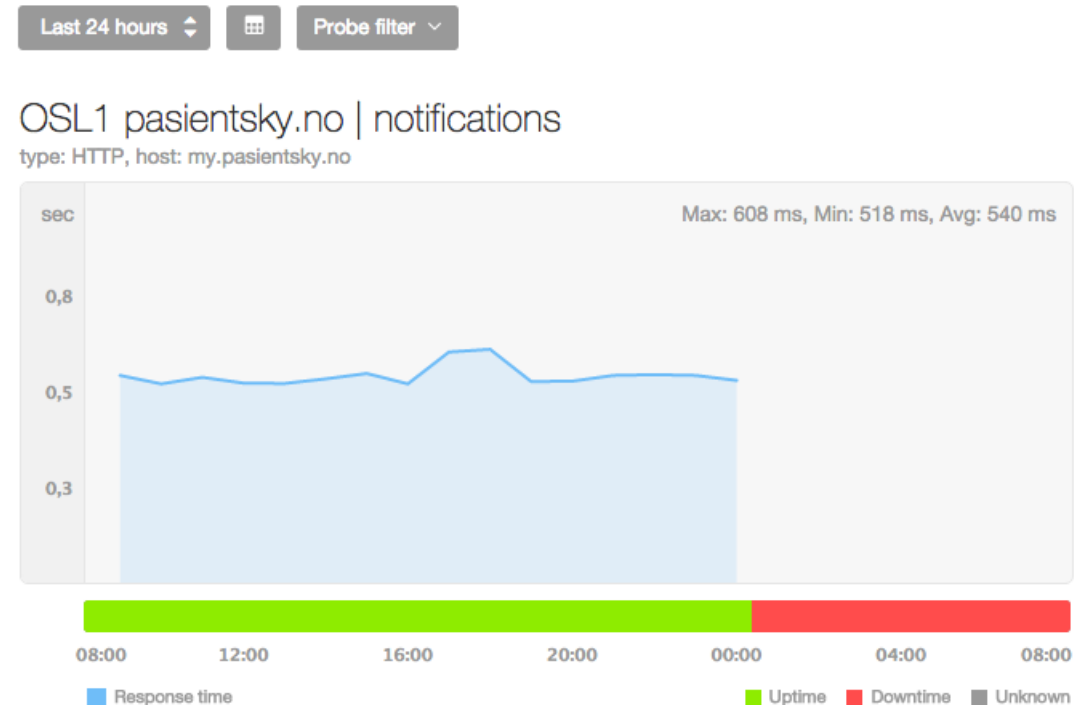
over 200 modules in the core

Supports almost anything which has SSH+Python

Currently 100s of servers

<http://www.ansible.com/>

Note: we dont use Tower



# What we learnt about Ansible

- 
- Easy to get started - YAML playbooks
- Easy to configure services
- Roles sometimes suck
  - too many files in too many directories
- Using more flat playbooks nice
- Long lists of settings like sysctl
- We will continue with Ansible

```
10. hlk@osl1-jump-01: ~/production-server-config/customers (ssh)
hlk@osl1-jump-01:~/production-server-config/customers$ ansible -m ping fw-backend
fw-osl1-03 | success >> {
  "changed": false,
  "ping": "pong"
}

fw-osl1-04 | success >> {
  "changed": false,
  "ping": "pong"
}

hlk@osl1-jump-01:~/production-server-config/customers$ ansible-playbook -K infrastruc
ture-firewall-backend.yml -t bgpq3 --check --diff
SUDO password:

PLAY [fw-*03:fw-*04] *****

GATHERING FACTS *****

ok: [fw-osl1-04]

ok: [fw-osl1-03]

TASK: [group_by key=os_{{ ansible_os_family }}] *****

changed: [fw-osl1-03]

TASK: [Copy bgpq3] *****
skipping: [fw-osl1-03]
skipping: [fw-osl1-04]

PLAY RECAP *****
fw-osl1-03      : ok=2    changed=1    unreachable=0    failed=0
fw-osl1-04      : ok=2    changed=1    unreachable=0    failed=0

hlk@osl1-jump-01:~/production-server-config/customers$
```

## Why Ansible brings Higher Security

```
# VPN tunnels via customer VPN server
pass quick proto { esp, ah } from any to {{ public_ip_prefix }}.59
pass quick proto { esp, ah } from {{ public_ip_prefix }}.59 to any
```

We can rebuild advanced servers easily

Example complete Log environment from single playbook:

- Syslog servers, PostgreSQL database, Logstash parser, software and rules, Elasticsearch indexing servers
- Nginx with Kibana frontend - in about 150-200 lines of playbook!
- From a base Ubuntu install with no manual steps, other than starting Ansible

Settings are saved in playbooks - documented and readable

Config files are templated and

Across testing, staging and production use **the exact same playbooks/configs**

# What Ansible brings in a High Security Environment

We can deploy a complete IDS solution in 15 minutes

A complete Suricata IDS environment from a single playbook,

- Suricata IDS Intrusion Detection System
- Rulesets - configuration files the same across environments
- Cron - jobs for updating rules
- Elasticsearch indexing servers
- Kibana front end

