

Ansible Practical – Task : Create a File on a Managed Node

Objective

Use Ansible to remotely create an empty file on the **managed node** from the **control (master) node**, demonstrating Ansible's ability to execute system tasks via modules.

Setup Overview

- **Master Node:** Ubuntu (with Ansible installed)
- **Managed Node:** Ubuntu server (connected via SSH with key-based authentication)
- **Inventory File:** /etc/ansible/hosts is configured

Inventory example:

```
[webservers]
```

```
43.204.109.249 ansible_user=ubuntu
```

Task: Create an Empty File Using Ansible

Goal

Create an empty file named ansible-test.txt in the /tmp/ directory on the remote (managed) server.

Command Used

From the master node, run:

```
ansible all -m file -a "path=/tmp/ansible-test.txt state=touch"
```

Explanation:

- `all` → Target all hosts in the inventory.
- `-m file` → Use Ansible's **file module**.
- `-a "..."` → Pass the arguments:
 - `path=/tmp/ansible-test.txt` → File path to create.
 - `state=touch` → Creates the file if it doesn't exist (like Linux touch command).

Expected Output

If successful, you'll see:

```

43.204.109.249 | SUCCESS => {

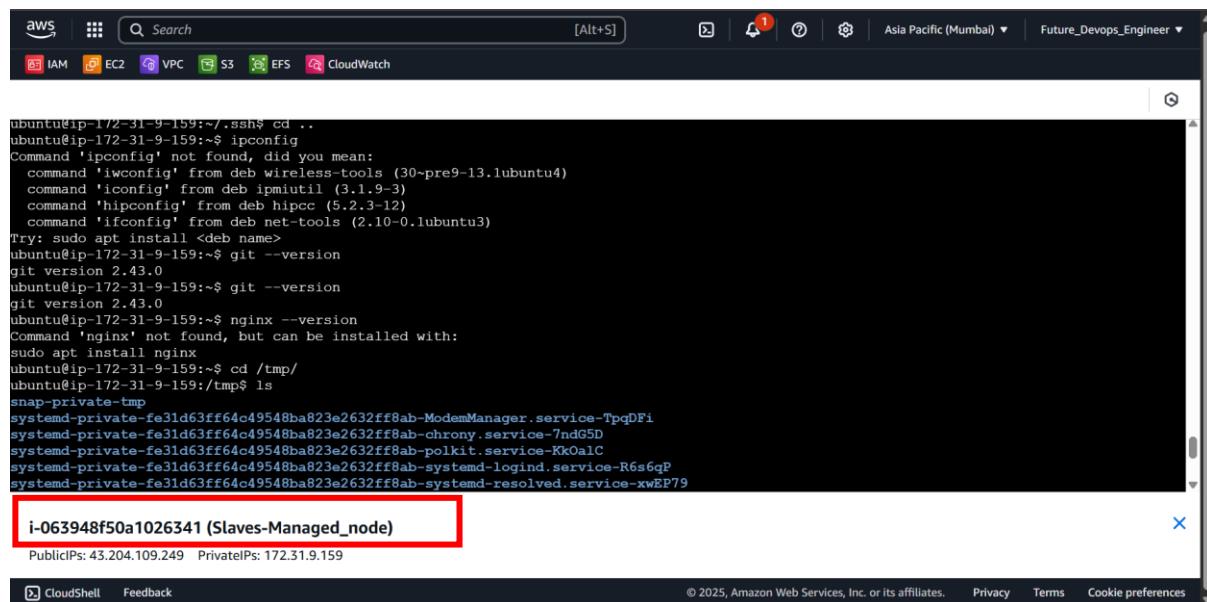
    "changed": true,
    "path": "/tmp/ansible-test.txt",
    "state": "file",
    ...
}

