

Puppet on Windows

Systems Administration

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You can use Puppet to manage Windows

- The puppetmaster must be *nix.
- The puppet agents can be Windows 7, Windows 8, Server 2003 - Server 2012.
- The puppet agent version can be lower than the master (e.g., a 2.7 agent can talk to a 3.0 master), but not the reverse.
- Some Puppet resources can be specified in a cross platform way, but
 - some need to be specified in a platform specific way,
 - some are platform specific.

Writing Manifests for Windows

Puppet can manage the following resource types on Windows

- file
- user
- group
- package
- service
- exec
- host
- scheduled_task

Installing the Windows agent

- Download the msi from <http://downloads.puppetlabs.com/windows> or the I: drive.
- The msi's include all of the dependencies.
- Edit the hosts file before you install. The Agent needs to be able to resolve the hostname of the puppetmaster.

Windows File Paths

Forward slash or back slash?

Use forward slashes for

- file resource titles and paths
- package resource paths
- the command attribute of an exec resource (with exceptions)

You *must* use back slashes for

- the command of a scheduled_task
- the install_options of a package resource

Installing packages

Puppet can install MSI and executable packages, but the file must be locally available on the agent. You can either

- Manage the installer as a file resource, or
- Place the installer on a mapped network drive, or
- Specify a UNC path.

Installing packages

Examples

```
package { 'mysql':  
  ensure      => '5.5.16',  
  source      => 'N:/packages/mysql-5.5.16-winx64.msi',  
  install_options => ['INSTALLDIR=C:\mysql-5.5'],  
}  
package { "Git version 1.8.4-preview20130916":  
  ensure      => installed,  
  source      => 'C:\\code\\puppetlabs\\temp\\windowsexample\\Git',  
  install_options => ['/VERYSILENT']  
}
```

Users and Groups

Puppet can only directly manage local users and groups. To manage domain users you will need to use a Powershell script.

Line Endings

Remember that Unix/Linux and Windows systems denote line endings differently. If you create a file resource on a *nix systems that will be used on Windows hosts, you may need to modify the line endings.