Consistency and tracking, when combined with Git

Audit servers? Run Ansible - anything changed manually? `--check --diff`

Plan-Do-Check-Act process - very ISO 27001 compatible

# Templates

```
jdbc \{  
  # Postgres jdbc connection string to our database  
  jdbc_driver_library => "/usr/share/java/postgresql-jdbc4-9.2.jar"  
  jdbc_driver_class => "org.postgresql.Driver"  
  jdbc_connection_string => "jdbc:postgresql://{{ private_ip_prefix }}.22.100:5432/Syslog"
```

We can test the SAME CONFIGS in multiple environments

Using variable group vars, host vars, templates

- Site specific data,
- RFC1918 subnets, IPs, port numbers, DNS, NTP
- Domain names, update servers,
- environment: development, staging, production
- Passwords, S3 access keys, administrative users - using Ansible Vault
- Service names: ssh (Debian), sshd (OpenBSD)
- ...

No untested changes brought into production

# Operational benefits: Updating daemons and security parameters

## Updating a Secure Shell daemon config:

```
- lineinfile:
  dest=/etc/ssh/sshd_config state=present
  regexp='PasswordAuthentication'
  line='PasswordAuthentication no'
  notify: restart sshd
  tags:
    - sshd
```

## Combined with:

```
- name: restart sshd
  service: name= service_sshd  state=restarted
```

Never forget to restart a service after changing config



# Cluster firewalls always consistent

Updating multiple files on multiple systems:

```
- name: copy PF tables
  template:
    src=.../pf-tables/ item | basename
    dest=/etc/pf/ item | basename
  with_fileglob:
    - .../pf-tables/*.list
  notify:
    - reload pf
```

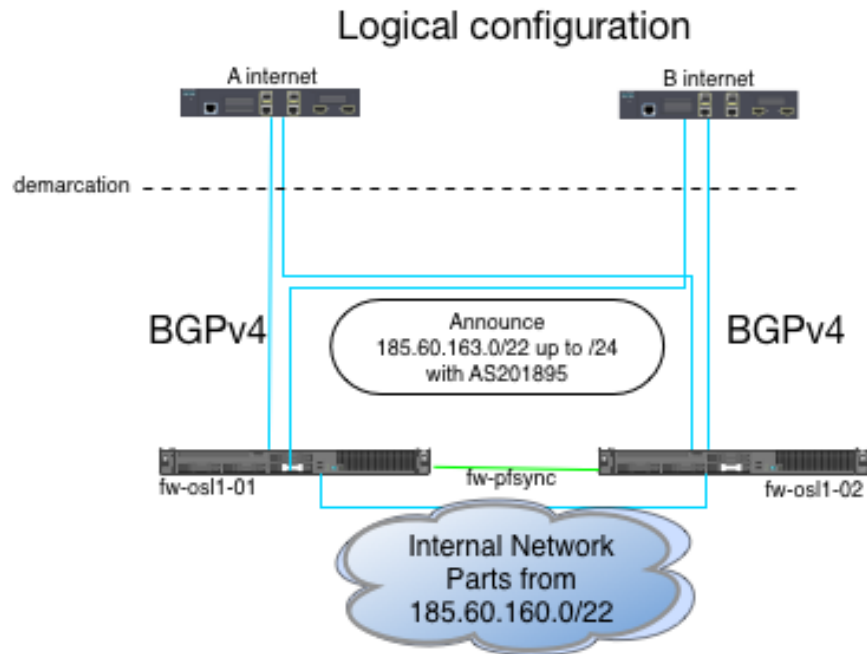
Updating firewall tables and rules

Updating BGP import filters

Roll-out made easy

Less skills required to update

Less manual steps => more reliable



## Problems with Ansible / configuration management

Major problem

- 1) Insert configuration option with playbook
- 2) Remove that task from playbook
- 3) Some servers still have the option

Removing stuff from playbooks does not remove it from servers!

End up having tasks that do cleanup

So always test lineinfile - they sometimes surprise

Also when not logged into systems, do you miss problems?

## Golden rules

Some things we picked up using Ansible:

- Always use descriptive name: so people know why/what is being done
- Dont use lineinfile, if changing more than a few lines, use a template
- Dont use copy, always use a template (if syntax permits)
- Manual changes should be banned and monitored
- Use tags liberally, tags: pf.conf, only update THIS thing
- Try to gather a project/feature/setup in single playbook
- Example: logging setup with both PostgreSQL and Elasticsearch in same playbook
- Use versioning for your playbooks, we use Git
- Run playbooks often, like maybe daily

And learn your \$EDITOR - search/replace in lots of files/dirs 😊

Questions?

BTW we are looking to hire! Sysadmin, Security, Operations

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You are always welcome to send me questions later via email