

Integrating Ansible Playbooks into Network Operations



Nick Russo

NETWORK ENGINEER

@nickrusso42518 www.njrusmc.net



Agenda



Ansible for networks?

Installing Ansible and basic setup

Collecting network information

Updating device config using Jinja2



Automating Systems vs. Networks

Systems/Servers

Often have Python

Modules run on devices

Few access methods

Network Devices

Often lack Python

Modules run on control machine

Many access methods



Ansible Basic Components

Configuration file

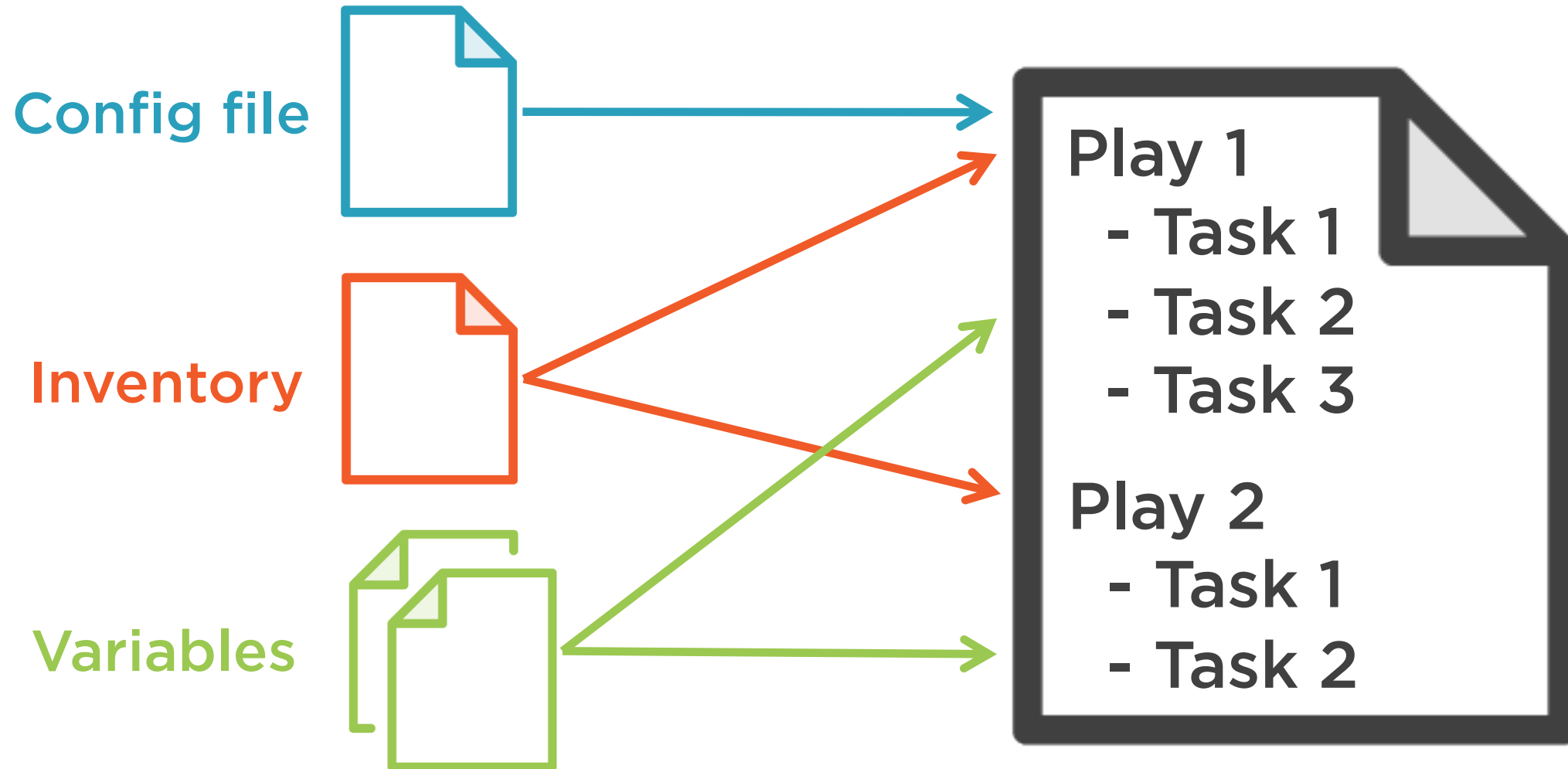
Inventory

Variables

Playbooks



Ansible Playbooks



```
---
```

```
# Used by "network_cli"
```

```
ansible_connection: network_cli
```

```
ansible_network_os: ios
```

```
ansible_user: cisco
```

```
ansible_password: cisco
```

- ◀ Tells Ansible to use network_cli
- ◀ Specifies Cisco IOS platforms
- ◀ Username for login
- ◀ Password for login



Demo



Installing Ansible plus basic setup



Demo



Collecting operational data with Ansible



Demo



Configuring network devices with Ansible



Summary



Easy concurrency and variable handling

Right tool for the right job

Challenge:

- Try Ansible on ASA, NX-OS, etc.
- "Automating Networks with Ansible the Right Way"