```

To verify manually:

ssh ubuntu@43.204.109.249

ls -l /tmp/ansible-test.txt



The screenshot shows a terminal session in AWS CloudShell. The user has run several commands to check system status and installed packages. A specific command, `ipconfig`, is shown as not found, with suggestions for alternative commands like `iwconfig` and `ifconfig`. Other commands shown include `git --version` (version 2.43.0) and `nginx --version` (not found, but can be installed via apt). The user then navigates to `/tmp` and lists its contents. At the bottom of the terminal window, a red box highlights the text "i-063948f50a1026341 (Slaves-Managed_node)".

```

ubuntu@ip-172-31-9-159:~/.ssh$ cd ..
ubuntu@ip-172-31-9-159:~$ ipconfig
Command 'ipconfig' not found, did you mean:
  command 'iwconfig' from deb wireless-tools (30-pre9-13.lubuntu4)
  command 'iconfig' from deb ipmiutil (3.1.9-3)
  command 'hipconfig' from deb hipcc (5.2.3-12)
  command 'ifconfig' from deb net-tools (2.10-0.lubuntu3)
Try: sudo apt install <deb name>
ubuntu@ip-172-31-9-159:~$ git --version
git version 2.43.0
ubuntu@ip-172-31-9-159:~$ git --version
git version 2.43.0
ubuntu@ip-172-31-9-159:~$ nginx --version
Command 'nginx' not found, but can be installed with:
sudo apt install nginx
ubuntu@ip-172-31-9-159:~$ cd /tmp/
ubuntu@ip-172-31-9-159:/tmp$ ls
snap-private-tmp
systemd-private-fe31d63ff64c49548ba823e2632ff8ab-ModemManager.service-TpqDFi
systemd-private-fe31d63ff64c49548ba823e2632ff8ab-chrony.service-7ndG5D
systemd-private-fe31d63ff64c49548ba823e2632ff8ab-polkit.service-KkOalc
systemd-private-fe31d63ff64c49548ba823e2632ff8ab-systemd-logind.service-R6s6qP
systemd-private-fe31d63ff64c49548ba823e2632ff8ab-systemd-resolved.service-xwEP77

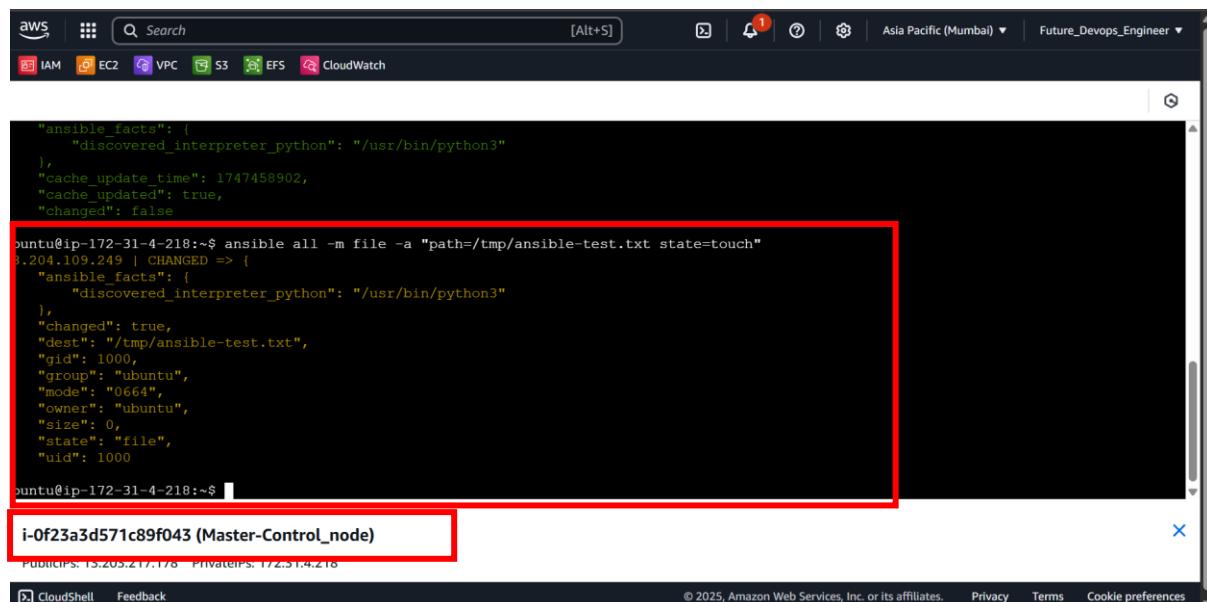
```

i-063948f50a1026341 (Slaves-Managed_node)

PublicIPs: 43.204.109.249 PrivateIPs: 172.31.9.159

CloudShell Feedback

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The screenshot shows a terminal session in AWS CloudShell. The user has run an Ansible command to touch a file in `/tmp`. The output shows the file was created and its attributes (mode 0664, owner and group `ubuntu`, size 0 bytes). A red box highlights the text "i-0f23a3d571c89f043 (Master-Control_node)".

```

"ansible_facts": {
    "discovered_interpreter_python": "/usr/bin/python3"
},
"cache_update_time": 1747458902,
"cache_updated": true,
"changed": false

```

```

43.204.109.249 | CHANGED => {
    "ansible_facts": {
        "discovered_interpreter_python": "/usr/bin/python3"
    },
    "changed": true,
    "dest": "/tmp/ansible-test.txt",
    "gid": 1000,
    "group": "ubuntu",
    "mode": "0664",
    "owner": "ubuntu",
    "size": 0,
    "state": "file",
    "uid": 1000
}

```

i-0f23a3d571c89f043 (Master-Control_node)

PublicIPs: 13.203.217.178 PrivateIPs: 172.31.4.216

CloudShell Feedback

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The screenshot shows a terminal window in the AWS CloudShell interface. The user has run the command `ansible-test.txt -m file -a 'content=Ansible' -t /tmp`. The output shows the file was created successfully on the remote host.

```
snap-private-tmp
systemd-private-fe31d63ff64c49548ba823e2632ff8ab-ModemManager.service-TpqDFi
systemd-private-fe31d63ff64c49548ba823e2632ff8ab-chrony.service-7ndG5D
systemd-private-fe31d63ff64c49548ba823e2632ff8ab-polkit.service-KkOalc
systemd-private-fe31d63ff64c49548ba823e2632ff8ab-systemd-logind.service-R6s6qP
systemd-private-fe31d63ff64c49548ba823e2632ff8ab-systemd-resolved.service-xwEP79
ubuntu@ip-172-31-9-159:/tmp$ ls
ansible-test.txt
snap-private-tmp
systemd-private-fe31d63ff64c49548ba823e2632ff8ab-ModemManager.service-TpqDFi
systemd-private-fe31d63ff64c49548ba823e2632ff8ab-chrony.service-7ndG5D
systemd-private-fe31d63ff64c49548ba823e2632ff8ab-polkit.service-KkOalc
systemd-private-fe31d63ff64c49548ba823e2632ff8ab-systemd-logind.service-R6s6qP
systemd-private-fe31d63ff64c49548ba823e2632ff8ab-systemd-resolved.service-xwEP79
ubuntu@ip-172-31-9-159:/tmp$ ls
ansible-test.txt
snap-private-tmp
systemd-private-fe31d63ff64c49548ba823e2632ff8ab-ModemManager.service-TpqDFi
systemd-private-fe31d63ff64c49548ba823e2632ff8ab-chrony.service-7ndG5D
systemd-private-fe31d63ff64c49548ba823e2632ff8ab-polkit.service-KkOalc
systemd-private-fe31d63ff64c49548ba823e2632ff8ab-systemd-logind.service-R6s6qP
systemd-private-fe31d63ff64c49548ba823e2632ff8ab-systemd-resolved.service-xwEP79
ubuntu@ip-172-31-9-159:/tmp$ ls
i-063948f50a1026341 (Slaves-Managed_node)
PublicIP: 192.168.1.125 PrivateIP: 172.31.9.159
```

Result

- File `/tmp/ansible-test.txt` created successfully on the managed server using Ansible.
- Demonstrates ability to control remote systems without manual SSH login.

🧠 Learnings

- How to use the `file` module
- How to pass simple tasks to remote nodes
- Ansible automates system tasks quickly and reliably